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RPI athletes impress at nationals

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Stephanie Tan Winter break is coming

David Raab Teaching the impossible, Physics style

CAMPUS EVENT

Space veteran visits RPI campus

NASA astronaut Guion Bluford recounts time in orbit and other experiences

Brookelyn Parslow
Senior Reporter

ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, former astronaut Guion Bluford shared his 15 years worth of experience in NASA, including 688 hours in space, with his lecture, “Free Fall! Flying In Space.” Bluford was one of 35 selected by NASA from a pool of thousands in 1979. Four years later, he became the first African American in space. Bluford didn’t hold back as he detailed all four of his Space Shuttle flights, including 76 different lab experiments he helped perform in Spacelab, his attempts at making sandwiches, and all of the quirks associated with daily life in zero gravity.

When he opened up for questions, people of all ages lined up behind the microphones placed on both sides of the auditorium. On the topic of Mars, Bluford said, “Humans are explorers; we want to get there because it’s

there,” and that it may have to serve as a refuge from Earth, if action regarding environmental issues isn’t taken soon enough. When asked what it takes to become an astronaut, he explained that in order to be competitive, one should complete a Ph.D. in a science or engineering field, have experience in that field, have a private pilot license, be a certified scuba diver, be fluent in Russian, and have a nice personality with a balanced ego. He also stressed that there are other ways to contribute to space exploration through a variety of roles that extend far beyond being an astronaut, and that these roles are just as important as astronauts themselves.

Throughout the lecture and as a closing sentiment, Bluford claimed that he “made people pay [him] to have a good time,” a goal he urged the members of the audience to keep in mind throughout their education and careers. ♦



Courtesy of NASA

BLUFORD ANSWERED questions on Mars, engineering, and zero gravity.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Student employees see wage increase

Elisabeth Ryan
Senior Reporter

THE RENSSELAER UNION EXECUTIVE BOARD OPENED their November 17 meeting with an appeal from the service fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega. APO was requesting to reserve a portion of the McNeil Room for Monday, December 5 where they will be hosting a “de-stress event,” featuring movies and a sundae bar in anticipation of finals. Alternative study spaces will be provided. The motion to allow APO’s reservation of the McNeil room was passed.

Members of the UPAC Lights and Sound committee presented a wage increase plan for their technicians. Currently, they are paid \$10 per hour. The minimum wage value in New York is \$9 per hour. They are paid slightly over the minimum wage because members

of the UPAC Lights and Sound committee are trained technicians. However, the technicians of UPAC Lights and Sound have been making \$10 per hour since \$5 per hour was the average minimum wage.

Now, the New York state average hourly minimum wage is set to increase to \$9.70 at the end of December and to increase 70 cents each year. By the end of 2020, the average minimum wage will be \$12.50, which is the value that UPAC Lights and Sound are looking to increase their wage to. Members of the E-Board noted that they would be increasing their wage to minimum wage. It was also noted that UPAC Lights and Sound heavily impact clubs across campus, and a drastic increase in their wage would affect their budgets. The motion to increase the hourly

wage of the UPAC Lights and Sound technicians to \$12.50 starting next year passed.

Matthew Rand ’19 presented the last of the New Club Classifications policy document alterations to the E-Board. In this latest change, the definition of what a club is was made more clear. The E-Board unanimously passed the motion that allows this change.

A new committee focusing on issues related to student employment and the Rensselaer Union was created. The purpose of the committee is to gather student feedback which will be used and reviewed by Associate Director Joe Campo who oversees student employment in the Union. Issues to focus on would include whether or not students have filled out tax forms, whether or not students are being treated equally and is the student work environment satisfactory. President of the Union Chip Kirchner ’17 appointed a chairman.

Kirchner announced a plan to advertise somewhere in the Union RPI’s student veteran association. The purpose of this goal is to create a space for veterans associated with RPI to get involved.

The meeting of Thursday, November 17 marks the final official meeting of the Executive Board for the Fall 2016 semester. Until the end of the semester, members of the E-Board will be working diligently to finalize club budgets. They will resume their meetings next year.

For students interested in the functions and operations of the Union, feel free to attend an E-Board meeting, which have historically been held in the Shelnutt Gallery, on Thursdays at 8 pm. ♦



Brookelyn Parslow/The Polytechnic

EXECUTIVE BOARD CLUB REPRESENTATIVES FACE budgeting in the upcoming weeks.

Serving the Rensselaer community since 1885

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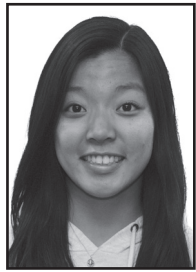
Editorial

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOKS

Shoutout to my friends for keeping me sane

WELL HERE WE ARE, THE LAST two weeks of the semester. For the next couple of weeks, we all have term projects, tests, papers, presentations, and, of course, finals, to look forward to. The upcoming weeks will feel like an eternity. This is not an uncommon feeling, but this feeling hits home at RPI more than at other colleges. RPI pushes its students with such a rigorous academic curriculum with incredibly challenging classes that may not necessarily be well taught. This puts extra pressure on us,



Stephanie Tan
Photography Editor

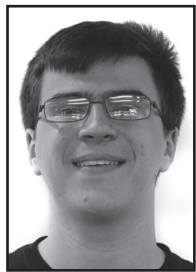
especially at this time of the year, as this semester comes to an end. As my third semester at RPI comes to a close, I find myself with three tests, three projects, and a presentation during the last week of classes, and I am extremely overwhelmed. However, I find some comfort in knowing that many other students understand and are facing similar ordeals, and that we can all help each other during this rough time. This is something I have always appreciated throughout my time

at RPI. Other students are so kind and are always willing to offer help if I am struggling. It is a refreshing change from the competitive environment of other college campuses.

