Unless you have been living in the Dore and Fennell tunnels for the past year, you have undoubtedly had blue donkeys and red elephants on your mind. Every time you turn on a television, there is a political advertisement reminding you to vote in the upcoming election. Your neighbor’s yard is polluted with political signs, and there are even campaign-themed coffee cups at your local gas station. The country has gone election crazy and Providence College is no exception. For many undergraduate students at the College, this election will be the first in which they are able to cast their vote.

On Monday, November 5, 2012, Pi Sigma Alpha (the political science honor society), the College Republicans, and the College Democrats held a straw poll in Slavin and Raymond Dining Hall. Students who participated in the straw poll were given paper ballots. On the paper ballots, the students chose between President Barack Obama and Governor Mitt Romney. When the straw poll closed, the sponsoring clubs counted the votes, imitating the process of the actual election.

The clubs initiated the straw poll on campus in order to garner enthusiasm for the election, as well as to spread awareness. Undergraduate students at the College most likely remember straw polls being conducted during the last Presidential election in their high schools. However, at the time, the majority of students were not old enough to vote.

Their goal was not to spread liberalism or conservatism but rather to excite students and encourage them to vote in the actual election. The clubs and honor society hoped that the straw poll encouraged students to do their own research on the candidates and helped them to make an informed decision when voting in the actual election. The straw poll benefits students both politically and academically.

“We wanted to do it because we wanted to see who PC would pick,” said Meryl Ertelt ’13, president of the College Republicans and secretary of Pi Sigma Alpha. “It gets people thinking about the election.”

Ertelt believes that the division between the students’ political preferences is greater than the state of Rhode Island’s, which is mainly a Democratic state. According to Ertelt, because Rhode Island is a Democratic state, it will presumably go to President Obama. However, at a Catholic college, it is hard to predict the student vote. Because students are aware of social issues as well as moral and pro-life issues, Ertelt predicted that...
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Tiffany & Earl Note
The Tiffany & Earl feature in Portfolio is a satirized account of Providence College. Both the question and answers are purely works of fiction. Tiffany & Earl are anti-heroes whose comments ultimately satirize the stereotypes they each represent.

There's Still More to Do
It was exciting to see McPhail's teeming with political enthusiasm on Tuesday. The enthusiasm came at a critical juncture in US history in which the American people chose the path of social and economic liberalism by electing President Barack Obama. The die was cast in the midst of an economic crisis abroad, dismally high unemployment at home, and a soaring national debt—all problems that are impossible for the President to solve alone.

Fortunately, the US government was designed with the purpose of balancing institutions against each other. It is this singular aspect that allows our government to act in a democratic manner; this also means that the president does not have to do it alone. However, US congressional approval is at a 38-year low of 10 percent, according to a Gallup poll released in August. Nevertheless, 21 of the 25 incumbent Senators who ran in this past election won back their seats. (Data from house elections are not yet completely available.)

The single most important disease plaguing our democracy is stubborn partisanship and the subsequent inability to compromise in Congress. While the congressional elections received relatively little attention, both President Obama and Governor Romney spent over $700 million garnering the attention of voters. It seems as if the balance our Founders worked so hard to maintain has irrevocably slipped in the direction of electing one individual.

There needs to be more thought and passion behind electing representatives to Washington DC. The presidential election may be over, but it remains to be seen whether or not the stubborn partisanship will end with it. The nation is facing real issues that can only be solved by real compromise. The American people have elected a strong and competent president, but he needs a Congress that is both critical and supportive, firm yet fluid, and, most importantly, in tune with the people. A functional Congress is essential to our democracy. When there is compromise, everyone half-wins; when there is no compromise, no one wins. So, let's direct the same passion we had in the presidential election to the congressional elections in the coming years and elect fluid congressmen that can deliver results.

Arman & Dara
Freshman Essay Contest Winners Selected

by Kathleen McGinty '16

News Staff

Although Providence College freshmen may have relegated their summer reading book to an existence of collecting dust in the back corner of a desk drawer or underneath the bed, discussion of the Freshman Common Reading Program's (FCRP) selection, The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, continued this past Friday, November 2, at a celebratory reception to honor the program's essay contest winners and facilitators.

While all freshmen and new transfers were required to read The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot and participate in group discussions during the New Student Orientation in August, incoming students were also invited to submit original essays considering major themes of the novel with present-day issues. Among those who submitted essays, Christina Perri '16 was awarded first place and a $300 prize, Alyssa Kinney '16 received second place and a $200 prize, and Kailyn Jennings '16 and Nicholas Tavares '16 both followed in third place with a $100 prize. Honorable mentions were granted to Andrew Bouffard '16, and Kathleen Durbin '16, Meghan Lescault '16, Joshua Ahmad-Kahloon '16, Branan McGinty '16, and blue or yellow. These games consisted of playing a variety of games with the kids to help some future voters understand the importance of voting. "I thought the Committee's choice was really inspired," he said of its book selection for the Class of 2016. With its variety of ethical themes including the use of body parts, education, race, and class, The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks seemed like a novel choice to Fr. Shanley. "I think everyone on campus found something that resonated in them."

For the winners, that certainly seemed to be the case. The third place winners' essays both capitalized on the striking similarities between the role of doctors in The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks and the role of government at present. Jennings' essay, "Privacy Versus Safety: A Democratic Nation's Struggle to Find a Balance," spoke to how it is difficult for both doctors and governments to find a balance between honoring privacy and also providing safety and security. Similarly, Tavares' essay, "The Injustice of Ignorance," analogized government taxes to doctors' use of HeLa cells, noting that both are fair under law but fraught with inequality.

Kinney's second place essay, "The Education Gap," also discussed past and present inequities. Attributing the Lacks' insufficient education to the increasing gap among social classes, Kinney connected the novel's theme of inequality to the issues of education and income that have come to the forefront of this year's presidential election.

Perri, who was last to recite her essay, "It's MY Body: The Biomedical Ethics of Cell and Organ Harvest," discussed the controversy surrounding the time at which one loses ownership of their cells.

"I was really torn about what to write about," said first-place winner Perri, stating that she had to decide between writing about the issues of bioethics or education. "Seeing that these conditions existed...is really frightening."

While it may be alarming, it is evident that essay contest participants were able to use their voices to illuminate and speak out against the pressing issues brought up in The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks in the context of today's society.

At the conclusion of the reception, Haberle thanked the Implementation Committee, which coordinates the FCRP, and the Book Selection Committee that researches and recommends possible books for the College's incoming class. Haberle also announced that the College is tentatively planning for Sonny Henricks, Henrietta Lacks' son, to visit the College on April 4, 2013. Details are still to come, and information on additional FCRP events can be found on the College's website.

"Democracy in Action" Project Teaches Students

by Kathleen Sullivan '14

Senior News Writer

Just before the presidential election this week, a group of students from Dr. Rick Battistoni's Ancients and Moderns political theory course set up an event to help some future voters understand a little more about democracy as part of a project for the class. A group of students from the class held a "Democracy in Action" event this past Friday, November 2 at the Boys and Girls Club at the Chad Brown Community Center.

Meredith Cook '13, a member of the class, explains, "The project was intended to make those in our community active within democracy."

The participants in the event were a group of about 30 young students, ages five to 15, who are part of an after-school program at the community center. The event consisted of playing a variety of games with the kids to help "teach them about democracy and the importance of voting." In the games, the students had to choose their preference between a number of different pairs, like hot dogs or pizza, elephants or donkeys, and blue or yellow. These games introduced them to the concepts of expressing their opinions and having to make choices between options.

After, they were given a simple survey to fill out that asked questions pertaining to basic Republican or Democratic ideals. For example, Cook said that some of the questions asked the students whether they thought the president should put more money into the economy, if they thought the government should pay for people's hospital bills, and other questions. When they finished the survey, the PC students explained to the kids what it all meant in terms of political views.

The PC students even had two of the young men from their class dress up as Mitt Romney and Barack Obama and deliver speeches to the kids. The kids were able to voice their opinions in a mock election using an actual voting booth that was borrowed from the state of Rhode Island. (Coincidently, Obama was the winner in this election as well.)

