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Coco appreciated, highly recommended

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Victorian Stroll embodies holiday spirit

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Joseph Lyon Starting better than doing nothing at all

Matthew Rand E-Board completes club budgeting

STUDENT SENATE

Resolution urging ‘cancellation of judicial processes’ passed

Brookelyn Parslow
Senior Reporter

ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, THE Student Senate heard presentations on potential updates to shuttle routes and making candidate nominations electronic, and passed a resolution regarding the recent judicial actions taken against students.

In new business, a resolution acknowledging the “judicial processes underway involving members of the Rensselaer Union in relation to the peaceful demonstration that occurred on October 13, 2017” and urging “for the immediate cancellation of judicial processes involving the peaceful demonstration” was passed with a vote of 16-5-2.

It also recognized “the actions taken by the Dean of Students Office as violations of the *Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities*, specifically the ‘Student Bill of Rights,’ Article V, Section D.”

When the resolution was moved by Hannah Merrow ’18, she yielded her time to Bryan Johns ’19, one of the two students who is being charged with “trespassing,” “violation of a published Rensselaer/student government policy or regulation,” and “failure to comply.” Johns was the original applicant for the peaceful demonstration that was denied, but he shared that he did not follow up on the application and attended the protest solely as a participant. The other student facing judicial inquiries, Graduate Senator Michael Gardner, was also present.

Johns distributed a variety of documents, including his case and an incident summary. He began by stating that the cases are “an attack on student rights” that are “particularly directed at [Gardner] and I, to target us.”

Johns then went through the incident summary prepared by Director of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Judicial Affairs Michael Arno and addressed statements he viewed as false; these included his identification as a leader of the protest and the claim that he was on WRGB CBS 6 News promoting the protest. He felt that most of the information in the summary was inaccurate and irrelevant to the actual evidence presented in the case.

Johns stated that his hearing officer said his specific trespassing violations were “unauthorized entry” and “the refusal to leave or to release any property when ordered to do so by the person having jurisdiction over it.” Johns claimed that the administration “flip-flopped” on their reasoning

for the fence, citing contradictory statements released in various articles, and that they didn’t publicly state that the area was restricted before the protest.

“If they’re charging me with trespassing, they should be charging all the other 900 students with trespassing,” stated Johns. He also shared that he was not at the protest when the fence was moved, and that, when he arrived and went through the fence, the Public Safety officers present didn’t stop him.

“One of the things they mentioned in the incident report is that both Michael and I, first, did not do anything to tell people not to go through the fence, and also once people were through the fence we didn’t tell them to leave,” stated Johns on the topic of his “violation of a published Rensselaer/student government policy or regulation.”

Johns then referenced the *Student Handbook*, specifically its statement that “judgment as to whether the regulations are being observed shall be made at the scene by the Dean of Students or designee.” He later continued, citing the *Handbook* again, “Responsibility for exercising such judgment shall rest solely with the Dean of Students or designee. It must be emphasized that judgment as to whether the regulations are being observed shall not be exercised by demonstrators, those demonstrated against, or spectators in contradiction to the expressed judgment of the Dean of Students or designee, except at the risk of such individuals.”

According to the *Handbook*, if regulations are breached, “[the Dean of Students or designee] will request the participants to modify their conduct so as to comply with the regulations, indicating briefly and informally the nature of the breach of regulations and the requested corrective action.”

However, Johns stated that nobody received this kind of direction, and communications with the Troy Police Department at the protest seemed to point in the opposite direction.

“My personal worry about this whole process is that they’re singling out students to perpetuate the culture of fear,” expressed Johns.

Following Johns’s presentation to the Senate, the original motion was amended to strike that the Senate would resolve to “deplore the actions of the Dean of Students Office, in full awareness of the situations, to allow this unjust process based on the evidence present at the start of the case” with a vote of 12-9-2.

The amendment to strike this

Name	Position	Vote
Risheel Gabbireddy	Class of 2018 Senator	Yes
Ellie Mees	Class of 2018 Senator	Yes
Hannah Merrow	Class of 2018 Senator	Yes
Steve Sperazza	Class of 2018 Senator	Yes
Nancy Bush	Class of 2019 Senator	Yes
Steve Duduch	Class of 2019 Senator	Yes
Kinsley Rowan	Class of 2019 Senator	Yes
Mary Clare Crochiere	Class of 2019 Senator	Absent
Chris Duffy	Class of 2020 Senator	Yes
Meagan Lettko	Class of 2020 Senator	Yes
Joshua Thomas	Class of 2020 Senator	No
Lily Wang	Class of 2020 Senator	Abstain
Jonathan Bao	Class of 2021 Senator	Yes
Naya Hill	Class of 2021 Senator	Yes
Michael Mathews	Class of 2021 Senator	Yes
Advaith Narayan	Class of 2021 Senator	Yes
Jordan Angel	Graduate Senator	No
Anthony Ashley	Graduate Senator	No
Anthony Bishop	Graduate Senator	No
Michael Gardner	Graduate Senator	Yes
Kinshuk Panda	Graduate Senator	No
Sean Ferracioli	Greek Senator (IFC)	Abstain
Tianyi Qiao	Independent Senator	Yes
Stefanie Warner	Independent Senator	Yes
	Total:	16-5-2

