

# THE COWL



## Conversation is Key at PC

by Gabriella Pisano '18  
News Staff

### COMMUNITY

Serious conversations about any topic can be difficult, but talking about problems is a step toward solving them. The Community Conversation of Institutional Diversity took place Wednesday, September 16, in '64 Hall. All members of the Providence College community were invited to attend.

Tierra Marshall, assistant director for the office of institutional diversity and planner of this event said, "The stated purpose of the event was to share progress and challenges toward creating a hospitable campus, garner insight from various campus constituencies regarding needs and concerns, and foster a commitment to collaboration in creating a deeper sense of inclusion on campus."

The event opened with Father Brian Shanley, O.P. '80 and Dean Rafael Zapata discussing PC's progress and challenges with regards to fostering deeper inclusion on campus. In this discussion statistics regarding PC's diversity were shared. From 2005 to 2015 the number of PC's multicultural undergraduate students "essentially doubled" from 8 percent to 17 percent. The efforts to increase diversity and inclusion on the PC campus are ongoing.

In the opening of the event, Fr. Shanley told the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman found in chapter four of the Gospel of John. This story exemplifies Jesus' mission of inclusion by focusing on his welcoming nature and the overcoming of barriers. Fr. Shanley went on to say, "Our work of inclusion here is in the Gospel spirit."

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### A&E

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### News

PC celebrates in anticipation of its 2017 centennial.

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How accurate are stereotypes about our generation?

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## Off-Campus Students Express Concern

*Recent Break-ins Becoming More Prevelant in the Local Neighborhood*

by Zak Harvey '16  
News Staff

OFF CAMPUS

Broken windows, stolen cars, and missing laptops are starting to become routine on the off-campus landscape of Providence College. The break-ins are becoming more prevelant and are no longer contained to one specific area of the off-campus neighborhood. In the past two weeks, the streets surrounding campus have been plagued with break-in after break-in.

Despite what was previously thought, the evidence is showing that locking your windows and doors and putting your shades down are no longer sufficient means of protection. The perpetrators of these crimes are not seasoned criminals, but rather desperate juveniles looking for something they can grab quickly and then disappear.

Christian Hillman '16 shared his story of waking up to an arm coming through the slot in his window next to his air conditioning unit. Hillman explains what happened that morning, "At 6 a.m. on Sept. 11, I woke up and was not able to fall back asleep. As I was lying in bed trying to fall asleep I heard a noise coming from my bedroom window. I looked over at it and could see the outline of a person through the blinds."

Luckily, however, Hillman thought quickly and was able to defend himself. Hillman goes on to say, "I slowly and quietly got out of bed and the first thing I did was grab my 48-degree wedge golf club out of my golf bag. I then went to the side of the window, as he was still [pulling] out the cardboard. As soon as I saw his arms come in my window in an



Eaton Street looks peaceful on a quiet afternoon, but residents know that this is not always the case.

attempt to climb in, I hit him with my club."

The juvenile quickly ran away, and Hillman in turn called 911 and reported the incident to the College's security. The Providence City Police did not follow up on the incident.

A second incident that took place on Pinehurst occurred at the home of Jenna Winn '16. Coincidentally the break-in at 88 Pinehurst was on the same morning as Hillman's. Winn explained that all of the windows and doors were locked in her house and that the shades were down.

When asked how the individual broke in, she answered that she suspects he or she could have entered through the basement entrance outside the house. The thief stole Winn's laptop off her kitchen counter as well as a set of speakers belonging to her roommate. Winn, like Hillman, reported her incident to Providence City Police.

An interesting piece of information that Winn came across throughout this process was that the juvenile suspected of perpetrating most of the crimes in the PC neighborhood may be a young male on a yellow bike. This information was confirmed by city police when Winn made her police report.

A third incident at PC happened to Billy O'Brien '17, who lives on Pembroke Avenue. The problem occurred last weekend in the early morning hours—at approximately 4 a.m. O'Brien said, "A first floor window was broken and entered [by the perpetrators]...[they] grabbed car keys and an Xbox, left through the backdoor, and drove off in the car."

It is important to note that the car was found by authorities in an abandoned warehouse. O'Brien goes on to highlight an equally important issue facing students that are living off-campus. He says, "But

break-ins aren't the only issue. The off-campus neighborhoods have a party reputation, which attracts a lot people who are not PC students. Crowds can get dangerously large on Friday and Saturday nights, and it becomes impossible to control what goes on."

"We're only a month in, and we've already seen a handful of fights, thefts," said O'Brien. "And it's a fine line, telling people who aren't students that they can't come in, without having them perceive any disrespect. No one likes to be told they can't come in, but at the same time you can't just let everyone in without things getting out of hand."

Major Jack Leyden, executive director of safety and security, stressed the importance of vigilance and to call police when situations seem dangerous. When asked about the Security Office's relationship with the 02908 Club—the predominant off-campus student housing provider—the Major responded that the relationship is "excellent with Bob McCann."

Major Leyden said, "In the past few years I have seen a huge improvement in the actual structure of the houses off-campus. These improvements make the structures much easier to secure." The structure of any house is as good as another, but it is still incredibly important to take the necessary precautions to make sure the houses are safe.

When these precautions fail and the house is broken into, it is important to report the break-in and to call 911. The College is taking these matters seriously and a new Director of Off-Campus Relations will be hired at some point during this academic year.

## Rolling Through the Highs and Lows of Life

*Oller Inspires PC Students to Overcome All Obstacles with a Positive Attitude*

by Sabrina Guilbeault '18  
News Asst. Editor

ON CAMPUS

On Thursday, September 17, '64 Hall was filled as Providence College students listened to Francisco "Cisco" Oller '16 deliver his inspiring speech and life story.

Oller has been giving speeches since his freshman year at Providence College after arriving from Puerto Rico, where he was born and raised. "You are in for an amazing, inspiring speech," said Jennifer



Oller delivers his speech in '64 hall.

Rivera from the Office of Academic Services (OAS), who introduced Oller to the crowd. "His goal is to be successful in everything he does, and does not let his physical disabilities stop him from doing anything."

Right off the bat Oller inspired audience members, as he got out of his chair and, with help from two friends, walked over to the podium on stage to deliver his speech. He thanked God, Student Congress, Residence Life, OAS, and his mom, which resulted in a round of applause from the audience.

"When referring to people such as myself the common words are disabled or handicapped," said Oller. "While labels like this do not personally offend me, these labels don't get it quite right." Oller explained he does not see himself as a broken down computer, but as something sleek, such as a new, state of the art MacBook Pro.

He explained that his disability was a challenge early on in life. "When I was young, I was bullied for such insignificant things," said Oller. "I truly wanted to be like everyone else and I was afraid I was a burden to my friends."

However, Oller has overcome these fears. "I take pride in my uniqueness, because if you take pride in your imperfections, others will do the same," he said. He went on to explain that the word disabled implies there are things

most people can do that he cannot, but that there are in fact a lot of things that he can do.

Oller was born with the genetic disease Pelizaeus-Merzbacher (PMB). According to Oller, PMB affects his ability to walk, even though he has the mildest case known in the world. "Doctors refer to me as a freak and too good to be true," said Oller.