The last part of the event was a question and answer session where

ACADEMICS

"The project was intended to make those in our community active within democracy."
The annual xACT competition was held this past Monday, November 5 in Moore Hall from 6-10 p.m. Accounting students under the guidance of Professor Camp, Professor Earley, Professor Hartley, Professor Kraten, Professor Keane, Professor Patrick Kelley, Professor Ann Kelly, Professor Ruggieri, and Professor Morse competed. Each faculty member coached a team of five students in their presentations. There were eight teams this year, and professors Ruggieri and Earley collaborated to form one team.

The competition is run annually by PriceWaterhouseCoopers, also known as PwC, which is one of the “big four” accounting firms in the nation. Each of these 50 schools, only five are chosen by PwC to compete further for a national title. For these five schools that are selected to advance to nationals, PwC presents each team member with a gift of $2,500 and a trip to New York for an opportunity to present in the PwC office. Providence College has made nationals twice in 2009, and again in 2011, in which the school won the entire competition for the first time.

This year, the winning xACT team at Providence was led by Patrick Murphy '13, with teammates Amanda Medeiros ’14, Megan Brownett ’14, Scott Blackburn ’15, and Gabrielle Orena ’15. Every winning student receives a $200 gift from PwC and the chance to advance to nationals. The winning team must now wait two to three weeks to hear from PwC headquarters to find out if they are one of the five exclusive chosen teams. For over eight years the xACT competition has encouraged students to get involved and gives them the opportunity to foster connections with PwC.

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The 63rd Student Congress met for its weekly meeting on Nov. 6 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fishbowl to discuss legislation concerning the availability of voting information for PC students, the recognition of the Footprints Gospel Choir as an official club, and putting additional information on student identification cards.

The meeting began with some general announcements, including a reminder to make sure everyone arrives at the meetings on time, as there is a great amount of legislation concerning the availability of voting information for PC students, as well as a reminder that following this meeting, Student Congress would be participating in Ski Area training.

The Class of 2013 delivered their update next, with announcements about 2013 Night which is taking place on Nov. 16 in Peterson. They are also working on providing more handicap accessibility around campus, namely in front of Harkins.

Mark Caprio ’14 delivered the news concerning the Class of 2014. He was happy to announce the 46th annual Junior Ring Weekend this weekend. The Mass is on Thursday night and all are welcome to come; Club Night starts at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, brunch will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, and then all will be “whisked away to a magical land” for Formal Night on Saturday night.

The Class of 2015 briefly stated their legislation that would be addressed later in the meeting, and the Class of 2016 was happy to share that they made over $1,500 in t-shirt sales over the past weekend and still hope to reach their goal of $2,000.

The rest of the committees briefly updated Congress on pertinent details of news, including Student Life working to improve the Healthy Relationships program, Academics working on legislation about a new course on current events, Publicity working on the recognition of the Footprints Gospel Choir, and Outreach working on Professor Appreciation Day. Justin Gomes ’13 also added in the closing remarks about plans to co-sponsor a bake sale with Campus Ministry to help the victims of Hurricane Sandy.

The first piece of old business this week was a piece of legislation headed by Gomes about voting information for students. This proposal would create links to voter information in Rhode Island and information about absentee ballots available on the Providence College website. This would be a useful resource for students, and the legislation was voted on and passed.

The other piece of old business was about recognizing the Footprints Gospel Choir as a proposed club on campus. Meghan Keating ’13, chair of the Clubs and Organizations committee, explained that this club has been around campus for three years already and has strong support from its members. Congress voted and approved this piece of legislation as well.

There were three pieces of new business addressed at the meeting this week. Keating began a discussion about recognizing PC Lifestyle & Fashion as a proposed club on campus, and representatives from the club were present to explain what they do and answer questions. Danielle Lockhart ’14 explained that the club is designed to reflect the lifestyle of the average PC student, and the subjects focus on fashion, events, places around Rhode Island, fitness, athletics, and campus events.

Lockhart explained that this club allows students to get a grasp of social networking and writing, has 35 members that attend weekly meetings, and has 68 posts so far. The blog was created on a free website so it is cost-effective, and moving forward, the club hopes to welcome more underclassmen and to work with BMSA or FFE to organize a fashion show. PC L&F is the only club on campus at this time concerned with social media and public relations, and it was acknowledged that it is a separate entity and not trying to compete with other publications on campus.

Keating also addressed the next piece of new business. This piece of legislation would set the deadlines each semester for new club proposals. She explained that it is a long process and it is important to meet requirements in a timely manner.

The last piece of new business was a piece of legislation presented by Matt Pavia ’15 about adding the phone numbers for the Office of Safety and Security on the back of student ID cards starting with the Class of 2017. He explained that he has already met with Warren Gray about this idea and plans are coming together quickly. After discussion ended on this topic, the Congress adjourned their meeting for a quick break before they began their Safe Space training.
Never too early to start planning on your study trip to China this summer! Contact Fr. Nowel for details: mnowel@providence.edu

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DEMONCRAHY: Obama wins mock vote at community center

Continued from page three

the kids were rewarded with candy for answering questions about the exercises correctly.

This “Democracy in Action” project was created to inspire and encourage young kids to develop an interest in politics and a civic duty to participate in the democratic process.

“The goal of the project was to activate people within society democratically and to achieve within this project,” explained Cook. Giving the kids an opportunity to learn what their opinions meant in a political sense and an opportunity to experience what it feels like to vote are invaluable to their understanding of democracy. Cook and the other students in her class have made a difference in the lives of a group of kids and gained ample information for their final presentation in the class. Cook added, “Hopefully they learned from our exercise and will share their knowledge and someday apply it when they can legally vote.” This event opened the eyes of young students to the democratic process, and it is important that they are active in political participation throughout their whole lives.

STRAW: Providence Students Counter National Electoral Results, “Elect” Romney in Mock Election

Continued from front page

the students’ Catholic backgrounds would divide them between the two major political parties. Those students sympathetic towards social welfare are likely to vote Democratic, whereas students sympathetic towards pro-life issues are likely to vote Republican. The vote for either candidate in the straw poll at the College was likely to be closer than the vote in Rhode Island.

Ertelt finds that students at the College are more interested in the election than she initially thought. Many of her friends are concerned with finding jobs and paying off student loans after graduation and are voting in the straw poll and the actual election with those issues in mind.

“I think the straw poll will be a great way for PC to start getting involved in politics and help the students make an informed vote on Tuesday,” said Ertelt.

Although Obama and Romney were the only two options on the ballot, some students chose to write in their own candidates. Write-ins included: “Mom (I),” “Gary Johnson (L),” “Chris Christie,” “third party,” and “Eric Hann ’13 (I).”
The Northeast expected floods in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, but few were anticipated that some of the most damage would come from fire, not water.

In Breezy Point, Queens, at least 111 homes were destroyed, and 20 more were damaged because of a fire that leveled the city. When the fire began Monday, firefighters were helping stranded residents from the flood waters. By the time help arrived, the flooded streets formed a moat around the flames, blocking the fire trucks from getting close. The heavy winds caused by Sandy also helped to spread the flames and widen the destruction.

"We had to stretch hoses from two blocks away and draft the seawater to spray onto the flames," said Michael Healey, a deputy chief with the Rockaway Point Fire Department, according to the Oct. 30 New York Times. No one was injured, but because of the hurricane-force winds and downed trees, the fire took 145 firefighters and nearly four hours for the flames to subside. According to Kenneth T. Jackson, a Columbia University historian and editor of The Encyclopedia of New York City, this fire was one of the worst residential fires in New York since the Fire Department was established in 1865.

As the United States braced for Hurricane Sandy, the Caribbean nations, who had already experienced Sandy's wrath, were left burying the dead, finding shelter for the homeless, and adding up the economic costs that had taken a toll on each country. Haiti, one of the poorest countries in the world, was hit the hardest. According to a Nov. 4, 2012, article in The Wall Street Journal, the storm destroyed 70 percent of the country's crops. Floods and landslides killed at least 54 people and the death toll is expected to rise, according to government officials.

Before the storm, it was hard enough to get enough food for the people of Haiti due to high food prices and low incomes, but now food shortages are expected more than ever because of the damage done to the crops. The flooding has also raised the concern for cholera and other water-borne illnesses since the outbreak of cholera in 2010 killed 7,500 Haitians, according to The Wall Street Journal.

The UN is sending in supplies, but many areas in the South are still unreachable by land.

