

the polemic

Volume III, Number I

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Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y.

Frankenstein gains Senate approval

In its first action this semester, the Senate approved unanimously PU Paul Scarface's nomination of Victor Frankenstein to serve on the Executive Board of the Rensselaer Union.

Frankenstein, a biomedical doctoral candidate, was nominated by Scarface last May, but his nomination was not acted on until last Sunday's Senate meeting, the first of the semester.

At the meeting, the nomination was discussed, and young Frankenstein was questioned by several members of the Senate.



When asked what he could contribute to the Union, Frankenstein cited his close ties with Dr. Paul, mentioning something about "spare parts." These ties, he claims, will enable the Union's problems with the medical staff be expediently solved. Frankenstein also revealed some misgivings about working with PU Scarface, with whom he has had some disagreements. However, Frankenstein was optimistic about the future, saying about Scarface, "Give me some time, and I'll make a new man out of him."

Despite these disagreements, Scarface expressed pleasure and little surprise at the Senate's acceptance of Frankenstein. "He had several things going for him," remarked the PU, "Not the least being --he's vegetarian."

Job outlook good for new Knights

The uproar over the military budget, and the subsequent trimming of said budget, has led to a renewal of one of the more obscure branches of the military, the mounted cavalry. Although on the decline for the past 600 years, the ancient order of knighthood is making a rousing comeback. Explained a Pentagon spokesman, "For the price of your average nuclear warhead you can buy 50 good horses, train them and their riders, and keep them all housed, fed and supplied for 5 years.

When questioned about the fact that they have no use militarily, the Pentagon replied that nothing's perfect.

This move is expected to appease some of the older military leaders who still swear by the tried and true tactics of the good old days of Poitiers and Agincourt. President Reagan privately endorses the move as it will give the U.S.A. a definite edge in this area over the Soviet Union.

Our N.A.T.O. allies are also pleased. "Local people prefer them to ICBM missiles 7:1; they're much more pleasant to watch, are absolutely smashing with children, and are damn good for the soil. Besides, they remind us of the days when we were somebody." is how one British official put it.

We at the Polemic feel that R.P.I. students are best qualified to fill the new positions. After 4 years of watching student government here, we should know a horse's ass when we see one.

Is Troy really a mental institution??

An Introduction to Tuting For Freshmen and Other Unfortunates

Needless to say, by this time you've probably heard infinite stories about life (or lack thereof) here at Tute. Well, we at the Pole felt it our obligation to straighten out any misconceptions you may have, and, to this end, have compiled a set of primers to help you out.

1. The Freshman Meets the Troylets

See Dave.
See Dave wander.
Wander, Dave, wander.
See Dave wander aimlessly.
Dave is a freshman.
Dave cannot find his dorm.
See the friendly upperclassman.
See the friendly upperclassman help Dave.
Help, friendly upperclassman, help.
See the friendly upperclassman point
Dave towards downtown Troy.
See Dave walk.
Walk, Dave, walk.
See Dave meet an unfriendly horde of
evil Troylets.
See Dave run.
Run, Dave, run.
Poor Dave.

ice cream sculptures

Due to the unprecedented success of last spring's campus sculptures, which featured the infinitely-popular "Three Balls Half-Covered By Rocks", a new type of sculpture will be in evidence on campus this year. Troy's "Cream Machine" ice-cream parlor will debut its "Sculptures by Merle" collection sometime this October.

Billed as "Well-known pieces of art interpreted in sixteen flavors, six toppings, nuts, cherries, and home-made whipped cream", the exhibit will feature such near-classics as "The Pistachio Manta", "Sphinx in Strawberry", and "The Honoring Thinker" featuring an all-new flavor made with radioactive Thorium-233. Also featured will be a Mount Rushmore-like carving at the side of the 36 Field hosting four likenesses of Ronald Reagan and flavored completely with lemon. Says Merle, "We're making sure he gets his just dessert".

2. The Freshman Meets the Sagie

See Jane.
See Jane bounce.
Bounce, Jane, bounce.
Jane is a Sagie.
See Dick.
Dick is a freshman Tuter.
See Dick see Jane bounce.
See Dick get a swelled head.
See Dick run after Jane.
See Dick get hit by a Mack Truck.
See Dick bounce.
Bounce, Dick, bounce.