Oller explained that volunteering in high school at a Special Olympics event was inspirational and one of the most transformative events in his life. "They were so happy that they had accomplished something," stated Oller. "Together, we can create even greater possibilities than on our own."

He went on to explain that we should not feel sorry for disabled people, but be inspired by them. "They have the courage to adapt to a world unfavorable to them," he said. "I've chosen to persevere."

When addressing the audience, Oller was clear that we all have struggles in our lives, and that we should not let it stop us from doing anything. "How many times do you miss the bigger picture, and focus on how your life could be better?" he asked. "I love my life, all the good and bad."

He did explain that his biggest fear growing up was wondering whether he had been a mistake of God. Oller explained that he and his family sought

comfort in answers from their Catholic faith. "God does not give us challenges that we can't handle," Oller said. "Many others have similar and even greater challenges than my own."

Oller explained that his biggest challenge so far in life was coming to PC from Puerto Rico. He was afraid he would not be accepted for who he was, but soon realized we all have challenges and that he could never give up on himself.

"In winter, my life is literally a roller coaster," said Oller. With the campus on a hill, in the winter months he often slides instead of rolls. "We need struggle to appreciate all the beauty in life. We need to cry so we can smile, and struggle so we can succeed."

"Start everyday with a good smile, a warm heart, and a passion for helping others," said Oller.

"Smile and be courageous because sometimes smiling is courageous," Oller said. He challenged the audience to imagine themselves as the light in a room of darkness, and explained that there is no better way to live than to know someone else is better for having known you.

"Life deals challenges to all of us; and we have no control over them except for our attitude," Oller said. He concluded by describing his love for PC, and told students not to wish the time here away. "I can tell that you I will proudly be a PC Friar for the rest of my life."



# Conversation:

Continued from front page

After the initial remarks, attendees were broken into small groups where a facilitator who lead the discussions and asked questions. A “go-around” method was used, allowing everyone an equal opportunity to speak without interruption. The questions were meant to allow people to share their needs, hopes, and concerns for diversity and inclusion at PC. Everyone was given the opportunity to share their thoughts and experiences regarding these issues.

One of the questions asked at the small table settings was, “What is most important for fostering inclusion on campus?”

While answers varied, repeated responses were: kindness, respect, and love. Marshall stated, “Fostering inclusion necessitates intentionality...Fostering inclusion requires honesty about our challenges, collaboration in our decision-making, humility when we make mistakes, and the courage to address injustice interpersonally and structurally.”

The event ended with the opportunity to ask Fr. Shanley and Dean Zapata questions, especially about PC’s Strategic Plan for Diversity.

When asked about the success of the event, Dean Ralph Tavares ’01 responded, “It’s tough to gauge the ‘success’ of the program because of the different members of our community that were present and the different experiences that they arrived to the conversation with.”

He continued by saying, “That’s exactly what the event was about, though...to dialogue, continue the conversation, learn from our respective experiences, and begin brainstorming.”

Both Marshall and Tavares stressed that we are all a part of the solution; everyone’s participation is key.

# From Pancakes to Pencils

## Organizational Theory Class Raises Nearly \$3,000 for Kids

by George Copley ’16  
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

How do you turn pancakes into pencils? Just ask a group of seniors and juniors who did just that on the evening of Sept. 10. Among their peers, chocolate chips, and pancake batter, a group of roughly 15 Providence College students raised almost \$3,000 for the national Kids in Need Foundation. The Foundation provides free school supplies to underprivileged children and their teachers.

Jack Calderini ’16 explained how the project originated from his Organizational Theory course, which is a requirement for all business management majors and is “supervised,” as Calderini puts it, by Tom King. “Tom tries to restructure conventional organization’s settings,” says Calderini. “Instead of your typical classroom setting, we sit in a circle and have an open conversation about whatever the topic of the day is.” This exemplifies an organization that does not have a traditional internal hierarchy because King acts like more of a moderator than a superior.

This sort of mindset leads to horizontal leadership, which Calderini believes occurred within his group for the Kids in Need fundraiser. “Naturally, some people are going to step up and take charge, but because the responsibility of the success of the project was distributed among everyone in the class, everybody had to step up,” he said. “There were no freeloaders.”

There were only three rules for the

project: raise \$5,000 in a week, no alcohol can be involved, and the fundraiser must take place off —campus. Initially, the class was planning on having an event for one of the opening Patriots games, where the game would be projected onto a large screen for those who donate \$5 to watch, but, unfortunately, the event was rained out. With little time left, the class put their heads together and came up with the idea to sell pancakes to students on a Thursday night.

“My housemate Paul Monaco ’16 and I volunteered to host the event at our place, and then others volunteered to bake, to drive, and to drop off the pancakes by foot,” said Calderini. The class spread word of their event by creating fliers, that advertised a student’s phone number to call to order pancakes, and also conducted door-to-door advertising. “It started off chaotic,” elaborated Calderini, “but by the end, we had managed to develop a functioning system through the chaos.”

Chaos appears to be an appropriate word as Calderini mentioned how the two griddles in the kitchen blew out two fuses in their house. “It was weird, the

fridge wouldn’t turn on for, like, two days after that.”

The turbulent, yet functioning system that sprouted from Calderini and his peers’ fundraiser appears to be exactly the type of abstract revelation that Organizational Theory wants to encourage.

Additionally, the class’ reliance on each individual transcends the physical world and enters into the grade book. “We have an individual grade for the project, which is to write a reflection paper, but there is also an organizational grade, which is dependent on your classmates and their turning in of a reflection paper. If only 75 percent of the class turns in their reflection paper on time, then our organizational grade is a 75 percent,” said Calderini.

Although they did not reach the \$5,000 objective, Calderini believes that any contribution helps, and that the wisdom acquired from the experience overrules any doubts. If you are interested in unconventional organizations, fundraising and charity work, as well as a little chaos, consider taking Tom King’s Organizational Theory class.



Students from Organizational Theory run a “pancake shop” for the Kids in Need Foundation.

# Real Prep for the Real World

Liz Brunner Helps PC Students “Prep for Success”

by Meaghan Dodson ’17  
News Co-Editor

ON CAMPUS

Although the students of Providence College pretend not to believe it, the real world does indeed exist beyond the College’s campus. And, while the idea of the “real world” seems daunting, PC’s Center for Career Education is always ready to help students take the first step.

On Saturday, September 19, the College hosted a “Prep for Success: Real World Ready” seminar in ’64 Hall. It was here that Liz Brunner, a former Boston news anchor and founder of Brunner Communications, spoke to 75 PC students about how to excel in their respective fields.

Brunner highlighted key aspects such as image, presence, and networking. She spoke about selling one’s personal brand, and also how important it is to create a “digital image” through social media. She emphasized how everything

from LinkedIn profiles to outfit choices are evaluated by potential employers, so a successful job search is measured by a combination of these factors.

Stacey Moulton, the associate director of the Center for Career Education, agreed with Brunner, stating, “The job search is really about having a genuine interest in people and meeting them.”