With the upcoming two weeks, I just want to remind the student body that no matter what upheavals you have over these next few weeks from projects to final exams, we can all look forward to the holiday season and four weeks of winter break. Do not forget that these next few weeks will not be easy for anyone, and remain positive as you have made it through a majority of this semester and only have the home stretch left. ♦

Physics II finally clicking Undergraduate TAing most rewarding experience academically, socially since coming to Rensselaer

ONE SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY I'VE HAD this semester is that I've been able to be an undergraduate Teaching Assistant for Physics II. The undergraduate TAs staff the room during labs in order to help the students with the lab activities and answer questions. Sometimes, it can be intimidating to directly ask a professor what seems to be a simple question and that is where the undergraduate TA shines to fill in the gap. Also, at least in Physics II, the graduate TA and the professor float between two labs so they may not always be available during lab to answer questions immediately. In addition to being available during lab sessions, many of the TAs also do separate office hours either on Wednesday or Sunday of every week.



David Raab
Associate News Editor

pen to be taking the course, but you can rest assured that federal law in the form of FERPA enjoins us from discussing them with anyone who is not on the course staff. Let's not forget that the labs are the most generously graded part of the course, and if you come to any of the many office hours offered during the week, you can walk out with a perfect score on your lab and half the points back on your post-lab activity. For compensation, undergraduate TAs either get two free elective credits per semester or they can be paid out of their work-study allotment.

Of course, the compensation (be it money or academic credit) is not really the reason why anyone TAs the course. This semester has been my first semester working as a TA for the class, and it has been a very rewarding experience. All of the TAs were once students in the course, so we know firsthand some of the

trickier parts and how we were able to do well in them. Some of the best tips on how to succeed in the course are best given on a student to student basis. I know I enjoy seeing my students do well in the class, and that I would do anything to help them succeed.

We all know that Physics II has a reputation for being one of the harder core courses for most School of Engineering and Science majors. In fact, while taking the course, I found the hardest part of the exams was the multiple choice questions, simply because there is no partial credit given. I think a lot of students would agree with me that short answer questions are great because they allow for partial credit if you can tell the grader what you were thinking at the time of taking the test.

If you have the opportunity to TA a course as a student here, I would highly encourage you to do so especially if you enjoy helping people. A secondary benefit is the fact that one of the best ways to learn something is to have to teach it somebody else. ♦

DERBY

E-Board takes care of budgeting

HELLO RPI! I HOPE THAT EVERYONE had a wonderful Thanksgiving Break and is recovering well from their food comas! Finals are just around the corner with only two short weeks left of classes. I hope everyone manages to make it through these last few days before enjoying Winter Break.

This time of year is busy and stressful for everyone. We are all shopping for gifts and celebrating the holidays while simultaneously trying to make sure we pass our classes. The Executive Board is also entering its busiest season of the year. Previously, study days would mark the beginning of budgeting for the Executive Board where we would review operating budgets for athletic teams. Since operating budgets in athletics are funded directly from a student fee this year, we moved our

timeline forward. Beginning on December 1, we will review administrative budgets for the Rensselaer Union. The Executive Board will look at all budgets that fall under the Union during four days over the course of the next three weeks. These budgets include club and organizations budgets, the Union's physical building budget, and administrative budgets; we will also be calculating your Activity Fee for the upcoming year during this time.

On December 1 and 8, the Executive Board will be reviewing the administrative budgets and the budgets for the facilities we maintain. This encompasses some of the programming budgets, including Speaker's Forum, Summer Programming, and performing

See BUDGETING, Page 3



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The Poly will like to send condolences to Pauline Oliveros' family. Oliveros was a professor of music at Rensselaer, who passed away on November 24, 2016.

Budgeting: Finalizing E-Board decisions as school year ends

From **Page 2**

arts, as well as specific budgets for general club support and intramurals. These evenings will start at 7 pm for the Executive Board and are anticipated to go until 11 pm. The Executive Board has barely begun its budgeting work at this point. On December 10 and 12, the E-Board will be reviewing the club and organization budgets. During this process the E-Board tries to be as fair as possible to every club, while also trying to balance the anticipated needs of every budget submitted.

After completing these initial budgeting sessions, the E-Board will allow time for appeals to budget decisions during study days. However, appeals will only be allowed for these two days, so clubs will need to act quickly in

order for this to occur. The Board will review these appeals and make final decisions regarding those budgets prior to Wednesday, December 11, with all Union budgets being finalized before leaving for winter break.

Come January, the *Union Annual Report* Committee receives all of the budgetary information and compiles the *Union Annual Report*, which details to students exactly where their Activity Fee is being spent. I hope that you take the time to look at the *UAR*, as it is something that is truly unique to RPI.

