

THE COWL

Vol. LXXVIII No. 12 @thecowl • thecowl.com

Providence College

December 5, 2013

Lady Friars Cross Country Races to Victory

by DJ Anderson '16
Asst. Sports Editor

CROSS COUNTRY

A national championship is the highest title in Division I College Athletics. At the start of every season, it is implicitly understood that this is the main goal of every team in competition. The Providence Women's Cross Country Team takes this team mindset to an entirely new level. Year after year, Head Coach Ray Treacy '82 drills the idea of team success into his runners, and as a result, the team is a force in Division I Women's Cross Country nearly every season. In 1995, Treacy took his team to the pinnacle of the sport, winning a national championship in his 12th year with the program. Treacy described the learning process that he has undergone since the 1995 season: "I thought I'd win a bunch more, and realized how hard it was after that. It's been 30 years and you have to hope the chance will come around again but you never know." Eighteen years later Treacy did not let a chance run by him, as 2013 has made him



PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE CROSS COUNTRY AND TRACK AND FIELD

The Women's Cross Country Team, with Head Coach Ray Treacy, Assistant Coach Kevin Myles, and Athletic Director Bob Driscoll, at the Big East Championship in Kenosha, Wis. on November 2. They would go on to win the NCAA National Championship on November 23.

a two-time national champion.

On Saturday, November 23, the women's cross country team won the 2013 NCAA Women's Cross Country National Championship in Terry Haute, Ind. Friar runners dominated the 6k race at the LaVern Gibson Championship

Cross Country Course, placing five of six runners in the top 80 of a 300 runner field. The team was led by their captains, All-Americans Emily Sisson '14

COUNTRY/ Page 24

Campus Ministry Hosts Santa Shop for Local Families

by Kathleen Sullivan '14
News Editor

CAMPUS EVENTS

On Wednesday, December 4, the Campus Ministry Center was transformed into a one-stop shop for Christmas presents for the families from the San Miguel School in Providence. The San Miguel School is a Lasallian middle school for boys from the Greater Providence area, and the mission of the school is to "offer a quality education to those in need."

For the past three years, the Dirigo Leadership Honor Society has led the way in organizing the Santa Shop, a mock toy store where underprivileged families from the local neighborhoods are able to come and pick out gifts for their children that they would not otherwise be able to provide.

The members of Dirigo have been working on collecting money and donations from clubs and organizations all over campus for



MARY-MURPHY WALSH '16 / THE COWL

the past few weeks, and have been encouraging participation in this service drive. As Dirigo member Meagan Sullivan '14 said, "It spreads the real meaning of the holiday season."

The Santa Shop was complete with tables full of clothing, toys, and other gifts, refreshments for the families, and even full-service wrapping stations.

Katey Santilli '16, a volunteer from Campus Ministry Council said, "This event is awesome. It's great that parents are able to get their kids super awesome gifts."

SANTA/ Page 24

PC Hosts Mailroom Closure Forum

by Jackie McCarthy '14
News Staff

CAMPUS EVENTS

On Wednesday, November 20, students gathered in Moore Hall for the Future of the Mailroom Forum. At the forum, students were able to voice their opinions about the future of the mailroom on Providence College's campus. The question posed was whether the mailroom will stay on our campus as a functioning post office, or if it will be removed.

The postmaster of Providence Post Offices Ron Pauline, explained to his audience that the U.S. Postal Service has been actively trying to find ways to meet their bottom line. Last year, the company lost \$5 billion, and his reasoning for this is that the company's business model is not right. Pauline said, "We want to make sure that we reduce costs anywhere we can so that organization is efficient." And their best solution, as of now, is to reduce costs in the brick and mortar aspect

MAIL/ Page 4

PC Attends Northeast Regional Ethics Bowl

by Kathleen McGinty '16
Asst. News Editor

CAMPUS EVENTS

Providence College's first ever Ethics Bowl team toted a first place plaque home following seven and a half hours of debate at the Northeast Regional Ethics Bowl tournament held on Saturday, November 23 at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn. The team, comprised of Captain Michael Wasenius '14, Matthew Dushel '14, Laura Wells '14, Robert Gervasini '15, and Michael McCormick '15, competed against 30 other teams from colleges and universities in the surrounding region, debating questions concerning the application of ethical philosophy to moral issues, earning them a spot at the National Ethics Bowl this coming February in Jacksonville, Fla.

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UNDER THE HOOD

Providence College's Student-Run Newspaper Since 1935

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SO THIS IS Christmas

The Portfolio Staff has revamped our favorite Christmas songs and carols. Check out their hilarious remixes on pages 18 and 19.





Special Olympics Basketball Tournament

by Kathleen McGinty '16
Asst. News Editor

CAMPUS EVENTS

Twenty-three teams of athletes from the Special Olympics Rhode Island chapter traveled to Providence College's Peterson Recreation Center on Saturday, November 23 to compete in the Special Olympics Unified 3v3 Basketball Tournament. Sponsored by Campus Ministry and facilitated by approximately 150 PC student volunteers, the event provided Special Olympics athletes ages 18 and older with the opportunity to play basketball against one another and to win one of the two trophies awarded to the winning teams of the two championship games.

According to the Special Olympics Rhode Island website, the organization's Unified Sports Program enables athletes with and without intellectual disabilities to participate in various sporting events. Offering over 2,800 athletes the opportunity to participate in more than 1,600 sports trainings and athletic competitions and to compete in over 40 local, regional, and statewide tournaments each year, the Special Olympics Rhode Island chapter puts what Alex Rawson '15 believes to be "smiles on everyone's faces."

"It is so rewarding to see the big smiles across my athletes' faces as they participate in our events," said Rawson, the director of this year's 3v3 basketball tournament and a member of the Special Olympics Executive



ANNA WIECIORKOWSKA '14 / THE COWL

One of the 23 teams of Special Olympics athletes gathers on the court in between games.

Board within Campus Ministry.

Rawson's executive team, which consists of 14 members, assists in the organization and operation of the board's Special Olympics events. With positions on the team ranging from assistant director to publicity to volunteer coordinator, Rawson noted that without the collaborative efforts of the executive team, none of what the board does would be possible.

The same proves true of the 150 PC student volunteers, whose smiles are just as large as the Special Olympic athletes'.

"Seeing all the PC students giving up their time and truly enjoying

themselves at these events is also a fabulous sight to see," Rawson said.

As Special Olympics teams competed for a spot in one of the two championship games played last Saturday, with their coaches and a designated volunteer who works with the team on a regular basis stepping in occasionally to play in the tournament games, PC student volunteers were what Rawson called "champs."

Charged with tasks such as setting up and disassembling as well as being fans in the stands, scorekeepers, timekeepers, court monitors, pizza distributors, and announcers, the volunteers served as an integral part of

the event not just logistically but also mentally and emotionally. Rawson noted that this year's announcers were particularly "animated and engaging," helping to rally excitement among the athletes.

Special Olympics athletes and coaches who participated in the 3v3 basketball tournament were also invited to attend the Special Olympics Night at the PC versus UNH hockey game the evening before on Friday, November 22. PC Athletics donated 150 tickets, and Rawson stated that the hockey night intended to get the athletes "pumped" for the weekend.

As of 1 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, just two hours before the basketball tournament ended, Rawson expressed her pleasure about the success of the event.

"It's gone so smoothly...everyone's been so helpful and positive," said Rawson. She encouraged students to consider volunteering at future events. "Get involved; come; it's a really great thing. It's very rewarding."

While two Special Olympics teams just walked away with a championship trophy and gold medals for winning their respective bracket during the 3v3 basketball tournament, Rawson and the Special Olympics Executive Board have already started to plan for the next event at the College. She stated that she and the team are excited to host the Special Olympics Traditional Basketball Tournament, in which only the athletes compete, on Saturday, February 22, 2014.

Ethics

Continued from front page

Assisted by philosophy professors Dr. Raymond Hain, the head coach of PC's Ethics Bowl team, and Dr. Patrick Macfarlane, the assistant coach, these five students discussed and rehearsed, starting the second week of September, 15 separate cases in which moral issues were at stake at their weekly meetings on Thursday evenings from 8:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in preparation for the tournament.

"It was a real intense effort to get everyone ready," said Macfarlane, adding that the students really took the lead in preparing the cases and ramped up their practices as the tournament neared. "We went into this thinking we'll be happy if they [the students] have a good experience."

Charged with the task of responding to an initial question posed by the judges that pertained to one of the 15 cases the team prepared, teams competing in the tournament were evaluated based upon their ability to craft an argument from any position using a moral framework and their capacity to form both a coherent and cohesive response. Participating teams also engaged in debate, questioning one another based on their responses to the judges' initial question. As PC's Ethics Bowl team advanced through the tournament, it debated 12 of these cases in total.

"They really distinguished themselves," remarked Macfarlane, noting that

coming out on top of such prominent schools in attendance at the tournament, such as Colgate University, the United States Military Academy, and Villanova University should be an accomplishment of which the entire school is proud.

Members of the College's Ethics Bowl team also recognized what McCormick believes to be the "edge" they had over their competitors.

"I think we vastly underestimated the philosophical education we've gotten," said Dushel, referring to the College's curriculum. Gervasini agreed.

"A lot of other teams had just facts and statistics. We went broader than that," he said, citing an example in which the fact that laws are created to govern certain issues does not necessarily mean that the law is morally correct.

In addition to the individual strengths of the five team members, McCormick applauded the team's unity, stating that he and his teammates picked up the debate where the others left off, a testament to their ability to work well together. Hain noticed a similar team dynamic.

"All of them were individually very good with cases and debating," he said. "They worked very well together," he added, stressing that members of the PC Ethics Bowl team took up points their teammates had started whereas other teams had one dominant member participating in the debate.

Hain also noted that most teams competing in the tournament had at least a few returning veterans, whereas the Ethics Bowl was a completely new experience for the PC team, formed by

Hain last spring.

"We wanted students who were interested in philosophical, ethical debate; that they were good on their feet in philosophical argument, good at philosophical analysis and construction; and that they would enjoy it," said Hain.

Despite it being the team's first time competing in the Ethics Bowl, its victory, which Macfarlane said speaks well of the students, has earned it an invitation to the national competition on February 27, 2014 in Jacksonville, Fla. A set of 15 new cases will be posted online on Jan. 7, at which time

the team will begin its preparations and practices.

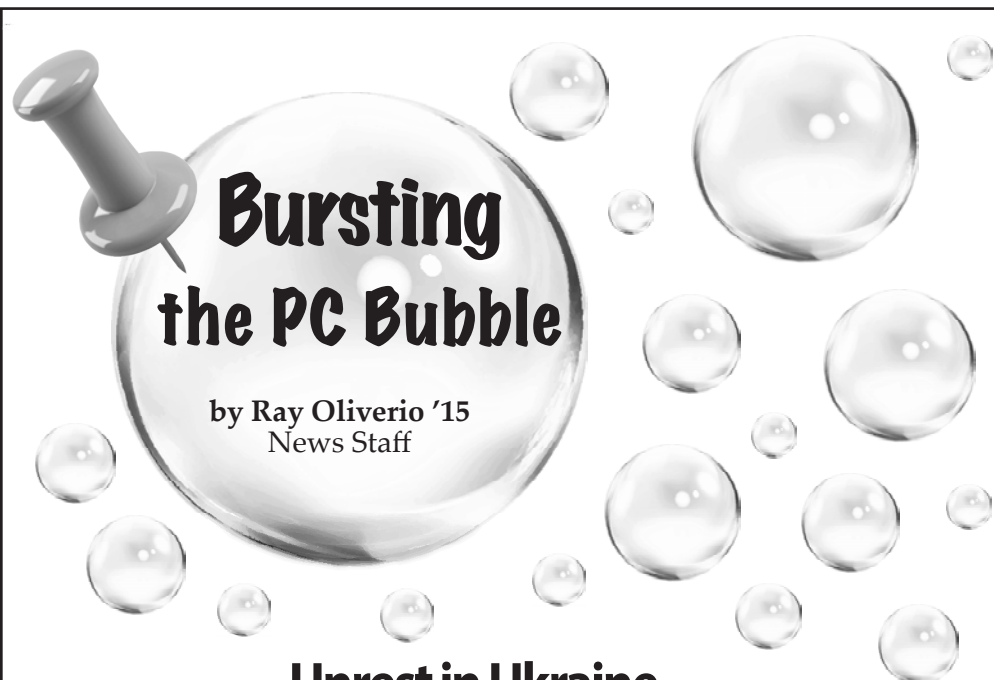
Victory aside, members of the PC team are proud of the precedent they have set by participating in this year's Northeast Regional Ethics Bowl tournament.

"I hope this is something that PC can continue in the future," said Dushel, adding that he wishes to have laid the groundwork to enable other students to participate in the Ethics Bowl tournament.



KATHLEEN MCGINTY '16 / THE COWL

The five members of the Ethics Bowl team who will be traveling to Nationals in February.



Bursting the PC Bubble

by Ray Oliverio '15
News Staff

Unrest in Ukraine

Over 100,000 protestors marched against riot police in Kiev, Ukraine on Sunday, December 1, in an act of defiance against government crackdowns on protests in Independence Square and President Viktor Yanukovych’s refusal to sign a free trade agreement with the European Union. Enraged citizens held demonstrations in Independence Square for nearly a week before billy club wielding police drove them away. During Sunday’s protest, a handful of activists, led by opposition politicians, attempted to storm the presidential administration building, but police using tear gas and stun grenades successfully defended the prominent building. Nina Moskalik, a 25-year-old activist, stated to news sources regarding the police officers’ actions, “They want to take our freedom away from us. They beat people, they spill blood.” Opinion surveys taken over recent months report that 45 percent of the country of 45 million people want closer political and commerce ties with Europe, as opposed to Russia. Demonstrators still refuse to back down.

