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Staff Editorial Why we love the Rensselaer Union

## RESIDENCE LIFE

# RPI renovates North and E-Complex

### Disused residence halls overhauled to house largest-ever freshman class

Jack Wellhofer  
David Raab  
Senior Reporters

MUCH NEEDED RENOVATIONS FOR North and E-Complex Residence Halls are underway this summer, providing additional on-campus housing space for the freshmen class. The newly renovated buildings will house a total of 177 students—170 incoming freshmen and seven residence assistants.

The incoming freshman class is set to be the largest RPI has seen, posing a difficult housing problem for Residence Life.

Discussion between President Shirley Ann Jackson, Vice President for Student Life Dr. Frank E. Ross III, and Vice President for Administration Claude Rounds concluded that renovating the closed residence halls was the best solution to the problem and fitted in with intended repairs for the buildings.

North and E-Complex were closed at the end of the Fall 2014 semester. A previous *Poly* article cited student complaints about the inconsistency of the water temperatures, poor control of the heating system, and bathroom conditions. The buildings, constructed in the 1930s, have had asbestos removed multiple times. There were also complaints about bugs such as cockroaches and centipedes.

Interim Dean of Residence Life Kathy Shellogg told *The Poly* that housing freshmen on campus results



David Raab/The Polytechnic

**E-COMPLEX RESIDENCE HALL OVERLOOKS Sage Avenue on the north side of the Troy campus.**

in higher retention rates. The residence halls grouped on Freshman Hill encourage a community feeling, with the long-term goal of having all residence halls on Freshman Hill house exclusively freshmen.

Sharp and Warren Residence Halls, located on Freshman Hill, will house sophomores during the 2016-2017 academic year. The Quadrangle, located across from the Rensselaer Union, will also house 200 freshmen this year to accommodate the Class of 2020.

Shellogg believes that this is “the one year we put first-years [in North and E-Complex],” given that the two

are isolated from the other freshmen residence halls. Previously, the residence halls housed upper class students. “Location, location, location,” said Shellogg, referring to the ideal proximity for upper class students to both North Lot and common class locations like Sage Laboratories.

*The Poly* also spoke to Rounds about what renovations were occurring to the residence halls. Both residence halls will contain nearly an entire new interior for the incoming freshmen.

Some of the changes include the following: asbestos removal, new vinyl flooring, interior and exterior

painting, new exterior lighting, and cameras for improved security.

The bathrooms have also seen upgrades in the form of new ventilation, replacement of fixtures, sink, and showerheads. The kitchens have been replaced with improved appliance, as have the laundry rooms. The controls for hot water have been improved and a new hot water tank will be installed in North.

With all of the upgrades occurring in both North and E-Complex, Residence Life says it will be able to accommodate all of the incoming students seeking on-campus housing. ♦

## OFF-CAMPUS EVENT

# Trustee Nancy Mueller hosts Bay Area luncheon

### RPI alumni, students, faculty, incoming freshmen look toward future

Rex Hu  
Elisabeth Ryan  
Senior Reporters

ON SATURDAY, JUNE 4, RENSSELAER BOARD OF Trustees member Nancy Mueller opened her home to alumni of Rensselaer, returning students, and accepted incoming freshmen. She hosted this event in her home in Palo Alto, California, in the form of a business casual luncheon. Before the meal was served and the official announcements were made, students and alumni had a chance to mingle and exchange “war stories” of attending RPI. It was also an opportune time for students to network and expand their occupational horizons.

Mueller gave a gracious welcome to her guests and after lunch introduced speaker and Dean of Engineering Professor Shekhar Garde. Garde took this opportunity to update the alumni on all the great things happening on campus. Especially noteworthy, Garde announced that RPI would be anticipating its largest incoming freshman class as well as an applicant pool of over 18,500. He noted the talent and initiative already present among the Class of 2020’s students.

After a brief and unofficial poll, Garde was able to gauge the female population here at RPI during the ‘60s and ‘70s from the present alumni. It was sparse with classes’ female population peaking under 10. However, as of this summer, there are over a thousand women enrolled in RPI’s undergraduate program, with some 30 percent making up the engineering student body. Garde stressed the significance of this change in balance and said that it would result in a more successful and high quality school.

For the incoming students, Garde expanded on the things students should expect to encounter. The Summer Arch program’s second pilot class year is the Class of 2020. According to Garde, Summer Arch will give students a chance to open up one of their semesters for studying abroad and co-ops by spending a summer semester on campus between sophomore and junior year. According to many alumni Garde interviewed, their co-ops and internships were the most forming and teaching of experiences.

Garde also went into detail about the types of “creativity” taking place on campus. Being

a tech school, students are more geared towards science and mathematics. A new program, Art X, is coming to campus soon with the intent of promoting the “exploration of science in art and art in science.” Garde explains that this new boost in creative classes stems from the student body’s culture. He remarks that during his time, students were mostly looking for a good job, and finds many students still have that primary goal. However, he deems this new generation of students more idealistic, motivated by grander ideas to “change the world.”

The event finished off with the incoming freshmen introducing themselves, followed closely behind by the recurring students. As every year, the recurring students offered the incoming a few tips to survive RPI. The vast majority of the advice was to explore beyond the confines of one’s room and one’s routine. A student of the Class of 2017 advised to “slow down and appreciate every moment; while you can graduate with nothing but a degree, it’d be a shame.”

The event finished with a farewell from Mueller and thanks from her guests. ♦



# Editorial

Monday, July 11, 2016

## EDITORIAL NOTEBOOKS

### Providing tips, advice for your eight month vacation

Make a point to attack issues with a fresh mindset

WELCOME, FRESHMEN! YOU'RE about to go on an eight month vacation! Here's some packing tips for embarking on your first year.

Notice how I said "vacation" instead of "new home." Attending college is not a time to forget about your family back in the place you have known all 18 years of your life. School is a getaway, enjoy it!

To make my stay an even better one, I made sure to pack some handy objects which I had not anticipated bringing until a family friend gave them to me. Thank you Sally! In this shoe box of random, useful objects I have duct tape, a doorstopper, string, spare batteries, zip ties, electrical tape, box of crayons,

a travel sized sewing kit, and extra thread.