I wish you all good luck with your finals, and I hope you don't stress too much over the next couple of weeks. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to reach out to me at pu@rpi.edu. ♦

Fall 2016 elections for *The Polytechnic* will be held at 11 am in Mother's Wine Emporium this Sunday, December 4.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump movement successful for a reason

Federal government, Cabinet appointments moving towards much needed reconstruction

WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION DECIDED almost three weeks ago, President-elect Donald Trump's Cabinet is beginning to take shape. Through these picks, I am happy to see Trump is not renegeing on his campaign promises to bring sweeping changes to the federal government. He is taking great care in choosing highly-experienced, well-respected individuals for Cabinet positions without regard for any personal opinions.

Trump's candidacy was not a campaign to elect another bureaucrat to the White House. Rather, it was a movement of forgotten citizens across this great nation who are disgusted with the corruption, the incompetence, and the failures of the federal government. Small businesses, heavy industry, factory workers, and millions of Americans had been left in crisis as government regulations and exorbitant taxes crippled their livelihoods and shipped their jobs overseas. Progressive laws and a crushing bureaucracy have stifled economic growth in America over the last decade.

Trump voters understood that only through comprehensive reform of our entire government, now known as "draining the swamp," would America even have a chance to break the ubiquitous hold of bureaucracy over our country and help our economy grow.

Not only were Trump voters fed up with the government's failures, but they were also fed up with the treatment of our Constitution. The Constitution and its amendments were designed to be the supreme law of the land, with eloquent language describing government's roles and powers, and the rights of the people. Yet modern politicians, bureaucrats, and officials across the spectrum of authority in our nation have undermined its purposes through unconstitutional executive orders, laws severely restricting our right to bear arms, and interpretations of the law that have no basis in the Constitution. In "draining the swamp," Trump has stated his support of a constitutional amendment to place term limits on all

members of Congress. This will end the reign of the "career politician" and bring fresh ideas to Washington. Conservatives and patriots have been waiting years for someone to protect the Constitution and our rights from abuses of power. Trump voters know that President Trump will fully uphold his Oath of Office to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

The Trump movement was successful because a majority of Americans are tired with where our country is headed. Voters wanted a political outsider, free of corruption and suspicion, who will answer the call of the American people to be our next President of the United States of America.

Dalton Slegel
CHEG '20

Professor's trip out west reaffirms significance of Dakota Access Pipeline civil rights violations

I MOSEYED OVER TO BISMARCK, NORTH Dakota this past week to find out what was really going on at the Standing Rock Reservation, with this "protest" of the Dakota Access Pipeline. I learned two main lessons. First, this is a classic case of egregious political corruption in which the governor, in collusion with private (foreign) corporations, is sending police, sheriffs, and even national guard troops to beat the hell out of citizens in violation of their most fundamental civil rights—in this case, non-violent demonstrators exercising the right of assembly. It's blatant, constantly one-sided, and enraging. I saw and experienced it first hand, inquired of it, challenged it, and got confirmation that there is only one side to the story.

Second, the two encampments, Oceti Sakowin especially, are truly prayer sites. They are holistic spiritual enclaves in which a spirit of traditional stewardship for the earth is nurtured and non-violence trained. The Lakota are genuine water "protectors," not protesters. At the Sacred Stones camp, there is a constant drum beat and educational focus to this spirit, designed to "change the hearts" of the mercenaries to re-engage the spirit of

stewardship in them. This is by far the dominant tone of the entire operation.

Not since 1845 have so many Native American tribes united in such spiritual enclave. The pow-wowing around sacred fires, the inspiring tribal flags lining long roads in camp, the youth riding their pinto horses on the circumference, lining a high ridge, and the profuse neighborliness and helpfulness of all gathered bears evidence to this spirit. The place is a home you never knew you had until you arrive and settle in.

"The line" of confrontation is at Backwater Bridge on Highway 1806. I decided to drive south on it from Bismarck first, rather than joining the protectors coming northward, trying to cross the bridge alone. Passing one "road closed" sign after another, I finally reached the National Guard post and was stopped.

Guard: "The road is closed."

Me: "Yes I know, but it said 'local traffic only,' and what traffic isn't way out here?"

Guard: "No traffic can go through, the bridge is too damaged, it's too dangerous." We negotiated, then I said I'd walk over.

Guard: "The bridge is severely damaged it's too dangerous."

Me: "To walk over? It can't hold my weight? Don't you have about 200 police

personnel with armored vehicles standing on it? No room for one more 175 pounder? I'll tread lightly. Tell me, does the National Guard routinely handle road closures?"

Guard: "No, I'm..."

Me: "Tell you what, I'll walk down the bank and wade across the water. Surely the bridge could take that."

Then I simply started out on my walk. They physically prevented it, a force now grown to perhaps a dozen, from two originally, with two vehicles added. "Touching me makes this a police action. The National Guard does not engage in domestic policing except under martial law." They didn't seem to care.

Taking the detour and arriving at Oceti camp, I gave my donations, helped with some construction and serving of food, and then had a frank talk with the Red Owl Legal Collective in their tent. This started with, "Why shouldn't all these police, sheriff department personnel, and the rest be rounded up by US Army forces for trespassing on sovereign treated Lakota land?" Turns out that the crimes committed by officials are so many that lawyers are having trouble keeping track of them and are formulating class action suits galore. So I helped fund the effort: "Sue the eyeballs out of these people."