After much of the damage has been revealed from Hurricane Sandy, the lingering question on many scientists minds is: Did the massive scale and damage caused by Hurricane Sandy have anything to do with climate change?

Climate scientists do not know for sure whether the storm was caused directly by human-induced global warming or whether it was made worse by it, but they do know that the intense storm surge was a result of decades of sea-level rise due to human's emissions of greenhouse gases, according to the New York Times.

Scientists argue that a warmer atmosphere can hold more water vapor, which can harbor more energy for storms of all types. According to an Oct. 31 article in The New York Times, some scientists believe that when Hurricane Sandy passed over, parts of the western Atlantic were as much as five degrees Fahrenheit warmer than normal for this time of year.

"I don't think anyone can say climate change caused Hurricane Sandy, but we know from that climate change has led to higher sea levels which can cause increased storm surge and coastal flooding," said Dr. Patrick Zwiersch, a professor of biology at Providence College. "I think with the change in climate we will see more changing weather patterns."

The New York University School of Medicine is one of the top medical research colleges in the country and now much of their work is in spay due to the damages caused by Hurricane Sandy.

"Thousands of mice that were used by the school for cancer research were drowned in a flood. Many of these mice were genetically modified for specific research purposes and took years to produce."

An Oct. 30 New York Daily News report says this will set back many scientists’ research by years.

The hospital chose not to evacuate, as it did for Hurricane Irene in 2011, according to ABC News. Because of this, when the power went out, the scientists were in a frenzy to transfer large freezers likely containing thousands of research materials, another part of the hospital which had power.

"This does not equate to a loss of life, but it is extremely disheartening to see years of research go down the drain," said a source reported by The New York Daily News.
Even though the US is described as a "one vote, one state" country, this does not prevent it from having a few slip ups at polling stations on election day. And by "a few slip ups," we actually mean a lot.

Reports came in that officials in several states had difficulty keeping their voting machines working. This included closely contested areas like Cleveland, Ohio and southern Florida. Some examples of this included electric voting machines that were not registered to vote. State officials decided those people would have to use provisional ballots rather than try to fix the problem. The problem with this is that these votes will not be counted for two weeks.

In the months leading up to the election, the Republican Party came under fire for trying to keep likely Democrats away on election day. Pennsylvania, a law had passed requiring such identification, but it was later overturned in court. This did not stop some voters from being turned away in Pennsylvania for not having a photo ID card, even though that requirement was not in effect for this election. Patti Hammond, executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, reported that, in Pennsylvania, some New Jersey poll workers were demanding identification from voters, which is in violation of state law. Hammond also reported that due to the lingering effects of Hurricane Sandy in New Jersey, some election computers crashed and some polling sites were still not open until closer to noon.

Ohio's election board falsely told thousands of people that they were not registered to vote. State officials decided those people would have to use provisional ballots rather than try to fix the problem. The problem with this is that these votes will not be counted for two weeks.

The election did little to improve the lot of third party candidates. In the days leading up to the election, Libertarian candidate and former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson, who was originally on all 50 state ballots, was expected to take in between 5—6.5 percent of the popular vote—the goal being to prevent it from having a few slip ups.

Washington analyzed the voter demographics for passing Initiative 502, King 5 reported that "it found strong support among liberals and moderate Democrats, and those with more than a high school degree. Independents and women were split on the issue, as were suburbanites." Many voters simply believed prohibition did more harm than good, with some wanting to preserve personal freedom while others wanted to see the issue go to the courts.

Ross Perot, winning 19 percent of the popular vote in 1992, took enough between 5—6.5 percent of the popular vote to spoil Washington's and Colorado's high, the Department Enforcement Administration reminded voters that "enforcement of the Controlled Substances Act remains unchanged. In enacting the Controlled Substances Act, Congress determined that marijuana is a Schedule I controlled substance;" the DEA statement said. "The President of the United States is reviewing the ballot initiatives, and we have no additional comment at this time."
As Spain goes through the debt crisis it shares with a number of other European countries, one more crisis escalating inside the country: Catalonia has been experiencing a surge of secessionist movement since the beginning of the fall. Catalonia’s National Day Celebration on Sept. 11 culminated in the mass demonstrations in its capital Barcelona.

An estimated 1.5 million people poured into the streets carrying the independence movement flags—white star against the blue triangle—and chanting the Catalan anthem Els Segadors. The independence march broke previous records of 50,000 participants. But the story does not end there. After Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy refused to grant the region more control over its taxes, Catalan President Artur Mas declared to run a referendum on independence from Spain. Catalonia is extremely important to Spain because it is Spain’s biggest tax contributor. The region produces 18.7 percent of the Spanish GDP. In fact, its GDP for 2011 compares to Finnish and exceeds Ireland. Catalonia is actively engaged in the international trade. Its president claims, “If Catalonia were a state [it] would be among the 50 biggest exporting countries in the world.”

Pro-independence group Fundacio Catalunya Estat estimated that an independent Catalonia would reach €20,000 GDP per capita and rank seventh in the European Union based on that criterion.

What makes the region successful is a concentration of the large local and international businesses. Historical icon sent the government support may have encouraged independent entrepreneurial efforts. Nowadays, the region hosts international companies like Mango, MNG Holding SL, the women’s clothes retailer, and Grupo Planeta, the leading publisher in Spain and South America. Catalonia is also home to FC Barcelona, the soccer club known worldwide and ranked eighth among the most valuable sports teams according to Forbes.

If there are so many indicators of the region’s affluence, why would Catalonia strive for independence? Catalan officials calculated that roughly 43 cents per one euro of taxes never return to the region. Thrity Catalonians do not want to put up with the underinvestment into the local needs. Sponsoring the rest of the country, the autonomy does not retain enough to improve its roads and infrastructure. Catalonians also cherish their cultural identity and preserve their language, Catalan.

There are problems endemic to the declaration of independence, however. Political and economic consequences may be in the separatists’ blind spot for now. Certain companies would have to leave Catalonia. Grupo Planeta, which publishes in Spanish, may not face a sufficient demand in a Catalan-speaking state. Businesses that depend on the trade with Spain would suffer as well. Brussels has officially warned that independent Catalonia would not remain a member of the European Union. As the region’s debts mount up, it also does not seem feasible for it to deal with them independently from Spain.

David Toró Colombo ’16, a Madrid native, says he does not oppose the pro-independence referendum in Catalonia, because it is merely conveying the public opinion. Yet, he believes that even if the majority voted for independence that would not lead to the actual declaration of independence. Besides a lack of legal grounds for that, Toró Colombo points out another problem: “The region would have all its own infrastructures, establishing police force, embassies, and public services.”

It seems that the recent surge in secessionist movement is the result of the economic hardship in Spain overall and unsuccessful negotiations about taxes with the central government. Artur Mas promises that if he would wish to be reelected only add fuel to the fire.

Follow Up: Rhode Island Election Results

Rhode Islanders saw no surprises on Election Day, as the state held its Democratic predominance. Republicans lost just about every race that mattered in the state and did not gain any seats in the General Assembly. Tuesday, November 6 was as blue as it could be.

In the First Congressional district, incumbent Congresswoman David N. Cicilline beat all of the odds against him to prevail in his race for a second term in Washington. Many had speculated that Cicilline could be a one-and-done congressman, but he managed to get a win with a significant margin. Cicilline walked away with 53.1 percent of the vote in CD1, while Doherty only received 40.7 percent.

In the United States Senate race, Sheldon Whitehouse, the incumbent freshman senator, won by the largest margin in any of the non-local races. He took in 65 percent of the vote, while Republican challenger Barry Hinckley only took in 35 percent. Whitehouse won his seat without difficulty, but the question now is whether or not he will serve his entire second term. The Wall Street Journal reported Whitehouse as the next Attorney General in the Obama administration.

However, Whitehouse seems to serve well in his capacity as senator given the results of this year’s elections and he has not said whether or not he would take the position of AG if offered to him.

On the local level, one of the hottest issues was and is marriage equality. Gordon D. Fox, an openly gay Speaker of the House, was able to fight off a challenge from independent Mark Binder in District 4. Fox has vowed to call a vote on marriage equality legislation the third or fourth week of the upcoming legislative session in which Fox is confident he will be reelected as Speaker.

