

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Dvorak wins PU election

Kelsey McNeely
Senior Reporter

ON FRIDAY, APRIL 24, THE RESULT OF THE President of the Union runoff election was announced in Mother's Wine Emporium. Nick Dvorak '16 won the election, held earlier that day, with 85.32 percent of votes. 13.47 percent of the student body voted in the runoff election.

Dvorak ran a write-in campaign after initially withdrawing from the PU race. In the Grand Marshal Week PU election held on Thursday, April 16, Dvorak received 14.957 percent of votes and his opponent Greg Bartell '17 received 35.9 percent. However, because no eligible candidate reached the 40 percent threshold, a runoff election was required.

Dvorak has proposed plans for possible changes to club and Executive Board operations. E-Board representatives will be expected to meet with their clubs at least once a month. Also, clubs will be asked to create four-year plans for budgeting. A four-year plan would theoretically enable clubs to plan major expenses years in advance. If clubs are having a problem with the PU or their E-Board representative, they can submit complaints or feedback via an online form.

Applications for the Executive Board are currently available and can be found in yellow folders on bulletin boards throughout the Union, as a PDF at <http://poly.rpi.edu/s/x0m1c/>, and as a Google Form at <http://poly.rpi.edu/s/1odcx/>. The deadline for E-Board applications is 11:59 pm on Wednesday, May 6.



Jack Wellhofer/The Polytechnic

NICK DVORAK '16 won the PU election with over 85 percent of student votes.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Students discuss American Sniper

Kelsey McNeely
Senior Reporter

UPAC CINEMA'S SHOWING OF *AMERICAN SNIPER*, originally scheduled for Friday, April 10, was postponed after a request by the Muslim Student Association to cancel the showing for that night. UPAC Cinema and the MSA released a joint statement explaining that the film would be postponed to Sunday, April 26, and a panel discussion would be held immediately before the screening.

Sunday's panel discussion was only open to members of the RPI community. Additionally, photography and releasing names of the panelists were prohibited. Associate Dean of Student Retention and Success moderated the discussion. The panel consisted of two members of the United States Armed Forces, panelists one and two, and two Muslim RPI students, panelists three and four. Attendees were invited to write questions for the panel. Trzepacz introduced the discussion and requested that attendees be respectful and seek to understand first before being understood.

The first panelist, an Army veteran who had served in both Iraq and Afghanistan, started the discussion by sharing statistics on veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. He explained that, "This film is a way to relate what happens in war to the general public." He also asked attendees to remember that, "Military members themselves don't determine the operations or where they are deployed. That is decided by the Commander in Chief and the Secretary of Defense."

The second panelist, who had served in the United States Marine Corps prior to college, added, "*American Sniper* is about the harsh realities of war." She explained that, in war, soldiers have a different mindset that is completely different from normal life. "There is a division between who you are and who you need to be in war for self-preservation."

Panelist three attempted to shed light on concerns some Muslims have about the film. "The main problem with *American Sniper* is it continues

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GREEK LIFE

FIJI hosts Islander Week

Fraternity raises money to help downtown fire victims

Chris Leong
Senior Reporter

ON MONDAY, APRIL 27, PHI GAMMA DELTA, ALSO KNOWN AS FIJI, kicked off their Islander Week on the '86 Field. The chapter set up an inflatable obstacle course and sold non-alcoholic strawberry daiquiris, hotdogs, and hamburgers from 8 am-5 pm. Donations were encouraged for runs through the course, but were not required. All money raised during Islander Week will go to help the families displaced by the fire on Fourth and Washington streets on April 10, 2015.

On Tuesday, April 28, following the kickoff event, FIJI tabled in front of Russell Sage Dining Hall. Once again, the chapter sold hotdogs, hamburgers, and non-alcoholic piña colodas from 8 am-5 pm, but they also promoted their Evening of Performances

at their chapter house, the former First Baptist Church, in downtown Troy. They hosted Pumper, a pop-punk band composed of RPI students, who played covers of popular songs, like "I Just Can't Wait to Be King," from *The Lion King*. Additionally, Sheer Idiocy performed after, playing games such as That Darn Clap and Pledge Break. The Rusty Pipes went on following RPI's first and only improv group, closing the night by singing songs such as "Latch," by Disclosure and "My Body," by Young the Giant.

Future Islander events for the week are a frisbee tournament on the '86 Field at 3 pm on Wednesday, April 29; dunk tank on the Rensselaer Student Union patio with Alpha Gamma Delta from 8 am-5 pm, on Thursday, April 30; and Duct Tape a FIJI outside RSDH from 8 am-5 pm on Friday, May 1.