The event on Saturday was one chance to do just this, but Moulton added, “If students missed this opportunity, our office is always open for appointments, networking nights, interview prep, and much more.”

The Center for Career Education will be hosting its Fall Career Expo on Wednesday, September 30, and events will take place in the days leading up to the Expo to help prepare students for the event. As always, the Center for Career Education advises students, “Don’t Wait... Slavin 108.”



Students and the Center for Career Education are counting down the days until the Fall Career Expo.

# “Friared Up” Around the Globe

Alumni Celebrate PC Pride Before 2017 Centennial

by Marla Gagne ’18  
News Co-Editor

ON CAMPUS

Providence College alumni gathered from across the country and world last week— from Los Angeles to London to downtown Providence. The occasion? To celebrate being a Friar.

On September 17, 2015, national and international alumni chapters hosted “Friar Days Welcome” receptions, events allowing all alumni, their families, and their friends to reunite, network, and celebrate their past at PC. Host spots included many major cities such as Boston, Atlanta, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Hartford, and more. Aileen Collins ’16, vice president of Student Alumni Association (SAA), said the event is great to “get alums, students, parents, and friends pumped up.” Alumni were able to reconnect with old friends, celebrate their PC legacy, drink, eat, and make new connections and memories.

Although the events were for alumni, SAA did not want to leave the current student body out. To celebrate the current Friars on campus, SAA hosted their own “Welcome Day” at McPhails, giving away free PC items and food for students. SAA also runs the Friar 5K team: this allowed students to sign up for the Friar 5K outside of McPhail’s and then come inside to enjoy some treats. Natalie Wingate ’16, an SAA member, described the night as a “spirit event” and encourages all students to participate in these alumni and student events, which celebrate “Forever a Friar.”

The Friars Welcome event is one of three events leading up to PC’s 2017 Centennial. Using the slogan “Welcome, Cheer, Service,” PC wants to unite and excite the student body, both past and present, before next year’s big

anniversary. Collins said the events are not just about fundraising, but are about “celebrating being a Friar and how great PC is.” The first event was centered on connecting alumni near and far, allowing the growing PC community to be reunited.

The next two events will take place in the spring semester and will be focused on “Cheer” and “Service.” In February 2016, alumni and students will unite to watch a basketball game. Whether in person or on TV, Friars will be able to cheer on their team together and have a fun day. The third event will be in April 2016 and will be a day of service. Named FUSION (Friars United for Service in Our Neighborhood), PC clubs, students, and alumni will work together in a community project. SAA has not yet determined the exact project, but is looking into volunteer work that reaches out to the community. Wingate said these events are great because they “bring students together” and allow them to celebrate their athletics or work together in service. Students and alumni should be on the lookout for more information to come in the next few months.



SAA’s “Welcome, Cheer, and Service” campaign unites students and alumni.







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## Create Connections

### Turn to Campus Ministry and Christ for Support

by **Brianna Abbott '17**  
Opinion Staff

SUPPORT

As the ultimate struggle of navigating freshman year of college is tackled by 1,030 Providence College students, around 100 of those freshmen decided to spend the weekend of Sept. 18-20 at either Camp Aldersgate or the Toah Nipi Retreat Center for the 2015 Connections Retreat. I found myself as one of the leaders, and this opportunity gave me a birds-eye view of the terrifying transition that is the first year of college. And freshman year *is* terrifying. And sometimes lonely. But solace, especially at PC, can be found in every crevice of campus, especially in Campus Ministry and in Christ.

Yes, you can still be an active member and accepted into Campus Ministry even if you did not participate in FaithWorks. You can have a group of friends even if you did not do Urban Action. You can still connect without going on the Connections Retreat. All of the freshmen lucky enough to find themselves in one of those activities did so because they wanted to do service, make friends, and have fun. And there's still plenty of time to do all of those things, no matter when you start.

You could start right now, if you really wanted to. I guarantee that if you wandered down to the basement of the chapel, there would be at least 10



students sitting down there more than happy to get to know you. There are at least 20 coordinators that would be ecstatic to get an email from you. There is an entire campus ministry staff that would want to hear your story. There is one God waiting wherever you are for you to take comfort in Him.

"Youth Ministry helped lead me to some of my closest friends. You quickly bond and learn to cooperate with the other volunteers, and it becomes a close-knit family," said Michelle Desjardins '17.

If bonding with kids on your floor

or your classes hasn't exactly worked out, clubs and volunteering are the best way to get to know people on a more personal level and make lasting friends. Clubs like Children's Outreach, STOP Hunger, Youth Education, and countless others in Campus Ministry are always looking for volunteers and friends. And yes, throwing out those club names was a shameless plug.

"There's a lot of varied opportunities, whether it's a weekly service site or a social event. There are also a lot of people, like Kelly Hughes, that are a good resource to talk to," said Sophia

Fallon '17.

The Campus Ministry staff, such as Kelly Hughes '11 or Bob Pfunder '09, are there because they want to interact with students and hear their stories, so reach out to them if you need someone to talk to, which I know you do if you're a first semester freshman. Even if you're a second semester senior, you can still benefit from the friendly ear that the staff offers.

Connections aren't just made in the basement of the chapel; they're made above as well. It's incredibly hard not to feel a sense of the Friar Family's community when you are reciting the Our Father with 100 other students during mass, or when listening to a homily that seems to be pointed directly at you. It makes you realize that everyone around you is going through something similar.

The first semester of college is the first time you leave the comfort of your parents, your friends at home, and your home life, and that can be a startling experience. But you are not alone. You are part of a community. You are part of the Friar Family. And the Friar Family is so excited to get to know you.

To blatantly steal the wise words of Albus Dumbledore: "Help will always be given at [Campus Ministry] to those who ask for it."

## Reconsider Your Ethical Convictions

### The Film *Black Mass* Exposes the Dangers of Consequentialism

by **Matthew Tinsley '16**  
Opinion Staff

ETHICS

Have you seen *Black Mass*, the new biopic on the infamous Boston crime lord, James "Whitey" Bulger? If you haven't, you may not want to read this article just yet, as it contains spoilers and plot information. John Connolly's character highlights the problems with consequentialism as a philosophical method of approaching virtue ethics.

Scott Cooper's *Black Mass* is based off Dick Lehr and Gerard O'Neill's book, *Black Mass: The True Story of an Unholy Alliance Between the FBI and the Irish Mob*. The film unpacks the story of how Bulger became an informant for the FBI in the 1980s through his childhood friend, agent Connolly. Connolly, who investigates organized crime in South Boston, approaches the Irish-American mob "kingpin" with an idea. In exchange for the criminal immunity of Whitey and his Winter Hill gang, Bulger must cooperate with the FBI in arresting the leaders of the Angiulo family, an Italian-American mafia family stationed in the North End of Boston.

Thus, Bulger's criminal agenda, which includes racketeering, money laundering, violence, drug dealing, and more, is tolerated by the FBI so long as Bulger can provide useful information about the Angiulo family. At one point in the film, Connolly explains to another FBI agent who is concerned by this strategy, "We are telling one little white lie to reveal the bigger truth."