Japanese and Chinese Islands

Tensions have escalated once again between China, the United States, and Japan, after two U.S. and 10 Japanese military aircraft flew over the Senkaku Islands, which is a disputed territory located in the East China Sea. Japan nationalized the islands last year; however, on Nov. 23, 2013, China proclaimed the Senkaku Islands as their own and renamed them the Diaoyu Islands. In an effort to reaffirm its claim to the zone, Chinese officials declared that all flights traveling through the area must gain permission from the Chinese government beforehand. The United States and Japan have declared that their aircraft will refuse to ask permission, citing that it could cause miscalculations, conflicts, accidents, and unnecessarily raise tensions in the area. The Chinese military sent armed fighter jets into the zone on Friday to patrol for any unidentified aircraft. American and Japanese officials have voiced questions as to whether China has the technical capability to monitor the disputed territory, as the People’s Liberation Army lacks proper early warning radar systems and does not have enough planes capable for in-flight refueling.

No Gay Marriage in Croatia

On Sunday, December 1, citizens in the European Union’s newest member, Croatia, overwhelmingly voted against a referendum that would have allowed gay marriage. Croatia’s constitution will need to be amended to ban same-sex marriage, after 65 percent of voters answered, “yes” to the ballot question, “Do you agree that marriage is matrimony between man and a woman?” Many Croatians who voted against same-sex marriage cited their Catholic background as the reason for believing marriage is strictly between a man and a woman. Croatian Cardinal Josip Bozanić defended Catholics and traditional marriage advocates affirming, “Marriage is the only union enabling procreation.” Iso Josipović, Croatia’s liberal president, condemned those who voted in favor of traditional marriage and avowed to prevent changes regarding marriage to the constitution.

Kathleen Sebelius on Obamacare Site

Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services, announced last weekend that Healthcare.gov—the virus ridden website which allows Americans to sign up for health care coverage under the Affordable Care Act—is now working smoothly for the vast majority of users.” Federal officials noted that more than 400 computer “bugs” were repaired and touted a brand new queuing system, which allows users to be notified when there is less traffic on the website. Jeff Zients—the Obama Administration official responsible for the repair process of Healthcare.gov—said that it is “night and day from what it was” when it was first unveiled on Oct. 1. Julie Bataille—a spokeswoman for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—affirmed that the website is “vastly improved,” yet it “is not a magic moment.” Bataille and Zients acknowledged that more work must be done to improve the performance of the site. A large portion of government officials are still on edge about the website, proclaiming that there are many issues, which need to be addressed before American citizens enter sensitive data on Healthcare.gov. Michigan Rep. Mike Rogers stated to media sources, “It still doesn’t function right...The security of this site...doesn’t meet the minimum standards of the private sector.”

Selling Secrets to China

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police arrested 53-year-old Qing Quentin Huang of Burlington, Ontario, on Saturday, November 30, after Canadian officials received word he was attempting to sell classified information to the Chinese government regarding Canada’s warship procurement strategy. Huang appeared in court on Sunday, December 1 and was charged with communicating with a foreign entity under the Security of Information Act. Canadian officials reported that the information Huang tried to leak related to Canada’s strategy on building ships used for patrolling coastlines, and scientific research. RCMP Chief Supt. Jennifer Strachan noted that if the information had been leaked, it would have given China an unfair tactical advantage and could have threatened Canada’s sovereignty. Supt. Larry Tremblay of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police stated that Canada’s foreign affairs department is currently in contact with its Chinese counterparts regarding the sensitive matter. Last February, a Canadian navy intelligence officer was sentenced to 20 years in prison for selling sensitive information to Russia. Huang is due back in court on Wednesday for his bail hearing and if convicted, could face the maximum sentence of life in prison.

Congress Updates

by Kathleen McGinty '16
Asst. News Editor

STUDENT CONGRESS

An old piece of business mandating safe space training for proposed and recognized student organizations was passed. According to the legislation, clubs will participate once a year in safe space training.

Old business concerning safe space training for faculty, staff, and administration was also passed. Faculty, staff, and administration will now be offered safe space training as well.

A recommendation about creating a space in Slavin for posting materials without approval was passed. Nick Wallace '14 stated that materials would be posted at midnight and the following Monday at midnight they would be taken down by janitorial staff. While Wallace recognized there may be reservations about the recommendation, he also noted that this piece of legislation is meant to be broad and is intended to just designate a space. Logistics such as the way in which materials will be taken down is still being discussed.

Natural Family Planning

“If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” —John 8:32.

This also applies to marriage and natural family planning. For a healthy Catholic approach to marriage and NFP, please visit us. You will be glad you did.

Natural Family Planning International

www.NFPandmore.org

At the website, click *the truth shall make you free*

Students Play Extreme Twister to Fight Breast Cancer

by Elizabeth Nako '15
News Staff

STUDENT FUNDRAISING

On the afternoon of Sunday, November 24, the “Org Theory in Friartown” class sponsored the “Extreme Twister, Extreme Strides” event held in the Peterson Center. The members of the class are Jill Monaghan '15, Alex Acunzo '15, Allie Motta '14, Frandy Matos '14, Chris Booker '14, and Moira Sweeney '14. These students are part of a team along with their professor Dr. Tom King, assistant professor of management, and a student who has previously completed the class, with the goal of fundraising.

One of the objectives of the class was for the students to choose an organization to fundraise for throughout the semester. They would fundraise by hosting one major event and/or a series of events that involve both the PC and local Providence communities. Booker describes how “[the] whole goal through the semester [is to] find something we are proud of.”

The organization that the class chose to fundraise for throughout the semester is Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. It is the largest network of breast cancer events in the U.S., and raises money to help the American Cancer Society fight the disease.

The students decided that their main event would consist of a childhood favorite—a giant game of Twister. A giant Twister board was formed with over 80 mats taped together. Sweeney said, “We came up with the idea to have the ultimate Twister event because one of our members’ brothers went to Quinnipiac, and he organized a similar

event with his frat to raise money for St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital.”

Booker discussed that the planning of this event was a long process, and he mentioned how the month before the event, the students in his class went “full throttle” trying to convince people to donate for their Extreme Twister event. Booker also talked about the advertising component of the class—the members of the class went around the dorms telling other PC students about their fundraiser and giving PC students the opportunity to sign up and pre-register for the event. Booker stated, “[We are] passionate about what we are doing.”

At 2 p.m. the event got into full swing in the Peterson Center. The event was \$7 at the door, and \$5 if students pre-registered. The Peterson Center had many stations setup for the event. The members of the Org Theory class were all wearing shirts with the slogan “Keep Calm and Make Strides” which they were also selling to attendees at the event.

A yoga class was being held at the back of Peterson to give students an opportunity to stretch out their Twister muscles. The class also teamed up with local businesses to offer food and refreshments at the event, such as Ronzio Pizza and Chipotle. Finally, different PC clubs—Art Club, Simply Healthy, and Colleges Against Cancer among others—were present at the event offering healthy snacks, face painting, and pink ribbons. Tony Falotico '14, co-president of CAC, described the Extreme Twister as “a great event [and] is good to see enough students on campus raising money for a serious disease.”

Around 4 p.m., members of the Org Theory class asked everyone to

take off their shoes and proceed to the giant board for an ultimate game of Twister. Monaghan thanked everyone for coming out to support the event and “taking time to show and make a difference and fight against breast cancer.”

Monaghan then introduced their guest speaker Rebecca Nero, who is currently battling breast cancer. Nero talked to the Org Theory class back in October about her journey, and she gave out tips for the class’s fundraising and life in general. Nero was an inspiration to the group and Monaghan said, “[We] were very fortunate to have her here” for their event.

The last four participants standing would receive a prize. Nero had the honor of having the “first spin” to get the game started. The participants, evident from their smiles and laughs after each spin was called out, appeared to have a good time testing out their ultimate Twister skills. Matt Gillick '15 commented after the event, “I pulled

my calf muscle, but it was a fun time for an excellent cause. I am happy one of my buddies convinced me to go.”

The Extreme Twister event raised over \$1,000. Approximately 50-60 participants attended the event, as well as many volunteers. Brittany O’Shea '16, who was volunteering on behalf of Student Congress, was inspired by the idea of this event benefitting a good cause. Sweeney said, “There were many great volunteers who helped us out with day-of operational type tasks, which was extremely helpful. This was one of our goals/applications we used from class.”

After the event, the class was still looking to add to their total fundraising amount. This past Tuesday, the class had a “Giving Tuesday,” looking for donations through their online fundraising website. The Org Theory’s hard work all semester has certainly paid off with the more than \$2,000 they have raised for Strides and helping a great cause.



ANNA WIECIORKOWSKA '14 / THE COWL

Attendees twist and balance as they play the giant game of Twister composed of 80 mats.

Mailroom

Continued from front page

of the business.

“Most times at these gatherings if I ask if anyone has ever been to their own post offices in their own towns, no one raises their hands,” Pauline said. The U.S. Postal Service, and Ron Pauline for that matter, are acknowledging that there is a changing of the times. Most of the transactions people make are online, and, statistically, our generation sends about 2,000 texts every month. The post office used to make its bottom line by first class mail, which allowed them to have a reduced cost of standard mail, stamps, and other aspects of the business. However, this is no longer the case.

Despite the fact that our generation is moving toward a more digital way of life, students voiced their concerns about why we need the post office here on campus. Concerns from students included the fact that, if there is no post office, students will have to travel over a mile to mail a letter. The only ways to get to the nearest post office is to take a bus or to walk. The concern students posed with taking the bus to reach the post office is that there is no direct bus route to the Providence Post Office, which will extend travel time by first traveling all the way downtown, and then to the post office. Students’ concerned with walking stated that the surrounding area of our school is not necessarily the friendliest area.

Students also said that normal post

office hours are during normal class time hours, and not having an easily accessible mailroom on campus would make sending mail near impossible. Lindsay Gilbert '14 stated in the meeting, “I think what people are forgetting is that over 4,000 people live here. This is where we live for most of the year. At home, you can put the mail on your front porch and the mailman will take it. You can’t do that here. It’s not possible.”

Suggestions made by the students to correct the problem were to cut the number of hours the post office is open during the day, or to decrease the number of days it is open rather than completely shutting it down. If the mailroom at Providence College is eliminated, students will still have the ability to receive mail.

Many post offices have changed their hours already, but now the company is looking to close locations. The cost of maintenance, rent, and employees is expensive for the company, and to eliminate these costs where they will be extremely helpful to them in meeting their bottom line. There are other communities like ours that feel they need their post office open.

Congress has stepped in and asked that postmasters meet with their communities. Ron Pauline said, “We understand what the post office means to the college and we understand what the post office means to the students. We understand what the hardships would be to close it and the financial benefit it provides. But the people that make the decision are the people in Washington, D.C.”

Santa: Season of Giving

Continued from front page

This is even better than a Giving Tree in some ways because people are able to pick out the presents themselves, and it makes it more personal for each family.”

Br. Lawrence Goyette, executive director of the San Miguel School explained, “Basically, this is one of our favorite events. It is always so organized and it helps so many of our families. I think we have about 95 percent participation, it’s so wonderful.”

He also explained that he is fascinated by the way the students are able to create such a great set-up every year, really giving the feeling of an actual toy store.

Dave O’Connor '14, another member of Dirigo stated, “I really enjoy this event and that we get an opportunity to go to the school and work with the amazing young men there. It’s great knowing who we are giving to and being able to help their parents, and it really is shopping based on what the kids enjoy.”

Emily Voight '14 was a volunteer greeting at the entrance to the Shop, and she noted, “The whole atmosphere is very spirited. It’s great to see people help each other out in big or small ways,

like opening a door or wrapping a present. It really encompasses the holiday feeling.”

Sullivan was pleased with the success of the event. She said, “We got significantly more donations than last year, and that is all because the clubs, organizations, and offices really stepped up. This is bigger and better than we could have imagined.”

Allison Burg '14, a member of Dirigo added, “I’m happy to go to a school that provides opportunities like this for giving, and we have definitely worked a lot of Christmas miracles. I am proud to be here and able to help out.”

Sullivan also shared the sentiments of one of the San Miguel students, Jeff, who received gifts from the Santa Shop last year: “I never thought that so many nice people would be giving us gifts for Christmas! You could be the nicest people in the world, and I hope I could be just like you one day.”

Leslie Heller, associate director of SAIL said, “On behalf of SAIL and Dirigo, I’d like to thank all the people who donated gifts, money, and their time to help put on this fabulous event. It really speaks to the College’s mission and the Christmas spirit.”

Campus Community Organizes Turkey Drive

by **Meaghan Dodson '17**
News Staff

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Providence College’s first Thanksgiving Turkey Drive was held throughout the month of November in an effort to give back to members of the Providence community. PC students raised money to purchase turkeys for families living in the surrounding Elmhurst neighborhood, and on the Sunday before Thanksgiving students distributed the turkeys to those members of the community who expressed a need for assistance during the holiday season.

Beginning in September, PC reached out to the local grocery store Eastside Marketplace to assist with the drive and to place a special order for the turkeys. Then, during the month of November money was raised for the turkeys by various PC clubs and also by the resident assistants in their respective halls. As an incentive for contributing to the drive, it was promised that the individual residence hall floor that raised the most money would win a catered Thanksgiving dinner from Boston Market.

The “Three for Three Shootout” provided further opportunities for money to be collected. Sodexo, the campus food and dining service, offered a promotion to show its support for the event. Sodexo promised that it would donate turkeys to the drive if students could get three baskets into the basketball hoop set up in front of Raymond Hall.

The event raised a total of \$2,873 which significantly exceeded the projected goal of \$2,000. The money was able to purchase 170 turkeys that weighed approximately 13 pounds; thus, when combined with the 30

turkeys donated by Sodexo, a total of 220 turkeys were delivered to families in need.

On Sunday, November 24, 2013, four vans loaded with turkeys were driven to the Smith Hill Annex, an off-campus community space owned by the College that was established to connect students with the Providence community. Over a two-hour span, people came to the Annex to pick up the turkeys. Additional turkeys were delivered to those who were not able to pick them up themselves.

The entire event was made possible through the combined efforts of the Outreach Committee of Student Congress and the Office of Residence Life. The idea for the drive came from Zach Pelletier, the Guzman Hall Director and newest member of the Office of Residence Life. Pelletier graduated from Sacred Heart University in 2013, and, after participating in a similar Thanksgiving drive at SHU and seeing firsthand the impact that it made on the community there, he was inspired to bring the event to his new PC community.

