ANOTHER MYSTERIOUS DEATH
CORPSE FOUND BLOODLESS, INVESTIGATORS BAFFLED

A pastor intones the final rites for the newest victim. (Credit Kevin Chen)

BANKER DISCOVERS TRANSYLVANIAN FORTUNE

Greetings, dignified Old Timers, it is I, your humble Business Manager. Our season is well under way, and as such I’m knee-deep in business. We have just finished writing our budget for next year, with hopes to make our spending more efficient. Some good news, too: we earned about $1,000 more than expected from Dracula! Huzzah! Also, be on the lookout in January/February for some news from WeR Gold... [more on Page 3]

GOOD SAMARITAN AVERTS FIERY DISASTER
TELLS REPORTERS, “THE PLAYHOUSE IS NOT ON FIRE.”

It's been an eventful semester for the Playhouse and the Technical Committee. At the beginning of the year the Set Shop instituted a new tool safety program, which we all have adapted to very well, and I'm pleased to announce that everyone still has all their limbs fully attached. The T-Comms successfully tackled a number of projects around the Playhouse, and have almost completed the Tempest process for next season. I’ve also been working with the Union on improving many Playhouse procedures, like obtaining keys and requesting repairs, which will hopefully make the next semester run more efficiently. In the coming months, I hope to put together some technical workshops with the T-Comms, fix the water damage to the stage floor, and maybe even keep the Playhouse from setting on fire.

PRESIDENT SPEAKS OUT AGAINST RECENT CRIMES
URGES PUBLIC TO REMAIN CALM

Jeremy Feldman, President

It’s hard to believe that we are already halfway through our 96th season. We had two highly successful shows of Almost, Maine and Dracula, but I’ll let our respective producers brag about their shows. We also were able to put on a new program with ResLife to put on a showing of the Rocky Horror Picture Show. It was hugely exciting for us to have a showing for such an iconic movie. We had over 150 players and students come out to watch the movie and the wonderful Whip It Out Skirts shadow cast. We are also very excited to be partnering with the Graduate Council, VDay movement, and Troy Unity House to put on the Vagina Monologues in addition to our regular Evening of Performance and spring musicals. These are just two of the new programs we’ve been able to introduce this year.

In addition to expanding our programs we’ve also faced issues with Union funding in some of our programs such as work party pizza but thanks to the generous support of our members, and thanks to you, the alumni, we’ve been able to successfully have pizza at each one of our work parties! We ask again for your support in a WeR Gold project that will be going online in the spring semester to replace our sound system. Our current system in close to 15 years old and technical support ended for it this past year and the Union has declined to fund new equipment. This new system will help us to continue to provide the best shows and programs we possibly can.

I am thankful to everyone who came back to stop by for a tour, offer a hand at a work party, or the Dracula closing night party. It is always a pleasure to talk to you and learn about your experiences with Players and how they have continued to shape your lives. I hope that we can continue to provide experiences for our current members that stay the highlight of their college experience.

If you ever have anything you wish to talk about with me I would like to hear from you. Simply email me at players-pres@union.rpi.edu. I hope to see many more of you during the spring semester! Which way is up?

Led by Reverend Kearney, bystanders Smege Gogsmith, Taylor Turner, and Dr. Anton Lohner Piazza pray for the safe return of the firemen. (Credit Kevin Chen)
INMATE ESCAPES ASYLUM

SUSPECT BELIEVED TO BE UNARMED, EXTREMELY DANGEROUS

This past Sunday, one Christopher Urig, more commonly known by his pseudonym "Benfield", staged an escape of the West Hall Asylum, and is believed to be roaming the city below. His caretaker, Dr. Anton Lohmer Piazza, warns citizens that Urig is criminally insane and should be avoided at all costs. "This madman's crimes are nigh-on legendary," says Chief of Police Eric Showah. "We will not rest until he is back under lock and key." The police welcome any and all information concerning Urig's whereabouts, and agree... [continued on Page 5]

HISTORIAN TRACKS ANCIENT TRADITION

DETERMINES ORANGES, MYSTERIES ARE IN SEASON

Greetings, Players! Your friendly Secretary-Historian here, happy to report a busy, bustling season so far! I have been hard at work formalizing some of the resources on the Executive Committee side of things, so by next season each executive role will have a helpful updated manual to help them along. We also managed to select our shows for the 86th Season: The Love of Three Oranges by Robert DePiano (based on a scenario by Carlo Gezzi) and The Mystery of Edwin Drood by Rupert Holmes (based on the book by Charles Dickens). This was quite a feat as we had over forty shows submitted this year!