You may be thinking to yourself, you rarely use this stuff at home, but when you do need it, you know instantly where to find it. For me, that's a drawer in my kitchen. I think of this drawer as a "goody box" that you find yourself rummaging through a few times a year for that one object. Believe it or not I've used my vacation goody box way more often than that drawer at home.

The most useful object among them all is the sewing kit by far. A small rip in your pants—no problem. A small hole in your sweater you've worn only a few times—piece of cake. My friends even have started coming

to me to get their repairs done!

As an engineer, I found myself building a necklace holder within the first week of school freshman year. Out of what you may ask? I opened the shoebox to find the perfect materials—the string and the duct tape.

When you're packing for your vacation in a little over a month, don't forget to bring your own goody box. Throw in whatever you find in that drawer of assorted things from your kitchen. Throw in more than you think you'll use, because you never know what will come in handy until that moment when you actually need it.

Thanks for reading! And if you have any questions or will like to know an even extended list of what I had packed for college that I found extremely useful, shoot me an email at edop@poly.rpi.edu. Have fun, freshmen! ◇



**Maria Kozdroy**  
Editorial/Opinion

## Balancing collegiate life: friends, academics, sleep

RENSELAEER HAS GIVEN ME COUNTLESS OPPORTUNITIES to grow and become a more mature person since I started last year. College is a time where you have the chance to refine who you are and grow in ways that you never could have imagined. First semester of your freshman year can be overwhelming, because it is the first time, for a lot of us, that we are living away from the rest of our families. There is nobody telling you when your curfew or bedtime is; in fact, it seems like parts of campus are more active at night than they are during the day. Many establishments in Troy are open past midnight, not to mention the fact that the RPI workload often requires efforts at all hours of the day. Talking to many upperclassmen, I've found that freshman year was the year that people had the most free time and the least amount of responsibilities.

Upperclassmen have already learned how to balance the stresses of the academic rigor that RPI is renowned for, as well as maintaining a social life. A classic trope in college is that you need to choose two of the three following options: sleep,

social life, and academic success. During my freshman year, I've certainly chosen grades and a social life over sleep. It may not be healthy, but you'll have when you're older to sleep, and only four years of undergrad to enjoy. Freshman year,

for me, was a year of many firsts and a broadening of my horizons far beyond what I ever did in high school. In fact, some of closest friends are people that I have met through the many clubs that I joined last year and that I intend to continue this year.

To close out this notebook, at the risk of beating a dead horse, I definitely encourage incoming freshmen to take advantage of all this campus has to offer. Many people that I know were happier after they joined things and got involved on campus. The difference between

some people fall semester and spring semester was night and day, and I'd say a large factor in that was the fact that they finally branched out and took advantage of what RPI and Troy had to offer. Why wait until your second semester when you can take advantage of it now? ◇



**David Raab**  
Associate News Editor

## STAFF EDITORIAL

### A strong student-run Union

HELLO, FRESHMEN. WHILE THE REST OF THE CAMPUS BAR-rages you all with their own opinions about the first year of college, the editorial staff of *The Polytechnic* want to take a moment to explain to you Rensselaer's pride: our beloved Rensselaer Union.

Maybe you've heard, but likely you haven't, because many of us didn't truly understand until we were well into our time at RPI. Our Union is unique; it's completely student run. Students do just about everything around the Union. Yes, we have administrative staff—and we love them for the work they do—but our Executive Board, full of student leaders, has the ultimate decision making power for Union-related business. We have the power in the Union, and that's the reason so many of us spend countless hours involved in the place.

Last semester, the administration suggested changes to how our Union operates and those of us

close to the Union were frustrated with how the whole situation was handled. It looked as if we would lose control of the student run aspect of our student union. In response, we, the students, joined together and asked to be heard; through perseverance and dedicated hours we were heard and decisions were reversed. It is unlikely you would find such a committed, passionate group of students who love their Union as much as RPI students do.

When the end of August comes and a new life chapter opens, take the time to appreciate the Union and all it has to offer. In time, you too will come to love it as much as we do and hopefully understand why it's so important that it remain student run. Take the time to do a little research—*The Poly* is a great source for this—and find out how deep and strong our student-run roots are. ◇

## ADMINISTRATION

### Ross welcomes RPI Class of 2020

ON BEHALF OF THE DIVISION OF STUDENT Life, it is with great excitement that I welcome you to Rensselaer and the Class of 2020. You are joining the Rensselaer family as part of the largest freshman class in our history! We are very proud of you and the accomplishments that have brought you to RPI, and we expect you will achieve great things during your time here.

At Rensselaer, you are entering a supportive community of faculty, staff and students who will guide you and challenge you. We provide a transformative student experience for you at Rensselaer through Clustered Learning, Advocacy, and Support for Students, or CLASS, that will develop you as leaders with the ability to solve complex problems of the world using intellectual agility, multicultural sophistication, and a global perspective.

Academics are your top priority as a student. The university environment is challenging, and very different from high school. Never hesitate to ask for assistance

if you need it! There are many people—the faculty teaching your class, tutors, academic advisors, and upper class students in your major who are all sources of support. The Advising and Learning Resource Center is located in Academy Hall and information can be found here: <http://alac.rpi.edu>.

The Dean of the First Year Experience is a primary source of information, guidance and learning for you as entering students. In addition, you will have an assistant dean of the residential commons, a resident assistant, and a team of student resident assistants who live in your residence hall and are there to provide support during your journey at Rensselaer.

We provide many resources to support student wellness, and medical professionals and counselors are available for you at the Student Health Center, located in Academy Hall. I encourage you to visit <http://studenthealth.rpi.edu> for more information.

See ROSS, **Page 3**



**Dr. Frank E. Ross III**  
Vice President for Student Life

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# Ross: What resources campus has for new students

From **Page 2**

Rensselaer offers a robust campus life for our students. The Rensselaer Union is a hub for campus activity and provides many opportunities for you to get involved through activities, clubs, recreation and more! Make sure to visit the Union or go to <http://www.union.rpi.edu> for more information! Also be sure to check out <http://www.rpiathletics.com> for all the latest information on Rensselaer Athletics.