GRADUATE SENATOR ANTHONY ASHLEY REQUESTED a roll call vote for the motion regarding the resolution, which can be seen above. The full motion can be viewed at poly.rpi.edu/s/sq0d4.

section was moved by Graduate Senator Kinshuk Panda, who shared that it was “amazingly abrasive” and that it would be “extremely reckless for us to not, to pass judgment without the judicial process coming to a conclusion with the events that happened.” He continued, “By doing this, we are only antagonizing the administration even further.”

Later in the discussion, Class of 2018 Senator Steve Sperazza stated, “I risk a bit saying this, but I’m sure they have some of a probable cause for me and a lot of other people as well, but they chose to go after Bryan. They chose to, I guess, retaliate against this person ... I got up there, I said my RIN, a lot of other people did ... they could have gone after a lot of people. That’s kind of important.”

The final motion and the roll call of votes can be viewed at poly.rpi.edu/s/sq0d4. The initial drafted version that was sent out to the Senate with the agenda for the meeting can be viewed at poly.rpi.edu/s/l8if.

Project Lead Lily Wang ’20 and Facilities and Services Chairperson Nancy Bush ’19 gave a presentation updating the Senate on the shuttles.

Wang discussed common issues and complaints, which included having an insufficient number of shuttles, too many stops on the East Shuttle route, and inconsistencies between scheduled stop times and when the drivers actually show up. Wang stated that more drivers cannot be hired because of a lack of Institute resources.

See SENATE, **Page 2**

Senate: Committee chairs give updates on progress, meetings, potential projects

Potential changes to shuttle routes, possibility of electronic candidate nominations presented

From **Page 1**

She also presented the proposed routes that will be tested over winter break; they aim to make the routes more even by moving the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority stop to the West shuttle route, therefore eliminating the loop that passes B-Lot twice. There are some concerns about the doors being on the wrong side of the street, but these will be addressed in the testing phase.

Web Technologies Group Chairperson Sidney Kochman '19 and Rules and Elections Committee Chairperson Caleb Caraway '19 then presented on potential changes to how candidate nominations for elections are submitted and processed.

Currently, candidates solicit the proper number of nominations on paper forms. They are then submitted to the Rules and Elections Committee, which enters the information into their system. According to Caraway, this is a tedious process for the few people on the committee.

Kochman and Caraway plan to have candidates continue to fill out a sheet, but also enter that information into the elections site themselves. The logistics are still being figured out, but candidates would still have to submit physical sheets so that R&E can verify them and ensure that all of the nominations are not



Jonathan Caicedo/The Polytechnic

THE SENATE DISCUSSES recent judicial actions taken by the Dean of Students Office and their implications on the RPI student body.

written in the same handwriting or that no errors were made.

Grand Marshal Justin Etzine '18 added that there is no motion at this point, since this has not been implemented, but it will be part of the next GM Week handbook proposed in early February 2018.

During committee reports, Academic Affairs Chairperson Rishel Gabbireddy '18 shared that the Advising & Learning Assistance Center will be testing drop-in tutoring with organic chemistry.

Student Life Committee Chairperson Hannah Merrow '18

said that she and Etzine had their meeting with the Board of Trustees, and that it was "interesting at best."

Kochman stated that the Shuttle Signups project is on track to be deployed next semester. He also shared that a lot of Institute-related websites will have to change because of a new

web accessibility policy from the Division of the Chief Information Officer. WebTech will be looking at, and potentially evaluating, these changes over Winter Break.

The Senate will have its last meeting of the semester next Monday at 8 pm in the Shelnutt Gallery. ♦

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XKCD

by Randall Munroe

CRYPTOQUOTE

SINCE THE CELSIUS VS FAHRENHEIT DEBATE HAS PROVEN SURPRISINGLY HARD TO RESOLVE, AS A COMPROMISE I'VE STARTED USING FELSIOUS (°E), THE AVERAGE OF THE TWO.