Sean Barbary '16, a member of the Outreach Committee, spearheaded Student Congress’ efforts to make the drive a success and to establish closer bonds between PC students and their community. Barbary stated, “The turkey drive was a huge success in its first year at PC. The neighborhood residents that received the turkeys were extremely grateful, and they were extremely appreciative of our efforts. I certainly hope that this becomes a yearly tradition. I am incredibly appreciative for all of the PC students who donated to help our cause.”

4th Annual Cheesefest

by **Kathleen Sullivan '14**
News Editor

CAMPUS EVENTS

Students began lining up outside '64 Hall an hour before the doors opened for the fourth annual Cheesefest on Thursday, November 21. Board of Multicultural Student Affairs (BMSA) hosted this event with co-sponsorships from Photography Club, Sociology Club, and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS). This annual event offers students an opportunity to try different cheese-based foods from around the world for only two dollars a plate.

The different clubs under BMSA each provided a dish for the event, including everything from potato skins and cheese ravioli, to sushi, quesadillas, and bread with Portuguese cheese, rainbow cheesecake, and much more.

Chris Cruz '14 was one of the first in line for the event at 4 p.m., and enjoyed the variety of options for food that was offered. He stated, “My favorite food was the quesadillas from Bajas [a restaurant on Thayer Street in Providence]. Thanks OLAS!”

Photography Club set up a cheese-themed photobooth where students could pose for pictures with their

friends, and they were even able to don cheese hats in the photos. The club posted the pictures onto their Facebook page after the event so students could find and save the pictures they took.

The event also included a contest in which volunteers had to smell and guess different types of cheeses and “cheesy” trivia. The winners left with bags full of cheesy snacks. The audience was able to watch the spectacle up on stage and listen to music while eating well-known cheese dishes as well as trying new ones. In between bites, the students could fill out a survey that revealed what type of cheese they were from the options of American, cheddar, blue, brie, parmesan, or Monterey jack cheese.

Michelle Napor '14, chair of the events committee of BMSA, stated, “Students who attend Cheesefest not only have an opportunity to learn about all of these cultures through the use of cheese, but they also get to meet BMSA members and learn about the different clubs included in BMSA.”

Napor and the other organizers hope students are able to walk away with new knowledge of different cultures and a new and greater appreciation for cheese. Cruz said, “[Cheesefest] was an awesome event, and two bucks well spent.”



SAADIA AHMAD '14 / THE COWL

Students enjoy cheese dishes from different cultures in '64 Hall on Nov. 21.

Speaker Claims Free Markets Make the World a Better Place

by **Kathleen Sullivan '14**
News Editor

GUEST LECTURES

After a delay due to a canceled flight, Dr. James Stacey Taylor visited PC this Monday, December 2 to give a lecture titled, “The Morality of Capitalism.” Dr. Taylor is an associate professor of philosophy at the College of New Jersey, and students and faculty gathered in Ruane 105 at 4 p.m. to listen to his lecture, funded by the Charles G. Koch Foundation.

Dr. Angela Dills, an associate professor of economics, introduced Dr. Taylor to the audience with a brief introduction noting some of Dr. Taylor’s other topics of study, including arguments supporting markets for organs and children.

Dr. Taylor began his lecture by asking the audience what came to mind when they pictured what a “capitalist” would look like. Students shouted out things like profiteers, competitive, willing to do whatever it takes to make the profit, having no concern for the common good, and the survival of only the strong and ruthless. They painted a picture of a tycoon wearing a “morning suit, monocle, and top hat.”

Dr. Taylor explained that his

intention was to discuss the “morality rather than the immorality of capitalism,” and to “praise capitalism rather than to bury it.” He stated that he thought it very easy to prove his case despite the opinion that capitalism is exploitative, and corrodes the human spirit and dignity, among other things.

He highlighted three important caveats to his argument. First, he followed two simple assumptions in that human well-being is important and personal autonomy is of great moral value. Second, he noted that he was not defending corporations and big business, but rather defending free market capitalism where people freely engage in exchange. Third, he pointed out the fact that markets are not good for everyone, and if people accept the first two points, then people should value markets and understand that not everyone is going to be made better off.

Next, he asked the audience for an example of a market transaction that was made in the last 24 hours. The example of purchasing a coffee from Starbucks was given. Dr. Taylor explained that through that market transaction, the person involved has made the world a better place, as there is now “more individual well—being than there was prior to that transaction.”

He said, “Every day, the world is getting better by market transactions.”

He continued to make the case against the claim that markets enable coercion and compromise autonomy. He explained that in order for coercion to take place, there must be another agent [person], and that necessary condition is absent for economic coercion.

People have full control over their decisions and actions in markets, and Dr. Taylor explained that an impoverished person values their autonomy less than others, so they are willing to take unappealing and low-paying jobs. He made the claim that “there might be something morally problematic with poverty, not markets.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

Dr. James Stacey Taylor is a philosophy professor at the College of New Jersey.

In response to the claim that markets allow for the exploitation of the poor, Dr. Taylor argued that exploitation occurs in the absence of markets, as different options allow for competition, and competitive markets are “drivers of eliminating exploitation.”

Dr. Taylor argued that markets are “a wonderful force of ensuring honesty,” with the example of how sellers on eBay have built their reputation by underselling products because markets provide pressure for honest behavior.

Using the example of Apple as a company that makes products consumers want, he said that markets create a drive for entrepreneurs to take other’s opinions into account.

For his last point, Dr. Taylor made the argument that people engaging in market transactions do not care about the other person except as an economic factor, and are able to look past differences in order to trade for mutual benefit. So, markets encourage tolerance.

In closing, Dr. Taylor said, “Markets are morally, absolutely beautiful.” He ended saying, “Go out, engage in market transactions, and make the world a better place.”

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DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE, DANCE & FILM
SPRING SEMESTER CALENDAR

These Shining Lives
by Melanie Marnich
February 7-9, 14-16



Spring Dance Concert
April 25 & 26

Aristophanes's Lysistrata,
a musical version
April 4-6, 11-13

Student Film Festival
Free Admission
May 1



KEEP CALM
AND
Study TAKE A BREAK

IN "THE PIT"
PUZZLE STATION
GAME STATION
KNITTING STATION
Scarves for Crossroads R.I.
MAKE-A-CARD STATION
Holiday cards for the
Veterans' Hospital

While we're open 24/7...
December 6-16

Roving Cookie Cart
Monday 12/9 and
Wednesday 12/11

Afternoon Tea Break
Tuesday 12/10 and
Thursday 12/12

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Family Traditions Can Get Us through Tough Times

by Matt Santos '14
Opinion Staff

SOCIETY

Sleigh bells greet the arrival of fake snow that drifts from the metal rafters, settling upon the players and the stage. A small boy drags a gargantuan fake turkey in front of the audience, and the younger members of the audience gasp at the absurdity. Ghosts I know don't exist grace both the stage and Scrooge's life. But for all of its unreality, for all of its mysticism and fantasy, Trinity Repertory Company's production of *A Christmas Carol* never ceases to provide true laughs and joy each year. This past Saturday, my family and I attended our 15th straight showing of Charles Dickens' classic.

This annual trip to the theater in downtown Providence, hands-down my favorite Santos family holiday

tradition, began when I was six years old. It was part of a Cub Scout troop trip, and my parents accompanied my brother and me to see the performance. Soon, though, as my brother and I moved up in the world (a.k.a moved from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts), the trip itself moved from being troop-sponsored to family-sponsored. The boyish smile-inducing, holiday spirit-infusing magic of the play stuck with the entirety of my family. Its charm filled us in every cheesy and clichéd way it possibly could.

As I've grown older, my appreciation for seeing the play every year has evolved. In my very young years, it was sheer entertainment; the music was bright and cheery, a usually-terrifying Ghost of Christmas Past actually made me cry (only once, with an especially creepy portrayal, I promise), and a transformed Scrooge at the play's end unfailingly provided laughs. As the years went on, and the

play's script became more and more familiar, particular changes made by the Company made it worth coming back. We could comment on the idiosyncrasies of each vision of the play: Who made the best Scrooge? Did we like the modern view?

But in the past few years, in burgeoning adulthood, the appeal alters once again. Truth be told, during these past few years, seeing the play cannot help but get me a little bit teary-eyed each and every time without fail. It reminds me of simple things and multitudinous memories my parents have provided to my brother and me over the years. It inspires me to try and give the same to the family of my own that I hope to one day have. It transports me back to youthful years of minor worries, and offers a glimpse into things which hold the most meaning. I can't think of feeble, ill Tiny Tim anymore without thinking of losing a loved one of my own.

I hope in reading this article, you share for a minute in something that has always been precious to me and my family. More importantly, though, I hope this reminds you of a similarly precious tradition, Christmas-related or otherwise, which you and yours enjoy as much. Keep these times close to heart. In my experience, it can be cheesier than all of the Hallmark cards in your local CVS combined. But sometimes they're the things that can amaze, that get you through a tough time, that can still be pretty moving. Even 15 years later.

It all makes me hope my brother and I can bring our families together one day, that the tradition can last at least another generation. We've said that to each other these past few years. Sometimes he mentions it first, sometimes I do. But like the misty-eyed moments, it still happens, without fail. Even 15 years later.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.RIPR.ORG

O, Christmas Tree! *R.I. State Tree Changed to "Christmas Tree"*

by Kelly Sullivan '15
Opinion Editor

SOCIETY

I wasn't going to write about this for the third year in a row, I swear. However, after writing a clichéd article about Christmas movies, I stumbled upon a press release and I couldn't resist. I needed to relay the message right from the governor's mouth, "Because I do not think how we address the State House tree affects our 'lively experiment,' this year's invitation calls the tree a Christmas tree." This year, the State House will be hosting a Christmas tree lighting ceremony rather than a holiday tree ceremony. After following the debate for the past couple of years, I am really impressed with the turn of events and the Rhode Island officials' initiative to make a change the people wanted.

For the past two years, Governor Chafee named the State House's tree a "Holiday Tree" rather than a "Christmas Tree." After protestors crashed the event two years ago by overshadowing a performance of a children's chorus with a rendition of

"O Christmas Tree," Chafee gave a mere half hour notice for the ceremony the next year in hopes of keeping the protestors from attending.

On Monday, December 2, 2013, Chafee released a statement saying, "Despite the myriad of pressing issues facing Rhode Island and the nation, this presumably happy event became a focal point for too much anger."

This is a very good point. Christmas is a holiday surrounded by joy and love; calling it a holiday tree and rushing the lighting ceremony took away from the true spirit of the festivities. A tree lighting is supposed to be a chance for the city to embrace the holiday season and start it off on a good note. Both the protestors to the name and those calling it a holiday tree, it seems, would ruin the festive atmosphere of a Christmas tree lighting and create too much anger.

Secretary of State Mollis made this decision with Chafee. According to Fox News, Mollis said, "I thought it would be good for the state if we put this controversy behind us."

In last year's article I said "Perhaps we'll see a difference next year."

Maybe the third time will be the charm for Rhode Island." I'm glad to see that the third year really is the charm. I find it reassuring that there was a problem, people were hurt, and government officials took initiative to make a change.

Merry Christmas,
Happy Hanukkah,
Happy Kwanzaa,
no matter what
you celebrate,
enjoy your
season of
peace and
joy!



Have A Little Faith In Yourself

You Are Right Where You're Supposed To Be

by Jenn Giffels '14
Senior Staff Writer

CAMPUS

You are right where you are supposed to be.

I know, you have plenty of reasons not to believe me. You needed an A on your last paper, and you shouldn't have eaten so much over Thanksgiving break. You shouldn't have spent so much money this semester, and you should have started applying for jobs or internships by now.

You're lost. You want to pursue a career based on what you love, but your parents are telling you that you won't make any money. You want to work and travel abroad, but your loved ones are all back in the small town where you grew up. Everyone's telling you what high hopes they have for you, yet you worry about what exactly it is you're going to do to meet all those expectations.

You thought you would have had at least some of it figured out by

now. Isn't that what college is for? You figure out what job you want, where you want to live, and then set out on the road towards glorious success and fulfillment?

Not quite. There are few people who know what they want to do with their lives from a young age and then proceed to do just that. Your experiences shape you and continue to redefine who you are and what you want to contribute to the world. Having a set plan and stubbornly following it only leaves room for boredom. It doesn't allow for reflection, change, spontaneous plans, or new excitement.

Trust the confusion. Maybe this gets stated too often, but it certainly is not put in action as often: you learn the most valuable lessons from your mistakes, from that confusion. You learn about yourself, what you stand for, what you know that you can't live without doing, and from this you find your motivation to get up every morning and live.

Enjoy the journey. Sure, be motivated by the light at the end

of the tunnel, but don't rush to get there by thinking all your worries will disappear. You learn more and have more fun while you're en route. Plus, the journeys will never stop; once you reach one destination you'll be propelled to another. Never get comfortable.

Redefine success. Resist the temptation to be influenced by everything around you that's telling you to focus on money and fame. We all have our plan of what we'd do if we won the lottery, but challenge yourself to make your definition of success go beyond the material.

Define your own happiness and then take time to actually be happy. Within a five-minute commercial break from your favorite show, you're being told you need all sorts of products to achieve an illusory, unattainable happiness. Do you want your happiness to be defined by the size of the gift pile in your house over the holidays?

There is no "should" and no "should have" in this conversation. There is "what was," "what is," and

"what will be." Your past happened for a reason: so you can learn from it. The present is here: so you can live it. The future has yet to come: so you can plan and hope and dream.

Don't underestimate where you are right now, and don't forget to live in the moment. We have our photo albums to remember the past and our agenda books to plan for the future, but what do we have for the present? We have ourselves, our current situation, the people that surround us.

It is easier to write this than to live it. It is easier to console others than to believe it yourself. It is easier to want to embrace this than to actually do so in today's culture. It is easier to profess convictions of being unique than to resist the temptation of following in others' footsteps.

But it is not impossible. Have a little faith, and trust yourself.

You are right where you are supposed to be.

Frenzy of Holiday Shopping Overshadows True Meaning of Season

Be Grateful For the Family and Friends in Your Life, Not the Sales

by Carolyn Walsh '17
Opinion Staff

SOCIETY

For me, the day after Thanksgiving is all about relaxation and loading up on leftover turkey, mashed potatoes, and stuffing. For a lot of other people, however, this day entails being in a mall or Wal-Mart at an ungodly hour in search of that perfect sale for that one special Christmas shopping list item. This day is known as Black Friday, and it is without a doubt the biggest shopping holiday of the year. It is also the only shopping holiday with its own official death and injury count website, BlackFridayDeathCount.com.