Expectations for student behavior inside and outside of the classroom are outlined through policies and, as a student, it is important that you read and understand the Rensselaer Handbook for Student Rights and Responsibilities. You can access this electronically at <http://doso.rpi.edu>, and visit the Dean of Students if you have questions or concerns.

The university offers many, many more resources for you as students. You can find information by visiting the Student Life homepage at <http://studentlife.rpi.edu>.

Again, welcome to Rensselaer! As the first technological research university in the country, we have great history, tradition and pride. We are very glad you are joining our family. I look forward to meeting you at student orientation this summer and at the many welcome activities in the fall! ♦

TOP HAT

## Loads of opportunity for involvement

Paul Illori  
*Grand Marshal*

I’LL BEGIN WITH THE SAME PHRASE you’ll probably hear 200 times over the next few weeks, Welcome to Rensselaer! I am Paul Illori ’17, the 151st Grand Marshal and wearer of headwear that was more fashionable when the Class of 1917 were seniors. The position was created in 1866 to honor Albert Harper, a student from Pittsburgh, PA who returned to graduate after fighting in the Civil War. Over the past century and a half, the role has transformed and has undertaken different roles and symbols. Currently, as GM, I serve as the presiding officer of the

Student Senate and an officer of the Rensselaer Union, one of few truly student run student unions in the United States. Our Union gives us the opportunity to explore ourselves outside the classroom and allows students to explore a wide range of interests, along with providing us with a direct voice in decisions made at RPI as a whole. Our school holds a unique place in history as the oldest technical university in the English speaking world. But with all the information you’re having thrown at you right now, that’s enough history.

You can stop reading here if you promise to keep an open mind and stay true to yourself. You’re already

being given a lot of information, some of it useful and some not so much. While your first priority should always be keeping on top of your classes, I’d advise you to check out different things and see what you like and don’t like for yourself. Meet the Greeks, the Activities Fair, hockey games, and other events throughout the year will allow you not only to get to know your new classmates better, but also to give you an opportunity to explore yourself. Some of my favorite memories on campus have come from me deciding to check out something I thought sounded kind of interesting, or a text from some of my friends asking if I was free to go check out some event.

Clearly, every club, elective class, or opportunity won’t be for everyone, but you’ll never know if you don’t at least go check it out. So grab a few friends, and go! Sign up for that email list for a club you’re kind of interested in (yes, you actually can unsubscribe from all of them), check out BBQ/steak/insert random food rush event here, and stick with what you like. You never really know where you might find a passion that you stick with for the rest of your life. Feel free to say hi to me if you see me around campus, or contact me at [gm@rpi.edu](mailto:gm@rpi.edu) if there’s anything you think I can help you with. ♦

DERBY

## Calming your nerves; support within the Union

Chip Kirchner  
*President of the Union*

IN THIS FIRST DERBY OF THE YEAR, I want to address our soon-to-be students who are likely, at this moment, experiencing the old familiar mixture of excitement, nervousness, and maybe even dread. The first thing I want to say is this: as tumultuous as this upheaval in your life may seem, you’re not alone. For nearly 200 years, tens of thousands of students have been in the exact same spot in which you currently stand, with the same hesitations. I want to take this opportunity to dispel a few rumors, and provide you with some reassurance and advice, for what it’s worth.

While you’re talking to your roommates, browsing various social media channels, or trying to get the “inside scoop” from upperclassmen, you will definitely encounter a large amount of cynicism. Although I wish this wasn’t the case, I’m sure cynicism is not unique to RPI. As a counter to this sentiment, I want to remind you that cynics are often the loudest voices. Additionally, there’s a simple cure for this sort of attitude. At the risk of sounding cliché, the cure is to get involved. We are blessed at this school with nearly 200 clubs and organizations covering virtually every interest, hobby, culture, religion,

and area of study. In these clubs, you’ll find incredible, creative, interesting groups of people who share your passions, and want to express themselves outside of everyday school. I encourage you to seek these people out, as they’re the ones who will make your time here enjoyable and rewarding.

I also want to speak to a feeling that may likely creep into the minds of many of you as classes begin: the feeling that you’re not good enough for this place, not smart enough, not social enough, not hardworking enough. There are infinite variations of what is essentially the same idea. I can guarantee you that there is not a single person here who has

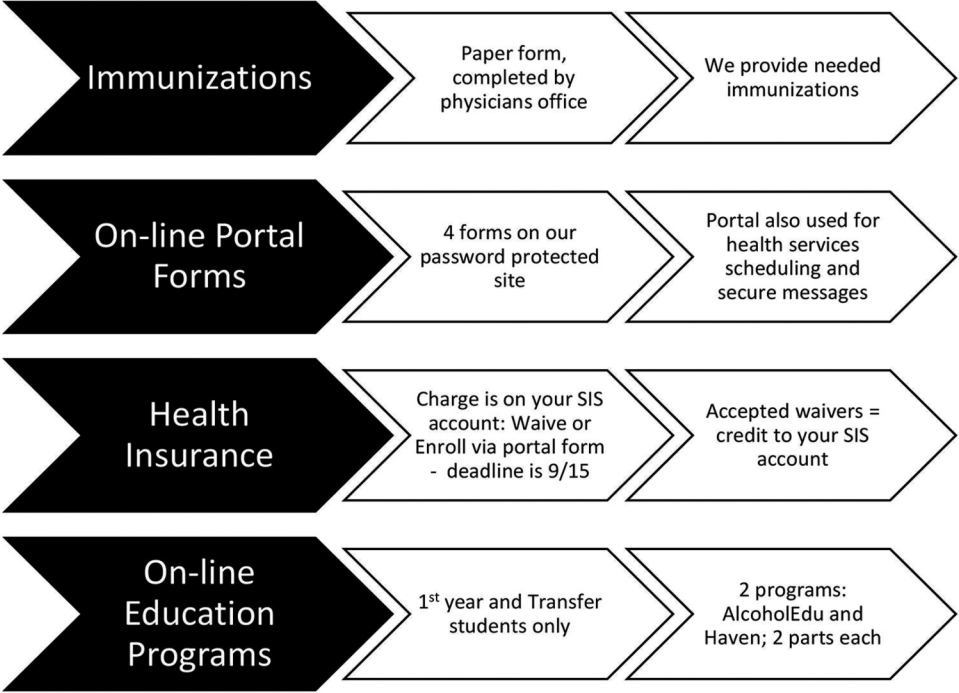
not had that thought at some point during their time here. RPI asks a lot of its students, and in many cases, it asks much more of them than they are used to giving. This transition is going to require you to change the way you attain success, and re-evaluate the way you handle failure. These changes are hard to make, but they aren’t impossible, and there are plenty of mechanisms in place to make this transition as smooth as possible. Once again, it’s up to you to utilize them.