Fox will also have more Democrats in his chamber this coming year as half of the Republican caucus will not be returning because members either retired or lost their bids for reelection. Providence College graduate Daniel P. Reilly ’12, a Republican representative from Portsmouth, is awaiting a count of absentee ballots to see if he will survive reelection. As of now, Reilly will not be on Capitol Hill next year.

The elections of 2012 were a great win for progressive Democrats in Rhode Island. Had Rhode Islanders not voted the way they did this week, any hopes for legalization of gay marriage would have been dead. Keeping Fox in power in the House of Representatives will ensure a vote on the issue. With more equality-leaning candidates elected to the State Senate, it seems as though the bill may pass that chamber without the expected uphill battle.

Republicans, after the election results, will have to begin to strategize about how to win back the Rhode Island electorate. Rhode Islanders spoke loud and clear at the polls, and if the party has any hope of regaining what they lost, their strategy and the candidates they put up will have to undergo some serious changes.
Everything happens for a reason, including the fact that I now have to give my roommates full body massages in lieu of losing the ultimate presidential bet. Obama won, but on the bright side, he can never win again. All jokes aside, now that both campaigns spent a total of $5.8 billion dollars on the 2012 presidential election, the highest amount in US history, I think the public should now ask how Obama intends to conquer the national debt of a record $16 trillion and increasing every minute. Cheers to America!

—Christina Moazed ’15

While I may have been eagerly awaiting a fresh perspective to grace the White House, we can only pray that President Obama adopts the mantra of his 2008 campaign—change. Four years, especially as college students, means everything. Four years from now, we will have jobs, marriages, and families. And I can only pray that the next four years are ones of prosperity, growth, and hope—things that have not felt certain and secure in a very long time.

—Emily Corr ’13

On Tuesday, Americans voted for a polarized Congress, for four more years of unsustainable debt, to stand divided. Americans voted for the last 12 years. If you think any change will come out of this election, think again. Unemployment will not decrease. The federal debt will not decrease. And this time you can’t blame it on the White House or on Congress. We have spoken with our votes and for once it’s time we stand united by our decisions, if anything else. The next four years are on us, America.

—Nathan McGuire ’16

First of all, whom I voted for is private and I will not discuss it, so don’t bother asking me. I will happily discuss issues but will not tell you flat out who I voted for. Secondly, whether you voted for Obama or Romney, we must realize that now is not the time to pout or gloat. We had one of our most unproductive Congresses in history, so, no matter how you look at it, things need to change. Things need to get done this time around, and we need to come together to accomplish this. That is all.

—Tommy Cody ’13

On Election Day I woke up to a note from one of my roommates that read something along the lines of, “a peace treaty.” It ended with, “Understand that we all must live together for a long while, and fighting is not recommended.” Although she was specifically referring to the divided political views among our suite, this message holds true for the whole country. Democrats should not feel superior to Republicans; we all live in this country together and must compromise and negotiate to make it work. The President alone is not the sole figure who will help shape our future.

—Jenn Giffels ’14

The results of the presidential election have more sweeping consequences than the fact that President Obama will remain in the White House. Obama’s victory proclaims that most Americans who cast a ballot don’t vote with their consciences. Here’s to another four years of blatant disregard for the First Amendment’s protection of religious liberty, presidential support of homosexual marriage, a warm relationship with Planned Parenthood, Patriots and the Soul of America, but sadly, the Home of the Free and Land of the Brave has repudiated its most fundamental values.

—Beatriz Forster ’14

Fourteen days ago, the staff reflected on the election and its candidates. Time is up, and now they’re ready to consider the results.

Tons of students flooded McPhail’s on Election Day. The amount of patriotism throughout campus was delightfully overwhelming. I guess America doesn’t want change; however, Patriotism is great, but my only hope is that our country doesn’t stay in any type of celebratory mode (or depression mode) for too long. Now that Obama has secured a second term, hope—America actually starts making changes for the better. He has spent plenty of time on his campaign, and now it’s time to put the debates and slogans aside and focus on our country. We may be a strong country, but there is plenty of room for improvement, and Obama needs to step up to this term.

—Kelly Sullivan ’15

For me, I suppose I hoped for a change from the disappointment of the last four years. I presumed that this change would have been most effectively realized with the election of Mitt Romney. Quite obviously, this didn’t happen. My only hope, then, is that a change can still occur through Obama’s reelection. Perhaps the President can do well with the time he has asked for and finish what he started. Come January, he inherits only his own four years. I’ll try and be optimistic that he can still do well with his own inheritance.

—Matt Santos ’14

After a long and suspenseful election, we are now free to say that President Obama will spend four more years in the White House. While this is certainly a contentious subject among my fellow PC students, I am thrilled to see Obama back for more. Among the many issues of this election, my main concern has been the potential of getting a job after graduation. Will employment rates rise? It is questionable, but I am confident that Obama will steer us in the right direction moving forward. The next four years should be ones of inspiration. And as Obama stated in his victory speech on Tuesday night, we know in our hearts that, for the United States of America, the best is yet to come.

—Kaylee Miller ’13

Cheers to America!
What are you looking forward to most about JRW?

“Getting to wear my traditional Pakastani attire.”
Umer Malik ‘14

“Dancing on the tables!”
Haley Webster ‘14, Caroline Cox ‘14

“Our hot dates!”
Lisa Pianezza ‘14, Dave O’Connor ‘14

“Getting to second base with security!”
Emma Cone ‘14, Maggie Cook ‘14, Kate Ryan ‘14, Chris Flaherty ‘14

“Shirley Temples.”
Khushbu Desai ‘14, Meghan Keane ‘14

“The music.”
Benjamin Alves ‘14

“Spending the weekend with our class.”
Michaela Ferreira ‘14, Jackie Stimola ‘14
Photography

Compiled by Saadia Ahmad '14, Photo Editor, and Rebecca Brophy '13, Assistant Photo Editor

BELOW:
On election night, BOP sponsored a "Tuesday Timeout" event in McPhail's.

SAADIA AHMAD '14/ THE COWL

REBECCA BROPHY '13/ THE COWL

ABOVE:
Students took advantage of the school year's first snowfall on Wednesday night.

RIGHT:
On Tuesday, November 6, the ISO sponsored "Colorblind."

BLEFT:
On election night, BOP sponsored a "Tuesday Timeout" event in McPhail's.

SAADIA AHMAD '14/ THE COWL

ABOVE:
Campus Ministry, along with Things for Thursday, sponsored a "Plant Life for All Saints Day," handing out flowers from Frey Florist & Greenhouse.

TOP LEFT:
On Wednesday, November 7, the Patriot Battalion Army hosted its annual Veterans Day ceremony.

JESSICA HO '14/ THE COWL

SAADIA AHMAD '14/ THE COWL

McPhail's on Election Night

by Julia Christ '13

Compiled by Saadia Ahmad '14, Photo Editor, and Rebecca Brophy '13, Assistant Photo Editor
There is something about Providence College that makes it special. Even if we cannot quite identify it, there is a reason every single one of us chose to come to this school. I decided to get an outsider’s perspective to see what really makes us unique. No one would know better than Jimmy Calitri. This amazing, talented person is one of the kindest and funniest people you will ever meet. He currently works at PC as a director of our mainstage theatrical productions. Calitri first came to PC in the fall of 2011 to direct the mainstage production of The Sweetest Swing in Baseball by Rebecca Gilman. Calitri’s second project at PC was Lend Me a Tenor by Ken Ludwig in the winter of 2012, one of PC’s most popular productions. We will welcome back Calitri in the spring of this year for the musical Curtains with text by Terrence McNally, music by Andrew Lippa, and lyrics by Fred Ebb. In addition to all his experience at Providence College, his relationships with Rhode Island high schools, professional theatres, and colleges such as Rhode Island College.

With all this experience, I thought Calitri could give the best perspective on what makes Providence unique.

Urgo: How is PC as a whole different than other Rhode Island colleges?

Calitri: I find everyone at PC to be unusually respectful and kind. The atmosphere in general at PC makes me feel like I can accomplish great things because everyone is so friendly, accommodating, and ready to tackle challenges. Simply put, PC is comprised of nice people!

Urgo: How is PC’s theatre program different from RIC or other Rhode Island colleges you have worked at?

Calitri: The main differences seem to be the intimacy of the program itself working in tandem with the level of respect cultivated at PC. When I walk in to start a new project at PC, it is like walking into a close family member’s house, and that sort of welcome is a rarity these days in the professional world.