Over the past few years, incidents of people being injured and crushed to death by mobs of overzealous shoppers have given Black Friday a decidedly

dark reputation. As ridiculous, and even humorous, as it may be that a day of such extreme greed comes immediately after a day people are supposed to be thankful for what they have, the nearly mindless consumerism it encourages is not a laughing matter. Crass commercialism has taken the sacredness of the holiday season hostage.

Christmas used to come after Thanksgiving but it seems that each year it keeps starting earlier and earlier. This year, not only were most stores putting out Christmas items

and decorations as early as September and October, but on Thanksgiving Day major retailers like Wal-Mart and Target had their doors open to boost Christmas sales. Macy's, JC Penney, and Best Buy were also open for business while many families were still eating Thanksgiving dinner or watching football. About 39 million Americans shopped on Thanksgiving this year, up 35 percent from last year.

It now seems then that the frenzy of Black Friday is slowly creeping into Thanksgiving, making it more a day to be

thankful not for family or friends but for great bargains.

This excessive consumerism also puts an unfair burden on store employees, who may have preferred to spend the holiday with family and friends, instead of being forced to work even if they could have earned double wages. Everyone deserves the opportunity to spend the holidays with those close to them and major retailers and companies need to recognize this.

The frenzy of the holiday shopping season has overshadowed what the holidays are actually about. The true "cost" of Black Friday is losing the meaning of the holiday season: spending quality time with family and friends and being grateful for the good things in our lives. No sale, no matter how major, should be able to degrade that.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.FLICKR.COM

Students Want More than a Tangible Present

During the Holidays, Remember the Values Life Has to Offer

by Christina Moazed '15
Opinion Staff

CAMPUS

Ho, ho, ho! The Christmas spirit is in the air...sort of. In actuality, finals week is in the air. After our last exam next week, we can all pack up our things, brush off our academic stresses, and finally feel the beauty of freedom and holiday spirit. Amidst drafting our Christmas lists, what is the underlying meaning for wanting the new Xbox One or a stylish pair of boots?

The holidays traditionally prompt individuals to think about trendy products that they want under the Christmas tree. But in reality, each college student desires something beyond a tangible present that amounts to much more than any gift, whether it is family respect, attaining an internship, or even building the confidence to put your phone aside entirely during social events. Whatever it is, we must realize what we truly value and desire in order to make a swift transition into adulthood.

As college students, we are bombarded with advertisements portraying the ideal man as muscular and athletic, and the ideal woman as

skinny and flirty. We may as well begin our letter, "Dear Santa, this year I would like to have Jennifer Lawrence's legs, face, hair, body, and archery talents." Try to look past these flashy images and sleek mannerisms when constructing your Christmas list in order to focus on what is important and what you are truly capable of achieving in the next year. For instance, to be pretty on the inside, try eating makeup. All joking aside, inner beauty will always conquer.

Waking up at the crack of dawn on Christmas morning has always been one of the most magical experiences of the year as the family celebrates around the Christmas tree. You find yourself losing track of time and becoming lost in the moment. The crackling sound of the glowing fireplace and resonating smell of cookies linger throughout the house. While the clock ticks away, the floor becomes frosted with cluttered wrapping paper, and the sight is so beautiful!

These sacred moments, in my eyes, are the most important gifts during the holiday season. As Calvin Coolidge once said, "Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real

spirit of Christmas." Watching the face of your brother or sister instantly light up as they open your present is unforgettable. Venturing up to your roof in a pair of skis to make the track of Santa's sleigh to create that sudden thrill for your little sibling is an irreplaceable memory.

In this day and age, we have adopted bizarre ways of expressing appreciation and empathy toward one another. Immediately following Thanksgiving, trampled human corpses were found on the floors of retail stores from shoppers fighting to get the best deals for their families. If this isn't love, then what is?

When writing your Christmas list in Microsoft Word, entitle the document "The world," and when you're done with it, save it. On a more serious note, as we exchange heartfelt gifts this holiday season we must always keep in mind the intangible values and opportunities in life that last longer than the lifespan of a pair of shoes or any of Taylor Swift's relationships.

Guest Opinion

So, You've Picked the Wrong One

By Josh Welch '14

So, you've picked the wrong one. That's easy to do though. They will always be the wrong one until you meet the right one. But that's okay; being hurt is a part of life. It's what makes you. You have to learn to handle the pain because being hurt will always be a part of love no matter what. That's just how it is. You've gained some experiences and had some fun and made some mistakes. Don't regret it. Never regret it. Don't be afraid to take chances, you never know what could happen. Pick yourself back up. Say yes to that date, even if it seems a little outdated or cliché. Just ask him or her out, even if you're afraid he or she will say no, and make sure it is in person; texting is too impersonal. The dating culture

has changed a lot since our parent's generation, but that doesn't mean it should disappear entirely. Dating is a wonderful thing, but people are so caught up with finding perfection; they don't really give anyone else a chance. The perfect people in the movies don't exist in real life, but somehow many of us are convinced that we will find him or her. College is the opportune time to meet new people, and try things out and to meet the perfect person for you, not the perfect person. Get to know someone new; give him or her a chance. If it doesn't work out, that's okay. But you won't ever know if you don't give it a shot, and life is too short to miss out on opportunities like this.



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Top 10 Things Kayla and Keely Want for Christmas

by Kayla Fernandes '14 & Keely Mohin '14
EIC & Associate EIC

EDITORIAL



1. Perpetual chicken nugget day in Ray.

2. Bichon puppies.

3. Chocolate fountain for *The Cowl* office.

4. Scooter ramp.

5. The new Safari Rangers album.

6. Flash mob.

7. Drinks served in McPhail's seven days a week.

8. The old Miley back.

9. A job.

10. Kanye to go West.

TANGENTS & TIRADES

Don't Make the Switch to Fake Trees

by Jacquelyn Kelley '17

While scrolling through my Twitter feed, I stumbled upon a friend's tweet that said, "My family has officially switched over to a fake Christmas tree and I can't say I'm happy about it." Another friend promptly tweeted back, "I'm sorry for your loss" and although the exchange was purely comical, I absolutely agree that the switch from a real tree to a fake tree is a huge loss. First of all, you lose the wonderful scent of pine (unless you're one of those families that hangs a pine-scented ornament on your fake tree). Second of all, having a fake tree gives families the opportunity to decorate way too early. You can't get a real tree early, or it'll dry out before Christmas even arrives. People put up fakes well before Thanksgiving, which is simply way too early. Lastly, if you get a fake tree, you don't get to go through the process of strapping a real one to your car and praying that it actually makes it home, a stressful but fun challenge that my family accepts every year. With all of this said, my family had better not consider the switch anytime soon.

Cold Weather Creates Thankfulness

by Brianna Abbott '17

It's cold. Walking outside has evolved from a pleasant walk around a pretty campus to a trek through the tundra. Personally, I blame the wind. I have no idea who turned on the giant fan, but every time I walk outside, I get hit with a blast of air from Antarctica that flew out of its way just to make sure I couldn't feel my face. The temperature would be tolerable if there was snow on the ground—the sparkling, winter look makes the icy air breathable. If it doesn't look like Christmas outside, I shouldn't look like Rudolph every time I enter a building. Then again, sometimes when I'm walking around in this weather, I realize that I'm lucky to be walking to a building at all. The temperature feels well below zero, but at least I have a jacket that can fight the freeze. There are plenty of souls who are outside for more than just a few hurried minutes between classes with a lot less to wear than a giant marshmallow coat. Even though the cold weather is cause for complaint, it is also cause to be thankful, something that everyone should remember as they truck through campus.

Books: the Perfect Christmas Gift

by Nicole Corbin '15

Now that December has officially arrived, we can unabashedly sing aloud the festive tunes that have already been playing inside our heads for two weeks while baking hoards of Christmas cookies. However, it's tough to immerse yourself into all the fun of the holiday when you are still struggling to pick out the perfect Christmas gifts for the special people in your life. Not to worry though, the solution to your gift-giving dilemma is simple: books. As college students, the phrase "buy books" tends to give us traumatic flashbacks and a haunting sting in our pockets, but what better gift to give those you love most than the timeless gift of literature? Books allow us to escape reality and explore the world without ever having to leave the comfort of our Snuggies. Can't afford to send your culinary-loving mother to Paris for Christmas? Not a problem, just wrap up a copy of Julia Child's *My Life in Paris*. What about the cousin with a penchant for dancing? Sam Wasson's new biography of the legendary Bob Fosse is the perfect gift. Books are easily the most personal and rewarding gifts that you can give to those you love.



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PHOTOGRAPHY

The Cowl 11

December 5, 2013



SAADIA AHMAD '14/ THE COWL



SAADIA AHMAD '14/ THE COWL

ABOVE: BMSA and BOP co-sponsor the first Holiday Extravaganza, featuring crafts from diverse religious and cultural traditions, live a Capella music, and photos with Santa.



SAADIA AHMAD '14/ THE COWL

ABOVE: The Office of Residence Life gives thanks to the Resident Assistants with a Christmas party, a full dinner, and individualized presents.



GABRIELLE MENDES '17/ THE COWL

ABOVE: Women Will sponsors its annual Bead for Life event, featuring Bead for Life products and jewelry created from recycled material by Ugandan women. All funds raised benefited the organization and its efforts to help women in Uganda sustain themselves and their families.



ANNA WIECIORKOWSKA '14/ THE COWL

LEFT: The Footprints Gospel Choir performs a variety of Christmas songs for the College community.



Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and best wishes for a Blessed New Year from The Cowl!

Photos Compiled by Saadia Ahmad '14, Photo Editor

SAADIA AHMAD '14/ THE COWL



PROVING PHOTOGRAPHY

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December 5, 2013

What is your favorite Christmas movie?



"The Grinch"
Anna Vecchi '15 and Aida Cruz '15



"The Santa Clause 2"
Taylor Collins '15



"Home Alone"
Billy Ricci '14



"Christmas Vacation"
Nick Coggin '15



"Fred Claus"
Timothy Trocchio '17



"Elf"
Brian Millham '17



"Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer"
-Rudolph



ABC's 25 Days of Christmas: 25 Days of Missing the Mark

by George Killian '15
A&E Staff

TELEVISION

If you are anything like me, and consider yourself a true Christmas fanatic, chances are, you have had the Christmas music playing all day long, drink gingerbread spiced coffee, and definitely do not have those Christmas lights hanging in your room against school rules. You love Christmas movies, all of the classics, ranging from the older films like *The Little Drummer Boy* and *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* to the newer movies, such as *The Polar Express*. Whether it be a newer romantic comedy, or a classic such as *It's A Wonderful Life*, you love them all. One thing that makes Christmas movies so magical is that they can pull you in, no matter what the genre might be, and you still watch them because they give you that wonderful feeling inside that you can only get this time of year.

So with such a range of movies, and only 25 days in December to enjoy all of them, one would think that ABC Family dedicating the few weeks that preface Christmas to Christmas movies would make it as much of a holiday tradition as stockings and candy canes, right?

Wrong. While, in theory, ABC Family's *25 Days of Christmas* sounds magical, it lacks some serious substance. First of all, they include way too many non-Christmas movies. Most of the time they are Disney animated classics, like

this year's victim *The Little Mermaid*, that do not even have any Christmas moments in them. And while I love Disney movies, and they do give me a similar warm feeling most times of the year, let us leave the Disney movies for the other 11 months of the year.

Furthermore, what makes the Christmas movie season so unique is that there are so many movies to choose from. Yet, ABC Family plays the same movies throughout the whole season. The *Santa Clause* series, featuring Tim Allen as a father who magically replaces Santa Claus on Christmas Eve, takes up seven of the very few movie slots that ABC Family uses for the *25 Days of Christmas* special. And if we include *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* and Jim Carrey's rendition of Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, the number of slots taken is 17, a ridiculously large amount of slots taken for some movies that are not even that good.

If I were to take over ABC Family's *25 Days of Christmas*, I would make some simple changes. First, let us eliminate the ABC Family original movies. These movies are only good for stars that have not been in front of the camera in a while who need a paycheck, and they have the same plot every year. Two, let us bump down the number of times we watch *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, and replace it with some other classic winter comedies, perhaps *Home Alone* or *Elf*, the more the merrier. And finally, get rid of the

Disney movies for the kids, that only have a minute of a Christmas scene at the end of the movie (I am looking at you *Toy Story*), and bring back some of the children's movies that are animated, funny, and heartwarming, like *Annabelle's Wish* or *The Tangerine Bear*.

All in all, if ABC Family wants me to stop saying "No, No, No" instead of "Ho, Ho, Ho" they better step up their movie selection.