If myself or anyone in the Union can be of any assistance, do not hesitate to reach out to me or any of the staff and students that make up the Rensselaer Union. ♦

# Student Health Center

Healthcare – Counseling – Health Promotion  
Health Insurance – Disability Services

### Requirements for New Students:



**Disability Services** – includes assistance with gaining equal access to academic programs, co-curricular activities and physical facilities. Accommodations considered upon registration with the disabilities services office and provision of necessary documentation

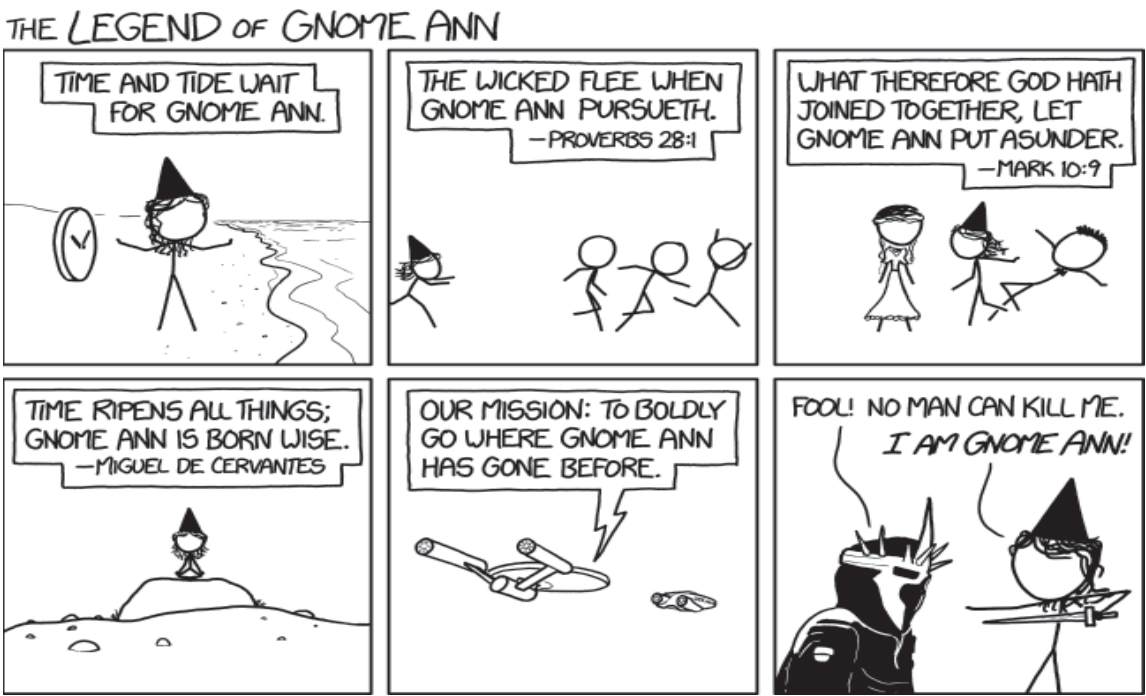
Hours during when classes are in session:  
Medical Services: Monday – Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Counseling and Disability Services: Monday – Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
After Hours Emergency: 911 or 518-276-6611  
24-hour Nurse Line: 1-866-315-8756

Health and Health Promotion – Academy Hall 3000 Level - 518-276-6287  
Counseling – Academy Hall 4000 Level – 518-276-6479  
Disability Services – Academy Hall 4000 Level – 518-276-8197  
<http://studenthealth.rpi.edu>