Weather

8-Day Forecast

Day	High/Low	Precip.	Hum.	Wind
Wednesday	69° / 46°	4%	30%	11 mph
Thursday	63° / 47°	20%	39%	6 mph
Friday	58° / 48°	24%	39%	8 mph
Saturday	64° / 44°	10%	35%	7 mph
Sunday	71° / 45°	12%	34%	9 mph
Monday	77° / 49°	13%	31%	10 mph
Tuesday	78° / 57°	24%	35%	14 mph
Wednesday	72° / 56°	37%	32%	10 mph

STUDENT SENATE

Senate hears student petitions

Jack Wellhofer
Senior Reporter

THE 46TH STUDENT SENATE held its first meeting this past Tuesday. Newly elected Grand Marshal Marcus Flowers began the meeting by recommending Keegan Caraway '18 and Joshua Rosenfeld '16 be appointed as secretary and parliamentarian, respectively. The Senate approved Caraway 14-0-2 and approved Rosenfeld 16-0-0.

Most of the Senate's business this week was related to petitions that have recently gained the

required 250 signatures. The first such petition was the *American Sniper* petition, which wanted to allow UPAC Cinema to show the film *American Sniper*. Since the sponsor of the petition removed his or her signature, there was no presentation. Justin Etzine '18 and graduate student Jen Church both felt that the petition was unnecessary, since *American Sniper* was shown last weekend. The senators voted 14-0-2, supporting the intent of the petition.

The next petition was the Give Us Our Jar Lids petition, which, as the name implies, aims to get lids for the Mason



Dan Bruce/The Polytechnic

GRAND MARSHAL MARCUS FLOWERS '16 LEADS the first meeting of the 46th Senate.

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Senate: No lids for Grand Marshal Week jar-mugs

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Jars given out during Grand Marshal Week 2015. Michael Han '16 motioned to amend the motion to charge the GM Week committee with investigating a possible solution. Paul Ilori '17 was opposed to this change, saying that the GM Week committee is a subcommittee of Rules and Elections, which is effectively dissolved. Etzine said that it would be good to broaden the scope of each petition to prevent similar incidents from occurring again. He also suggested it might be good to have some preemptive steps to prevent future dissatisfaction, such as having the E-Board or Senate preview the mugs beforehand. Graduate student Spencer Scott warned against micromanaging the GM Week Committee, and Ilori pointed out that it is an open committee, so, if students want change, they should join it. Ilori also said that he looked into buying lids for the run-off of the President of the Union race, but was unable to find 3,000 jarless lids in the Capital District region in only three days. The Senate then passed the amendment 7-5-4 and the entire motion 9-5-2.

The final petition pertained to bringing fruits, vegetables, and other healthy food options to Father's Marketplace and was presented by Etzine. He said that he would like to see more healthy options brought to the Rensselaer Union, and that Father's would be the ideal first location. Josh D'Amato '18 asked why the petition was also not aimed at expanding healthy food to the dining halls. Etzine responded, saying that sometimes students don't have time to eat at the dining hall or that many students don't have a meal plan to eat at the dining halls. Joe Venusto '17 motioned to amend the motion to charge both the Hospitality Services Advisory Committee and the Union E-Board Business Operations Committee with further investigation. This change was deemed friendly, and the entire motion passed 17-0-0.

The meeting closed with committee reports, however most of the committees are currently inactive. Ilori, on behalf of R&E, wanted to re-emphasize that it was difficult to get jar lids in time for the run-off election and that the next R&E committee would likely not discuss the matter. This concluded the first meeting of the 46th Senate.

Sniper: Veteran and Muslim students share views on film



Courtesy of Warner Bros

BRADLEY COOPER PLAYS Chris Kyle, the subject of the controversial film *American Sniper*. UPAC Cinema showed the movie on Sunday, April 26.

From Page 2

the trend of correlating Islam with violence. There is no good Muslim in the movie and that's not realistic." He also explained that this problem is not unique to Muslims. "Every couple of decades there's a new media target. A couple decades ago, it was the Russians." Panelist four noted that the insurgents in the film don't look very different from him and his family and hoped that, "viewers don't paint the situation with a broad brush."

The panelists were then asked what about this film in particular has sparked so much controversy. Panelists one and two cited *American Sniper*'s level of visibility and success as possible causes of controversy. "*American Sniper* is the first movie about these wars that has been widely successful," panelist one explained. According to panelist two, the film was so successful because, "Chris Kyle was a name we knew. What happened to him catapulted the film into the limelight."