U: What do you like best about PC?

C: Tough one. I would have to say the sense of community and family that is established by John Garrity, our director of theatre. The entire faculty and team. I cannot be limited to one here so I will also add the ethics of the students in general, both personally and professionally!

U: What is it like to direct a show at PC?

C: Being a guest artist, I counted myself lucky to have been given the job once and then again. When I was asked back a third time, I was so excited and started to think of myself as part of the PC family. I find everyone so accommodating, respectful, and collaborative that it is actually easier to put out a good product because of the team at PC specifically. Also, the students’ eagerness to learn, ability to conquer challenges, and commitment to the creation of good art makes my job worlds easier.

From an arts perspective, it is evident that Providence is unique as a whole because of our welcoming sense of community. We may not notice it all the time because we have become so used to it, but PC is radiating with a sense of community that we should never take for granted.

ARGO: A GO OR A NO?

by Katherine Bacino ’14
A&E Staff

INSIDER

As much as Mother Nature wishes to confuse us, and as much as I do not want to admit it, cold weather is here to accompany us through the end of the year. This change of season means not only boots, sweaters, soups, and hot cocoa, but also a surge of interest in cinema and an increase in the number of the year’s top films. The next few weeks are laden with film releases that are sure to please a variety of fans. From blends of sci-fi and politics to literary classics brought to life, it will be easy to catch a flick that sparks your interest over the next few months.

This weekend marked the commencement of my chilly day theater visits, and I was pleasantly surprised to discover the commonalities between cheesy space movies, real life politics, international relations, Iran, and a heavily-bearded Ben Affleck. A perfect start to kick off the movie season, Argo explores an unorthodox CIA mission of the early ‘80s to rescue six fugitive American diplomats out of revolutionary Iran. The film opens with a brief recapping of the events that lead to the revolution and the United States’ contribution to the impending conflict. The news clips and photos set the stage for a riveting film that explored, critiqued, and celebrated relationships on the level of the state, corporations, and at the individual level.

Ben Affleck, who also directed the film, stars as exfiltration expert Tony Mendez, the brain behind the rescue mission. A perfect blend of wit, smarts, and practicality, Mendez profounds explains the pessimistic essentiality of his profession, stating, “Ex-filts are like abortions. You don’t want to need one. But when you do, you don’t do it yourself.” Though the film contains a few historical inaccuracies, the production as a whole serves as a beautiful lens for understanding the possibilities of successful and failed international relations as well as the possibility of partnership between the government and Hollywood (sort of a scary sentiment I think more and more about it).

Throughout this viewing, I was captivated by the suspense of each scene, impressed by Affleck’s impact and simultaneous quiet demeanor, and blown away by the similarities in presentation between the real-life characters and the actors in the film (be sure to stay around for the ending credits where the real photographs of the characters are juxtaposed with film stills...seriously, prepare to be amazed). In addition to Affleck’s Mendez, the film contained notable performances by John Goodman, Alan Arkin, and Breaking Bad’s Bryan Cranston. More than just a great way to spend a few hours on a weekend afternoon, Argo is extremely relevant this week in particular. As we reflect upon the United States’ continued involvement in Iran, the power of politics, and what can be accomplished with multi-state cooperation, the continued prevalence of both anti-American and anti-Iranian sentiments, and perhaps most importantly, how this film may contribute to a resurgence of either one of the two.

Grade: A
Welcome to the island of misfits toys, where Charlie, Sam, and Patrick are the central misfits featured in Stephen Chbosky’s film, The Perks of Being a Wallflower. Having never read the book (which is always noted with the most enthusiastic and imploring recommendations), I find myself in a singular position to reflect on the movie in a purely unadulterated way. That is, you will not find any comparisons to the novel here: no complaints about things left out, no comments on how the characters were translated into a visible reality, none of that which usually arises following a film adaptation of a beloved book.

We are first introduced to Charlie (Logan Lerman), a lonely adolescent beginning his freshman year of high school with an opportunity to meet new people and enjoy what should be a tumultuous yet thrilling years. But this is the opposite of what is true for Charlie, who instead is bullied and ignored. An aspiring writer, he excels in English class but provide strength and love when it is so fiercely needed. On the other hand, I cannot help but wonder why there are so many serious issues stuffed into one movie—it almost feels like too much, like Chbosky was trying too hard. Obviously, Wallflower is about teenagers trying to find themselves and move in the right direction, but was it necessary to include what seems like a laundry list of issues to properly depict this kind of story? Not to say that these are not experiences faced by real people, but Chbosky may have gone overboard.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower is a touching and shocking film. If you are like me and have not read the book (therefore not knowing what to expect), my advice to you is to brace yourself for a roller coaster of surprises. This is a movie that can conjure laughs and tears all within one hour and 42 minutes. It is easy to relate to the social—familial, romantic, friendly—struggles faced by teenagers trying to find themselves too much, like Chbosky was trying too hard to provide the best assortment of food I have ever consumed. I guess the atypical is the norm in Providence. I feel as if my palate and go-to eateries have been prone to being overwhelmed with access to a car comes a world of possibilities in the dining realm for breakfast, hands, and dinner.

Louis is off of Thayer Street and is a success in your line of vision. Louis gives you mass quantities of food for not a lot of billz, which is always a win in my book. Primarily known for its barbecue, Louis also serves egg sandwiches, breakfast on demand, and dinner on a whim. Louis has two-for-one Tuesdays, a barrel of half-sour pickles, and really great chicken salad. Anthony’s boasts the Cluckin’ Russian as a special: chicken, bacon, Muenster cheese, Russian dressing, lettuce, and tomato. Of half-sour pickles, and really great chicken salad. Anthony’s boasts the Cluckin’ Russian as a special: chicken, bacon, Muenster cheese, Russian dressing, lettuce, and really great chicken salad. Anthony’s boasts the Cluckin’ Russian as a special: chicken, bacon, Muenster cheese, Russian dressing, lettuce, and really great chicken salad. Anthony’s boasts the Cluckin’ Russian as a special: chicken, bacon, Muenster cheese, Russian dressing, lettuce, and really great chicken salad. Anthony’s boasts the Cluckin’ Russian as a special: chicken, bacon, Muenster cheese, Russian dressing, lettuce, and really great chicken salad. Anthony’s boasts the Cluckin’ Russian as a special: chicken, bacon, Muenster cheese, Russian dressing, lettuce, and really great chicken salad. Anthony’s boasts the Cluckin’ Russian as a special: chicken, bacon, Muenster cheese, Russian dressing, lettuce, and really great chicken salad. Anthony’s boasts the Cluckin’ Russian as a special: chicken, bacon, Muenster cheese, Russian dressing, lettuce, and really great chicken salad. Anthony’s boasts the Cluckin’ Russian as a special: chicken, bacon, Muenster cheese, Russian dressing, lettuce, and really great chicken salad. Anthony’s boasts the Cluckin’ Russian as a special: chicken, bacon, Muenster cheese, Russian dressing, lettuce, and really great chicken salad. Anthony’s boasts the Cluckin’ Russian as a special: chicken, bacon, Muenster cheese, Russian dressing, lettuce, and really great chicken salad. Anthony’s boasts the Cluckin’ Russian as a special: chicken, bacon, Muenster cheese, Russian dressing, lettuce, and really great chicken salad. Anthony’s boasts the Cluckin’ Russian as a special: chicken, bacon, Muenster cheese, Russian dressing, lettuce, and really great chicken salad. Anthony’s boasts the Cluckin’ Russian as a special: chicken, bacon, Muenster cheese, Russian dressing, lettuce, and really great chicken salad.
SANDELLA’S

Chocolate-covered pretzels, M&Ms, macaroni and cheese, popcorn, and half a turkey sandwich—that is what my hurricane diet consisted of. Needless to say, after Sandy, I was in dire need of “real” food, especially since the odds were never in my favor when it came to the Ray free-for-all last Monday. Luckily, the Friar Buyer is only a short walk away, located in the first floor of Davis Hall on lower campus. The new Sandella’s Flatbread Café can be found inside, along with coffee, hot chocolate, and a selection of grocery items. After trying Sandella’s, I can confirm that while Sandy and her aftermath blows, Sandella’s does not. Quickly rising in popularity amongst the Providence College student population, this café is certainly worth checking out.