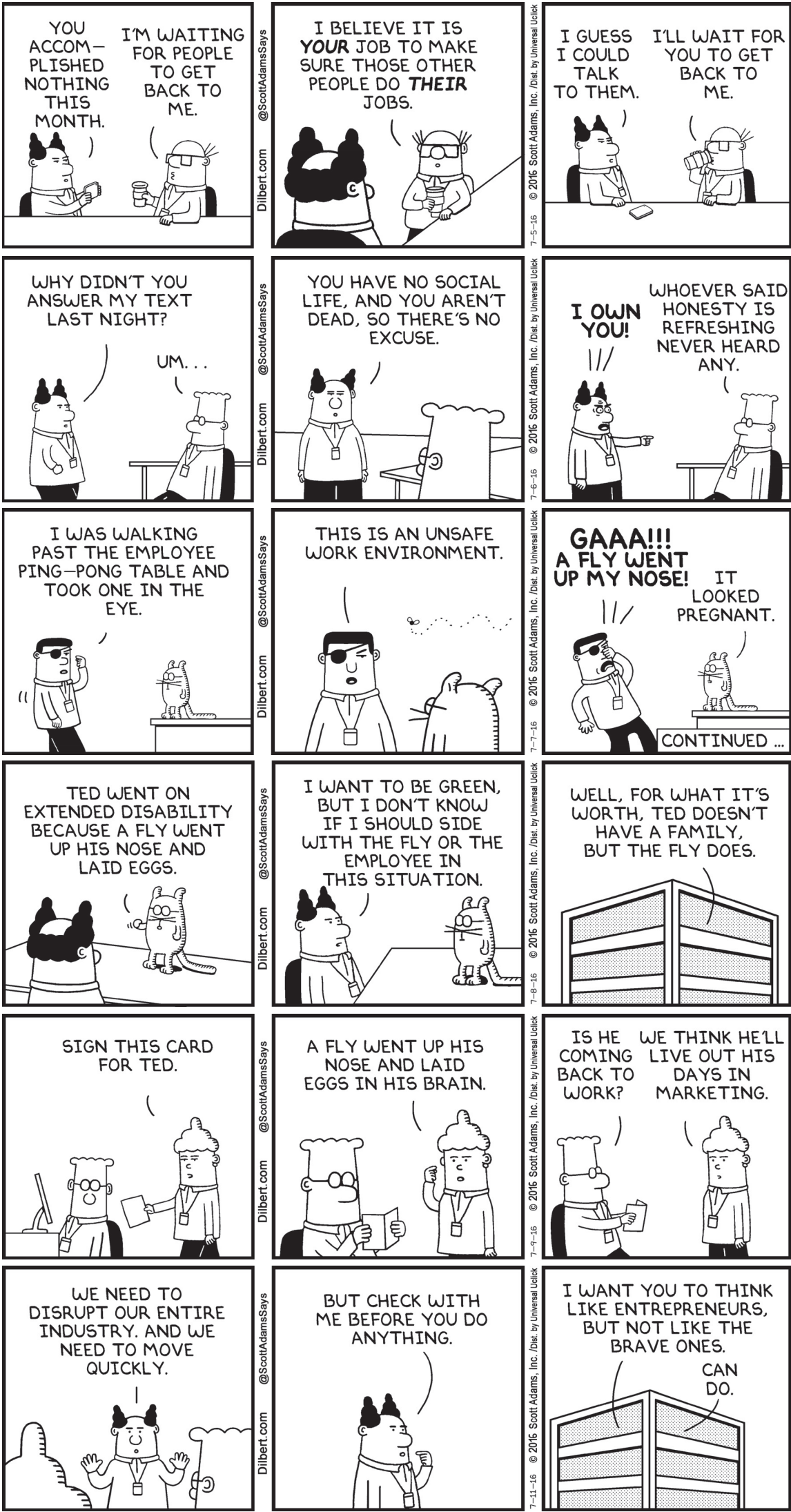
XKCD

by Randal Munroe



DILBERT

by Scott Adams



TOP TEN LIST

# Reasons to Join The Poly

10. Learn to write good
9. We have awards from the 60s
8. Make a resumé in InDesign
7. Tabloids are fun!
6. We say “goodbe!”
5. Our server is new
4. We used to relevant
3. Free printing!
2. Our office is sweet
1. We control the Union

WORDFIND

by David Raab

Words can be found forwards, backwards, up, down, and in both diagonals.

## Unique Colors

J	D	X	J	X	J	S	P	U	F	W	L	J	A	G
T	R	Q	M	E	J	Q	T	H	C	G	Z	E	I	O
U	L	J	M	C	S	F	F	R	R	H	O	V	O	L
R	D	T	Z	P	K	U	H	S	N	F	J	J	Z	D
Q	T	D	Z	E	W	L	E	H	S	I	U	S	S	E
U	B	L	Z	R	R	V	Y	R	I	U	Z	W	O	N
O	P	A	Q	U	E	O	I	F	T	G	G	Z	K	R
I	T	V	T	S	K	U	L	W	V	R	W	I	U	O
S	F	E	M	T	Q	S	Y	C	Y	C	A	W	E	D
E	C	N	T	N	Q	G	Y	Z	L	H	G	H	T	U
I	N	D	I	G	O	L	V	E	A	D	E	G	C	N
H	V	E	Q	T	V	X	A	S	R	O	U	N	Q	B
M	P	R	X	D	D	A	N	O	O	T	E	Q	L	B
N	I	D	N	O	S	M	I	R	C	A	V	A	H	C
U	H	K	F	Q	O	R	R	D	V	R	U	J	R	T
I	P	J	A	D	E	N	A	C	T	E	A	L	S	X
Y	M	L	U	D	R	L	H	I	V	R	M	H	F	M
H	M	P	G	T	O	C	I	L	E	U	Q	O	C	U
V	K	R	V	I	Z	J	T	T	I	F	A	H	D	F

Charcoal	Goldenrod	Navy
Chartreuse	Indigo	Opaque
Coquelin	Jade	Rose
Coral	Lavender	Rust
Crimson	Mauve	Teal
Fulvous	Mikado	Turquoise

UPAC

CINEMA

UPAC

CINEMA

UPAC

CINEMA

Guardians of the Galaxy

Saturday • July 16, 2016  
6 pm, 8:30 pm • DCC 308 • FREE

E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial

Saturday • July 22, 2016  
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COLLEGE



There's no better time to take a

RISK



and create your own

JOB



eship rpi

# Pokémon GO: *Dream adventure for everyone*

From **Page 7**  
**Justin Etzine**  
*Senior Reviewer*

LESS A YEAR AFTER ITS ANNOUNCEMENT IN September 2015, Pokémon GO has hit the App Store and Android Market and has seemingly instantly taken the world by storm. A collaboration between The Pokémon Company and Niantic Labs, a game design studio formerly part of Google, Pokémon GO allows users to “experience” Pokémon in the real world, using augmented reality and global positioning to simulate what being Pokémon Trainer might be like in the real world.

This isn’t Niantic’s first rodeo with video games that use the player’s physical movement as the primary controller. In November 2012, Niantic introduced Ingress, where players competed globally on two teams to collect “Exotic Matter” and capture portals—which coincide with real-world landmarks—from the opposing team.

Pokémon GO borrows a number of mechanics from Ingress. After given an introductory message from Professor Willow, the player is given the chance to catch either Bulbasaur, Charmander, or Squirtle, the three original starter Pokémon choices from Pokémon Red and Blue. Subsequently, the player is shown a map on their mobile devices, with their avatar displayed at their GPS location. As the player moves, the map and list of nearby Pokémon is updated.

When a player is in range of a Pokémon, the character appears on the map. When trying to catch a Pokémon, the player swipes upward on a PokéBall to “throw” it at the Pokémon, which has been rendered in either a simulated grassy plain or, if the player allows, directly augmented onto whatever is behind their phones. The classic suspense of capturing a Pokémon, where you anxiously watch as the PokéBall twitches and pray it doesn’t escape, has been retained, but the mechanic of battling wild Pokémon is not included. As players capture more Pokémon, they gain experience points and raise their players’ levels.