As I reflected on the film, I thought back to a discussion in my previous philosophy class on virtue ethics, namely about the distinction of deontology from consequentialism. When evaluating the ethicality of one's actions, a deontologist will zero in on the action itself, regardless of its effects or consequences. The deontologist is concerned with the moral character, or the intentions, of the agent who is acting. In contrast to this, a consequentialist might say, "The ends justify the means." Consequentialism judges how good or bad an action is based on the results it yields; the ethical quality of the action is derived from its consequences.

What's more, a consequentialist seeks to maximize

goodness. For example, if you are faced with a shortage of food, it is good to let 99 people starve so that 100 other people can eat, since the greater good is saving 100 people.

Let us now consider how Connolly, who seems to subscribe to a consequentialist approach to virtue ethics, highlights the problems with such thinking. At the time of Connolly's agreement with Bulger, the Angiulo family of the North End was more powerful than Bulger's bunch of Irish thugs. Bulger will provide the FBI with photographs of the Angiulos and the location of their headquarters only if Winter Hill is immune to criminal penalties. Agent Connolly argues that an alliance with Bulger is good in that it brings down the more powerful criminal family.

The problem with a consequentialist approach here is that permitting the evil of Bulger's crimes neglects the autonomy and dignity of other innocent victims. As the film recounts, Bulger is now allowed to "introduce 'dope' to kids in South Boston," terrorize neighborhoods with frequent murders, and charge fees to innocent business owners. Indeed, Bulger is helping bring down a more powerful criminal organization, but at the cost of the dignity of innocent people. This line of thinking can creep its way into other moral issues and pervert the way we approach them (i.e. aborting a baby saves a mother from poverty, etc.). I submit that allowing some evil makes it easier to permit more. By the end of the film, Bulger's criminal partners recall how their boss went from "a small-time player to a kingpin." It is the nature of evil to grow and consume us; Connolly's ultimate downfall stems from his early decision to overlook Whitey's crimes. Perhaps this scenario will encourage us to rethink our ethical convictions.



# The Millennial Misunderstanding

## Media Paints an Unflattering and Unfair Picture of Millennials

by Carolyn Walsh '17  
Asst. Opinion Editor

SOCIETY

Every generation has its narrative. The Greatest Generation braved the deprivation of the Great Depression and selflessly fought the atrocities of World War II. The Baby Boomers emerged from a cookie-cutter, consumer culture to drive a number of social revolutions; such as the Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War protest movement. Generation X saw the rise of the cynical, MTV-watching, video-game playing, Walkman-listening loner. So what is the generational narrative for millennials, those of us born between the 1980s and the 2000s? A simple Google search will show it is not a very flattering one.

There have been a multitude of published “think pieces” on the millennial identity, and it turns out we are not as fun nor are we as cool as we might hope. The word “millennial” has now become roughly translatable to mean the large grouping of young, hypersensitive, narcissistic, lazy, entitled, humorless, and coddled individuals who worship in the cult of the politically correct.

However, at the risk of sounding like an oversensitive millennial, the excessive negative stereotyping of our generation is simply not fair nor does it hold a lot of truth. To paint a group of diverse individuals with a wide, often sensationalist brush is to ignore the validity of the unique challenges that young people face in today’s continuously changing world. Furthermore, the constant stream of millennial bashing largely spewed forth by people of older generations is more reflective of a misunderstanding of our generation’s values than it is indicative of any fatal flaws of millennials.

*The Atlantic’s* “The Coddling of the American Mind” is just one example of these trendy millennial shaming articles. In *The Atlantic* piece, authors Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt specifically



take aim at the use of “trigger warnings” in college classrooms and say that they are not only harmful to the intellectual freedom of higher education, but are also harmful to the mental health of college students.

A trigger warning is essentially a brief and non-descript alert about any potentially distressing material. It is the fear of both authors that the inclusion of trigger warnings on class syllabi will only feed into a larger problem of censorship on

college campuses and will also only help to foster students’ fear and inability to deal with the “real world.” Trigger warnings, in their view, reflect a deeper problem within the young generation: our supposed overzealous desire to protect ourselves (and others) from anything that could potentially offend or disturb us, since we find reality itself to be too “triggering.”

While the article certainly makes some valid points, the authors’ interpretation of trigger warnings as a reason to diagnose millennials with a case of terminal oversensitive political correctness is simply misguided. In the case of trigger warnings, the millennial intent behind them is not one of pure self-coddling, but rather a way in which young college students can better manage and appropriate their responses to certain material and help foster healthier discussions on sensitive topics. They are a representation of our shared generational values of equality and respect for diversity. There exists no young millennial “boogey man” on college campuses who is hell bent on getting rid of all trace of controversial or uncomfortable ideas and subsequently destroying the very foundation of critical thought as *The Atlantic* article might lead you to believe. It may be possible that the authors of the many articles taking aim at those of us in the younger generation have not seriously taken into consideration the deep meaning of just what it means to be one of us.

We live in an increasingly complicated time with conflict and violence occupying the news cycle, a stagnant economy, and a load of social and environmental problems facing us in our future. We are also a group of complicated individuals, as millennials are by far the most racially and ethnically diverse generation in history. Through all of this, we are simply trying our best to make something of our lives and of the world, just like every previous generation before us.

So, what is the matter with kids today? Not very much, but thanks for asking.

# Figure Out the Facts: Feminism Explained

## Refusing to Identify as Feminist Perpetuates Inequality

by Edward Walrod '16  
Opinion Staff

CIVIL RIGHTS

I am not sure when it happened. It was more of a slow descent into madness rather than an overnight phenomenon. Regardless, the bashing of feminism and its association to less than savory words such as “radicals” must end. The simple truth is that if you truly believe in justice and the equality of genders you are by definition a feminist.

Despite three (arguably four) waves of feminism, women make 75 cents on the dollar when compared to a man. Despite making up a slight majority in the U.S. population women occupy only about 14.6 percent of CEO positions and make up only 8.1 percent of the top income earners. This is not because there is a lack of talented women in the workforce (and in cases of female shortage, it is often caused by barriers to entry for women in that respective field). Rather, it is the blatant disenfranchisement of women in the U.S. If these statistics do not

scream the need for change, I do not know what does.

Despite these hard facts, there continues to be several disturbing (and quite frankly idiotic) movements whose ideology is the continued disenfranchisement or the stereotyping of feminism. Movements such as the infamous menisim movement, the “Women Against Feminism Movement,” and #Idontneedfeminism have gained a disgustingly large number of followers on social media, and the majority of their members tend to be drawn from the millennial generation. It is a sad reality that many in our own generation, which claims to be the most progressive in decades, is also part of the problem.

Men do not need their own rights movement. We do not live in a Amazonian society where a giant femputer kills all men (Futurama reference). The creation of a rights or pride movement is out of necessity when a disenfranchised group has for so long failed to consolidate and fight for their rights without the fear of violence or rejection. So be glad that “menisim” is not necessary because

that would imply (falsely) a long systematic oppression of men.