The police accused protesters of rioting on the night I left, and attacked them. But livestreamed video shows a police riot setting fire to the land nearby through their canisters. Protectors kept putting them out. You really have to see firsthand: mercenaries firing (rubber) bullets point-blank at unarmed Sioux, Ojibwe, and Cheyenne, casually spraying them with tear gas, pepper spray, and newly added water cannons since temperatures have dropped into the twenties with high winds. Ah, a little frostbite never hurt anyone, right?

Spiritually, I could have remained by the sacred fire of the Seven-Fire Council pow-wow for many moons, ringed by huge teepees where the chiefs abide. They provided me free sermons on native beliefs and rituals. But my capacity for non-violence was just not strong enough. I wonder how long you could last if you saw the egregious and violent injustices being committed by the people's own government on them. Indian peoples-of-color's lives matter too.

Bill Puka, professor
Cognitive Science Department

Sports

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

CURLING

Rensselaer slides to third national rank

The team will host a bonspiel this weekend that is open to the entire Rensselaer community

Michael Baird
Senior Reporter

FINISHING IN THE RUNNER-UP position at the Rochester Institute of Technology Bonspiel at Rochester Curling Club on Sunday, November 13, the RPI Curling team emerged the third-ranked team in the nation, trailing only No. 1 University of Oklahoma and No. 2 State University of New York Polytechnic. The team maintains its ranking as it ventures into its home event this Saturday and Sunday, the RPI Bonspiel, held at Schenectady Curling Club in Schenectady, New York.

Two teams were formed and sent to Rochester on Saturday, November 12. RPI 1, consisting of freshman Evan Mullaney as skip, senior Jenny Amador as vice, junior Anthony Naslas as second, and senior Dana Stevens as lead, defeated four of the five teams they challenged. Their first game against Bowdoin College ended in a clean sweep, 24-0. Their success continued to resonate in a close win against Yale University, 8-7. The final game on Saturday against RIT 2 again ended in a Rensselaer victory.

In the A event semifinals, SUNY Polytechnic lost to RPI on Sunday, 7-9, moving Rensselaer up to the finals against the University of Pennsylvania. The team lost 1-7 to the challenger to finish second overall.



Courtesy of RPI Curling

THE CURLING TEAM, PICTURED ABOVE, IS RANKED third nationally and hopes to extend their winning season this weekend. (file photo)

In RPI 2, senior Kirsten Cardinal served as skip, senior Jeremy Katz as vice, sophomore Gideon Bartlett as second, freshman Luke Weinkam as lead, and freshman David Dawnkaski as fifth. The team placed seventh

at the tournament, winning three of their five games. “Luke and David are both freshman first year curlers, and did really well in the spiel,” said Stevens.

This weekend, Rensselaer will host the largest collegiate

level bonspiel ever held, with 20 teams registered to attend. Five four-person teams from RPI will be competing. All members of the RPI community are invited to attend the tournament in Schenectady to support our curl-

ing team this Saturday, when they will be guaranteed to play. Those teams playing in the semi-finals, and finals on Sunday will not be chosen until after play on Saturday. ♦

CROSS COUNTRY

Runners close out season

Michael Baird
Senior Reporter

THE RECORD-SETTING MEN’S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM RACED ON THE 8000 METER COURSE AT THE NCAA DIVISION III NATIONAL Championship in Louisville, Kentucky, on Saturday, November 19. They finished the race in 13th overall out of 32 teams, the highest position ever earned by the team in the Rensselaer’s history. The Institute’s only other appearance at the NCAA meet was in 1996, when they took 17th.

“Reaching NCAA’s has long been a goal for our team,” said sophomore Grant O’Connor. “After our results from track this spring, we knew we had the potential for something big this season. Personally, I’m proud that I can play a part in leading the team to new heights. We take our training very seriously, so racing well certainly reaffirms our faith in the process.”

In spite of tripping during the race, held at Tom Sawyer Park in Louisville, Kentucky, O’Connor led the Engineers with his 25th place time of 24:47.2, averaging a 4:59.2 mile pace. His spot in the 278-person field earned him his first National All-American honor.

“I discussed strategy with Coach Lynch before the race with goal of finishing in the top three individually,” said O’Connor. “My plan was to run at the front of the race for three miles, then be prepared to make or defend a strong acceleration as we neared the finish. Ultimately, Ben [Fazio] and I were able to move up with strong fifth miles to finish 2-3.”

Only seven male athletes continued training after the NCAA Atlantic Regional meet for the National meet. There were five scoring members in the race, including O’Connor and his teammates senior Ben Fazio in 70th with a time of 25:15.6, sophomore Sean O’Connor with a 107th place time of 25:24.6, senior Garrett Davis in 25:44.3, and junior Matthew Stewart in 25:51.2. Seniors Matthew Cicciu and Brian Crowley were also on the field for RPI.

“Despite only our top seven runners competing in post-season meets, everyone on our roster has helped move the team forward,” said O’Connor. “Having teammates to look up to, train with, and ultimately race with is invaluable to our success. This year’s senior class is phenomenal in that regard, and they will leave a strong program behind.”

Led by junior Jaime Lord, seven runners from the women’s cross country team also traveled to Nationals, where they finished in 18th place overall out of 32 teams. Lord improved by 25 seconds over her time at last year’s NCAA Championship, crossing the line of the 6000 meter race in 19th place with a time of 21:05.9 and earning her second National All-America in the process.

Sophomore Karina Bolton and senior Maddie Dery crossed in second and third for the Engineers in 22:17.0 and 22:18.0 respectively. At 22:31.0, senior Mary West finished, with senior Allison Thayer only four seconds behind.