Upon reaching level 5, the player can opt to join one of three teams, similar to Ingress: Yellow (Instinct), Blue (Mystic), or Red (Valor). Once chosen, the player can participate in battling gyms of opposing teams with the aim of converting it to their team. Battling is not nearly as sophisticated as what you will find in the main-series console games, but it gets the intent across.

The game has become a sensation in the three regions it has been released in so far: the United States, New Zealand, and Australia. Within 24 hours of release, the game hit the top of the Free and Top Grossing charts on the Apple App Store. But the game’s launch has been rocky, with many users experience substantial and extensive lag and inability to play due to server errors. Niantic has put worldwide release of the game on temporary hold while the problems are resolved.

Overall, my feelings on Pokémon GO are mixed. From a conceptual standpoint, the game passes with flying colors. I can’t remember how many times I wanted to be a Pokémon Trainer in real life when I was younger, and this game gets me as close as possible to fulfilling that dream. However, on both the feature and release standpoints, I am underwhelmed. Server issues aside, the game definitely could be more filled with features. Granted, the augmented reality functionality is definitely groundbreaking, but I would have been more happy with a later launch that included more functionality overall. However, the nostalgia and game experience are already worth playing, and I can see why the game has already seen a major adoption.

Get out there and catch some Pokémon! ◇

*The Poly* is  
Rensselaer’s  
weekly  
newspaper.

# Buzz Aldrin: 13 lessons in *No Dream Is Too Big*

From **Page 7**

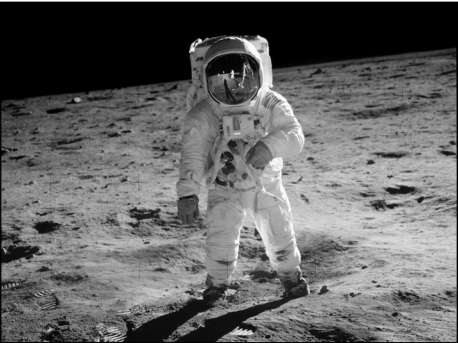
The text is set up very nicely: many anecdotes followed with his main take-away and how his story applies to all readers. One of my favorite passages is found at the end of the chapter “Keep a Young Mind-Set at Every Age”, in which Buzz states, “Okay, so you are getting older. So what? It beats the alternatives!” If you giggled when reading that, then this book is perfect for you.

Prior to this reading endeavor, I hadn’t quite realized Buzz was the second man to step foot on the moon; he uses that fact to his humorous advantage all throughout the book. He mentions how he has walked on the moon which, at times, seemed a bit too much, yet it did not detract from the main points of the book.

Additionally, he mentions his education and his decision-making frequently, which is pertinent to all college students, especially those graduating and questioning where to go on next in life. There are many other themes that apply to college students, including working in team and goal settings. It is weird to think an 86 year old wrote this book because he

writes of his life stories as if they just happened yesterday.

Getting through this quick-read book consisted of a chapter each morning while waiting for breakfast to cook over the time span of two weeks—making it a quick, enjoyable read. I’m not an aeronautical engineering student or part of the Flying Club, yet this book is great for any student with the aims of making their future one of excitement. With a little over a month before school, pick this book up at your library, or wander through the section of new books—you never know what you might find! ◇



Courtesy of NASA

ALDRIN POSES in stride on the moon.

# Blood and Wine: Fitting conclusion to Witcher

From **Page 7**

Toussaint is breathtaking. Never have I seen such a vivid and appealing land in a video game. Modeled after southern France, the duchy certainly looks it with its numerous vineyards, knightly tournaments, and signature architecture. The skies are kissed with turquoise-blue and massive snowcapped mountains serve as the backdrop. Even the rivers are dyed a marine blue so crisp they look like they were carved today. Juxtaposed against this landscape is the capital city of Beauclair, nestling orange roofs atop colorful townhouses and the ivory-white Beauclair Palace.

After spending hundreds of hours adventuring across Temeria’s dark northern realms and the bucolic countryside of Novigrad, I was stunned when Geralt first rode into Toussaint on horseback. Joined by two knights and their steeds—both clad in armor—the witcher sees the region again for the first time in many, many years.

As the camera pans to reveal Beauclair, Baron Palmerin de Launfal introduces Toussaint as “the land of love and wine,” to which Geralt responds, “Exactly how I remembered it.” This is possible foreshadowing, as he encounters many people from his past, good and bad. For example, he finds his old friend Emiel Regis Rohellec Terzieff-Godefroy (or just Regis), a more than 400 year old powerful higher vampire. Another that he meets is The Lady

of the Lake, the goddess of chivalry who blessed him with Aerondight, a legendary silver sword, nearly a decade prior.

Unbeknownst to him, Blood and Wine is the White Wolf’s final foray on The Path. During the first few quests of the expansion, Geralt is gifted the sprawling vineyard estate Corvo Bianco, with a few unexpected features and loyal majordomo Barnabas-Basil Foulty. Corvo Bianco is a fantastic place to call home; when fully furnished, the vineyard feels comforting and personal. I’ve lined the inside of the villa with Geralt’s grandmaster witcher armors whose diagrams I found all across Toussaint, and hung swords acquired from friends and foes alike. As nice as a beautiful estate is itself, it could always use company. And by the end of the game, you’re joined by someone you care deeply about (I’m a sucker for Yennifer).

Blood and Wine serves as a fitting conclusion for Geralt of Rivia. Through hundreds of hours, we have followed him through heartbreak and betrayal; bouts of compassion and euphoria. We have slayed the King of the Wild Hunt, parlayed with the Emperor of Nilfgaard, and even bested the Man of Glass, also known as evil incarnate. The witcher has loved many, fought many, and saved many. And now, he finally gets to live his life in rest and relaxation. I love this expansion: the backdrop, the adventure, the ending; all of it. In this way, we give our dearest character a teary-eyed farewell into retirement. ◇



Chris Leong/The Polytechnic

GERALT OF RIVIA APPROACHES Toussaint in the last expansion for *Witcher 3*.