The nuanced philosophies that make up each wave/branch of feminism have their differences. Yet, one thing remains the same across the board, and that is that every single strain of feminism promotes the absolute equality of all genders. Nowhere (AND GUYS I REALLY DO MEAN NOWHERE) does it promote anything that is remotely anti-men. Such radical stereotypes are held by nearly none and those who do hold them are not actual feminists. Just as we cannot label all Christians as bigots, Muslims as terrorists, or Asians as math whizzes (exhibit A: Ed), we cannot in good conscience label feminism as a subversive, oppressive, or one-sided movement.

The fact is that we all need feminism. As I mentioned before, there are indeed groups of women on social media that claim to be anti-feminist. Many of them say that the movement makes them victims. What they do not realize is that their ability not to remain victims and their ability to say such ill-informed things are only possible because of the previous

work feminists have done beforehand. When older people say that millennials are unappreciative of sacrifices made by previous generations, these groups seek to prove them right.

Men and non-binary genders need feminism. It is what prevents society from tipping to the opposite extreme of history wherein females hold some sort of advantage over men. This same movement helps to dispel the harmful stereotypes associated with the idea of “masculinity” and balance its more unsavory aspects.

This is not to say everyone needs to go out and recklessly spread the idea. Passive understanding and application as well as active understanding and application are equally valid.

However, if you refuse to identify with feminism because you believe that it has been radicalized, you need to realize that you perpetuate the inequality that marginalized groups experience. So I want to make it clear: IF YOU ARE NOT A FEMINIST, YOU ARE A JERK.

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The Treasures of Pope Francis' Visit to the U.S.

by Kathleen McGinty '16

Editor-in-Chief

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Scrolling through this week's headlines of major media outlets, you are sure to find almost entire sections of newspapers dedicated to coverage of Pope Francis' arrival in the U.S. this past Tuesday, September 22. In the *New York Times*, an article titled "Pope Francis' U.S. Visit Could Benefit Both Left and Right" ran this past Monday; on CNN's website, "Amid Praise, Pope Francis Faces Criticism from Left and Right"; and in *The Wall Street Journal*, "The Politics of Pope Francis."

While Pope Francis' visit to the U.S. certainly has political ramifications, as President Obama welcomed him at the White House yesterday and he is slated to speak in front of a joint meeting of Congress today, it is important for us not to forget the nonpolitical implications of his visit as well. Perhaps even more importantly, regardless of our political or religious affiliation, we should hear what Pope Francis has to say during his visit and use it as a launching point for initiating dialogue.

I had the opportunity to attend a papal audience in St. Peter's Square this past March while studying abroad in Rome, and this notion of dialogue was integral to the Pope's moral teaching on Luke's Gospel during our audience with him. In his commentary on the Gospel, Pope Francis emphasized the need for the word of elders to be treasured so that one can understand how to love, express

concern for others, and engage in fruitful dialogue among generations.

Thus, whether we agree or disagree with Pope Francis' stance on marriage, abortion, climate change, immigration, or economic inequality, we should view the commentary he offers during his U.S. visit as a treasure, a piece of wisdom to mull over, and even an invitation to enter into dialogue with others about these issues.

*The Cowl* had the opportunity to send three writers to attend the Canonization Mass of Junipero Serra yesterday, Sept. 23, in Washington, D.C. Seminarian students are making a trip to D.C. as well; Dr. Sandra Keating, associate professor of theology and director of the Development of Western Civilization program, will be attending an interfaith meeting with the Pope at the 9/11 museum in New York City, and Campus Ministry will be taking students to Philadelphia this coming weekend. With members of our Providence College community having already traveled to or traveling to D.C. and Philadelphia to see Pope Francis, the College is presented with a prime opportunity to accept this invitation and begin to engage in conversation.

Editor's Desk

TANGENTS & TIRADES

Thankful for PC's Transformation

Have you ever heard the expression "everything can change in the blink of an eye?" Well, I don't know how much can change that quickly, but I do know how much has changed at Providence College over the course of three months. While students were enjoying their summer vacation, PC was making some drastic updates to campus. At first I only noticed the major alterations. I mean it's pretty hard to miss the giant hole in the earth in front of Schneider Arena. Of course there's the absence of an entire soccer field as well. What about the tennis courts? They vanished overnight and are now going on top of the seemingly magically conjured parking garage. This is just like when the curtain—or actually the construction cloth—fell from the square shaped area outside of the bookstore and the Santander bank materialized behind it. Besides these construction zone hotspots, there are other subtle changes hidden around campus. There are suddenly these futuristic looking soda machines. The pictures of possible soda selections are larger than my head. Not to mention the high-tech charging stations that I found extremely convenient the other day when I was at the dreaded four percent—also known as the percent your iPhone really dies at. Last but not least, I noticed the changed tables in McPhail's. I'm not really sure how I feel about them. In all honesty, I find high tables intimidating, but I'm sure tall people love them. Anyways, I just want to say thanks to those who made these changes happen! You aren't going unnoticed.

-McKenzie Tavella '18

The Mad Dash for Eaton Street Homes

As a sophomore, thinking about the years ahead can be daunting. From an increasing course load and the time commitment of extra-curricular activities, to the pressure of finding internships and planning ahead for study abroad, it is often best to take everything one day at a time. Yet in the past few weeks of school, the conversations of many sophomores regarding senior year housing have been impossible to ignore. In a matter of weeks, so many students have formed groups, found apartments, and finalized contracts, all in the frenzied efforts to lay their claims to off-campus properties two years from now. Isn't this mad dash for off-campus real estate a little preemptive for sophomores? Two years is a long time! A lot can happen in two years; just looking back at freshman year alone, I don't think anyone can deny how easily things can change. Not to say that planning for the future is a bad thing, but it may be possible that we are taking things a little too far in terms of deciding, two years ahead of time, where and with whom to live senior year. Considering the fact that most sophomores do not even know where they'll be living junior year, let alone the fact that friend groups (and people) can change, I think sophomores may be rushing the process of deciding on senior year housing when there may be other more immediate concerns they could be focusing on, like contemplating different career paths or deciding which cereal to eat at Ray.

-Sarah Kelley '18

The FixIt System is Broken

It took nearly a month (as well as a phone call from my roommate's father, a Providence College alum) for FixIt to finally show up and repair the leaky sink in our apartment. Although the question of whether or not I would be greeted by a pool of water on my kitchen floor every morning certainly kept me on my toes, I am relieved to finally be rid of sopping socks. When FixIt did not respond to our email request, we called Residence Life (twice) and were told both times that FixIt was "very busy." Well, let me tell you, Res. Life, the sink in my apartment was also very busy...soaking my kitchen cabinet and floor with water! If you are reading this and either work for FixIt or Res. Life, thank you so much for finally sending someone to repair our sink. Even if you did so a whole month and a whole lot of water later. All I ask is that in between fixing various things around campus, you also take some time to fix your system. First of all, why doesn't FixIt have its own number? Sending a measly email to the service is fine when you have a dead light bulb, but certainly doesn't suffice when you have water spilling onto your floor. Furthermore, why isn't a sink leak a priority? I understand move-in is a busy time for FixIt, but one would think that a leaking sink would be at the top of their to-do list. All that I have left to say is: FixIt, you are lucky you came when you did. I was starting to think I might just "slip and fall" in a puddle of water on my floor or "inhale dangerous mold." In either case, I bet I could have made a pretty penny in a lawsuit!