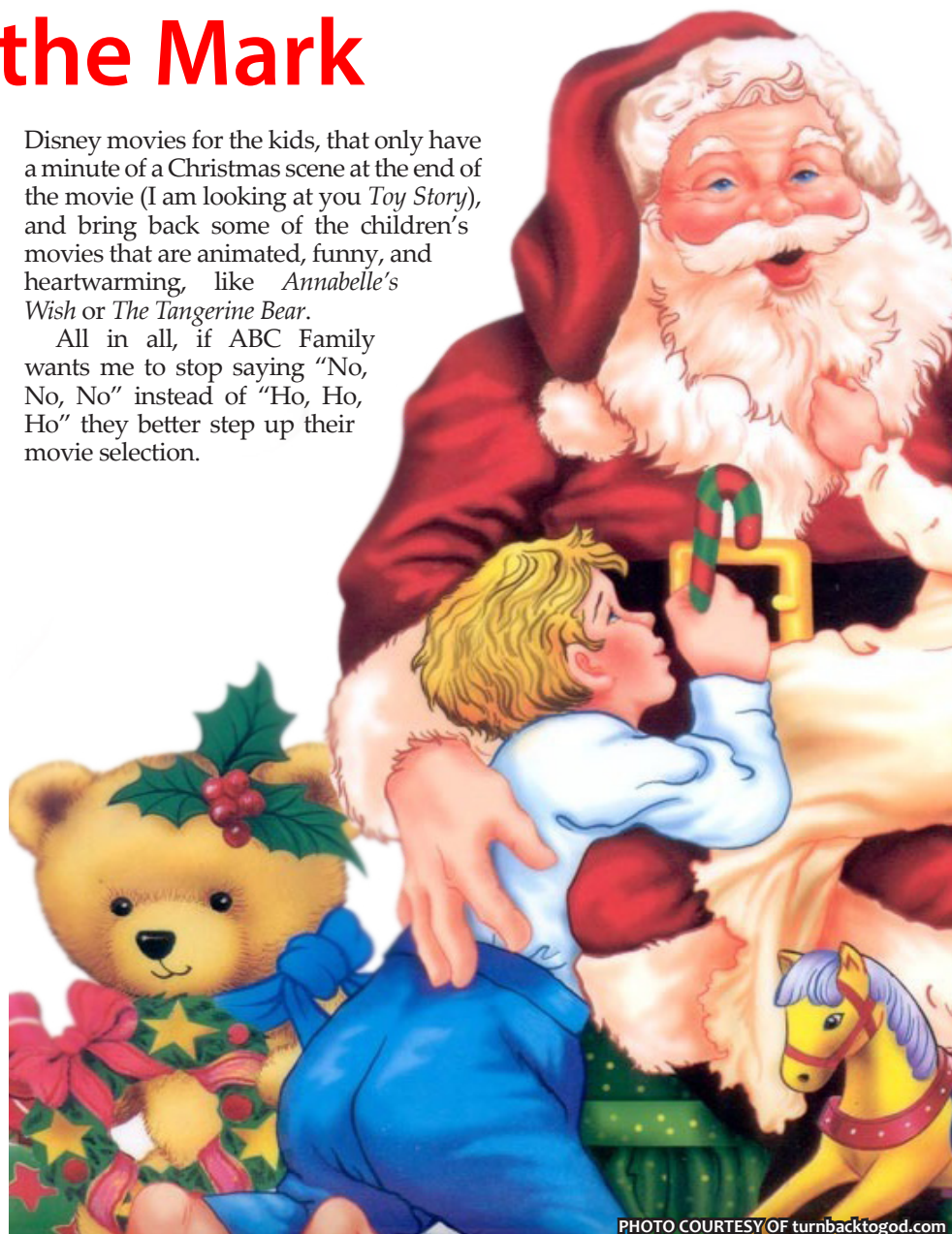


PHOTO COURTESY OF turnbacktgod.com

by Christina D'Adamio '16
A&E Staff

FASHION

Thanksgiving has come and gone, and the holiday season has just begun. Students are ready to celebrate this magnificent time of year. But last-minute gift purchases must be made, and with holiday sales before us, there is no time to waste. While some gifts have been thoughtfully purchased and carefully wrapped, the shopping adventures have not yet ended. It is time to focus on gift giving for those fashionable men. Undeniably, men can be trickier to shop for. As a result, cologne, tech accessories, and novel reads have become basic, go-to purchases. This season, try something different. Buy a unique and unexpected gift that will put a smile across your man's face.

For a timeless gift, a watch is the ideal purchase. A watch is an essential component to any man's wardrobe. Purchase a stainless steel watch with a silver-toned band for the most versatility. A black or brown leather band is another option. Aim for a classic look, while considering the watch as an investment purchase. Brands to check out include Timex, Seiko, and Michael Kors.

For those cold days ahead, a sweater is both warm and stylish. When purchasing a sweater, stick to V-neck or crewneck fits. Cotton, wool, and cashmere are fabric options. Pick a neutral colored throw on in black, grey, or navy. However, color-blocking knits are in trend this season.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ebay.com

For a more festive option, pick a sweater in a stripe or argyle pattern.

Another winter essential and a great gift idea is a flannel button up. A flannel in herringbone plaid never looked better. Color combinations are limitless for this gift. However, navy, deep red, hunter green, and charcoal are the most complementary color pairings.

A scarf is another gift idea. Wool and cashmere are high-quality fabric choices. A neutral colored scarf in graphite, grey, navy, or camel complements any outfit. Nevertheless, a printed scarf can also

be the perfect statement piece. Plaids and stripes are prints to aim for. If a scarf just is not enough, purchase a pair of leather gloves to match. Cashmere-lined gloves in black or brown add the perfect, last-minute touch.

Statement patterned socks are a gift for those in style men. Pick cotton or wool socks. Choose a funky pattern, such as argyle, polka dots, or stripes. Experiment with bright color combinations and color-blocking tones. For all the previous clothes listed, GAP, Banana Republic, and J. Crew are the stores to shop at.

For the men on the go, a duffle bag or mailbag is a more practical gift.

Choose a spacious bag with numerous pockets and zippers. A bag with a leather strap is ideal, as it can easily be thrown over the shoulder. Canvas and leather fabrics offer most durability. Shop at Macy's or Nordstrom for this purchase. Banana Republic and J. Crew have options as well.

Move past the typical holiday purchases and find something special for your man. With a shopping list in hand, you will be out the door in no time, and ready to find the perfect gift.

Gift Ideas for Him

Catching Fire

by Alanna Smith '14
A&E Staff

FILM

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire was released just two weeks ago, and it has already managed to quadruple its budget, gaining around \$570 million so far. It has the highest opening weekend for the month of November, and one of the highest opening weekend grosses of all time. Critics and fans alike showered it with widespread acclaim. So what is it about this film—and this series in general—that has sparked passion in the hearts of so many?

When Suzanne Collins released the first *Hunger Games* book in 2008, no one had any idea how popular the series would become. It started as a slow burn that eventually grew into a wildfire fanned by word of mouth among both teenage and adult readers. When Lionsgate purchased the film rights in 2009, fans flocked to the internet to discuss their dream cast lists. Of course, when the list for the first film was revealed, many were horrified that the chosen actors did not match their visions. *The Hunger Games* was very well-received however, especially by fans, for its faithfulness to the book and for the acting of its relatively young cast.

Between the first and second films in the series, there was a switch in the director's chair from Gary Ross to Francis Lawrence, but *Catching Fire* was just as good, if not better, than its predecessor. Under Lawrence's direction, gone were the shaky camera style and the excessive artsy shots of District 12. Compared to the first film, *Catching Fire* felt like more of a film than, say, a documentary or reality show broadcast. It really dove into the social problems of Panem and foreshadowed the inescapable rebellion without being heavy-handed—things only hinted at and glimpsed in the first film. The movie was also not afraid to dive into the emotional brutality of the story. Some particularly well-done

and painful scenes included Katniss (Jennifer Lawrence) experiencing a PTSD-induced flashback while hunting, and a tearful tribute to Rue, a young girl who died in the Arena during the first film.

The movie was impressive in its level of faithfulness to the book, but some think that it may be even better than the source material. The novel suffered from exceptionally bumpy and awkward pacing, but the film was much smoother. The ending was not as climactic as the end of the first, but—without spoiling anything—it is thematically appropriate that it was not.

Catching Fire was not without its flaws. Just like in the first film, the audience never really gets to know Gale (Liam Hemsworth), the other side of Katniss's love triangle. He is only shown through Katniss's eyes, and he does not grow into a distinct personality. The time spent in the Arena passes by very quickly. Part of the reason for this is that there is very little downtime or quiet moments to make the big events seem more significant. Also, especially for those audience members who have read the books, there is never a real sense of danger for Katniss, because she is always surrounded by her allies. The movie really could have benefited from some extra time to flesh out all of the relationships.

Mockingjay, the third book in the trilogy, will be adapted into two films, which will give the filmmakers little excuse to leave out any details. Unfortunately, *Mockingjay* is the least popular of the series, as readers criticize its extremely poor pacing and lack of action. Most of the book is spent inside Katniss's head, and when things do happen, it seems as if Suzanne Collins is playing her own Hunger Games by violently murdering both supporting and main characters without allowing for emotional resonance. However, since the first two films have translated the plot so well, the odds are very much in favor that the second half of the series will exceed expectations.



PHOTO COURTESY OF collider.com

Let's Rant This Week: Social Media and the Death of a Celebrity

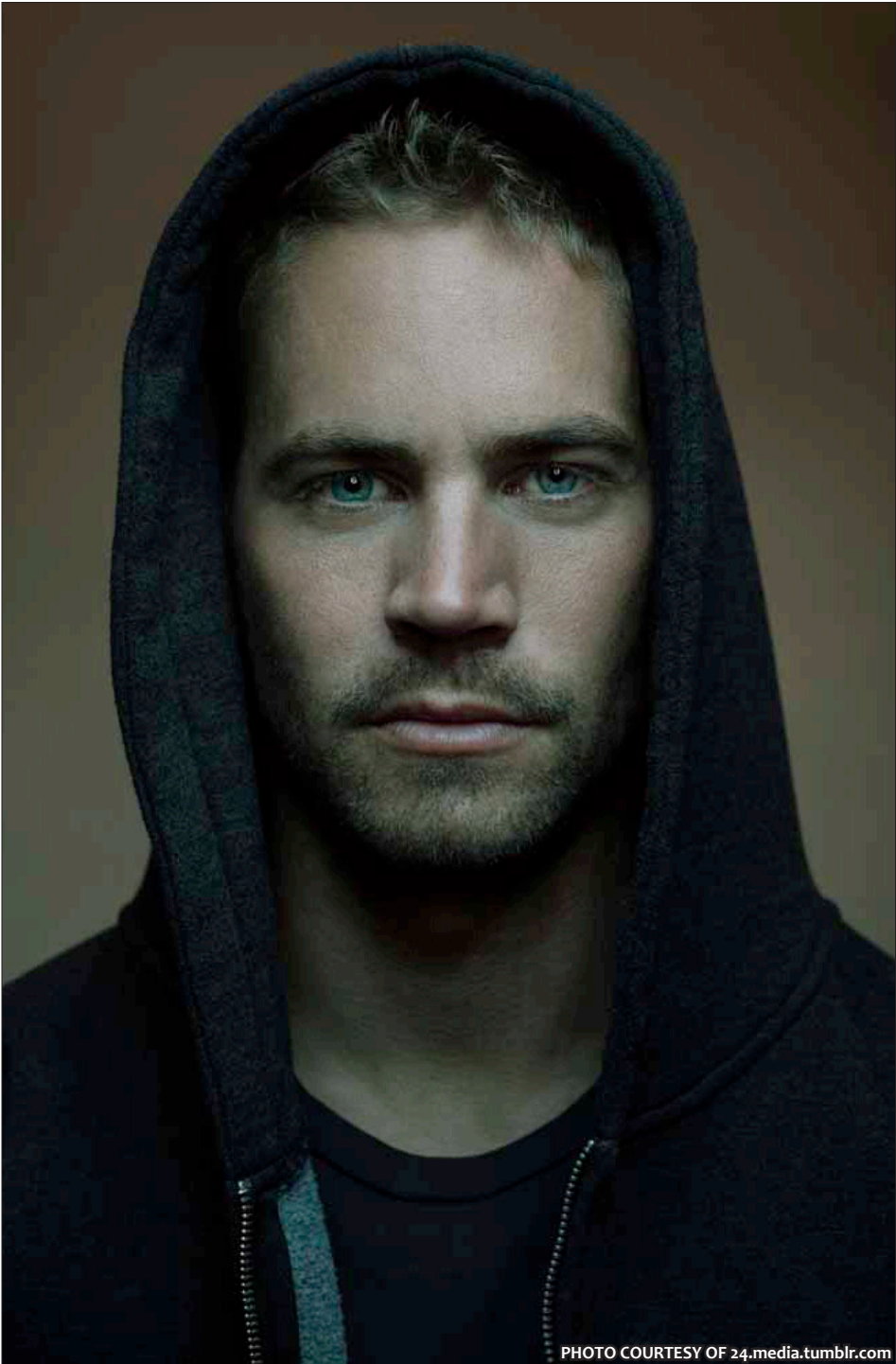


PHOTO COURTESY OF 24.media.tumblr.com

by Marisa Urgo '14
A&E Staff

CULTURE

Last Saturday afternoon, actor Paul Walker made headlines after dying in a car-related incident. Minutes later, statuses saying “RIP Paul Walker” infiltrated my newsfeed on both Facebook and Twitter. For quite a few reasons, I was puzzled.

Let me begin by saying that there's nothing wrong with paying homage to a deceased celebrity whose work you enjoyed. I was a pretty big fan of Lee Thompson Young (*Famous Jett Jackson*, *Rizzoli and Isles*), who passed away last summer, and was upset to hear that he committed suicide. It just seems that most people who posted these dramatic statuses seemed to not care very much about Paul Walker (mostly known for *The Fast and the Furious*) while he was alive and making films. One person on my Facebook feed wrote, “RIP Paul Walker. Don't know who you are but you were hot, lol.” I fail to see how this is appropriate. If Walker were a non-celebrity, would that even cross people's minds to say, let alone write as a Facebook status? Obviously, I realize some people might hold strong connections to Paul Walker, but it seems like the people who paid homage to Walker were the same who paid respect to many, many other celebrities that passed.

One reason to explain why people do this is perhaps because fans lack the

proper channels through which people normally grieve. They cannot call the person's family or attend a funeral. Social media might be their only outlet.

It still is strange to me why people have a media and celebrity obsession. There is no reciprocity between these relationships. I will again acknowledge that some actors are important to me, but the one-sidedness of these relationships probably is not healthy to maintain.

I realize it is “just a tweet,” but I am curious about the societal implications. For example, last weekend in my town, a brave young man unfortunately passed away. About four years ago, he woke up from a four-month coma and was dedicated to making his life about helping other people. Just last week, he was hit by a car and died from his injuries. I saw more Facebook and Twitter statuses about Walker than I did about this hometown hero. How dare we, as a society, “pay respect” to an actor we never met but stay silent in the case of a classmate we saw every day?

Simply, I'm not saying that you aren't allowed to be upset or grieve when a celebrity you truly cared about dies. All I'm saying is think about WHY you feel the need to hop on the bandwagon of tweeters. It is okay to mourn celebrity deaths, but just remember that you owe more to past friends, family, and even acquaintances, not these media idols.