Walking into the Friar Buyer, you instantly get a sense of PC pride. The windows are decorated with the College’s logo stickers, and holidays are embraced with themed decorations, such as painted pumpkins for Halloween. Then, you are greeted with personable staff members, who show genuine interest in the customers who come through the doors. “Art student, right?” I was asked when making my purchase, my hands covered in charcoal. This was Maureen Smith, one of PC’s friendliest employees. “I like seeing all theaya and hearing the positive feedback about Sandella’s,” said Smith, who is happy that the Friar Buyer has been far busier since the installation of the café. “I’ve only heard good things, our most popular order is the buffalo chicken flatbread,” said Smith. “It’s crowd pleasing,” she continued, “especially during the day.”

Sandella’s offers paninis, flatbread pizzas, wraps, and queso. Since my discovery of Sandella’s on campus, I have tried the All-American Omelet, the Brazilian Chicken Panini, and the Chicken Fajita Quesadilla. Each of these was delicious, and I have no complaints. The Brazilian sauce on the flatbread was just sweet enough; the chicken on both the flatbread and fajita was well cooked. I will not hesitate to try more options in the future.

Jenny DeMarco ’15 has become a regular, the wraps being her go-to choice. “I think it was a good idea to add Sandella’s—it’s a nice option to have and their hummus wraps are great!” said DeMarco.

For those of you, who care about presentation, the meals were packaged in Sandella’s boxes and looked as appealing as they tasted. Chibi Nguyen ’15 says, “I love opening the cute packaging to enjoy the tasty flatbreads.”

The Friar Buyer has been far busier since the Sandella’s offer many options, which makes the pricing reasonable. Plus, once you try Sandella’s, you will not mind spending the extra bucks on a bite. Brandon Sullivan ’14 is one who has made a stop at Sandella’s part of his weekly routine. “The women who work there are very friendly and make an effort to learn your names, which is always comforting; Sandella’s serves popular food that everybody loves and it is all made in front of you—you know what your eating and it tastes good,” said Sullivan. “It is also a perfect location for people who live on lower campus. My friends and I had been walking to Ray and mid-travel decided we’d rather just make a quick stop at Sandella’s instead…you never regret it.”

Sar. Smith. “We’re pretty busy, especially since the Friar Buyer has been far busier since the installation of the café. I hope my pitch convinced you, and I can hit take me out to the ballgame. Baseball caps = the land of the free and the home of the brave. I hope my pitch convinced you, and I can hit up to go out to the ballgame.”

Sarah O’Brien ’15 has become a regular, the wraps being her go-to choice. “I think it was a good idea to add Sandella’s—it’s a nice option to have and their hummus wraps are great!” said DeMarco.

Her Views on Dombroski:

Baseball Caps

Sarah Dombroski

Her Choice: Jorts

Her Views: Jorts are classic ‘Murica. Appropriate for all times of the year, even though they are above the knee. Jorts ooz American pride, patriotism, and style. From the fringed hem to the Levi patch on the back, jorts scream “back to back World War champs” and cause those around you to immediately feel intimidated. They go with everything, they are unisex, and they are slimming. Also, insiders say that Bruce Springsteen exclusively works out in jorts and a bandana. What a Boss…literally. The most American superstar, donning the most American garb, probably listening to the most American music (his). I’m just saying, if the denim constant didn’t sell themselves before that fun fact was released, this certainly catapulted their superiority into the forefront.

Her Views on Baseball Caps:

Her Choice: Hats

Her Views: Baseball hats discriminate on the basis of hair, and I will not stand for it. As a big-haired individual, I feel hats intentionally create my hair in an unflattering manner in an attempt to sabotage me. Sabotage is not American! Americans should stick together, support each other, and not intentionally thwart each other’s beauty and potential. It’s just rude. Also, hats prevent you from getting tan, which is also not cool. Sun-kissed looks good on everyone, and it’s just better to forgo the whole hat thing and grab a bottle of SPF 45.
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If he had a real name, nobody used it. Mostly they just called him Freak. Though, technically speaking, he was a freak. He was the boy with wings, after all.

I had only one class with him. He sat in the back of the hall and paid attention, but never spoke to anyone. No wonder; half of the student body hated him. Another one-fourth, while they didn’t outright hate him, didn’t want to talk to him, or breathe the same air as him. I was part of the remaining one-fourth who didn’t hate him. He seemed like a nice enough guy. Definitely not someone who deserved the negative attention he received. Our relationship was confined to smiles and nods for about the first semester or so. All that changed one Saturday morning, when I overheard the mocking of another student who seemed to take issue with the boy’s existence.

"Molting again, Freak? Making a mess?" I didn’t hear a response, but the other student kept it up. "You’re gonna have to clean that up, Freak." There was the clatter of something hitting the ground. "Go on. Clean it up." Everyone knew that the boy was harassed for his...condition. But I’d never actually witnessed it before today. There was the boy, staring up at a much bigger guy. There was a broom on the floor between them, and a few of those familiar grey feathers. I waited until he left before facing the boy. "Sorry about that." The boy didn’t say anything; he just stood and began to sweep up the feathers. "Hey, you don’t have to..."

He glanced up at me and shrugged. "Well, if you want..." When he finished, he just sat down and went back to eating breakfast. It hit me how lonely he looked. "Is it okay if I sit here?" He glanced up, eyes wide with surprise, and nodded.

"Thanks. I’m Casey," I added. The boy glanced up again. "Timshel," he whispered, smiling shyly. Of course his name was Timshel. What did I expect a kid with wings to be named? Frank?

Breakfast came and went. It was pushing two o’clock, and I was still talking to Timshel. "...so, I said to him, "Yes, I am aware that Casey is usually a boy’s name, but in Gaelic it’s a girl’s name. Hey, I’m not talking too much, am I?"

Timshel shook his head. "S’ fine," he said softly. "Go on." Timshel carefully dug through among the branches. As I watched, I could see something nestled among the branches. It chirped and flying away.

"Hey, you don’t have to..."

"Leave him alone!" The words were out of my mouth before I had time to think about it. "He hasn’t done anything to you..."

The other student stared blankly at me for a few seconds before sneering and (to my surprise) actually backing off. "Fine. Whatever." I waited until he left before facing the boy. "Sorry about that..." The boy wasn’t sure why I was so frustrated. I’d always known that people picked on the guy, and on one level I knew it was wrong. But this was the first time I’d ever been really angered by it. I was so caught up in my thoughts as we started walking that I didn’t notice Timshel had stopped. "What’s wrong?"

He pressed a finger to his lips with a smile. "Let’s."

"Actually, I was hoping you would ask...I am starving," I said, over his hands on his pants. Apparently, this was a normal thing for him.

"Dude...are you sure you don’t have mutant bird powers?"

"Dude...are you sure you don’t have mutant bird powers?"

Timshel chuckled, but the mirth quickly turned to shyness again. "Do...do you want to grab lunch? I mean...if you don’t want to, that’s fine, I just..."

"Actually, I was hoping you would ask...I am starving," I said, suddenly ready to be named? Frank?

"Well, that was basically it. I told him to get stuffed. Then I cut my hair short, and that’s why people sometimes think I’m a boy. But whatever," I hesitated. "So...how about you? Does ‘Timshel’ have a story?"

"It was my grandfather’s middle name. Not really exciting."

"Ah." I nodded, still not quite able to keep my gaze off the wings. "Do they hurt?"

"Huh?"

"The wings. Do they hurt?"

Timshel shrugged. "Not really. I can’t sleep on my back and they itch like crazy when I’m molting." As if on cue, another feather fell free from his wing. "But other than that, not really. They’re just there. They’ve always been there."

"And...do your parents...?"

"Have them too? No. I’m the only one in the family with them." One of the wings stretched out, and he casually ran a hand over it, pulling loose a few more feathers. "My little sister still thinks I’m an angel."

"Kids, huh?"

Timshel chuckled, but the mirth quickly turned to shyness again. "Do...do you want to grab lunch? I mean...if you don’t want to, that’s fine, I just..."

"Actually, I was hoping you would ask...I am starving," I said, ready to be named? Frank?

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They’ve always been there."
Words muttered in silence echo like thunder through my ears, but whisper quiet and soft like snowfall to my love.

Windows of glass reflecting a past of mountains and flames, shatter to sand amidst a fountain of pain.