## Is it Greek to You?

The Alumni InterGreek Council,  
Office of Greek Life Commons, and Interfraternity and Panhellenic  
Councils welcome the incoming class of 2020 members to R.P.I.

**Fraternities:**

Alpha Chi Rho (AXP)  
Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEP)  
Acacia (AKAK)  
Alpha Sigma Phi (ΑΣΦ)  
Chi Phi (ΧΦ)  
Delta Kappa Epsilon (ΔΚΕ)  
Delta Phi (ΔΦ)  
Delta Tau Delta (ΔΤΔ)  
Phi Iota Alpha (ΦΙΑ)  
Phi Gamma Delta (FJI)  
Phi Kappa Theta (ΦΚΘ)  
Phi Kappa Tau (ΦΚΤ)

Phi Mu Delta (ΦΜΔ)  
Phi Sigma Kappa (ΦΣΚ)  
Lambda Chi Alpha (ΛΧΑ)  
Pi Delta Psi (ΠΔΨ)  
Pi Kappa Alpha (ΠΚΑ)  
Pi Kappa Phi (ΠΚΦ)  
Pi Lambda Phi (ΠΛΦ)  
Theta Chi (ΘΧ)  
Theta Xi (ΘΞ)  
Rensselaer Society of Engineers (RSE)  
Sigma Alpha Epsilon (ΣΑΕ)  
Sigma Chi (ΣΧ)  
Sigma Phi Epsilon (ΣΦΕ)

Tau Epsilon Phi (ΤΕΦ)  
Tau Kappa Epsilon (ΤΚΕ)  
Psi Upsilon (ΨΥ)  
Zeta Psi (ΖΨ)

**Sororities:**

Alpha Gamma Delta (ΑΓΔ)  
Alpha Kappa Delta Phi (αΔΚΦ)  
Alpha Omega Epsilon (ΑΩΕ)  
Alpha Phi (ΑΦ)  
Pi Beta Phi (ΠΒΦ)  
Sigma Delta (ΣΔ)

Come visit with us at our information table and presentations during the SO Resource Center Day. Then, in the first weeks of the fall, check out all of our Chapters during our formal Recruitment/ Rush period and discover why almost 30% of RPI students become members of fraternities and sororities – or in other words, “Go Greek.”



MOVIE REVIEW

Voltron tells a science fiction with humor and twists

Elisabeth Ryan  
Senior Reviewer

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ENJOYED watching *Transformers* or *Power Rangers* as kids, this reboot of the 1980’s cartoon series *Voltron: Defender of the Universe* is for you. Produced by DreamWorks Animation Television and World Events Productions, the series was distributed by Netflix and animated by Studio Mir (a rather familiar name for those *Avatar: The Last Airbender* and *Legend of Korra* fans out there). And, in a fit of boredom one Saturday afternoon, I watched the entire series straight.

The plot centers around the intergalactic threat The Galra Empire and its leader Zarkon who goes about spreading misery and oppression throughout the known universe. The only thing strong enough to defeat such an evil force would be Voltron (defender of the universe). Voltron is not a person, however, but rather five separate robotic lions capable of interstellar flight, manned by pilots, known as Paladins, with whom they share a special bond. The lions are colored (black, red, blue, yellow, and green) and each form a different part of Voltron (the head, the arms, the legs.) When forming Voltron, there’s



Courtesy of DreamWorks Animation

THE INTELLECTUAL ROBOTIC LION DEMONSTRATES strong power and spirit to protect the Earth.

this really cool sequence where the lions start changing shape and attaching to one another, all the while music that can only be classified as “space music” is playing.

Yes, it’s nothing new. Once again, there’s a powerful and corrupt force itching to take over the Universe, and only five, unsuspecting humans brought together by coincidental circumstances can defeat it.

However, the characters of *Voltron: Legendary Defender*

bring a new vitality to this worn genre. Takashi Shirogane, referred to in the series as Shiro, is the sound leader of the Paladins and pilot of the black lion. He is considerably older than the teens that man the other lions, and they look to him for guidance. Keith, pilot of the red lion, is a temperamental individual who relies on his instincts and personal feeling to guide his decision making. Lance, pilot of the blue lion, is a wanton flirt

who makes bad jokes and lives his life to a happy-go-lucky standard. Pidge, pilot of the green lion and most intelligent by far of all the Paladins, has an intricate past and secret that is understated by their studios, if somewhat standoffish at times, facade. Hunk, pilot of the yellow lion, is a gentle giant with a soft-spot for the helpless and in-need. Princess Allura, lone surviving female of the Altean race, is a both sweet and nurturing individual as well

as someone driven by righteous indignation. She, along with her attendant Coran, have been frozen for the last ten thousand years to preserve their culture from the Galran attack.

After an unplanned wormhole jump, these earthlings find themselves in a galaxy far, far away, where they meet and befriend the Alteans. With what can only be deemed minor encouragement, they accede to forming Voltron to defeat Zarkon and piloting the lions, who have chosen them and seem to possess a form of intelligence. Each of these characters have their own motivations to exterminating the Galran Empire, however, some more noble than others.

It’s a story told with twists and humor with a light dash of science sprinkled in there. I can’t guarantee that all will enjoy. However, if you enjoyed *Avatar: Last Airbender* and *Legend of Korra* you’ll find the shadows of some of your old favorites. I highly recommend to just watch it already; it’s only 13 episodes. ♦

Elisabeth's Rating:  
10/10

GAME REVIEW

Addictive Pokémon GO takes over hearts of fans



Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic

POKÉMON GO USES augmented reality to add Pokémon to the real world. Using GPS signal, players can adventure around their town collecting pokemon from the wild.



Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic

POKÉMON GO HAS REACHED the Rensselaer campus, with many opportunities for players.