3. The Freshman Meets the Polemic

See Pete read the Polytechnic.
See Pete sleep.
Sleep, Pete, sleep.
See Pete read the Polemic.
See Pete giggle uncontrollably.
Giggle uncontrollably, Pete, giggle uncontrollably.
See Pete laugh himself silly over this plucky satire of life at a large Northeastern technological university.
Laugh yourself silly over this plucky satire of life at a large Northeastern technological university, Pete, laugh yourself silly over this plucky satire of life at a large Northeastern technological university.
See Pete send \$3.50 for a year's prescription or \$2.00 for a semester's prescription to "The Polemic, 202 Wiltsie House, RPI".
See Pete feel secure that he isn't one of those low-down pus-ridden little leeches who steal the free copies off of the bulletin board.
See Pete be rewarded by a five-foot female blonde Swedish nymphet Pole member with a night he will never forget.
Score, Pete, score.
See Jon.
See Jon not order a prescription.
See Jon die of a rare tropical disease.
Die, Jon, die.

Next week:

"The Freshman Meets the Doddering Senile Chemistry Professor" (or "Babble, Buncie, babble"), "The Freshman Meets the President" (or "Babble, George, Babble"), and "The Freshman Meets Daka" (or "The Death of the Freshman").

BEWARE,
The Gang may stay.
no music
no alternative



Focus will ignite alumni

The persistent problem of alumni interfering with the operation of RPI will be remedied by a device now being constructed by the Physics Department. Known as the "Alumni-Fry", the machine, from its perch in Earth orbit, will be able to focus the sun's rays on any troublesome alumnus, igniting him immediately and vaporizing him or her completely within seconds.

Completion of the device is slated for early this spring and the department hopes to get it into orbit on a space shuttle flight soon afterward. From there, there will be virtually no chance for the troublesome alumnus to escape. Operation of the "Tute-Torch", as it is known among its builders, is simple. According to its designer, C. Thlite of the Vaporization Physics lab, "We just tell Myron who to zap, he does the rest."

President Glow stated that the system has a fail-safe protection circuit to avoid hitting enrolled students, providing the best excuse yet for students to stay around for years without paying tuition.

The project is being funded in part by the CIA, but that is top-secret, and even the Pole aren't supposed to know about it. For that matter, the entire project is top-secret, and no one is supposed to know about it. Oops.

Verzal

"Well, thanks Stan. Good-bye." Dave hung up the phone, feeling better. "IPAC really does know everything!" he thought. Suddenly he remembered, "Oh ~~shit~~, I've got a Comp. Lang. project due Tuesday - tomorrow! - at nine. It's now...11:32!" He hurried from the Linac building, and drove down to the VCC.

Entering the terminal room, he was thinking, "That's strange, the place is empty." Well, not quite, but there were only three others in the room. One person, alone in the back, cackling to himself, and a girl and a guy next to each other over there.

"Funny," Dave thought, "the guy looks normal, but that girl! I've never seen one, but if an aardvark looks like anything, she's it!" As he signed on, he overheard them introducing themselves to each other ("So they're not together - - the guy has hope!" Dave thought). "He's Jon, it's Martha..." was the last thing Dave remembered thinking while still in the computer center.

Sid was still cackling to himself as he saw yet another victim enter the terminal room. Getting his device name by counting the terminals, Sid inputted it to his program. He now had all three of the people in the room to have fun with.

Initiating the programmed sequence, Sid hit the T-key. The screen flashed "TELEPORT". He keyed in the destination for his three victims. Across the room, three terminals told their startled operators, "STAND BY..". Then, WHOOP-AARRGG....

The lights blinked out across the campus.

SENIORS

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Pole

EDITORIAL SECTION

Polemic

Vol. III, No. 1

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contents under pressure

ances are you don't know about us. All, if you're a freshman, or just extremely out of touch, this is the Polemic's third year. Even if you're not a freshman or extremely out of touch. We have nothing to do with the Anselmer Union, nor do we wish to. Anything submitted to the Polemic comes null and void, and will become the exclusive property of the Troy sanitation department. If we're accused of anything, we will plead insanity. Hey, it worked for Hinckley! If you don't believe we're insane, just read this issue...