SHOULD I PUT SOLAR PANELS ON IT?

```

    graph TD
      Q1{DOES IT MOVE AROUND?} -- YES --> Q2{DOES IT HAVE REGULAR CHANCES TO RECHARGE OR SWAP BATTERIES?}
      Q1 -- NO --> Q3{IS THERE EMPTY SPACE NEARBY WHERE IT WOULD BE EASIER TO PUT THEM?}
      Q2 -- NO --> Q4{WHEN RUNNING, IS IT HOT TO THE TOUCH?}
      Q2 -- YES --> Q3
      Q4 -- NO --> A1[MAYBE]
      Q4 -- YES --> A2[HAHA GOOD LUCK]
      Q3 -- YES --> A3[PROBABLY NOT]
      Q3 -- NO --> A4[SURE]
  
```

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: SIVOISSWC = ENGINEERS

“C vlx b wi uqp w wi lqmx wex uifjb. Wecl rxqv wcnvj zjghx. Rvw C dpxu li jcwwjx wexp. Cw cl q jqpb in rxqvw y qpb uipbxf, uifwe hexfclecps cp xmx fy uqy. Rvw wex hjilxf yiv sxw, wex aifx yiv lxx wex sfxqw bqfdpxll lcaaxfcps ucwecp. Qpb aqpdcpb? Aqpdcpb cl qpiwexf lwify qjwisxwexf.”

- Bcqpq,

Uipbxf Uiaqp

INTERFEROMETRY IS SO COOL!

IF YOU PUT TWO SMALL DOGS A LARGE DISTANCE APART, THEY CAN FUNCTION AS A SINGLE GIANT DOG.

I'M NOT SURE THAT'S—

HYAH!

WOOF AWAY!

SAY SANTA EATS A COOKIE AT EVERY FEW HOUSES. THAT'S HUNDREDS OF TONS. BY THE END OF THE NIGHT, HE SHOULD BE A HULKING SEVEN-STORY BEHEMOTH. BUT HE'S NOT.

WHAT ARE YOU... DOES SANTA POOP IN OUR HOUSES?

NO WAY. THAT MASS MUST BE GOING SOMEWHERE. HE HAS THAT MAGIC BAG... YOU THINK HE POOPS IN THE BAG OF PRESENTS?

MAYBE INSTEAD OF POOPING IN EVERY FEW HOUSES, HE WAITS, AND THEN IN A FEW HOUSES, HE POOPS A LOT. AND WHAT IF NO ONE'S BEEN THAT NAUGHTY? HE PICKS AT RANDOM. THE NEEDS OF THE MANY...

OUR LOVE IS LIKE A TURTLE.

HUMBLE AND SIMPLE, ENDURING BY VIRTUE OF PERFECT DESIGN.

OUR LOVE IS LIKE A BRONTOSAURUS

RECOGNIZED AS A MISTAKEN COMBINATION LONG AGO, LINGERING ONLY OUT OF MISPLACED AFFECTION FOR AN IMAGINED PAST.

OKAY, WE'RE IN THE BELLY OF THE MACHINE. YOU GOT THE CHARGES? THE WHAT?

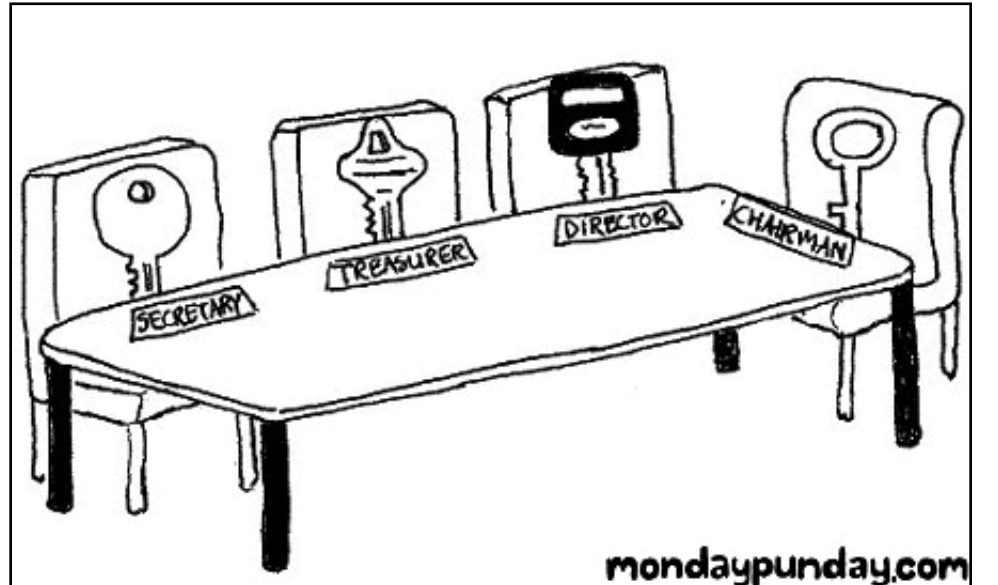
THE EXPLOSIVE CHARGES! I JUST BROUGHT THIS BAG FOR THE HELL? PASTRIES. WE'RE ON A MISSION HERE!