On another note, my pet project next year will concern the "Historian" half of my title. That is, I will be compiling a written record of as many of our RPI Players traditions and their origins as I can, and I need your help with this! Know the origin of one of our practices (like the last song of the closing night party or the Society of Blondes)? Let me know by email at players-sec-his@union.rpi.edu!

AUDIENCES WOVED BY STELLAR PRODUCTIONS

HEARTS BROKEN BY TOUCHING LOVE STORIES
LUNCHES LOST AT DEPICTIONS OF GORE

Hello I'm Emi Phillips and I was the producer of this year's side show production Almost, Maine. With only a month of rehearsals and four work parties we managed to integrate a plethora of talented freshman and others new to the Players into major roles just in time for Family Weekend. With bribes of cookies, several long, treks of carrying flats between Academy Hall and the Playhouse as well as a disproportionately large snowball this production helped add new members to the players family and let others explore roles that they'd never tried before. Their hard work drew a large crowd which left the auditorium with standing room only, but no one seemed to mind. Even as a free show between donations and concessions we were able to offset costs. I was honored to work with everyone on this production and I hope that I will have a chance to do so again.

BEAR GHOSTS:
MYTH OR MENACE?

More on Page 4
WORLD-CLASS HYPNOTIST VISITS TROY

VERY PALE MAN TRANSFIXES CROWDS

The famous Professor Cula gave his first ever performance in the Capital District this weekend. This incredible show is not for the faint of heart or thin of blood... [continued on Page 5]

RESOURCE PERSON DELIVERS RESOURCES

“MAKES SENSE,” STUDENTS SAY

Holly Nelson, SARP

Hello to Players past and present. My name is Holly Nelson and I am the new SARP (Student Activities Resource Person) from Rensselaer Union assigned to work with the RPI Players. To the alumni, I would just like to say that I have been nothing but impressed with the current executive board and the Players as a whole. I have found them to be nothing but responsible, well-mannered, good-natured, and fun. At their request, I meet with the executive board about twice a month and I always find these meetings to be enjoyable and productive. You should be honored that this group is continuing on your legacy in such a way. I very much enjoyed their fall production and look forward to seeing future productions. Thank you for all of your support!

MAN WITH SPLIT-PERSONALITY SPEAKS OUT

THEN SPEAKS OUT AGAIN WITH DIFFERENT VOICE

Mason Cooper, Publicity Director

The publicity department went through a significant structural change this semester, resulting in the publicity director working to manage external organizations and ultimately act in much the way the Publicity Coordinator has in the past. While there is still much to be changed and even more to be done, promoting the Players so far this season has definitely been an adventure. Changes will definitely be made going into next year, but this year had a great start and we’ll only build upon that as we continue to grow. Look out for plenty of new things, like giant posters, new marquises, a new a frame, and plenty more! El pay coi grego.

Mason Cooper, Webmaster

The website is a bit weak right now, but a lot is going on. First off, everyone should check out the new Performing Arts Committee Calendar at players.rpi.edu/pac. Additionally, a “show mode” has been created so that we can continue making the site show specific to help use it more effectively as a means of show promotion. Over winter break new photos from Blonde and Dracula will be added to the slideshow at the top of the page and changes will be made to ensure site data is correct and up-to-date. Renovations to the security of the administrative half of the site are first on my queue of major tasks, which will go hand in hand with new data about members being available. These changes will be followed closely by minor renovations to the functionality of the site to ensure smoother operation before the information flow and design of the site are altered. All in all, there is going to be a ton going on in the near future and I can’t wait to start rolling things out. See you space cowboy!

PASTOR COVERS DOCTOR IN SPITTLE

Onlookers were shocked as Reverend Kearney unleashed his wrath on Dr. Piazza, following the Doctor’s disrespectful words at a Sunday sermon... [continued on Page 7]

DR. PIAZZA PRESENTS EXTREME WOODWORKING

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY; BANISHMENT SKILLS “A PLUS”

Many know Dr. Anton Lohner Piazza as the head of the West Hall Asylum, but few realize that he is an accomplished artist as well, with such famed pieces as “Restraining an Inmate in Oak”, “A Lobotomy in Three Parts”, and “Help Me Clean Up All This Blood”. On January 3rd, Dr. Piazza will be holding a free workshop in the Greene Complex: all are welcome to attend, regardless of skill level. Dr. Piazza suggests that attendees bring along any stakes they might have access to... [continued on Page 8]

GOLD!

SNAPPY PUNNING SUBHEADING!

In late January, the RPI Players will have a WeR Gold project for funding some much-needed new sound equipment. Our site will be available from alumni.rpi.edu/WeRGold. For regular donations to the club, checks addressed to “RPI Players” can be mailed to us at

RPI Players, c/o Rensselaer Union,
110 8th St,
Troy, NY 12180

Any donations are greatly appreciated, and we thank you for thinking of us.

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