How I Met Your Dad Rumor Confirmed

by Kelly Laske '16
A&E Staff

CULTURE

After weeks of rumors swirling around the topic, CBS has officially announced that there will be a spinoff of their hit sitcom *How I Met Your Mother*, which wraps up production in May 2014. While the news has made fans wipe away their tears from mourning the end of *How I Met Your Mother*, fans are full of questions regarding the new spinoff. After the success of *HIMYM*, critics are wondering how CBS is going to pull off a spinoff of one of their most quoted and most celebrated television shows.

For those who are not familiar with the show, *How I Met Your Mother* has brought in a record number of viewers to the CBS network. After airing in 2005, the show is already up to its ninth and final season. The show was created by Carter Bays and Craig Thomas, former writers for *Late Show With David Letterman*, and is based on their friendship that developed in New York City. The producers made the show based on the character Ted Mosby and his friends as they find love in the city. The story uniquely is told in the year 2030 as Ted tells his son and daughter about how he met his wife. The show starts back in 2005 and follows the complicated relationships among Ted’s friends and how they all fell in love. Now, as the show comes to a close, it has become a complete phenomenon and has been nominated for 28 Emmys, winning nine of them.

Now the question is, how do you

create a spinoff of such a successful show and so close to the season finale of what it is based on? While some super fans are refusing to watch the new show, others are full of questions that they want answered. *How I Met Your Dad* will be told from a feminine perspective. Instead of a dad telling his kids about how he met his wife, it will be about a mother telling her kids about how she met their father.

The new sister series will not have the same cast as *HIMYM* and will get together at a new bar rather than the one they currently meet at called MacLaren’s. The producers have not begun casting yet but will say that they do not plan on revealing the new cast anytime soon and will most definitely not be releasing the cast members before the end of the *HIMYM* series. To excite fans even more, Carter Bays revealed that there will be several guest appearances and cameos by characters from the older show. While there were rumors that the new cast members would appear in the final episode of *HIMYM*, it has recently been revealed that the pilot will be shot as a “standalone.”

How I Met Your Mother is one of the hottest sitcoms on television right now and will definitely leave a deep footprint in CBS’s legacy. While there are currently moans and groans by many that think they should just end *HIMYM* and leave it at that, others are curious as to if the new show has any chance of living up to its predecessor. Will *HIMYD* be the next *HIMYM*? Or will it just flop and ruin what CBS once had?



PHOTO COURTESY OF archetypes.com

EDITOR VS. EDITOR

This Week: Favorite Thing about Christmas

Tim Morris

Favorite Thing: School Nativity Plays

His Views: If you ask any student on campus what his or her favorite thing about the holiday season is, you’re likely to get the same responses: ugly Christmas sweaters, caroling, spending time with friends and family, or putting ornaments on the tree. More than anything else, I look forward to the annual nativity play that is put on by my local Catholic grade school. It’s nothing short of a train wreck. I would know. I was in one. For some reason, the nativity play was the most popular event of the school year. It didn’t matter if you were theatrically inclined. You auditioned, and you hoped that the director—usually one of your friends’ mothers—put you in a good role. Sadly, when the casting sheet was posted outside of the theater, friendships ended in explosions of jealous rage.

His Views on Serena: I can’t disagree with your decision. Even though Christmas break involves a range of enjoyable activities, I love leaving my brain on campus when I go home for a month of mindless fun with friends and family. Each morning, I walk around the house in my pajamas for about an hour, thinking about what I want to eat. The day doesn’t really begin until I finish my third bowl of cereal, after which I run through a few episodes of whatever liberal television series Aaron Sorkin is behind. I can’t say the same of my routine while I’m at school. Here, I have to look semi-presentable when I get breakfast at Ray or when I go to class.



Serena Ambroselli

Favorite Thing: Christmas Break

Her Views: I am in no way downplaying the wonders of Christmas, but it’s only one day of the entire year and it isn’t even the best day of the year, which would be my birthday: April 22nd, for those wondering. Christmas break, however, is five glorious weeks. Think of all that time for being home without a single care in the world—you can eat home-cooked meals, drink away the sorrows and regrets of the fall semester (hot chocolate, anyone? Unless you’re more of an eggnog kind of person), and enjoy the freedom from any kind of schoolwork. Go forth and enjoy the abundance of holiday decorations, festivities, and cheer. You’ve got five entire weeks to do so.

Her Views on Tim: Nativity plays have always been a cruel tradition. Where is the honor in being “Angel #3”? Because my kindergarten self felt none. I felt like an extra, not the star. I’m sure all of the other kids who aren’t cast as Mary or Joseph feel the same way. These plays are an excuse for parents to dress their kids up as whatever animals are included in nativity plays these days—dogs, lobsters, camels—and claim how proud they are of their children for being able to recite one whole line. Young children should not even have to deal with the stress of having to memorize lines without being allowed to use flash cards. Everything about this tradition is stressful, upsetting, and unfulfilling.

PHOTO COURTESY OF costumecraze.com

Christmas Events in Providence

by Mary McGreal '15
A&E Staff

MUSIC

December has arrived, and so has the holiday shopping season. But why spend all of your money on merchandise when you can spend it making memories? Rhode Island plays host to a number of holiday-themed events that range from free to “I do not think I have that much in my bank account.” So, if you have some extra cash—or time—just waiting to be used for something fun, why not plan a pre-finals outing with your friends?

Providence’s Annual Tree Lighting

On Saturday, December 7, head over to the State House and Kennedy Plaza area to celebrate the start of the holiday season with the city of Providence! Starting at 5:30 p.m., this free event will feature music, singing, and lots of ice skating. Best of all this is the first time in two years that the event is being referred to as a Christmas tree lighting—who doesn’t love a bit of holiday-themed controversy?

Christmas in Newport

It’s Christmas. In Newport. If you think the coastal town is nifty in the summer, wait until you visit it during the winter. There are all sorts of events and activities during the month of December, ranging from lantern-led historical tours to designer wreath sales. Many of the mansions have special events that relate to the history of the homes, so check out christmasinnewport.org if you want to learn more.



PHOTO COURTESY OF povidencejournal.com

Theatre, Music, and the Arts

Perhaps the theatre is a bit beyond the average college student’s budget. However, there are all sorts of other events that should make you feel somewhat grown-up and sophisticated, should you choose to attend.

The Aldrich House in Providence is hosting a Holiday Open House from 2-5 p.m. on Saturday, December 7. This free event includes the telling of Truman Capote’s “A Christmas Memory,” and Dylan Thomas’ “A Child’s Christmas in Wales.”

Support our artistic neighbors while doing some holiday shopping by attending the RISD Holiday Alumni Art Sale on Saturday, December 7 at

the Rhode Island Convention Center. Tickets are \$7 and proceeds go towards RISD scholarships.

A Very Merry Unauthorized Children’s Scientology Pageant

This performance by the Wilbury Theatre Group might not even be about Christmas, but judging from the title it is probably worth seeing. A *New York Times* review said the play is a “cult-hit blueprint for a young generation that prefers its irony delivered not with a wink but a blank stare.” Tickets start at \$15.

Holiday Bazaars

For the more money-conscious among us, there are plenty of holiday bazaars around the state featuring

everything from handmade crafts to yummy baked goods. Many local churches, schools, and community centers will host holiday bazaars in the upcoming weeks. Make a day of it—get into the holiday spirit, grab your roommates, and go on an adventure this weekend. There is no better place than a local holiday bazaar to find an under five-dollar Yankee Swap gift while exploring Rhode Island and supporting the local community. Do not forget to pick up a dishcloth embellished with snowmen and the matching coffee mug—perfect for Great Aunt Winifred!

The Death of an (Animated) Icon

by Katie Puzycki '17
A&E Staff

TELEVISION

On Sunday, November 24, fans of the popular show *Family Guy* were stunned by the shocking death of everyone’s favorite character Brian Griffin. Brian, the brains that added the balance to the show’s brisk and often stupid humor, was tragically killed after being struck by a car. The show’s aficionados were left heartbroken by this unexpected twist, as Brian was loved by everyone, so much so that in their outrage, fans were asking why they couldn’t have killed off Meg (the Griffin’s middle child, voiced by Mila Kunis). His swift sarcasm, wise-cracking, and monotone voice gave the show a bearable aspect from the idiotic miscellanies of the other characters. The incident left viewers wondering only one thing: “Why?” According to the *Family Guy* staff, Brian’s death was part of a plot twist in a scheme to gain more viewers after the show’s ratings had been dropping since the previous season. We are certain, at least, that unlike most programs it was not an act on the show’s part to save money on an actor, as head creator Seth MacFarlane voices more than half of the characters anyway. Of course, any answer the crew gives to the public will not be satisfying enough. Immediately following the episode, which is entitled “Life of Brian,” there was an outburst of angry

tweets pleading for Brian’s return, denoted by the widespread use of “#BringBackBrian” “#RIPBrianGriffin” and even “#ShouldaBeenMeg” on the social networking site, all of which have caught the attention of multiple news broadcasts this past week. The people are convinced that Brian is not gone for good, as we have seen with other characters that have been killed in the show, but later have returned. Writers, on the other hand, are not as convinced. For them, it seems that Brian is gone for good. However, the Griffins do not remain “pet-less” for long. In the same episode, a month after Brian’s death, the family takes a trip to their local pet shop to find a replacement. It is here that the family is introduced to new dog Vinny, voiced by Tony Sirico, best known for his acting in the hit TV show *The Sopranos*. Vinny is a much different character compared to Brian. He is all sarcasm and snark, and his stereotypical Jersey style Italian-American accent adds a different type of spunk to the show. Vinny is not at all the book smart Brian that fans are used to, and while his addition has so far made for interest in the show, the idea of Brian being dead is still not palpable for many. The risky publicity stunt may not have been in the show’s best interest, though. Fans across the board have taken to threatening that they will never watch the show again if the writers do not bring Brian back. They have even gone to such great lengths as creating petitions to bring him back to the show. According to “The

Daily Dot,” more than 3,000 fans have already registered their support for this cause. This outbreak has become a shock to many, as no one could have ever predicted such an outcry from the audience of a show that is slowly passing its prime. As one TV activist, Aaron Thompson, defended, “Brian Griffin was an important part of our viewing experience. He added a witty and sophisticated element to the show. *Family Guy* and Fox Broadcasting will lose viewers if Brian Griffin is not brought back to the show.” If this proves to be the truth, perhaps the show’s creators will attempt to work Brian back into the show, but until then our beloved fido will have to go on—rest in peace, Brian Griffin.

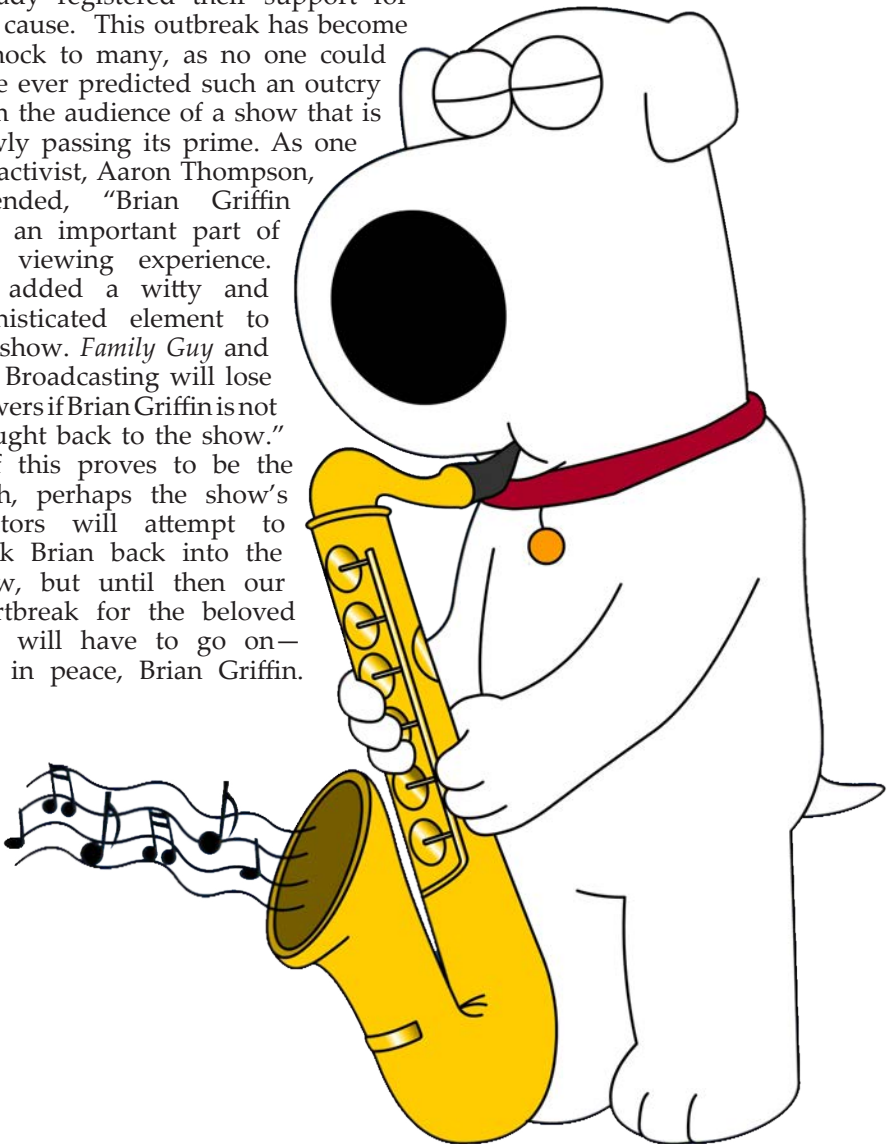


PHOTO COURTESY OF pickywallpapers.com



A Christmas Stranger

by Kiernan Dunlop '14
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

Snow falls on my windshield as I strain my eyes to see the road. I'm not the best driver in the first place, so adding any water element really doesn't help. My children fighting in the backseat doesn't either. William is upset because I let his little brother Henry pick the Christmas tree this year, an eight-foot Douglas fir that is now strapped to the roof of the minivan.

"Your tree is just stupid. Mine was better, it had a family of spiders living in it!" William shouts as he kicks the back of my chair in an expression of protest.

I look in the rear-view mirror and say, "I like spiders, too," having learned a long time ago that the best way to deal with William is to get him thinking about something other than what he's mad about. This leads him into a long discussion about which spiders can kill you in seconds. Not my first choice for conversation, but an improvement over the shouting.