Walking the sand there is a bottle at hand holding a message from a foreign land, written in the firsthand.

Confiteor
by Justin Fernandez '15
Portfolio Staff

Noun. The sensation of taking the first step into a new world, accompanied by a profound sensation that everything is going to be all right.

Comfort
by Melanie Souchet '14
Portfolio Staff

We rode the freeway in reverse and watched the street lights fade far behind, until the dark fell fast over our heads.

Freeway North
by Kiernan Dunlop '14
Portfolio Staff

I decided on my course of action for voting months ago: no matter who wins, I'm moving to Switzerland.

I Wonder How Much the Air Fare Costs
by Mason Sciotti '15
Asst. Portfolio Editor

Photo courtesy of Pam Roth
Words Unspoken

by Amanda Brown ’14
Portfolio Staff

Well I left my heart in Boston
And I chased away the insufficient dreams,
Yet I’ll hold on to the pictures
With the fading color schemes.
Behind closed eyes they are suspended
On a canvas burning in my memory
And as the ashes scatter
I will be
The only one who sees,
The only one who sees.

And I can feel the seasons change
But I, I want you just the same.
If love is sacrifice and space is all you need,
Then I will sacrifice my heart
On the turning gears of time.
And I will roll the dice,
Though walking on thin ice,
And I will place a bet
On words unspoken.

Dear Tiffany and Earl,
I’m going on a trip to California soon.
I’m really excited to get a fresh tan, but
there’s one problem: I’m super scared of
flying. I don’t want to sacrifice meeting
a ripped surfer dude, though. What
should I do to get rid of my anxiety?

Yours truly,
Hotty with a Body

Hey Hotty,
This is a dire, sensitive issue, and it’s a delicate
balance you must walk. No self-respecting sister
would EVER let herself be seen during super
melt-down fest in public—especially on a
plane. Think about it. You freak out. Your
heart begins to race. You start sweating. Your
hair frizzes, and all of a sudden that
lovely lavender perfume smells like a
mixture of garbage and infant urine. So
freaking out in the airport/on the plane is
a DEFINITE no-no. But I applaud you for
recognizing what you’d lose by bowing
out of this surfin’ in the USA photo-
ap. A ripped, sun-kissed beach god is a
definite asset for you. I suggest taking
the pharmaceutical route. Do you know
a doctor with a prescription pad? Call
him up. Find out what lovely concoction
he can come up with to send you off to
Teletubby Land. Just be sure you take it
before the TSA gropes you.

Dear Weakling,
I can understand
why you are afraid
d of death. It’s because
you are mired in
your own facticity.
You’re afraid because
you’ve led an empty,
pointless life, and a pointless death
would only reinforce your failure to
become significant. Well, get over it,
because you will never be significant.
Everything you have ever done
is meaningless. Someday, maybe
someday soon, you are going to die,
and absolutely nothing will change.
It won’t be long before nobody
remembers you ever existed at all. You
will be dead and obscure, mediocre in
every respect, a short-lived candle in
a locked closet. No matter how much
you cry to the vast, uncaring universe,
the black forever that silently ignores
all entreaties, you cannot change the
truth: you are nothing. You are nothing
when you are alive and nothing when
you are dead.

Dear Tiffany,
I’m going on a trip to California soon.
I’m really excited to get a fresh tan, but
there’s one problem: I’m super scared of
flying. I don’t want to sacrifice meeting
a ripped surfer dude, though. What
should I do to get rid of my anxiety?

Yours truly,
Hotty with a Body

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Oven, NY Style
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Who Will Be the Breakout Player of the Year?

If the Friars, plagued by ineligibilities, plan to improve upon their record from last year, they will need the new members to step up. It is a safe bet that Vincent Council '13, Bryce Cotton '14, and LaDontae Henton '15 will be dominant on offense once again this year, but how will their bodies adapt to the rigorous schedule and minutes? Kris Dunn '16 scheduled to come back by Big East play, will play a huge role in his first year. Josh Fortune '16 is likely to start, if not, he will see a lot of minutes this year. Both Ed Cooley and Friartown are expecting big things from him. This makes Fortune my "must watch" player.

Cooley says, "He's going to have some moments that make people say, 'Wow, where did this kid come from?'" Fortune is a well-rounded player who not only gives the Friars a great asset on offense but also plays stringent defense, which Cooley loves. Cooley also said that Fortune is an offensive weapon. "Mark my words, he's going to have a game where he'll have eight or nine threes in one game," Fortune brings much needed talent to the Friars' lineup. As the crowd half minutes in the second half. With this, they must lay off any pressure they had hoped to put on the guards to fine tune his game and learn the film and practices. He has shown that he can play in the up-tempo offense the Friars will look to play.

There will not be a game he plays in that he does not do something that has you awaiting the replay. Be on watch. Sidiki Johnson '15 will be on it as well.

In the Spotlight

Men's Basketball: The squad wrapped up their exhibition season with a 76-52 win against RIC. Josh Fortune '16 led the team with 22 points, while Vincent Council '13 scored 21 points with nine assists. The Friars start the regular season this Saturday November 10 against NJIT.

Men's Ice Hockey: The Friars split their series last week at Vermont. They took the first game 3-2, with Mark Jankowski '16 finding the net for the winning goal. However, the team lost their next game 2-0. The Friars only have one game next week, against Hockey East foe UMASS.

Women's Ice Hockey: The women's team had a terrific road trip last week, light up the scoreboard in their sweep of Maine. In the first game, PC put up four goals, and in the second, they tallied five. Haley Fade '15 scored two goals this weekend for the Friars. The team returns home this weekend for games against UConn and UNH.

Women's Field Hockey: The Friars first trip to the Big East Championships in two years did not have a true Cinderella ending. Instead, the team was beat by Syracuse 3-1 in the semifinal. The loss ends a very impressive season for the Friars. Henri Tietze '15 scored her 11th goal of the season and earned All Big East First Team honors.

Women's Basketball: The women's team finished their exhibition season this weekend at home against RIC. The Friars destroyed RIC, running to a 83-37 win. Brianna Edwards '13 put up impressive numbers, totaling 26 points and 13 rebounds.

In the News

Basketball Gives Back: PC Men's and Women's Basketball Teams are participating in the Hoops for Stars Program. The teams have worked with National Grid for five years on this. The program donates more than 5,500 tickets to inner-city schools, and students will be able to partake in a city-wide essay contest.

Hall of Fame: Nine Friars and the 1995 Women's Cross Country Team will be inducted into its Athletic Hall of Fame on February 15, 2013. This list includes former greats like Dickey Simmons '94 (Basketball), Cindy Curley '85 (Field Hockey), Mike Boback '92 (Ice Hockey), Keith Kelly '01 (Cross Country/Track), Roger Haggerty '86 (Baseball), Karen Krawchuk '91 (Field Hockey), John Farren '86 (Soccer), Marita McCambridge '98 (Cross Country/Track), and John Foley, the former Women's Ice Hockey Head Coach. The 1995 Women's Cross Country Team captured an NCAA title in Ames, Iowa. The team was coached by Ray Treacy, and remains the only PC team to have ever captured an NCAA title.

Breaking Barriers

by Bridget Stack '13

Sports Illustrated has predicted the top teams in the country in every sport for years. The magazine and its experts lay out the players to watch, and predict those that will make the most waves in the nation and the sport.

Whether it is basketball or football, those players are there for a reason; they all have rare talent and ability. There is one name missing from the list of players to watch, one that has started to make a difference in the sport of football.

Sure, Sam Gordon is only nine, so there is still time for the name to pop up on the list of the best running quarterback in the country. Gordon has accumulated 232 carries for 1,911 yards this season. The player has 82 yards per carry, as well as 35 scores in the 2012 season in the Utah Pop Warner league. Gordon is the best quarterback that the league has seen in years, and is making waves throughout the community and the country. Why? Is it because Sam Gordon is also known as Samantha Gordon. The best football player under the age of 10 in the state of Utah is a girl. She is the Roadrunner to Wile E. Coyote – too fast for anyone to catch her. She out-tested the boys in every speed and agility drill, earning the starting quarterback position in her first year ever playing football.