THIS ISN'T A BAKERY? OH, CHRIST, NOT THIS SHIT AGAIN.

WHAT ABOUT THESE SCONES? THOSE ARE LUG NUTS. ...MAYBE SOME OF THEM AREN'T!

*CRUNCH! OW! *CRUNCH!

MONDAY PUNDAY by Matthew Broussard



Come dance with RPI Ballroom at our

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Saturday, December 9 @ 7 PM
Academy Hall Auditorium

\$2 Early Bird Sign-Up: tinyurl.com/dec9social
\$5 at the door

No partner or experience necessary!

Features

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

MOVIE REVIEW

Disney film spotlights Mexican culture

Crystal Vejar
Senior Reviewer

THE FILM *Coco* FOLLOWS THE STORY of a young Mexican boy named Miguel who has one dream: to become the next biggest musician. He idolizes an artist named Ernesto de la Cruz—who shares a striking resemblance to Pedro Infante—and has a seemingly natural talent for playing the guitar. However, his family has banned him from even listening to music. I found that very strange because Mexican culture is rich in music. On his journey through the land of the dead, on the Day of the Dead, Miguel learns the true meaning of the Mexican holiday, and he comes to realize the true importance of family. It's a very beautiful story, with detailed, colorful visuals, and a lovely narrative that takes a family-friendly approach to the questions of life after death. It really is worth the rave reviews and I completely recommend watching it. However, that's not what I'm going to talk about in this review. Instead, I'll be talking about the uniqueness and importance of this film.

With a 96 percent approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes, Disney Pixar's *Coco* has been dominating the box



Courtesy of Disney and Pixar

MIGUEL, ALONG WITH HIS PET XOLOITZCUINTLE DANTE, WALKS into the Land of the Dead in hopes of finding a way to return home.

office for over three weeks—and not just in the United States. The film, running at 109 minutes, first premiered on October 27 in Mexico, just a few days before Mexico's Day of the Dead. In fewer than three weeks, the film was already breaking records—the first one being that it was officially the highest grossing movie ever in the country of Mexico. The

film isn't just doing great in the country it was based off of. Astoundingly, it has been taking China by storm, posting as the second highest weekend ever for an animated release, as well as the highest grossing Pixar release ever in China, something that was completely unexpected.

Why is this movie doing so well? Amidst the current political climate

that has been giving rise to cultures of hate and fear, Disney dared to release a film in which the hero is a young Mexican boy—and they did everything right. To make sure the film was culturally accurate and respectful to the Mexican holiday, Pixar hired a small group of cultural consultants, including Lalo Alcaraz, the well-known cartoonist

from Mexico. Alcaraz said he and the other consultants accomplished their mission to “Keep *Coco* from being whitewashed.” To further prove that the film tried to do everything right, the hired cast was made up of almost all Latino voices, with 12-year-old Anthony Gonzales as the protagonist Miguel.

See *COCO*, Page 5

McKINNEY WRITING CONTEST



call for entries:
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2nd Prize: \$150

3rd Prize: \$75

entries due:
**March
20th
4 PM**

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• FICTION OR DRAMA

• POETRY

• ESSAY/CREATIVE NON-FICTION

• ELECTRONIC MEDIA INVOLVING LANGUAGE

PAUL HARDING, WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR FICTION, WILL PRESENT AWARDS AT THE MCKINNEY AWARDS CEREMONY ON APRIL 12, 2018 AT 8 PM. WINNERS WILL ALSO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION IN STATLER & WALDORF, RPI'S STUDENT LITERARY MAGAZINE.