Fifth year coach John Lynch and assistant coaches Kailyn Balzano and Nick Marcantonio received recognition as the Coaching Staff of the Year for their work in helping mold RPI students into strong endurance athletes. Lynch will return as distance coach of the men’s and women’s track teams in the spring. ♦

Scores from the Week

Friday, November 25

Women’s Ice Hockey at RIT	W 5-1
Men’s Hockey at Arizona State	L 3-5
Women’s Basketball at WPI	L 40-73

Saturday, November 26

Women’s Basketball at WPI	L 40-73
Women’s Hockey at RIT	L 1-3
Men’s Hockey at Arizona State	W 2-0

Monday, November 27

Women’s Basketball at Springfield	L 79-85
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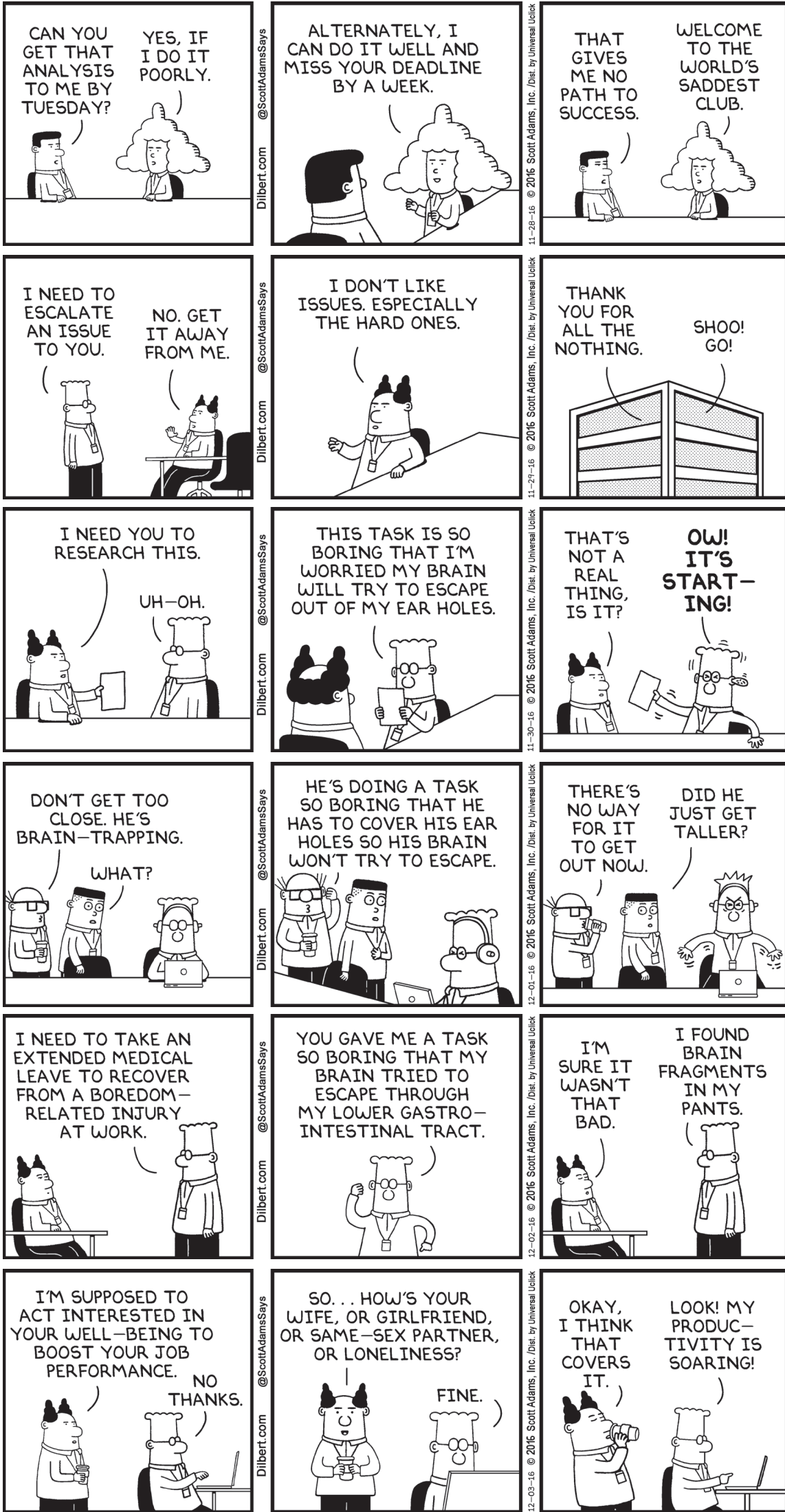
Wednesday, November 29

Women’s Basketball at Keene State	L 65-72
Men’s Basketball at Middlebury	L 72-79

DILBERT

by Scott Adams

TOP TEN LIST



Things to Do With All of the Free Time You Don't Have

10. Do your homework
9. Read *all* of Wikipedia
8. Eat Hi-Chew
7. Count paper clips on your desk
6. Call home
5. Refresh Reddit
4. Clean the house, twice
3. Get lit
2. Consider liberal arts
1. Read *The Poly*

WORD FIND by Ana Wishnoff

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

Patterns

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

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|---------|
| Argyle | Gingham | Plaid |
| Checked | Grid | Stripes |
| Crosshatch | Houndstooth | Tartan |
| Dots | Lattice | ZigZag |
| Floral | Paisley | |

SUDOKU

6	9	8	3					
1								
	3		4			8	1	
				5	8	9		
		9	2	3				
	1	5			9		8	
								9
					4	2	6	3

Instructions

Fill in the grid so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 sub-square contains exactly one occurrence of the numbers 1 through 9.