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Gordon is not the first woman to break the gender barrier that exists in football. Erin DiMeglio, a senior at Florida’s South Plantation High School, became the first woman to play quarterback for a high school football team. Throughout the past few years, an increase of women have been playing football. Gordon has the potential to break this barrier in college.
Dese Fans are Da Real Deal
Chicago Brings the Passion with their Sports

by Sean Bailey '14
Asst. Sports Editor

COLUMN

Da Bears, da Bulls, da Sox, da Cubs, da Blackhawks. Dese teams are da professional teams of Chicago. Many of us have seen the famous Chris Farley skit where he, Mike Myers, and other superfans’ rant and rave about da Bears. As a sports nerd, I will fully admit I know a lot about each of these teams going to Chicago last weekend with The Cowl’s Editorial Board. I knew of the Bears and the legacy of Ditka, Jordan and the Bulls, Kane and the Blackhawks, Harry Caray and the Cubs, Frank Thomas and the White Sox, and the Cubs’ continued curse. I knew these fans were serious about their sports. But I did not know that they were as obsessed as they are. Being from New England, it is sometimes easy to forget that there are other teams outside of New York and Boston. And on campus I think it is something many students forget. Discussions of the Pats, Giants, and Jets circulate around campus quicker than Hurricane Sandy. But to think that we in the Northeast know what loyal fan bases are is like saying that those in Arizona understand a true blizzard. There are more Bears fans in Chicago than there are bears in Maine. These fans travel well and sport their team with pride. I saw more Bears jackets, hats, and jerseys than any other team in my life. Whenever I left the hotel it felt like I just caught the end of a Bears’ tailgate. I even saw a homeless man decked out in Bears gear. And I bet he could tell me anything I wanted to know about the overall leader, Jay Cutler’s QB rating, or linebacker Brian Urlacher’s career tackles. I sometimes question if Red Sox fans can correctly identify the pitcher, or even figure out who Ted Williams was. The Bears fans seem to know everything about their team. Heck, they still support a Cubs’ franchise that has not won a World Series in over 100 years. On our way to the hotel our driver, Larry Gross, pointed out both the White Sox and Bears stadiums. He also made sports jokes about how the worst form of child abuse is “making your son a Cubs fan.”

Stepping into Harry Caray’s famous restaurant was a revelation as well. For a sports junkie, this was relapse heaven. So much sports memorabilia had my head spinning like an art major in an art museum. A plethora of autographed jerseys and pictures of Caray with politicians and celebrities adorned the wall. Bats, balls, and other memorabilia were encased in glass. I was inches from an Ernie Banks jersey. Televisions were flashing with the night’s basketball games, and many fans were huddled around the television playing the Bulls’ game. The restaurant is one of the most famous in the city. It is a sports haven and a representation of the city and its love of sports.

What is the best part about Chicago sports? Their sporting goods stores do not hold rivals gear. It is quite common in New England to go into a sports haven and a representation of their teams nationally relevant for decades.

This year has been no different as the two most important races of the season are around the corner. The Cross Country Regional Championships take place on Friday, the official qualification stage for the NCAA National Championships. Thirty-one teams and 38 individual runners will qualify for the National Championship at the nine regional races this Friday. The women’s team is currently ranked third in the Northeast region, 20th in the National Coaches Poll, and are expected to make the National Championship. The women’s team has been racing at less than full strength for most of the season, but Treacy says, “We’ll be at full strength and expecting big things for the last two races of the season.”

If there are at full-strength for regionals, it will be for the first time this year. Emily Sisson ’14 has been nursing an injury for the entire season. Having her healthy should be a major boost for the Friars. Treacy expects a very strong showing from his top seven and a number of the women to earn All-Regional honors.

The men’s team is currently receiving votes in the National Coaches Poll but is still unranked. They are currently ranked fourth in the Northeast Region, receiving a two spot bump after their showing at the Conference Championships. They will still need a better than expected finish in the regional championships to qualify for the national competition, but they proved that they are capable of it at the Big East Championships.

The Providence College Cross Country Teams’ seasons have began with the Big East Championships. Both teams were impressive in a very tough Big East Conference. The men finished fourth, beating out a ranked Villanova by five points. The top finisher for the Friar men was Shane Quinn ’15, who finished second, just over a second behind the overall leader, Syracuse’s Martin Hehir. The All Big East team consists of the top fifteen finishers, and Alex Wallace ’13 was the other Friar to earn a place on the team, finishing 12th overall.

The women’s team had two of their top competitors hampered by injuries, but still finished third. Sarah Mary Collins ’16 continued her strong freshman season by leading the Friars. She finished number two overall, less than a second behind the overall winner, Emily Lipari of Villanova. The other top 15 finishers and members of the All Big East team were Shenata Greanulis ’13 and Laura Nagel ’14 taking fifth and 11th overall, respectively.

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Intramurals for All?

Division I Athletes’ Ability to Play in Question

By D.J. Anderson ’16
Sports Staff

After a recent injury in women’s flag football, the issue of whether or not Division I athletes should be able to compete in intramurals has become prevalent around the College. This injury occurred when Kathleen O’Roark ’13 suffered a concussion in a regular season game after being hit by a member of the Providence College Women’s Ice Hockey Team.

The injury was inadvertent, but it has created whispers around campus regarding the fairness of Division I athletes competing in intramurals. Emily Babcock ’15 is a member of the Intramural Board, and she sees the dynamics of this issue as close as any student does. Her opinion on the issue is almost completely neutral. Babcock was a Division I caliber soccer player at Hall High School, and from freshman to senior year her growth as a player was shown in her accolades. She started her career named All-Conference as a freshman, receiving the All-State nod in her sophomore year, and transforming herself into an All-New England player as a junior. She capped off her senior year being named an All-American and winning Connecticut Girls’ Soccer Player of the Year. She is now a member of the Intramural Board and plays many intramurals at the College.

Babcock shows her split opinion when she says, “I think that athletes should have an opportunity to play because it is a good chance to connect with the student body and they should be given the same opportunities as other students but at the same time they are more aggressive and competitive than other students and this can turn other students off.” She goes on to say, “It gives the school good camaraderie and gives people that played high level sports in high school a chance to play against Division I athletes.”

Many students at the school could’ve competed at lower college levels in their respective sports but instead chose the education that the College offers. They welcome the competition provided by these Division I athletes and recognize, the way they can improve intramurals. However, Babcock gave the other side of the argument when she said, “The Division I athletes are used to being aggressive, but a lot of people play intramurals for fun and for a social activity.”

The issue is amplified when looking at full teams of Division I athletes that are allowed to play in intramurals. This was the issue with O’Roark, the intramural flag football player that was concussed. She said, “I do not believe that varsity athletes should not be allowed to play at all…I just think it’s tough when athletes are playing as a full team.” Even after being injured, O’Roark believes Division I athletes should not be barred from intramural competition. “I was an athlete in high school and I respect everything that they do,” says O’Roark. “[I] don’t think we should take that away from them, but I think it’s tough to compete with an entire team of such high caliber athletes.” These full teams may provide too high a level of competition for students just attempting to have fun, O’Roark argues.

Nick Sweatt, the head of intramurals at Providence College, clarified, “I don’t think it’s fair for varsity athletes to compete in an intramural sport that they play. They play the sport at a much higher level and this provides an unfair advantage.”

Besides this point, he completely backs the participation of these Division I athletes, even when forming a full team. He states that it “gives both athletes and other students the experience to interact with one another.” Many students find it difficult to connect with athletes, and intramurals put them on the same level of play. As Sweatt said, “Coaches say that they want a family atmosphere in athletics… it is great for students to interact with each other because no one is different than any other person regardless of athletic ability.” This atmosphere brings players closer and allows institutions to thrive. He also noted the fact that Division I athletes have been playing in intramurals for a long time. He believes that the connections made in the intramurals department are one of its best qualities and that is one of her favorite parts of his job.

“As an alumni of Providence College in the Class of 2010, the coined phrase of ‘Forever a Friar’ pertains to the relationship between intramurals and athletics,” explains Sweatt. “I can relate to the students and it is good to see the interaction between intramurals and the student body, that is why I love it.”

Division I athletes have played a consistent role in the intramurals department at PC for a long time, and now their involvement is being called into question. Their participation in these sports have noticeable benefits, but is it fair to create teams full of these Division I athletes? There are surely many people in the school that feel like O’Roark does and do not believe this is fair. Nevertheless, at this time the rules regarding intramural participation will not be changed and neither will the level of competition.