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT BARBARA LEWIS
AT LEWISB2@RPI.EDU

DETAILS:

HTTP://WWW.CM.RPI.EDU/PL/MCKINNEY

MOVIE REVIEW

Olaf loses charm second time around

Serge Piskun
Senior Reviewer

OVER THANKSGIVING BREAK, I FOUND MYSELF IN A MOVIE THEATER LATE AT NIGHT WAITING TO SEE *Coco* with a group of my friends. The theater lights dimmed, the audience came to a hush, and the projector started up with... Olaf from *Frozen*. This was fine; some animated films run shorts before the actual feature film, a prime example being the short about volcanoes being run before *Inside Out*. These shorts are usually cute, not very memorable, and crucially, five or six minutes in length. *Olaf's Frozen Adventure*, however, didn't seem to get the message. By the 10th or so minute, it had driven people to confusion. I remember turning to my girlfriend and making her reassure me we were in the right theater. After a confused nod in return, I resigned myself to my new fate of sitting through what felt like “Frozen 2: Electric Boogaloo.” The plot follows Elsa and Anna finding a Christmas tradition, after being informed that people won't come to their grand party due to following traditions of their own. Rather than going out themselves, Elsa and Anna stay home, depressed, and Olaf decides to take it upon himself to amass all traditions in the kingdom of Arendelle. He comically finds cakes, Christmas trees, and a full-on sauna. Then, to no one's surprise, he loses them. Fortunately, his entire adventure was meaningless, as Elsa and Anna realize that Olaf himself was their Christmas tradition, and he is celebrated by all the people whose traditions he borrowed.

To say this featurette was interesting would be a stretch. *Olaf's Frozen Adventure* was nothing special, and it only served to annoy me, as it was not what I bought tickets for. Four songs, each in the style of *Frozen*, attempted to add a Disney flair to the story, and to the writer's credit, the few jokes Olaf cracked were not that bad. The big issue with this animated flick was the time. At a whopping 21 minutes in length, *Olaf's Frozen Adventure* was more of a TV episode than a short. That, in my opinion, is why it proved unpopular with me, and with the general audience.

Unsurprisingly, *Olaf's Frozen Adventure* is leaving theaters and will no longer be coming before *Coco*. Hopefully it accepts its fate as being run on network TV in the weeks before Christmas, always wishing of the glory days it had on the silver screen. ♦

The Polytechnic will hold elections at 3 pm on Sunday, December 10 in our office, RU 3418.

DOWNTOWN TROY

Festivities take Troy



Nicholas Luczak/The Polytechnic

THE 35TH ANNUAL VICTORIAN STROLL WAS HELD on Sunday, December 3. The event transformed Downtown Troy into a Victorian-themed holiday wonderland. The smell of roasted nuts and crackling fires filled the air with an aroma typical for the season. Hundreds of live dances, music performances, and attractions added to the holiday spirit. The event ended with carolers singing while the city's holiday tree was lit for the first time this season. Many local businesses opened their doors to the Victorian crowd, serving holiday-themed drinks and snacks, and selling holiday-themed wares.

Coco: A tale of family, love, music

From Page 4

Apart from hiring the cultural consultants and Latino cast, a lot went into making the film so accurate and wonderful. Coco's music consultant was Camilo Lara, from the group Mexican Institute of Sound. He helped gather musicians for what he called "the crème de la crème from Mexico." Lara also worked with composer Germaine Franco, who said she worked to infuse the folklore music she grew up with. The filmmakers were amazed at portraying so many different styles of authentically Mexican music. While watching the film, I got a feeling of nostalgia, as the music played by Miguel's Idol, Ernesto de la Cruz, was reminiscent of the music I grew up with from the golden age of Mexican cinema, the Pedro Infante films. Not only was the style of music accurate, but as soon as I saw the character, I knew he was based off of Pedro Infante and Jorge Negrete.

The music, the visuals, the history, all of it was perfect, but what made the movie amazing was that the characters were genuine. According to director Lee Unkrich, he and his creative team took multiple trips to Mexico—spanning six years—for inspiration and research. They visited with families and asked for their traditions, and from their time talking to families, they were able to create characters with mannerisms and small details that resonated with so many people, including me. I was able to see my great grandmother in Coco, my grandmother in Mama Imelda, my uncle Aldo in Miguel's own uncles, and the similarities only continued. The movie made me miss my family, and I wished I had been watching it with them so we could have laughed together at all of the similarities and inside jokes the film managed to hide in the dialogue. The film also made me want to become more active in my family's traditions on the Day of the Dead, something that has slowly been dying out since my family came to the U.S. It subtly made me a little more proud of my heritage—that is truly priceless—and, in my opinion, makes the film so much more unique than any of the animated Pixar stories I've watched throughout my life. ♦

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Consistency valued by corporate chain