Last Week's Solutions

1	9	8	4	2	5	3	6	7
5	2	7	9	6	3	8	4	1
3	4	6	8	7	1	2	5	9
6	3	9	5	8	4	7	1	2
4	1	2	3	9	7	5	8	6
8	7	5	6	1	2	9	3	4
7	6	3	1	5	9	4	2	8
9	5	1	2	4	8	6	7	3
2	8	4	7	3	6	1	9	5



Snowden

Friday • December 2, 2016
7 pm, 9:30 pm, midnight • DCC 308 • \$2.50

A Knight's Tale

Saturday • December 3, 2016
7 pm, 9:30 pm, midnight • DCC 308 • \$2.50

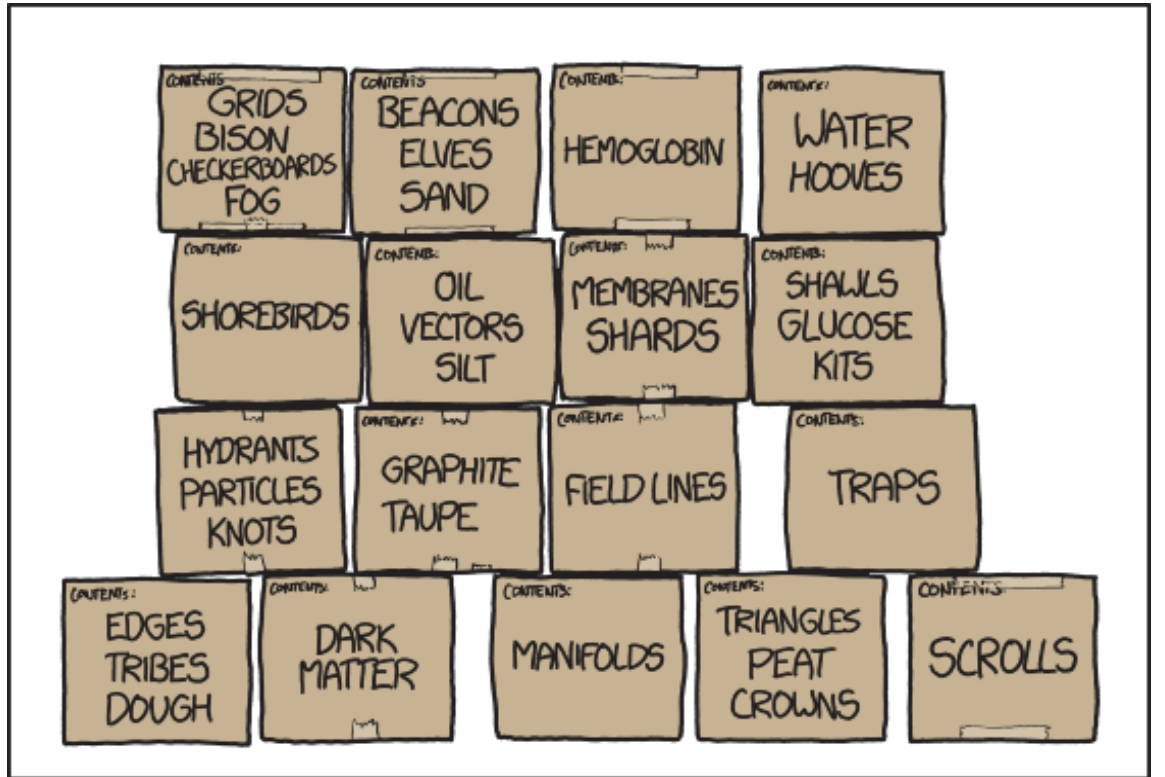
**Do you like drawing comics?
Draw comics for *The Poly*!
Email us at comics@poly.rpi.edu**

CRYPTOQUOTE

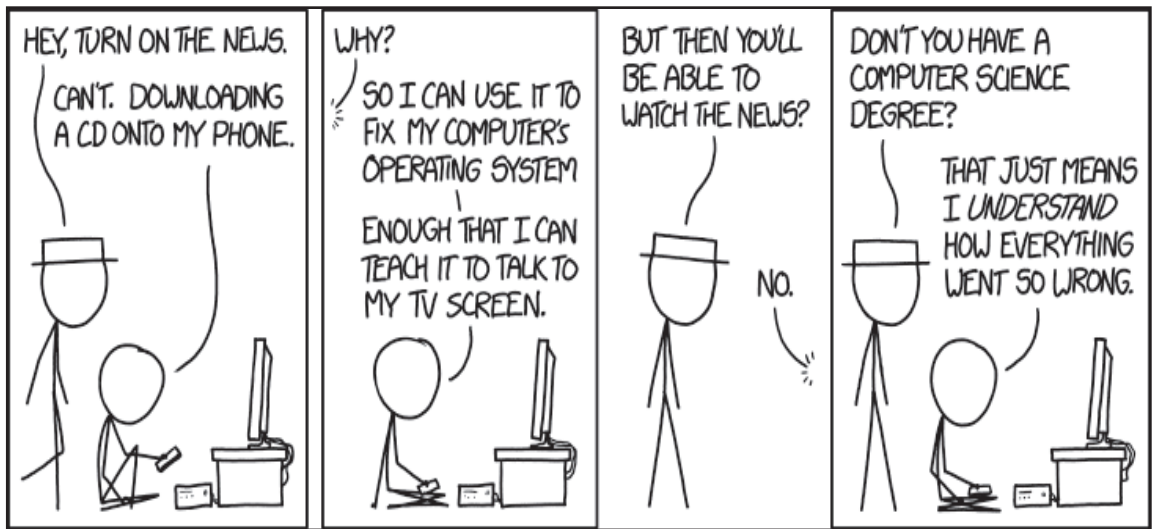
A Cryptoquote is a simple substitution code where each letter that appears may stand for a different letter. The substitutions are consistent throughout the puzzle. Punctuation is not translated. For example: BACOIBBHZ = ENGINEERS