Trzepacz asked, "Is there a particular moment in the film that the viewers should take note of?" Panelist four noted a scene where Kyle claims to not know what a Quran looks like. "People will draw their conclusions based off of what they know. Putting myself in his shoes, I would also have reservations. What

he knew about Muslims probably came from the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001." Panelist two cited a scene in which Kyle becomes tense when he sees someone watching him and his son at a car repair center as an example of the different mindset a soldier has in combat. "His entire demeanor changed. It's really difficult to separate pre-war and war mentality." Panelist one discussed the opening scene in which a child is holding what Kyle believes is an RKG-3 anti-tank grenade. Kyle is torn between shooting the child to save soldiers' lives and possibly taking an innocent life. "That grenade, while it doesn't look impressive, can actually kill people inside a tank. He has a split second to make the decision to shoot or not shoot."

The discussion ended with questions from the audience. Only one question was asked, "Is there a way enemy combatants be portrayed to not offend Muslims?" Panelist four responded, "No, because if that's what happened, that's how it should be portrayed."

Editor's Note: Names and information regarding panelists and members present at the discussion were withheld at the request of the panelists and the Rensselaer Union

INCIDENT BLOTTER

INFORMATION
PROVIDED BY
PUBLIC SAFETY
INVESTIGATOR
TERRANCE BURNS

Wednesday, April 22

Darrin Communications Center

Theft: A Jazzman's employee had a laptop bag and wallet stolen while making coffee. The suspect was wearing a dark blue jacket and a gray ski mask, and the whereabouts of the suspect are still unknown. Later that day, an Environmental and Site Services employee located the missing bag in a second floor restroom, but the wallet is still missing. Troy Police Department completed a report.

Sage Avenue

Fire: Troy Fire Department responded to a fire alarm activation at a house on Sage Avenue. The fire was believed to originate from a garbage can on the second floor bathroom and was determined to be unintentional. Upon TFD arrival, an occupant had already extinguished the fire. The Department of Public Safety was notified, and an incident report was completed.

Rensselaer Union

Auto Accident: An auto accident involving a pedestrian occurred at the corner of 15th Street and Sage Avenue. TPD and DPS found an individual in the road, who appeared to have a head injury. The patient was transported to Samaritan Hospital by TFD, and a medical report was completed. TPD completed a motor vehicle accident report, and the Dean of Students' Office was notified.

Thursday, April 23

Folsom Library

Illness: An employee reported experiencing abdominal pain. The subject was transported to Samaritan Hospital by RPI Ambulance.

Rensselaer Union

Larceny: DPS officers caught a student stealing a wet floor sign from the Rensselaer Union front entrance. The property was retrieved by DPS and brought to the DPS office. An incident report and a grounds for disciplinary action report were filed for petit larceny, and DOSO was notified.

Saturday, April 25

Center for Industrial Innovation

Criminal Mischief: A DPS officer noticed that a window was shattered on the CII A-Wing, across from Jazzman's Cafe. Only the exterior pane was broken. Environmental and Site Services were notified, and a report was filed.

Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center

Criminal Mischief: A caller reported a shattered window pane on the north side of the building. The glass pane was imported from Germany and valued at approximately \$3,000. An incident report was completed.

Center for Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies

Hazardous Material: A student reported seeing an unidentified liquid spill next to the fume hood in a laboratory. The student was not sure where the spill was coming from. As a precaution, the fire alarm was activated by DPS, and the building was evacuated. TFD investigated the spill and concluded it was not a chemical spill, but a leaking refrigerator.

Nugent Hall

Assault: A student reported getting assaulted by two individuals. The student was punched in the face and the suspects ran off in the direction of Tibbits Avenue. The student did not require medical attention and met with DPS officers to describe the suspects. A witness also called DPS to report the incident and described seeing six suspects: two white males and four black males. The witness' information was forward to TFD, and DOSO was notified of the incident.

Sharp Hall

Assault and Robbery: A witness reported seeing a student assaulted and robbed of a cellphone while walking beside Sharp Hall on Bouton Road. The individual endured multiple injuries to the head and face, resulting in a black eye, redness, and swelling of the face. A group of males were deemed responsible, and are believed to be the same suspects from the previous incident outside Nugent Hall. The student was evaluated, but not sent to the hospital. The surrounding areas were searched, but no suspects were found. TPD filed a report for the robbery. The DPS completed a medical report, and DOSO was notified of the incident.

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