The Polemic can be contacted at 2 Wiltsie House by campus mail or in person, or even by Myron-mail. Or think about it hard, and the staff psychic will talk to you.

Dear George:

LGAN

Dear George:

It's taken me a long time to work up the nerve to write to you. I know you've helped thousands of other people. And I read your column faithfully every day, I swear. But I just couldn't see me in it. But enough of that, here's my problem.

I'm an avowed homosexual. I've been living with my lover out of wedlock for three years. We're both reasonable men and allow each other to see different people occasionally. Lately I've been seeing a certain woman (usually I don't but you wouldn't believe the things she does with some materials, especially flypaper). Anyway, my roommate has been getting rather jealous as she has been taking over some of his former duty, such as every Tuesday with a metal file, so lately he's been going to parties without me, and a lot of friction develops when I show up with her. Next week a large semi-formal is being thrown by a friend whom I met through my lover. My question to you is this: If my female friend wears a bearskin rug with matching tire chains, would it be in bad taste for me to come in the official summer uniform of the British East India Tea Company in 1896? sincerely,

SOON TO be
A VECTOR

Dear soon to:

I suggest you forget about the East Indian tea. If you really want some, you might want to try Almond Sunset- it's a really nice flavor, but you have to be careful not to chew on the teabag afterwards- you'll get pieces stuck in your teeth, and it'll give you a nasty hangover.

As for the party, why don't you gag your female friend with the bearskin, tie your roommate up with the chains, and find yourself a good carrot? I understand someone on the staff could make a recommendation.

-George

— Editor to the letter —

To: The Editor of the Polemic
From: Dave Wilkinson

I am writing to protest the recent article in the Polemic entitled, "Baby Talk Replaces Textbook" (issue XIV). There is a popular attitude held by non-management students on the R.P.I. campus which implies that students become management majors because they can't survive the engineering curriculum here and also because they believe that the management program provides an easy route to good grades.

Also, many students feel that the school of management is chock full of 'dumb jocks' who are simply looking for an 'easy way out.' Although it is true that there are a lot of hockey players in the management curriculum, most of these are very good students who would be quick to tell you, if you asked them, that the management program at R.P.I., particularly the management systems option, is just as difficult as the engineering, science, and other programs (see your undergraduate catalog for details). R.P.I. is well known for the excellence of its management program in the northeast and is currently working to make its mark in the rest of the United States as well.

I feel that your article provided no tangible benefit to the Rensselaer community and, furthermore, I feel that it caused undue harm to the school of management and its students. I think I can speak for all my colleagues when I say that your article was unjustified and unnecessarily prejudiced. I would like you to provide an apology and/or retraction in the next issue of the Polemic or to my colleagues and I in writing.

Sincerely yours,
David Wilkinson
-Management Systems, '83

(Editor's note: The preceding letter arrived in the Polemic's computer mail file; as usual I answered it immediately, but later I lost the printout of my reply. Therefore, the reply below is a paraphrased and probably shortened version of my actual reply to Mr. Wilkinson.)

Dear Dave,

I have no doubt in my mind that the article in Vol. II Number XIV of the Polemic entitled "Baby Talk Replaces Textbook" grossly misrepresented the school of management and its students. Your letter seems to accuse the Polemic of irresponsible journalism, and except for one tiny fact I would wholeheartedly agree with you. That fact is: you can't accuse us of irresponsible journalism because we're not journalists. You forget: The Polemic is NOT a newspaper!

Take a look at some of our headlines over the past year: "State Law Creates Hell"; "Daka Claims It Can Cook"; "Albany Symphony To Play Punk"; "Garey, Low Announce Wedding"; and "Spot The Turkey". We're willing to make fun of anyone (well, almost anyone) if we think we can get a laugh out of it. So please, don't take us seriously about anything! However, we are glad to receive your letter and hear (or, read) your views - and to know that somebody out there is reading this rag.

About the written apology: I can't give you one of those, but I can say this: We at the Polemic are truly sorry, not that we published the article, but that you and your colleagues were offended by it. If this is not satisfactory, please let us know either through our computer mail file or by writing to: Polemic

202 Wiltsie House
RPI

via intercampus (free) mail. Or, if you really want to gain a say in what is printed, join the staff. Everyone is welcome. Until I hear from you again,
M.F.G.