“Gpf runb
obba jbvcrbm,
gpf runb obba
xbuzfahbm, uam
gpf runb obba
tpfam juae vac.
Va jrue jphqm
kpfqm gpf
ypzzvoqg obue
xb?”
-Umr bxuh
U Lavcre'z Euqb

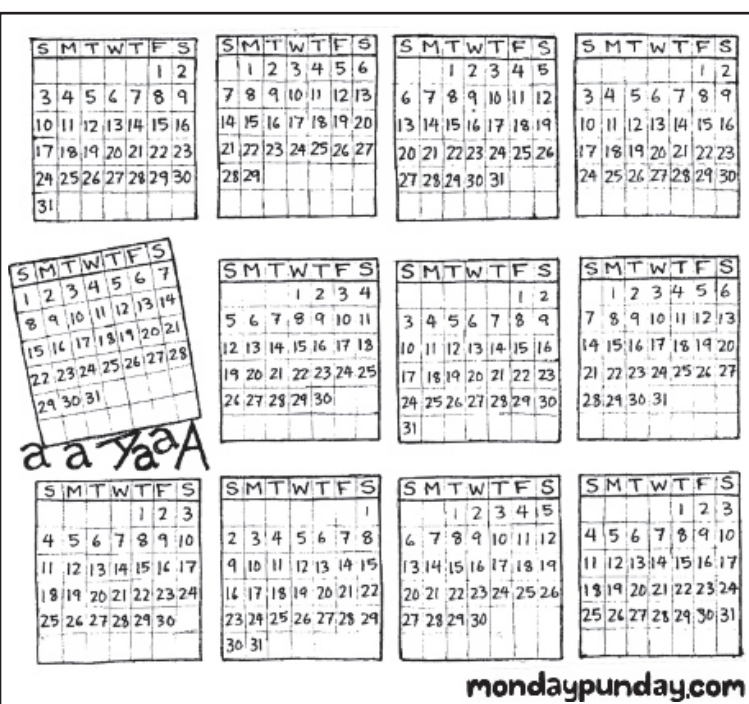
XKCD



I ALWAYS FORGET TO LABEL MY MOVING BOXES UNTIL THEY'RE SEALED UP AND I'VE FORGOTTEN WHAT'S IN THEM.



MONDAY PUNDAY by Matthew Broussard



Advertisement for Rensselaer Music Association Winter Small Groups Concert, December 10, 2016 @ 7 PM, Free Admission. Includes decorative elements like snowflakes and musical notes.

Features

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

MOVIE REVIEW

Wizards, witches, beasts take New York City

Serge Piskun
Senior Reviewer

LET'S GET THIS OUT OF THE WAY: IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, go do it as soon as you can, because it is a fantastic movie and this article will contain spoilers.

The world of J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter has remained barren for some time now. The last movie in Harry's epic journey, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2*, was released five years ago, and *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* is neither a book nor a movie, but a play. With *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, the team behind the magic of Hogwarts is back in the movie game, and I can see them staying in the spotlight for a while. The movie was excellently done, with a family friendly story that appeals both to children seeking awe-inducing visuals, and adults seeking their latest fix of a magic-centric movie that does not disappoint.

Set in New York before the time of Harry Potter, *Fantastic Beasts* follows Newt Scamander as he travels to America in search of magical creatures. Almost immediately after he steps off the boat onto American soil things go south: one of his creatures escapes, a muggle notices his magic, and he is arrested and taken in by the magical version of the FBI. This ultimately culminates into a hunt for his growing number of missing creatures, which gets him further and further tangled into magical politics as New York is ravaged by a sinister force.

The sheer variety of magical creatures alone makes this film worthwhile to watch. Whereas the Harry Potter series featured a few key magical beasts that progressed the plot, *Fantastic Beasts* exponentially increases that number. From the simple days of hippogriffs, dragons, and centaurs comes a new age of animals I can't even fully describe: a young sapling that picks locks, a bird with two sets of wings and talons, a giant hippo that sets things on fire, the list goes on. They are all beautifully animated, with clear personalities and an almost-believable realism that makes me wonder if maybe they do exist after all.