-Jacquelyn Kelley '17

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**PC ROME PROGRAM**

**TUE SEP 29 @ 5:30PM | SLAVIN FISHBOWL**

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

**THU OCT 1 @ 4PM | SLAVIN FISHBOWL**

**IES INTERNSHIPS**

**THU OCT 1 @ 5:30PM | SLAVIN LL19**

**PEACE CORPS**

**FRI OCT 2 @ 3PM | RUANE 205**

**FR. SMITH FELLOWSHIPS**

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**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH, 4PM**

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# PHOTOGRAPHY

The Cowl 11

September 24, 2015



JESSICA ARTIGLIERE '17/ THE COWL



KRISTINA HO '18/ THE COWL



JESSICA ARTIGLIERE '17/ THE COWL

**TOP LEFT:** Students gather in McPhail's for free food, games, and Monday Night Football!

**ABOVE:** Last Thursday, Providence College Galleries hosted the Public Reception for Praesepe by why be/e collective. Artists Sara Young and Tyler Budge were present. See the show in the Reilly Gallery now until Oct. 10.

**LEFT:** Students decorate their own white boards at Things for Thursday hosted by BOP.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Students were invited to learn about Campus Ministry's Peer Ministry program at their Welcome Social on Tuesday.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Students show off their muscles and compete for their dorms in the Hall Olympics Tug of War!



ANDREW BUTLER '16/ THE COWL



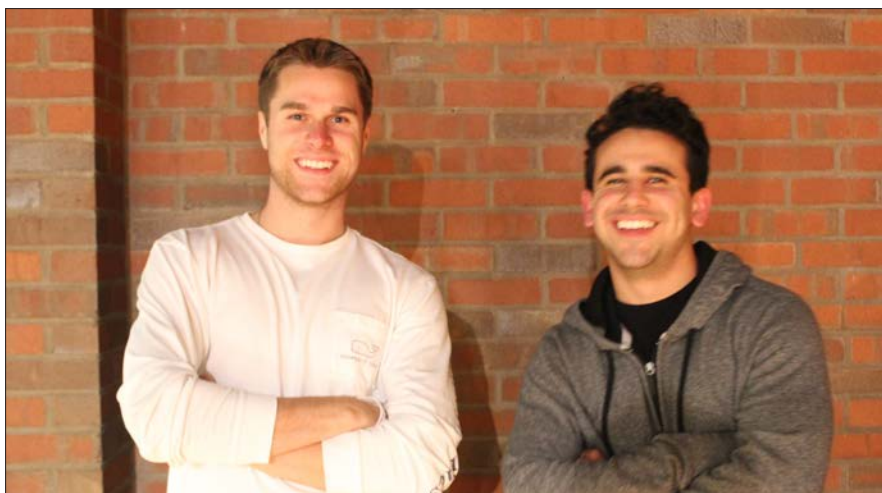
KRISTINA HO '18/ THE COWL





# PROVING PHOTOGRAPHY

***If you could be anyone for a day,  
who would it be?***



**"Tom Brady and Alex Ovechkin."**  
Lou Dinkel '17 and Jad Touma '17



**"Aaron Rodgers on game day."**  
Jonathan Ball '17



**"Albert Einstein."**  
Naezeli Acosta '19



**"Lindsey Stirling."**  
Fiona Anonuevo '19



**"Junot Díaz."**  
Dawyn Henriquez '19



**"Abraham Lincoln."**  
Allan Cuttle '18



**"Nick Jonas."**

**- Nick Jonas**

PHOTO COURTESY OF NYPOST.COM

Photos Taken By Kristina Ho '18, Assistant Photo Editor





## Providence's Own Movie Paradise

by Ryan Charland '18  
A&E Staff

LOCAL

Providence movie buffs are never at a loss for a good film. From the IMAX at Providence Place to the historic Avon Cinema on Thayer Street, residents have nothing but options when the weekend comes. But for those who know where to look, the city has one unique venue for both film and food.

Since 1976, Cable Car Cinema & Café on 204 South Main St. has provided a viewing experience unlike any other in the city. If you have not visited Cable Car before, you might mistake it for just another restaurant on South Main Street. Step inside, however, and there is no mistaking the projection booth or myriad of film posters adorning the walls, which include everything from 1960s Italian films to the current indie crazes.

Cable Car is open for breakfast, lunch, and coffee or tea, featuring a small menu centered on a variety of sandwiches. While there are tables both inside and on the sidewalk, the main draw of Cable Car lies behind a door in the back of the restaurant. Cable Car's single theater is best described as "cozy." Unlike the cavernous theaters of Providence Place's Cinema 16, Cable Car's screening room fits far fewer than 100 patrons. What it lacks in seating capacity, it compensates for with character. Traditional movie theater seats fill the front half of the room, while comfy (and very clean) leather couches comprise the rest. Underwater themed paintings cover the walls, a callback to the days of

decorated movie houses that sets this theater apart.

The film lineup at Cable Car makes it unique from other local venues. Featuring a mixture of popular, indie, and foreign movies, most of the selections cannot be seen without making a trip to Boston. Upcoming showings include *Goodnight Mommy* (starting Sept. 25), an Austrian horror film that is gaining attention for being one of the scariest of the year. *Goodnight Mommy* looks to continue the string of excellent horror films as of late, a list that also includes *The Babadook* and *It Follows*.

Also coming soon is the 5th Annual Kickstarter Film Festival. On Thursday, October 15, Cable Car will host two free screenings of the film festival, one at 7 p.m. and one at 9:20 p.m. The festival provides an opportunity to see the excellent 2014 mockumentary *What We Do in the Shadows*, a comedy detailing the life of a family of New Zealand vampires. All of the festival's films were initially funded through the crowdfunding website Kickstarter, which also funded the *Veronica Mars* movie and the revival of *Reading Rainbow*.

For more information on Cable Car Cinema & Café, including upcoming



show times and a subscription to the weekly newsletter, visit <http://www.cablecarcinema.com>. While on the website, be sure to search the list of

posters available for purchase, which includes many of the theater's recent features.

PHOTO COURTESY OF cablecarcinema.com

## A Competition With Community

by Ryan Cox '18  
A&E Staff

TELEVISION

In Las Vegas, a steel tower standing at over seven stories looms over the desert. This is

Mount Midoriyama, the final challenge of the *American Ninja Warrior* (ANW) obstacle course. The show, based on the Japanese show *Sasuke*, quickly became a smash hit in the United States as a different kind of sports

and reality TV show. The ANW course is known for its impossibly difficult obstacles, but history was made this season, which concluded Sept. 14. For the first time in seven seasons, the show crowned a champion; weatherman Geoff Britten and professional rock climber Isaac Caldiero both achieved "total victory" by successfully climbing the final 75-foot rope to the top of Midoriyama in 30 seconds. Although Britten was the first to reach the top, Caldiero finished with a faster overall time, so the trophy and the million dollar prize went to him instead.