We're still about 20 miles from home when I see something red moving along the highway. At first I can't tell what it is because of all the snow, but then I realize it's a person. I frown, assuming it is someone whose car broke down, when I hear Henry scream, "SANTA CLAUS!" at the top of his lungs.

William, distracted from telling me about the Chinese bird spider, jumps across his brother to look through the window.

"Mom, you have to pull over!"

They shout together, not pulling their eyes away from the mysterious man. This seems like the beginning of every mother's worst nightmare, trying to be kind to a stranger and instead picking up a serial killer. I explain some variation of this to my children, emphasizing that Santa Claus is much too busy at this time of year to be away from the North Pole, but they don't buy it.

"Mom, he's dressed all in red, he has a white beard, and he's clearly the one who made it snow! You have to pull over," William concludes as his brother nods in agreement.

"William, I can't, you are too important for me to take chances like that," I say in the nicest voice I can muster.

"Mom, if you don't stop, it will be your fault if we get coal for Christmas and...And Henry and I won't stop screaming until you stop!" he shouts and at once, he and Henry start making sounds that I hope to never hear again.

For my own sanity, I convince myself to stop. After all, the man is probably just walking to the next gas station, right? Sure, it's the holidays and it can't hurt to do a good deed, but all I'm thinking is that this screaming needs to stop before I lose my mind. I pull into the breakdown lane and drive back to where we saw the man walking.

The door opens, I see the anticipation in my sons' eyes, and feel the dread in my own stomach.

"Thank you for stopping; it sure is a cold one," says the man as he steps into the van.

I look over and the resemblance is uncanny. Not only is he dressed in all

red, his hair is stark white and he has a big, fluffy beard. My kids stare at him in awe, silent for the first time all day.

"Where can we drive you?" I manage to ask.

"Well, I have a long way to go, but if you take me as far as you're going, I would greatly appreciate it." He smiles as he buckles the seatbelt.

The uneasiness I feel increases, and I regret pulling over. What was I thinking? Who does this? I bet no one has picked up a hitchhiker since the 1960s.

"So you picked up your Christmas tree today?" the man asks.

"Yes, what gave it away?" I joke nervously and he gives a little smile.

"My family likes to get our tree very early, it's almost like we keep it up all year," he says as he turns to the boys. "Are you excited for Christmas?"

Will looks at his younger brother, and unable to form words they slowly nod in agreement.

"Quiet ones," he says to me as he turns to face forward and I can't keep myself from laughing.

"No, this is very out of character," I say through my laughter.

The next few minutes pass quietly as he hums along to the songs on the radio and my bad feelings start to go away.

"Do you have any plans for Christmas?" I ask.

"I'll be working, but my family always has a big party when I get off work," he smiles.

"Oh, I guess it must not be bad working if you have that to look forward to."

"Not at all, I enjoy working."

"What do you do?" Henry squeaks

from the back, finally working up the courage to say something.

"I work with children just like you," he explains.

Henry's excitement about the man's answer causes him to lose his ability to speak. Not wanting to ruin it for him, I change the subject.

"So, how did you end up walking along the highway?"

"I've been heading north for quite sometime and just ran out of fuel."

"I figured something like that had happened," I say, relieved.

"Might I ask," he starts, unsure of himself, "where the father of these young boys is? It seems to me like getting the Christmas tree should be a family affair."

I'm a little taken aback by his bluntness, but before I can answer my eldest son whispers, "My dad's in the army."

I hurry and add, "But we're very proud of him and even though he can't spend Christmas with us we know he loves us very much, right, boys?"

They both nod on cue as we pull off the highway. I see a gas station and ask the stranger if he would like me to drop him off there. He replies that that would be fine and thanks me repeatedly for picking him up. The boys are sad to see him go, but before he leaves he shouts, "Merry Christmas, I know it's going to be a good one!"

As we pull up to my house a little later I see a strange car in the driveway. Before I can get out, the front door opens and I see someone standing in the doorway. My kids start running. It's my husband with a bouquet of flowers in his hand.





The Cowl

I'm Getting Nothing for Christmas (Because I Was a Jerk to People on the Internet)

by Melanie Souchet '14
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

"I'm Gettin' Nuttin' for Christmas"

I'm getting nothing for Christmas
Mommy and Daddy are mad
I'm getting nothing for Christmas
'Cause I ain't been nothing but bad

Messed with Johnny's contact names
(Somebody snitched on me)
Erased all Suzie's cellphone games
(Somebody snitched on me)
Lied to Google 'bout my age
Contributed to forum rage
Hacked my sister's Facebook page
And somebody snitched on me

Won't be seeing Santa Claus
(Somebody snitched on me)
Broke some internet download laws
(Somebody snitched on me)
Next year I'll be going straight
Won't send anon Tumblr hate
I'd start now, but it's too late
'Cause somebody snitched on me

Santa watches what you do
That means on your cell phone, too
I'm getting nothing for Christmas
Nuts!





Goes Caroling...

Have Yourself a Merry Little iPad

by **Mason Sciotti '15**
Portfolio Co-Editor

POETRY

"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"

Have yourself a merry little iPad
Let your apps be free
From now on you'll Candy Crush all day with glee

Have yourself a merry little iPad
Make the lockscreen gay
From now on the outside world will be miles away

Nevermore in olden days
No more blacked-out days of yore
Faithful friends who are dear to us
Talk to each other nevermore

Through the years the newest versions come out
If your parents allow
Hang a new tablet upon the highest bow
And have yourself a merry little iPad now

Faithful friends so dear to us
They flock to Apple stores once more

The newest one comes out just next September
If the fates allow
But 'til then we'll have to muddle through somehow
And have yourself a merry little iPad now.

Trucker in a Winter Wonderland

by **Amanda Brown '14**
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

"Winter Wonderland"

Truck horns blare, are you listening,
On the highway, snow ain't sticking,
A beautiful sight,
The roads are clear tonight,
Driving in the left lane listening to metal rock bands.

At a rest stop, where dreams are born,
I can watch, my DVDs of — *hey they were a gift!*
He sings a love song,
And she plays along,
Walking in a winter wonderland — *she must be freezing!*

Once at Lowe's I try selling electric fans,
And mention the Patriots' last touchdown.

You say: Are fans scary?
I say: Electric fans?
But you say, no,
The Patriots fans in town.

Later on, we'll sign contracts,
As we dream about money sacks
And face with much greed,
Plans for fans, we agreed,
Were best for both our companie-ie-ies.



| Listomania | |
|---|--|
| Worst Gifts to Get from a Significant Other | |
| 1. | A stripper |
| 2. | Tickets to a Nickelback concert |
| 3. | A \$100 gift card to The Foxy Lady |
| 4. | An eviction notice |
| 5. | An engagement ring from a previously failed relationship |
| 6. | 12 drummers drumming |
| 7. | A weight-loss video |
| 8. | A STD |
| 9. | A five-pack of granny panties |
| 10. | An invitation to a weekend resort with his/her parents |
| 11. | Nothing |

Christmas Ruminations

by Justin Fernandez '15
Asst. Portfolio Editor

POETRY

Under the tree I soon discover
The gifts I hide are too great in number.
I count on burning fingers,
Singed from charring Yule logs and
Lights of red and green and blue,
The dollars spent on cheer and wonder.
Until, at last, I find my heart torn asunder
At the loss of remembrance
Of things that passed in the
Quiet corners where the shepherds roam.
And so I'll set out in the cold to recover
The power and the glory of that wild lover.

Tiffany & Earl

Making PC an emotionally stable place
one letter at a time

This week...

Dear Tiffany and Earl,

My girlfriend invited me to spend Christmas with her entire extended family. Yes, all 27 of them. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and second cousins included. The pressure is on like Donkey Kong. So my question is, what is the best possible present I can get my girlfriend to impress the whole family and charm their socks off?

Sincerely,
Out of Ideas

Dear Out of Your League,

Don't you have your own family? Seriously, why would you even entertain the idea of spending the holidays with your lady love and her cuckoobananas family, crusty geriatrics, drunk uncles, incestuous second cousins and all? There should be no pressure or questions here, the only uncles you should be getting beers for, the only grandmas who droll on over the good old days while their dentures sit in front of you, grossing you out, the only kissing cousins you should be inching away from on the couch should be those of your own crazy beautiful blood! I mean, duh, you have to buy your girlfriend a present, you totally don't want to be in the doghouse (although chilling with Christmas Snoopy and his rigged up lights system might be way hotter than your most likely basic biddy), but don't overthink it. You know the rule about spending two months worth of your income on her engagement ring (if you don't, you should)? Well, the Christmas college rule is this: spend three month's worth of your booze and pizza money on her gift. It'll pay up. My best advice: think little blue boxes and nothing less.

You're welcome for the infinite wisdom. Merry Xmas, betches.

XOXO

Dear Kiss Ass,

Here is a detailed list for you. I do not have all 27 though, so I am going to stick to the "Power Four." That is, grandparents, mother, and father

Grandma: A classic iPod. Elderly women love trying to understand technology, and it is hilarious when they fail. Use her failures as a reason to step in, and win her faith by fixing her outdated technology. While doing so, talk up how she is closer to Steve Jobs' current state of mind than anyone.

Grandpa: Earplugs. Every old guy hates listening to their wife/girlfriend after a day or so. Block out the babbling, annoying, nagging voice of the one you married for land and a mule. One day you will wish that somebody gave you a similar gift. (If you don't already. Earl wishes he had one for Tiff.)

Mom: Michael Bublé Christmas CD. Every mom loves Bublé. I don't understand why, but if you want to make it in the family, you should start by impressing the mother.

Dad: There is nothing you can do to win the father. You are dating his daughter, his jewel. I recommend the gift for him is a firm handshake, and a classy bottle of Scotch (if you're above the ripe age of 21). This is the only way to earn respect from an older, tougher male. Try to join him in their manly activities. Considering you used the phrase "It's on like Donkey Kong" you have much to learn.

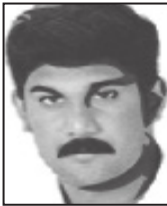
Girl: I would get her a copy of *The Expendables*. It is so manly, and shows you are willing to do anything to win the power struggle.

Disclaimer

The Tiffany & Earl feature 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.



Tiffany



EARL

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Should the Jets Bench Geno Smith?

NoYes

As a passionate New York Jets fan, this question is not an easy one to answer. It seems like since the Rex Ryan era started five years ago, there have been nothing but mediocre to just plain bad quarterbacks leading the Jets. So is it possible that I have just become accustomed to bad quarterbacks, making me forgiving of the young rookie? This is certainly a possibility, because I believe that the Jets should, indeed, stick with Geno Smith as the starting quarterback for the remainder of the season.

First of all, it must be understood that at this point, the playoffs are very unlikely, and the Super Bowl is nothing short of impossible. The Jets just simply do not have the skill players on offense or in their defensive secondary to make it there. So, if Rex Ryan and the rest of the staff do not believe that Matt Simms is the quarterback of the future, then what is there to lose by giving Smith a test for four more weeks? By doing so, they can at least have a full season to effectively evaluate the rookie and be more certain of their decision of how to plan for the future. If Geno continues over the next four weeks in a similar fashion with turnovers and interceptions being thrown around like candy, then you can be certain that the Jets will look to the draft or free agency for their quarterback in 2014-15.

However, if he turns it around and leads the Jets to a few more wins, then perhaps other holes can be filled in the off-season. It can be argued that Geno Smith has had very little to work with, with a depleted receiving core with no stars and an offensive line that has allowed numerous sacks in the Ryan era. It may be tough times for Jets fans right now, but unfortunately, we are not winning the Super Bowl this year, so why not give the kid a chance?

-AJ Stueck '14

Rookie quarterback for the New York Jets Geno Smith started off the season hot, but it seems he has lost the fire. With eight total touchdown passes this season, Smith has not thrown a touchdown pass since week seven against the New England Patriots.

In the past five games against the Dolphins, Ravens, Bills, Saints, and Bengals, Smith has thrown seven interceptions. Of his 104 passing attempts since the Patriots game, only 49 were completed, and in the past four games, he has failed to complete even 10 passes. On top of these stats, he has the most total interceptions on the season, coming in at 19, just beating out Eli Manning who has 18. Due to his recent struggles, Smith is currently in 36th place with the lowest total QBR rating in the NFL at an abysmal 21.6. Compare this to league leader Peyton Manning, who has a staggering total QBR of 82.1, and one starts to question whether Smith should still be throwing the ball.

In the Jets' most recent game against the Miami Dolphins, Smith only threw for 29 total passing yards, which included one interception. This led the quarterback coach David Lee to sit him at halftime. Although Smith has already been given the start for the upcoming game this Sunday against the Raiders, this is a poor decision because the Raiders are ranked 10th for their defensive rush. This will force Smith to pass the ball more, which according to his stats, has not been serving him well.

-Michael Humphreys '15



Country:

Continued from front page

and Laura Nagel '14, who finished seventh and 27th respectively. Treacy called these two runners “the most important piece of the puzzle,” adding that “all of the great teams that I’ve had have had great captains and leaders. It’s a 24-hour-a-day job for them to be around other members of the team and remind them to treat themselves like athletes.”

After a second-place finish in nationals last year, the team had high expectations in the eyes of those familiar with the national Cross Country scene. Nagel described the team’s feeling at the beginning of the year, saying, “[The second place finish] played a big role in how hungry we were to win. We got a little taste of what it was like to be that close, but we knew that we had to work harder and look after ourselves to make it all happen.” The team certainly showed the hunger that Nagel spoke of, as they had one of the most successful seasons ever for our Women’s Cross Country program. They came in first place in seven of the nine races that they competed in during the season, and only placed outside the top 10 in one of these nine races.

The leadership displayed by the team’s two captains is especially impressive when considering their losses at the end of last season. Sisson described the team’s state after last season, saying, “our two captains, Shelby Greany '13 and Sam Roecker '13, graduated, but five of

the seven of us returned.” Even with these losses it was clear that the two new seniors had no issue taking the leadership gauntlet. Nagel put it best when she said, “I guess I’ve always been the leader type of person...but we all bring a little something to the team.”