Joseph Lyon
Senior Reviewer

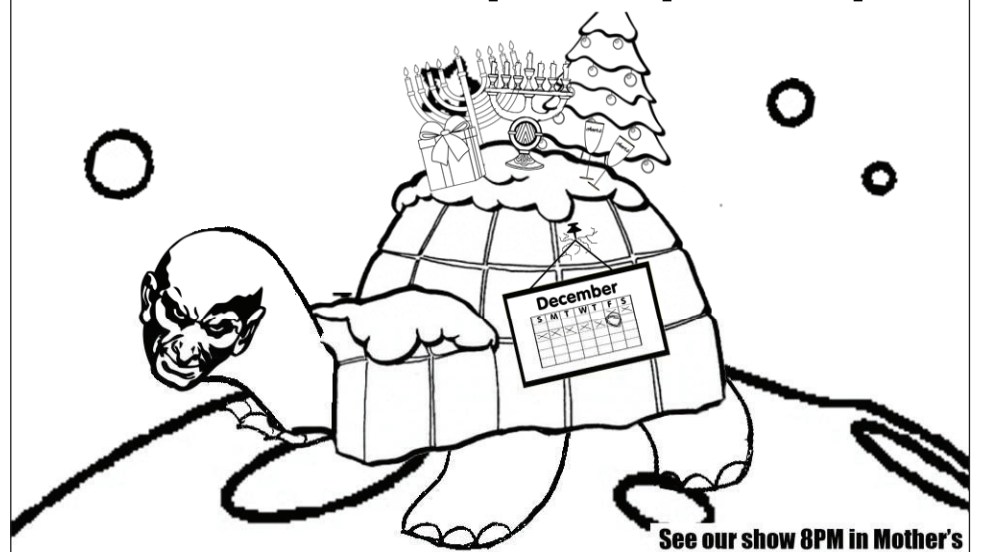
STARBUCKS CORPORATE CALLS ITS STORES THE "third place" between work and home where you are able to go as a retreat. Featuring the same roasts you would always expect, and an atmosphere that is the same everywhere, Starbucks exemplifies this idea of a third place, and as such I have made it my go-to place to do work.

The coffee is consistently what you would expect. I have never gone to Starbucks and been blown away by the quality of the coffee, but as a result, I've never been upset with my order, and if anything is wrong, they will fix it right there. Starbucks always has three different roasts ready. Usually, most of the coffees feature a "cocoa flavor note" for people who care about coffee tasting. And if you are used to the standard Pike's Place, I encourage you to switch it up and try a new roast. Starbucks also has all of its standard menu drinks, and they are all made the same at every individual Starbucks. No matter where you order it, every drink will be made consistently; in my opinion, this gives Starbucks extreme value as a place to do work, because you don't have to worry about what you are going to order, and you can get your "usual" anywhere in the country. Consistency in location harbors productivity, as the time to adjust does not impact your working time.

The atmosphere of nearly every Starbucks is extremely similar, generally featuring earthy colors, lots of table space, and occasionally, a few cushioned chairs. There's also always a solid wireless network connection. This makes it easy to go, find a place to sit, and get to work. There's none of the normal uncertainty associated with going to a new place, as you don't have to worry if the chairs are uncomfortable, if there is Wi-Fi, if the window glare will be too much, or if the coffee will taste bad. It is nice in its consistency, and that is both comforting and useful. In addition to the consistency of environment, the interior is always clean and well maintained, and mobile orders make it so you don't even have to leave your seat or speak to other people to order—perfect for those of us who like to avoid social interaction. The mobile order system makes Starbucks the perfect utilitarian space if you want it to be, as you don't have to interact with anything, or anyone—except a computer if you don't want to.

So, when looking for one of these "hip" new places to go, keep in mind old faithful, the place you can always expect to have everything you need to get through your homework or side project, or just to chill and read: Starbucks.

Editor's note: the author of this article is employed by Starbucks Corporation.

SHEER IDIOTCY
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Dec. 8

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Save the Union takes pride in accuracy

LAST WEEK, ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT AND Dean of Students Travis Apgar wrote a letter to the editor of *The Polytechnic* (poly.rpi.edu/s/5bmq2). In his letter, Apgar accused an unnamed group, which we can only assume is Save the Union, of spreading misinformation and engaging in attacks of rhetoric. Apgar wrote, "This community deserves to know the full story." We could not agree more. The full story needs to be told, the facts displayed for all to see. We ask the RPI community to compare not just the rhetoric, but also the actions of all those involved in this ongoing situation.

Apgar wrote that this unnamed group has "taken advantage of the community by maliciously promoting inflammatory, at times threatening, and often insulting misinformation about the University administration." Upon reading this, we immediately reached out to him and Vice President for Strategic Communications and External Relations Richie Hunter requesting that they "please engage in a discussion with us." As we take great pride in our accuracy, we asked them to provide specific examples in which we have promoted inflammatory, threatening, or insulting misinformation about the RPI administration. We committed to address any legitimate concerns they and other members of the administration might have. We even offered to make corrections to our website (www.savetheunion.xyz) and reach out to other media outlets if necessary. To date, they have not cited any specific instances of misinformation. They have forgone the opportunity to engage with us, despite repeated claims of a genuine desire to discuss the situation with concerned students.