Kent Weed, executive producer, spoke to *Entertainment Weekly* on having two contestants complete the course: "I think it only helps the show and it's only going

to bring more viewers. They've done something nobody's done before, but can they do it again? Part of the uniqueness of *American Ninja Warrior* is the minute [contestants] see the courses, they start building them in their backyard. I think that's why we had success this year."

ANW is certainly a unique show. The Japanese original was received warmly by American fans on the now-defunct channel G4, and its adaptation and transition to the U.S. was successful. It offers both viewers and contestants a different experience; it may be an obstacle course, but obstacles such as The Warped Wall, the Cliff Hanger, and the Quintuple Steps push human strength and agility farther each season. While rock

climbers typically have the most success because of their incredible upper-body strength, as seen this season with Caldiero, people from all walks of life take part in trying to conquer the unconquerable. Many train year-round on homemade replicas of the obstacles, and some even quit their day jobs to pursue the challenge.

While the competition is always stiff and the obstacles always intense, ANW offers something else that is not often found on TV: a great spirit of community, especially among the competitors. Many veteran contestants train together and teach rookies strategies to complete the courses. The ANW community is defined by sportsmanship; despite failing the course in Las Vegas or even in the

qualifiers, eliminated contestants traveled to Las Vegas in large numbers to watch Britten and Caldiero finish. These are men and women who these two men defeated to get to the finals, but they rallied around the two finalists and cheered them on up the seven-story climb. Britten and Caldiero also displayed great humility in being the first two finishers out of the thousands that have competed over the seven seasons past. Britten thanked his family for their support, and later remarked, "If I was going to be beat by someone, I'm glad it's Isaac." Caldiero found greater meaning in his victory: "As the first American Ninja Warrior, I want to use this opportunity to inspire the world to find your impossible and conquer it."



PHOTO COURTESY OF thisiskc.com



# Designers Shine at Fashion Week

by Kealy Robertson '16  
A&E Staff

CAMPUS

New York Fashion Week, which takes place in February and September each year, is not only about dictating clothing trends. It is also a place where accessories, shoes, handbags, and beauty trends debut on a prestigious runway. This year, each designer brought his or her best work to the stage in New York and revealed to the world the biggest fashion trends for the spring and summer of 2016.

Diane von Furstenberg, a Belgian-born fashion designer, is most well known for her wrap dress. She stayed true to her original design for the dress when she presented it this Fashion Week to mark the 40th anniversary of the garment's premiere. One of the program notes claimed, "She redefines beauty and paints her own destiny." Von Furstenberg is known for her classical, timeless, and chic fashion statements. The models at New York Fashion Week strutted down the runway with beautiful waves in their hair and flowers tucked behind their ears, a look that von Furstenberg was known for in her youth. As a part of the collection, models wore one-shoulder dresses, mini skirts, and capris paired with blouses. Each look was vibrant because of her use of a range of bright colors and floral designs. Many of the blouses were sheer, a trend that is both elegant and provocative.

Alexander Wang also had a top show at this fall's Fashion Week. Wang's show was bigger than ever; he made a statement far beyond that

of any other designer, almost as if he had something to prove. When asked about his line, Wang said that he had "no concept" behind his designs. His modern collection shone across the runway. It included deconstructed denim, pajama silks, army themed clothing, slip dresses, and one beautiful satin bomber jacket. The collection came together to portray a look that any cool city girl would want to wear. It was the epitome of New York style.

Finally, Victoria Beckham created one of the best shows. She credited her design ideas to influences she had picked up from traveling, both with her family and for work. She said, "I'm a sponge," and it was very evident that her designs were reflective of just that. Although her runway looks incorporated a lot of attitude, they were balanced by carefree designs. Models strode across the stage in above-the-ankle midi lengths, swing dresses, and flat shoes. The designs were completely different from those in her old collections; they are more expensive and old-fashioned than the tight, short designs she has created in the past. The luxury line was light and free, with muted colors such as grey, black, and white. She employed many displaced prints, making the designs vibrant and interesting to the eye. Beckham told the press that the line began when she challenged her own style and pushed herself to get out of her comfort zone.

Ultimately, New York Fashion Week was a success. Designers from across the world came out and showed their talent and creativity. Each line was unique, particular, and held great potential.



PHOTO COURTESY OF nytimes.com

# Let's Rant



PHOTO COURTESY OF vanityfair.com

## This Week: Taylor Swift's Squad Goals

by Kelly Laske '16  
A&E Staff

CELEBRITY

Recently published on Cosmopolitan.com was an article titled "18 T-Swift Photos That Define Squad Goals." As you click through the photos, you are faced with long legs, designer clothing, flawless hair, and super skinny waists—all in exotic places around the world. In one photo, Taylor Swift and her friends are relaxing in Maui, while another shows them strutting the streets of New York City wearing thousands of dollars worth of clothing and accessories. Who would not want to be them?

The group consists of high fashion models Gigi Hadid, Cara Delevingne, Karlie Kloss, and Kendall Jenner, along with Lorde, Jamie King, Selena Gomez, and Ellie Goulding—and that's only naming a few. They are all very young and extremely successful women. While it is often argued that they are good role models for young girls around the world, their squad worries me. A sugarscape.com article puts it perfectly, stating, "20 Times You Wished You Were in Taylor Swift's Squad." That is the problem. We all wish to be just like them. They all have millions of dollars to travel to the most beautiful places in

the world whenever they want. When they go to a store, they can spend thousands of dollars without worry.

Imagine being in your awkward teen years and having to see pictures of these beautiful girls *all the time*. You click on Instagram, and they are all in London. You turn on the television, and they are being covered by *E! News*. Body confidence for young girls is an ongoing issue in today's society, and because these girls are being covered by the media all the time, they are just adding to the problem.

Not everyone wants to be a part of T-Swift's squad. Nicki Minaj openly confessed to the *New York Times* that she wants nothing to do with the group, saying, "I'm not trying to be in the squad. None of my friends are famous, and not because of any other reason than I just like real people who are living real lives, because I'm inspired by them." If Taylor Swift's squad had real girls with diversity, pimples, some cellulite here and there, and t-shirts that cost less than \$200, I would think they were the epitome of girl power. Instead, with every Instagram post and flawless selfie, there comes the depletion of yet another girl's self-confidence.



# 67th Emmy Awards Boasts Historic Night

by Isabella Goldstein '17  
A&E Staff

TELEVISION

If you did not have a chance to catch the Emmy Awards this past Sunday or are looking for some of the night’s best moments, there is no need to worry. Here are all of the hottest highlights from the star-studded event.

Andy Samberg took the stage as first-time host of the 67th Primetime Emmy Awards. A *Saturday Night Live* retiree and *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* star, Samberg, in typical fashion, took to songs, jokes, and video clips throughout the night and received mixed reviews about his performance.