This goes back to the point that Treacy made about his most successful teams. As the Northeast Women’s Coach of the Year put it, “We are trying to get the best athlete possible that can meet the demands of PC both athletically and academically.” He and the rest of the staff can do their best to bring in strong athletes, but it is a true stroke of luck to receive natural-born leaders like Sisson and Nagel.

In addition to the two captains, Friar runners Sarah Mary Collins '16, Catarina Rocha '17, and Grace Thek '14 were also able to finish in the top 80, coming in 39th, 62nd, and 76th. Molly Keating '16 also placed for the team, finishing 224th. One of the most impressive aspects of the team’s victory is the age of three of its participants. Collins, Rocha, and Keating all participated in the race as underclassmen, and will have at least two more years of eligibility in Friartown. This young nucleus will be crucial for Treacy’s team as they attempt to move forward after the loss of their two captains and three of their top six runners. This process will certainly be eased by the experience of these young runners who have already been exposed to the biggest race in Division I Cross Country.

Regardless of their response next

season, the young members of the team were given great senior leaders. Sisson, Nagel, and Thek are three great paradigms of leadership through experience. They were the second, third, and sixth runners to finish in last year’s second place finish in the national championship, and carried this experience into the leadership roles that they stepped into this season. Treacy’s praise of his seniors was reciprocated when they spoke of their coach. As Sisson put it, “Ray’s coaching plays the main role in the consistency of the program’s success.”

The coaching and life experiences that Treacy brings to the table are different from those of a typical college coach in the United States. Growing up in Ireland, Treacy followed the footsteps of his brother John Treacy '78, who competed as a runner for the Friars. Treacy said of his choice to come to Providence, “My brother was here before me and became an All-American, cross country champion, and Olympian. He was one of the best runners to ever come here, I just followed him.”

Along with this experience at Providence, Treacy also competed as a runner during his time in Ireland. Experience overseas and in the U.S. has made Treacy a very appealing coach to both international and American runners. However, Treacy described his coaching approach to be on an individual level with each of his runners. He said, “As a coach you’re always learning and will come across individuals that you must coach differently than others.” This is only one of the traits that separates

Treacy from other college coaches. Even after 30 years of coaching, he is ready to admit that he still has things to learn as a coach.

Sisson and Nagel are great examples of the recruiting and coaching success that Treacy has with runners from both ends of the spectrum. Nagel hails from Napier, New Zealand while Sisson resides in Chesterfield, Mo. Even with these different backgrounds, the reason behind both of their decisions to come to Providence was the coach who was recruiting them. In addition to his coaching techniques, they also cited Treacy’s effort to stay connected with his runners after they graduate. Treacy said, “I bring these athletes here when they’re 18 and ask them to have faith in me and my coaching philosophy. Helping them to run after college is the least I can do for the commitment they have given to the program.”

These relationships between Treacy and his runners have been the driving force in the success of the program in his 30 years as coach. In this time Treacy has won countless coaching awards and been recognized as one of the premier cross country coaches in the nation. Nevertheless, he would be the first to tell you that this year’s championship was a “better feeling” than any of that.

Bringing Home the Cup

Men's And Women's Ice Hockey Sweep Mayor's Cup Series Versus Brown

by Sarah Wacik '15
Sports Staff

ICE HOCKEY

Over Thanksgiving break, the Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Teams each played for hockey bragging rights within Providence. The Men's Hockey Team competed against Brown University in the 28th annual Mayor's Cup. In a battle between Rhode Island rivals, Providence emerged victorious by the score of 3-2, and secured their second straight cup. The team added another win to their Mayor Cup record, which stands at a 16-9-3 advantage for PC. However, the victory was no easy feat, and proved to be a well-fought game in front of a home crowd of over 2,400.

Providence emerged in the lead near the end of the first period when Nick Saracino '16 followed through on his own rebound and beat the Brown goalie. Ross Mauermann '15 and John Gilmour '16 assisted Saracino on the play. Saracino's goal marked his sixth consecutive game with at least one point, as he has recorded three goals and three assists during this stretch.

The Friars carried this momentum into the second period and extended their lead when Drew Brown '15 scored his first goal of the season. Early in the final period, Brown cut their deficit to one, but Derek Army '14 responded with a goal at 9:17. Army's goal proved to be the game-winner, which was the third of his career, and provided PC with a cushion late in the period.

Brown scored near the end of the

period, but could not find an equalizer. Jon Gillies '16 recorded 32 saves throughout the game for the Friars, who improved their record to 11-2-2 overall on the season. The team's next game is on Friday, December 6 at Northeastern University.

The Women's Hockey Team also opposed Brown in the 19th annual Mayor's Cup at Schneider Arena. This evening turned out to be a memorable night for the team, as they earned a 3-2 OT victory and helped Head Coach Bob Deraney capture his

265th win in his career. He is now the all-time wins leader for PC with a 265-197-61 record. Overall, the team now has a 7-9-3 record in the Mayor's Cup and a 7-10-0 standing on the season.

The game was a back-and-forth contest, and displayed quality play on both sides. The Friars' first goal of the game came in the second period while the team was on the penalty kill. Beth Hanrahan '15 intercepted a pass from a Brown player and fed the puck to Molly Illikainen '16, who beat the goalie to even the score at one. PC

fell behind again early in the third period, but tied the game on a goal by Hanrahan. PC continued to dominate possession throughout the remainder of regulation, and outshot Brown by a margin of 17-5.

Janine Weber '14G scored the game-winning goal at 1:27 OT after solid efforts by Maggie Pendleton '14 and Kendra Goodrich '17. Throughout the game, the Friars went 6-6 on penalty kills. In addition, Sarah Bryant '16 notched 24 saves for the team. The women's next home game is on Friday, December 6th at 7 p.m. against Yale University.



SARAH WACIK '15 / THE COWL

Friars Show Heart in Brooklyn

PC Falls Short Against Kentucky

by James Kirby '15
Sports Staff

COLUMN

Over the past few weeks, Ed Cooley had been trying to downplay the game against Kentucky, but despite his attempts, Friar fans have had this game circled on their calendars for quite some time. Kentucky, who was ranked first in all the pre-season polls, always provides an exciting atmosphere, not only because of their talent, but also due to their but large fan base. Last Sunday night's matchup between the two teams was even more special because it was played in the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, a location where not many college teams have the chance to play in.

In just their second meeting of all time, the first being in 1976 in the NIT, the Friars fell short of pulling the upset, but the score line is deceiving. The Friars played neck and neck with one of the best teams in the country throughout the first half, led by Bryce Cotton '14 who finished with the game high of 23 points. The same problem of depth that has plagued the Friars in the past had proved to be the deciding factor in the game as Kentucky pulled away in the second half. The game would have had a completely different feel with the addition of Kris Dunn '16 who remained sidelined with a sore shoulder, or the two freshmen,

Brandon Austin '17 and Rodney Bullock '17, who are still suspended. Carson Desrosiers '15 had a brilliant performance against one of the largest teams in the country. PC tried to force Kentucky to run their offense outside the paint a solid strategy, considering Kentucky was shooting just 29 percent the entire season. Unfortunately, Kentucky shot a lights out 64 percent for the game.

Two days later, when asked about the crowd, Cooley responded, "Phenomenal, despite the result, I think we showed our fans a lot of heart." Kentucky had a significant advantage in fans present, yet without a doubt, the Friar fans in attendance made their presence felt throughout the game. They had a lot to cheer about; considering the adversity that this team has gone through this year, the Friars were competitive with a team who will likely be nationally ranked the entire year. But Cooley is right, it is just one game. The real games that matter are in conference play, and the game against Kentucky provided an excellent experience that will pay off when the team plays just as challenging competition in the Big East. The Friars can look for redemption next year at Kentucky's home, Rupp Arena. For now, Friar fans can be assured that Friar basketball is right on the cusp of being an elite program.



Photo courtesy of youtube



Checking Out the Rearview

Looking Back on An Unbelievable Fall Season for Friar Athletics

by Joey Ciccarello '16
Sports Staff

FRIAR SPORTS

It was an extremely successful fall season in Friartown. Friar fans were treated to many great individual performers, three NCAA tournament appearances, and, most importantly, a national championship. It is easy to say that the fall of 2013 is the most successful Friar sports season in recent memory, and there is no reason why the fall of 2014 will be any different.

The most noticeable accomplishment was, of course, the Women's Cross Country National Championship. Led by Emily Sisson '14, the Friars posted an impressive performance while braving less than desirable conditions at the NCAA Championship in Terre Haute, Ind., defeating other traditional powers such as Arizona, Michigan, and Big East foes Butler and Georgetown. Sisson's seventh place finish paced the Friars, but the team's other four scorers placed at exceptional spots. Laura Nagel '14 was the second Friar to finish, placing 27th; Sarah Mary Collins '16 placed 39th and was the third Friar to finish. Sisson, Nagel, and Collins earned All-America honors as a result of their top-40 finishes in the final race. Rounding out fourth and fifth for Providence were Catarina Rocha '17 and Grace Thek '14, who placed 62nd and 76th respectively. The final Friar to finish was Molly Keating '16, who placed 224th. "The women were brilliant," remarked Treacy, who captured his second national title in 30 years as Providence head coach. Treacy was also honored as National Coach of the year, his second time receiving such an honor, and his first since the national championship season of 1995. In regards to the national race, Nagel said, "It was a great win today for Ray and the team. We really wanted to bring it home and we did."

The championship was the ultimate

prize for a team that had already won a Big East Championship, and a team that won seven of nine races that they competed in this year. For Sisson, it was a career year, as she captured not only all-Big East and All-America honors, but also was recognized as the individual Big East champion and runner-up in the Northeast region. While Providence loses Sisson, Nagel, and Thek next year, Collins, Rocha, Keating, and many others form a strong core for Treacy's squad to bring back another national title.

On the Men's side, Shane Quinn '15 paced the Friars at the national race, finishing 42nd and helping lead Providence to the 16th spot in the country. Benjamin Connor '15 followed Quinn closely, finishing 44th in the country. Rounding out the scoring for the Friars were Julian Saad '14, Harvey Dixon '16, and Brian Doyle '15, who finished 70th, 164th, and 173rd, respectively. This was an excellent finish to an exceptional season for Coach Treacy's men who were able to capture fourth in the Northeast region, runner-ups at the Big East championship, and were also able to win three out of the nine races that they competed in this season. Quinn captured substantial individual honors as well, achieving all-Northeast honors as well as all-Big East recognition. Connor, Saad, and Doyle joined Quinn on the all-Big East team, with Doyle being the top finisher for the Friars at the Big East championship. With almost every major contributor returning for the Friars, they will undoubtedly be very strong heading into the fall of 2014.

The third team to represent the school in the NCAA Tournament was the Men's Soccer Team. After a disappointing 2012 campaign, the Friars headed into 2013 with momentum after ending last year with an upset victory over nationally ranked Connecticut. The end of 2012 helped spark a seven game undefeated streak for Providence, and all of the Friars' losses, save one, were to NCAA tournament teams this

year. Come Big East Tournament time, Providence rode back-to-back victories over Creighton into a showdown with highly-ranked Georgetown. Having lost a 1-0 heartbreaker to the Hoyas earlier in the year, the Friars came out motivated, and pushed the game all the way into penalty kicks. After going blow for blow with the Hoyas, goalie Keasel Broome '14 made the game-ending save to push the Friars into the Big East final versus Marquette, another nationally ranked opponent. While the Friars fell 3-2 in that game, their late season run earned them an NCAA tournament berth, and a trip to UPenn to play a preliminary round match. After a Wilder Arboleda '14 goal tied the game at one, Broome's presence in penalties once again lifted Providence to the upset victory, and a trip to fifth-ranked Maryland. Despite falling 3-1 to the Terrapins, the Friars exceeded expectations and were able to achieve a smattering of individual honors as well. Julian Gressel '17, the Friars' top offensive weapon, earned both all-Big East rookie honors and second team all-Big East honors. All-Big East honorable mentions included defenseman Brandon Adler '15 and midfielder Phil Towler '15, who notched the only goal in the tournament loss to Maryland. With Gressel, Towler, Adler, and other important contributors returning, Providence looks to be a threat again in the Big East.

The Women's Soccer Team finished the year with a 6-9-3 overall record, including Big East victories over Xavier, Seton Hall, and DePaul. Pacing the squad offensively were Lauren Elia '16 and Catherine Zimmerman '16, the latter of whom earned all-Big East honors for her performance. Elia and Zimmerman combined for 10 goals and 14 assists on the year, leading a potent offensive attack. Kerry Ann O'Connor '14 anchored the defense, and a combination of Kristyn Shea '17, Megan Sweeney '16, and Jessica Goudreault '15 held down the goal position for the Friars. Almost every important contributor returns next year

for Providence, including defensemen Allison Walton '15 and forward Kathryn Hiller '16, who added five goals this season. The Friars will look to build off this season and get to the top of the Big East standings next season.

Another vastly improved team was Coach Margot Royer Johnson's Women's Volleyball Team. After winning just one game in the fall of 2012, the Friars improved to 12-20, including a 7-6 mark at home. With no players graduating until 2015, Providence will look to be even better next year. Michelle Cruz '17 and Kayla Fitzgerald '17 were both named to the all-Big East rookie team, and will hope to remain important contributors for next year. Other returning players will be Lindsay Witt '16 and Jordan Wiesler, and captains Mackenzie Ziegler '15 and Annie Russian '15 who will also be crucial.

Finally, the Field Hockey Team narrowly missed a Big East Tournament berth, finishing fifth in conference, and finishing 8-10 overall. The Friars were still able to notch impressive victories on the season, including an upset of nationally ranked Northwestern, a Big East victory over Villanova, and a convincing 5-0 victory over crosstown rival Brown. Caitlin Malone '14 earned all-Big East honors for her performance from the midfield position, and was also named to the all-Northeast region second team. Joining her on all-Northeast was offensive weapon Daniella Bernasconi '15, who led the Friars in almost every offensive category, including goals and total points. With Bernasconi leading a strong returning core, an NCAA bid is not out of the question next year for Providence.

As an exciting fall comes to an end, there is a lot to marvel about in Friartown. With all these teams returning important players for next season, here's hoping that 2014 is just as successful as 2013 turned out to be.