In his letter, Apgar also professed the importance of coming to the table to "work together through collegial discussions."

Merriam-Webster defines collegial as "marked by power or authority vested equally in each of a number of colleagues" as well as "marked by camaraderie among colleagues." What an ironic word choice on many levels! Firstly, the Board of Trustees and the Jackson Administration do not view RPI students as "colleagues" and would never treat them as such. In fact, the Board's recent resolution obliterated what was left of shared governance on campus. This is proof enough that RPI students are treated like children, even if these very Board members were not treated the same way during their time as students. Secondly, a collegial environment involves sharing ideas freely, but when students attempt this at RPI they are oppressed and inundated with judicial action. Clearly, we are willing to engage in discussion. Unfortunately, the Jackson Administration is more interested in intimidation over conversation.

Apgar seems to consider much of what we say simply as "rhetoric" we're pushing to "grab slight attention from the media." Alas, it is the administration's failure to uphold its own policies and commitment to freedom of expression that has thrust it into the national spotlight. We have not yet initiated contact with the national media ourselves. But going so far as to punish its own students for peacefully expressing a dissenting opinion over the operation of the Student Union, the Institute is bringing this unwanted attention upon itself. However, local and national outlets are increasingly seeing through the Institute's tired rhetoric and reporting on their alarming actions. Topics like students' careers hanging in the balance over opposing their school's administration, the trampling of student rights on a college campus, or the

Higher Education Act are worthy topics that clearly deserve the light of day.

That aside, Apgar again proclaimed, "The Rensselaer Union continues to be student led and student run." Unfortunately, this statement is nothing new. If only repeating a statement over and over would make it true, but those pesky facts come back into play. Time and time again, we have asked both Apgar and other members of the administration to clarify this and similar statements with respect to the Trustees' September resolution. A tenant of Save the Union has always been that responsibilities were wrested from students over the past several years, yet students want to have and embrace those responsibilities. We seek to restore them. We are a movement born from students who want to learn and grow from the unique opportunities the Union once afforded. The administration has yet to provide any sufficient explanation, and Apgar's letter represents another missed opportunity. Although this was one of the questions included in our email to Apgar and Hunter, it went unanswered.

Apgar's letter to the editor amounts to nothing more than another serving of the same tired platitudes that the RPI administration has spun for decades, all the while dismantling our beloved traditions

like the Rensselaer Union and destroying any semblance of civil liberties or student rights on campus. It is more rhetoric, directly contradicting the administration's actions. Their words cease to have meaning anymore as they cannot be trusted to follow through with what they say. The RPI community has lost faith in the Board of Trustees, Dr. Jackson, and her administration, and the only way this faith could potentially be restored is through actions, not hollow words.

And so dear, old RPI (or what is left of it)... there you have it. Sadly, the "new normal" at RPI has reached an all-time low because the Board of Trustees and Jackson Administration demolished shared governance and frequently intimidate students and student leaders in an attempt to further their agenda. The Institute is crippled by debt, and to add to this, it is now mired in negative press about its poor treatment of students, making RPI a place of which we are quickly becoming ashamed to say we attend.

But we have not given up, and we will not give up. We will continue to share the full story: peacefully, proudly, and persistently.

Save the Union

The Poly wishes you the best of luck during the final weeks of the semester!

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of Classes**

Tuesday Dec. 12th

@ 8 P.M.

In The McNeil room

FEATURING

Joe List

&

Phil Hanley



**RENSSELAER
UNION**



Editorial

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

DERBY

Budgeting finished, \$50,000 more provided

HELLO EVERYONE! I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT HAVING written in a few weeks, a very tight schedule caused me to miss a deadline or two (sorry, members of *The Poly*). I hope that you all are doing well, and that you are all buckling down for the end of the semester and finals season. I know I am. I know that, right now, each and every one of you is currently swamped with the last homeworks of the semester, trying to wrap up final projects, and studying for the last tests of the regular academic year. I wish you all the best of luck during this time, and hope that you all earn the great grades that you've worked all semester for!

This past weekend, the Executive Board spent the whole weekend budgeting for all of our Rensselaer Union funded clubs and organizations on campus, and I am pleased to announce that the club budgeting process for Fiscal Year 2019 has concluded!