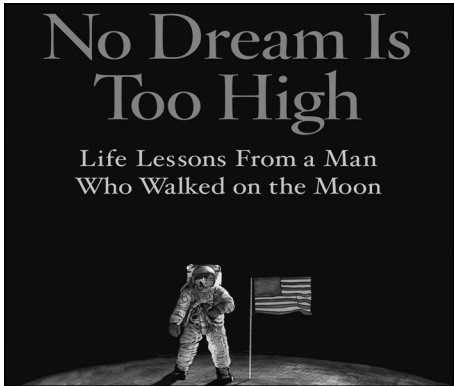
See Pokémon GO, **Page 6**

BOOK REVIEW

Surprise enjoyment in new book  
Buzz Aldrin turns reviewer’s summer read to enjoyment

Maria Kozdroy  
Senior Reviewer

SUMMER READING: I’VE BEEN DREADING IT EVER SINCE ELEMENTARY school. However, after recently visiting my local library I came across a book in the New Book section titled *No Dream Is Too High: Life Lessons From a Man Who Walked on the Moon* by Buzz Aldrin. I flipped through the pages to get an idea of it, noticing each chapter had a witty title. For example, as chapter one: “The Sky is Not the Limit... There are Footprints on the Moon!” Before even beginning to read this 219-page autobiography, I could tell Buzz is a funny guy.



Courtesy of National Geographic

Without space manifesto, the book is a reflection on author’s rich life experiences.

See Buzz Aldrin, **Page 6**

GAME REVIEW

Blood and Wine has  
beauty, adventure

Chris Leong  
Senior Reviewer

BLOOD AND WINE, RELEASED ON MAY 31, 2016, SIGNALS THE LAST adventure of protagonist Geralt of Rivia. As the second and last expansion of *The Witcher 3*, the 50 hour downloadable content journey brings the famous witcher to Toussaint. Vibrantly colored with an almost fairy tale-like atmosphere, Toussaint provides a stark contrast to the murky swamplands of Velen in the base game. The White Wolf makes his way to this land of chivalry and knights to hunt a mysterious beast, on the request of its esteemed duchess.

See BLOOD AND WINE, **Page 6**



# Features

Monday, July 11, 2016

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

# Local Dinosaur Bar-B-Que offers Troy taste

Noises, live music, river breeze and the sunset make a great set of sides for a barbeque

Kay Sun  
Senior Reviewer

I HAD MY FIRST EXPERIENCE AT Dinosaur BBQ earlier this summer. I am surprised that my friends and I have never discovered such great barbeque in our exploration of Troy. Sitting right next to Hudson River, the restaurant has two parts—one is under AC with band performances on Wednesday nights; the other side is outdoor, exposed to river breeze and the sunset.

When I went there two weeks ago with my Introduction to Engineering Design group members to celebrate our success in final project demonstration, the restaurant was packed with people: young couples, families, friend groups, et cetera. Noise became one of our sides. However, those loud jokes, greetings, and laughter didn't bother us at all; it offered a more relaxing meal experience and a harmonious atmosphere at our table. We talked about the huge amount work we put into our project, we joked and made fun of each other, and we also exchanged our feelings and thoughts. Looking outside, we saw



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

DINOSAUR BAR-B-QUE IS LOCATED along Hudson river, at the crossroad of River St. and Grand St.

the entire sunset and were obsessed with the golden river surface as well as passing boats. We even waved hello to passengers. The restaurant has a certain magic to cheer you up and make you laugh about everything, no matter bitter or sweet, which is why I was so impressed with the atmosphere and have to recommend Dinosaur here.

I only ordered a small solo sampler that time, as I wasn't too confident in

the taste of the food there. However, that was such a fake assumption! A sampler includes a spicy shrimp boil, chicken wings, fried green tomatoes and deviled eggs. The spicy shrimp have a fresh as well as firm mouthfeel; the chicken wing taste tender and juicy. The deviled eggs are my favorite in the restaurant so far—the amazing mixture of the great texture of the egg white and the rich taste of mayonnaise, yolk, and

other ingredients. The fried green tomatoes, however, didn't leave me too much of an impression. Seeing other friends having ribs, which is Dinosaur's featured dish, I was eager to come and try it again.

I didn't wait too long for my second experience with Dinosaur. Last weekend, my mom and I went there again after hanging out in downtown Troy. This time, we ordered salad and Jumbo chicken wings of Devil's Duel

flavor and customized combo of St. Louis ribs, pulled pork, and smoked "hot link" homemade sausage. The Devil's Duel chicken wings were so hot that my mouth is still watering as I am writing this sentence. But, the hot taste doesn't cover its tasty flavor. We ordered another three as soon as we finished the plate. After the spicy devil wings, I had my meat combo. They were great. But, instead of the ribs, I love the pork most. The pork has a really loose texture, not in a bad way. I literally felt the meat melting in my mouth, with a strong authentic pork taste allover. The sausage is crispy and juicy. Finally, the ribs. Maybe because of the heightened expectation, the ribs don't qualify for the high compliments of my friends. It is for sure a nice barbeque dish, but it's relatively ordinary with comparison to some other shiny dishes in the restaurant.

I regard myself a very picky meat gourmet. However, you can have your own evaluation after a try. So definitely go and have your own experience. You will have a real Troy taste and see what an energetic and cheerful place it is! ♦

DIVERSITY. INCLUSION. CULTURE. INTERSECTIONALITY.  
SUCCESS THROUGH UNIFIED PERSPECTIVES.



Matt Roloff

actor/author/farmer/business entrepreneur

Tuesday, Sept. 13th

7:30pm / EMPAC Concert Hall

College students face tremendous struggles in today's world, stresses from within the campus life and beyond. It is imperative for student success to have strategies for moving through challenge to create systems for them to achieve greatness.

Matt Roloff is best known for starring in the hit TLC reality show "Little People, Big World." His resilience has led him to overcome the challenges of everyday life. He operates a successful farm, has authored two books, and currently owns a manufacturing company specializing in mobility equipment designed for little people. Roloff has made three humanitarian trips to the Middle East to facilitate life-saving medical efforts for little people in Iraq. He has served as national President of Little People of America and has since co-founded a non-profit organization that supports little people across the nation.

For more information contact 276.6505 or activities@rpi.edu

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UNION

image repurposed from Horia Varlan, 2008

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