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them features a diverse and relatable cast, which strives to make everyone watching relate with one of the cast members. Newt himself is a stereotypical nerdy hero, full of quirks and attitude, yet with a heart of gold that tries to do the right thing on his own moral compass. Jacob Kowalski, the muggle who is thrown into the world of magic without much say in the matter, is a "lovable idiot" and watching his struggles and triumphs serves as its own experience within the film. Rounding out the cast are the Goldstein sisters: Tina, the demoted Auror, who strives for redemption and justice, and Queenie, whose fascination with the muggle world draws her closer to Jacob. Each character has his or her flaws that are explored and overcome throughout the film.

In short, J. K. Rowling creates a new world within the Harry Potter universe that is worthy of carrying the torch. I'm eagerly awaiting the new *Fantastic Beasts* movie. I cannot wait to see where Newt Scamander's travels take him. ♦



J. K. ROWLING'S LATEST TALE FEATURES a cast from pre-Potter times. Courtesy of Heyday Films

ON-CAMPUS EVENT

A night of Gatsby-era extravaganzas

Joey Lyon
A Special to *The Poly*

ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, THE RENSSELAER UNION AND UPAC HOSTED UNION After Dark: *Great Gatsby* night. Many different groups hosted several activities, ranging from a spaghetti and marshmallow tower building contest, to juggling, to a 1920s costume contest. At each activity you participated in, you received a raffle ticket, which could be used to enter the contest to win one of a number of prizes, including an Amazon Echo Dot, a battery bank, a Lego set, a Bluetooth speaker, a Cinema Bulk pass, and a free dinner with Assistant Dean of Student Living and Learning Randi Mogul. There was also a selection of free food, including pizza, desserts, and a root beer keg open to those who came.

The moment I entered the Union, the free excitement hit me—performances by the Crippled Pimp, Eighth Wonder, and the *a cappella* group Duly Noted. After this, the spaghetti and marshmallow building contest began, kicking off my night of fast-paced, high intensity tower building action. My team and I were able to utilize our engineering skills to construct a three-foot-high structure out of just spaghetti and marshmallows! Immediately following this was the Vermonster competition—in which we attempted to eat 20 scoops of ice cream in the McNeil Room. Our team's three-hour fast before the competition was not enough to carry us to victory, however, as the competition was intense. The winning team ate all their ice cream in under three minutes!

Other activities included a performance by a jazz duo, RPIgnite, and PULSE. A costume contest and capoeira lessons were held in the Shelnut Gallery, and several other activities were held, including video games, casino games, and black and white movies, to name a few. Overall, UPAC's Union After Dark *Great Gatsby* Night was a fun-filled and action-packed night. ♦



Sidney Kochman/*The Polytechnic*

A BIG GROUP OF FRIENDS ATTEMPTED the Vermonster competition.

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Justice's *Woman* falls short



Courtesy of Nicole Blommer

FRENCH MUSIC GROUP JUSTICE ATTEMPTS to infuse modern EDM with old-school disco elements.

Nathan Dorer
Senior Reviewer

WITH THE RELEASE OF THEIR DEBUT ALBUM *Cross* in 2007, the French electronic duo Justice achieved international attention for their funk-laden bass lines and creatively sampled lyrics. The group, composed of Xavier de Rosnay and Gaspard Auge, described the album as "opera-disco." *Cross* was unique in that it stretched the borders of the disco genre using modern sampling and mixing, and ultimately the album earned a nomination for Best Electronic/Dance Album at the 50th Grammy Awards.

Last week, Justice released their new album, *Woman*, which follows a brighter, more singsong rendition of their old-school sound. As of now, the response to the new album has been mixed; while some reviewers champion Justice for exploring their creative liberties in their new adaptation, others hold the opinion that the album has sacrificed the character of the music that made the band famous in the first place. It's easy to see where the criticism stands—*Cross* had a decided grunge in the atmosphere that made it stand out in the midst of indie-electronic music, and frankly that dirtiness is absent in *Woman*. Justice's new songs follow a similar formula to their old, but end up feeling slightly less inspired than their 2007 counterparts.

Woman stays true to the band's goal of retrograding; it's impossible to deny that the music sounds like a freshened up version of 80's synth-electronic, and

there's something incredibly charming in that. The fault lies in that the band seems to have fallen into the rhythm of conventional pop spiced up with cheesy, laser-sounding synth overtones. That's not inherently a bad thing, but it seems sort of unambitious after the frighteningly unique character that the band managed to create for itself in 2007. For many of the tracks on *Woman*, the artist could easily be mistaken for Daft Punk; again, not an inherently bad thing, but not the type of originality that Justice fans had been hoping for.

There are a few exceptions to the larger atmosphere of the album. The song "Alakazam!" plays directly into the cheesiness of the synth, and comes up with something genuinely memorable as a result. It's arguably the most disco-influenced song on the album, but plays into something much more dangerous and sexy; it's equal parts funky and terrifying. A similar stand out is "Safe and Sound," which plays on the vintage sound of choral-backed disco tracks. "Safe and Sound" is ambient, but airy and easy to listen to.

By no metric is *Woman* a bad album—it is just a slightly disappointing one. Justice are known for the originality of their sound, and it seems like the group has lost a little bit of their artistic identity as they've attempted to move on from *Cross*. The group have made a market for themselves in re-hashed disco music, and they have clearly taken some liberty in exploring that. Even if *Woman* lacks the dirtiness of *Cross*, it provides all the funky bass lines and catchy melodies that a Justice fan would ask for. ♦