The Executive Board spent this past weekend reviewing every line of every club

budget submitted. Budgeting groups looked to maintain consistency between budgets while ensuring that funds were allocated toward club purpose statements and the Union's mission. Above all, the Board tried to support programs that would enrich the opportunities of the entire student body. The Executive Board wholeheartedly believes that Activity Fee dollars should be spent to benefit the entire Rensselaer community, whether that be through general programming or club-specific funding. Above all, the Executive Board strives for equity, while allowing all members of our community to pursue their passions to the best of their abilities.

This year, we saw large increases in payroll budgets due to the Federal Labor Standards Act, and an increase in the New York state minimum wage. The Board also adopted the initiative to increase reception funds and funds allocated for hotel costs as a means of keeping up with inflation. However, we were able to

provide over \$50,000 extra to our clubs this year over the current fiscal year. We were able to support clubs as they work to expand their programming and upgrade their equipment to better service the RPI community. We also included funding for clubs who might operate during the Arch Summer Semester.

As budgeting is a human-driven, subjective process, there is clearly room for disagreement and error. Therefore, each club is given an opportunity to appeal the decisions of the E-Board. Although every decision made during budgeting has logical reasons behind it, there may be cases where the Board did not fully understand a club's intention, or there could be simple errors made during the process. Appealing a budget will open the entire budget to be reconsidered by the E-Board, and funds already allocated may be reallocated or removed to facilitate the needs of your appeal.

The Executive Board is very excited by the budget we have put together for Fiscal Year

2019. We were able to support clubs in starting new programs, create more opportunities for campus-wide programming, and continue to support student employment in our facilities to ensure they remain open and operational, despite increasing minimum wages.

The *Union Annual Report* will better detail the entirety of the budgeting process. That document will be released early next semester. When that document debuts, I encourage you all to read it and understand all of the budgeting implementations the Executive Board committed to in order to enhance your student experience. Until then, best of luck on your schoolwork, and, as always, feel free to reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns.



Matthew Rand
128th President of the Union

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOK

Just get started already

THIS SEMESTER, I'VE COME TO A BIT OF A REALIZATION. From my observations, it's obvious to everyone, but always seems to be difficult to do. Starting to do anything is the most important thing you can do.

As the friend of the Transformers, Shia LeBeouf, once screamed in front of a green screen, "Just do it." More and more, as I evaluate my current shortcomings and what I would like to see from my life, it's becoming clear that the solution is oftentimes just to start. That first push is definitely the hardest part for me in almost every situation, but once I get going, it almost feels hard to stop.

There's always the voice in your head telling you not to do it, for almost everything you do: "Don't start that side project, someone else has done it better," "Don't start your homework now, you've got plenty of time to do it later," "Don't get out of bed, start exercising 'later,' Netflix is here and now."

In these past few weeks, I've made a conscious effort to ignore that voice and just start things, work on my side projects, go running several days a week, apply for internships, and study that small amount more. As a result, I have noticed—at the very least—a

perceived change in how functional I feel as a human being, and that is a good thing in my opinion.

Up to this point, this notebook likely has felt like all of the other motivational speakers or writers you hear about. They get up and run at 4 am every day to kick off their action-packed 16-hour days of pure productivity, but I am not the picture of perfect motivation that the Casey Neistats of the world pretend to be. I don't believe anyone is.

Sometimes it can be demotivating to hear about those types of people. When you are feeling demotivated, keep the following in mind: many people have days where nothing happens, or where they feel like they can't do anything. I believe the trick is to accept

those days when they come, embrace them for what they are, and don't let them impact the next day. Sometimes that one day of nothing stretches into two days of nothing, and carries on for a while. This is okay, and part of what I believe is normal. It becomes a negative impact on your life when it stretches on for longer.

The worst thing that can happen when you start something new is that you only get a fraction of the way closer to your goal, which is still infinitely better than not starting. ♦



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The Question:

What is your family's unique holiday tradition?



Gianni Diaz
BMGT '21

"Every year we have a trip to the Dominican Republic."



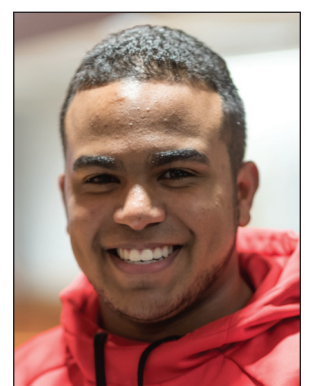
Mary Lucas
CHEG '20

"We have a pickle ornament in our tree."



Matt Oster
ENVE '20

"We eat Chinese food and go to the movies."



Marcus Gichiengo
MECL '20

"We bake cookies."