Sages' revelations to replace classes

In a pioneer experiment in education planned for the R.P.I. campus in 1983, story telling sessions by famous sages will replace the current class format. According to the experiment's promoters, the world reknown R.P.I. Psychology department, this drastic change in teaching method should promote a "more restful" atmosphere among the students, thus improving performance and reducing the annual vector rate.

The only thing holding up launching the study is the completion of renovation work at the Sage Lab. Once this work is complete, Rensselaer will have the nation's most advanced facility for the training and cloning of sages. Plans show that enough of the storytellers to begin the new education method with the fall 1983 semester.

In the program, current class material will be paraphrased into lengthy stories, at least slightly more interesting than the present format, to be delivered by the sages. Most classroom facilities will be demolished, as sessions will be held outdoors under ancient trees, led by typical old sages - old bags of hot air (That's SAGES, not SAGIES). The Psychology department refused to comment on the fact that there aren't many ancient trees on campus, but did assure that the present F-test format will be retained so as not to disorient the students.

Reactions to the upcoming experiment have been varied. A spokesman from the U.S. Department of Education wrote the entire plan off as "silly", and promised to withdraw all federal aid from the school. The faculty of M.I.T. released a statement reading "...we're extremely happy that RENSSELAER has chosen to do this. One down..." Student reaction has been generally favorable, with the most common comment being how much easier it will be to sleep in class in the future.

Rensselaer Union approaches end

Most RPI students know that the Freshman Dorms were built as 5-year temporary buildings in the 1950s - 30 years ago. Fewer know that "the Resorts" - the Davison-Sharp-Nugent complex - is a 10-year temporary from some 25 years ago. "The resorts" have lasted well, but the Freshman Dorms have not. Students have called for their destruction, and last May it appeared that they had succeeded when the Institute's administration agreed to "tear down one of the temporary buildings".

Late in May, Lee Wilklutz announced that the Rensselaer Union had been designed and built as a 15-year temporary building. On June 1, exactly 15 years and one month from its opening, May 1, 1967, the Union was dynamited. The reclaimed materials will be used in the construction of the NYSCII. Wilklutz was quoted as saying, "We've finally managed to get rid of a building



before it fell down the hill, or wore out, or something.

Returning students were shocked to find an empty depression in the ground at 15th St. and Sage Ave. - all that remains of the Union.

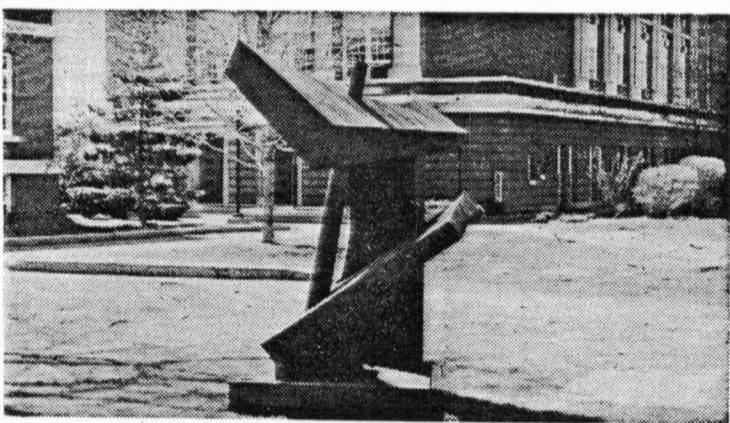
Rumor has it that the entire Institute will be torn down next year to make way for "Rensselaer 2000".

sports



Athlete of the Week

This fortnight's Athlete of the Week was a member of a strong team of sculptures that competed on the RPI campus last spring. The piece pictured here, titled "Untitled," was judged by our disinterested panel to be the most effective of the competing pieces in killing grass and shading centipedes. The piece further distinguished itself with its interesting hue of puce, which earned it the top spot in the "Silliest Looking" category. Many congratulations are in order for this fine specimen of modern art.



Pete:
Get
Well
Soon

Netmen drop pants