Despite the mediocre hosting, it was a night that made history. Jeffrey Tambor became

the first person to win a lead-actor Emmy for playing a transgender character with his role in *Transparent*, while Viola Davis became the first African-American woman to be named Outstanding Actress in a Drama for her role in *How to Get Away with Murder*. Davis’ win was clearly a monumental event that broke new ground and brought great joy. Quoting Harriet Tubman in her acceptance speech, Davis said, “In my dreams and visions, I seemed to see a line, and on the other side of that line were green fields, and lovely flowers, and beautiful white ladies, who stretched out their arms to me over the line, but I couldn’t reach them no-how.” She later continued, “Let me

tell you something—the only thing that separates women of color from anyone else is opportunity...You cannot win an Emmy for roles that are simply not there.”

To add to the historic night, Uzo Aduba’s win as supporting actress for her role in *Orange is the New Black* was the first time an actress won an Emmy in both comedy and drama categories for the same character. Due to a change in the official Emmy guidelines, *Orange is the New Black* has recently been changed from a comedy to a drama. Aduba won for her role in the show last year, when it was defined as a comedy, as well as this past Sunday, when it was characterized as a drama.

However, the television show that truly stood out was *Game of Thrones*. It brought in a record breaking 12 Emmys, including Best Drama Series, beating out four-time Emmy winner *Mad Men*. Co-creators David Benioff and D.B. Weiss, as well as author George R.R. Martin, who wrote the books on which the show is based, ended the night in Los Angeles with a thank you to HBO for taking a chance and “believing in dragons.”

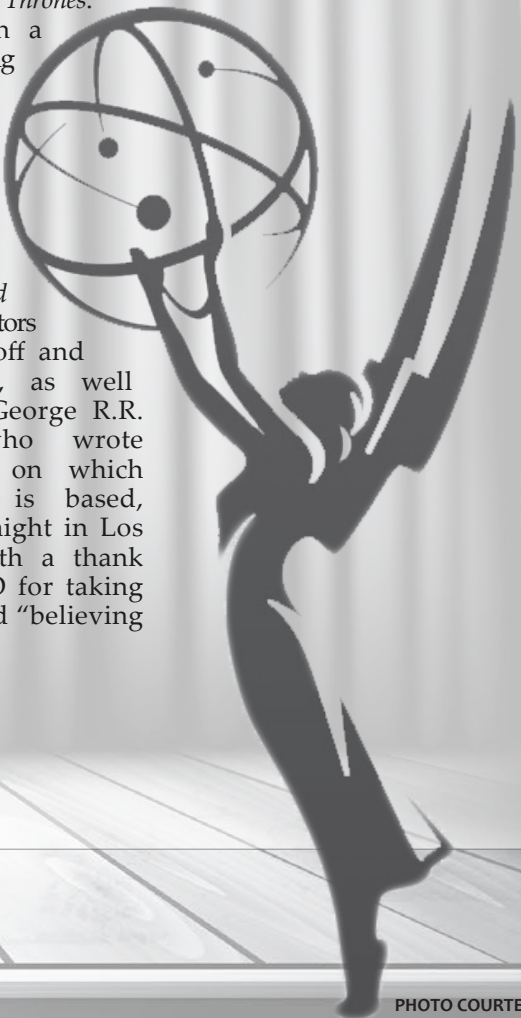


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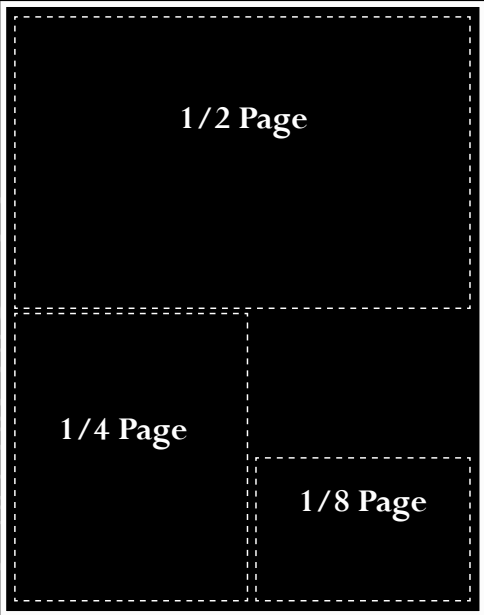
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Fall	Spring
September 3	January 14
September 17	January 28
September 24	February 4
October 1	February 11
October 8	February 25
October 22	March 10
October 29	March 17
November 5	March 31
November 12	April 7
November 19	April 14
December 3	April 21
December 10	April 28

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## *The Children of Señora Esqueleto*

by Jose Martinez '16  
Asst. Portfolio Editor

FICTION

The news came as unexpected because of the volume.

It was delivered on a day like all others on account of the fact that she rules over a land where nothing occurs, where time is irrelevant, and where everything is filled with the opposite of life, unless her existence counts.

"You are to care for a large number of dearly departed, Señora. Approximately 43, if we are to be completely honest."

Caring for souls was nothing new to her. She cared for them all the time. It is one of the duties that comes with her rule. Again, it was unexpected on account of the size. The largest she ever cared for was a family of five who were victims of a flash flood. She not only had to take care of them, she also had to break the good or bad news in regards to their fates and escort them to the proper places. The parents and two daughters were allowed into Heaven while their greedy son was ordered to Hell with absolutely no exceptions. The fact that a family had to be split apart might be seen as depressing by others, but from Señora Esqueleto's perspective, it was, again, just her performing her duties.

"It's a rather large number," she remarked.

"My apologies Señora, but since their case is strange and, admittedly, upsetting, they simply insist on it," he said, "Your duties would not change of course; they would be the same."

As one has never been able to tell what sort of emotions Señora Esqueleto displays on account of the clean and milk white mask implanted on her face, her messenger knew not if she was frustrated in any way with this news.

"Thank you for informing me," she finally said, "I shall see to it."

"Of course Señora, of course," he replied with a bow, "It is always a pleasure."

They arrived some time later in several buses. The one in front was the only one that had its occupants come out, and even then it was only a few that had exited to speak with Esqueleto.

"Hello," one of them said. He was rather young, he could not be older than 30, and even then that would be pushing it. He gave his name as Joaquin and introduced several others of the group, including their bus driver.

"We were wondering where we were," Joaquin began, speaking in a slightly heavy accent, "We were on our way to something rather important, and I think we took the wrong exit. So we thought it'd be best if we tried to get back home

"We'll wait it out then," he replied, "With this many people in tow, someone is bound to come looking for us."

And wait they did. They set up a large encampment close to the buses. What felt like hours passed by as they exchanged stories of their time at home. Some were funny, some were angry, but as a whole, they were calm.

"What were you all on your way to?" Esqueleto asked

down by way of his optimistic attitude, insisting that it was only a matter of time until they were found. Eventually he too folded to the same bouts of anxiety and frustration, choosing to vent these moods by way of sulking in one of the buses or out in the open.

Then one day he proclaims that he and his group were stuck in the land forever, and Esqueleto saw no other option but to confirm this. She told them that this was their fate all along, and until someone more powerful than her says otherwise, they will be stuck here until the end of their days.

"But why not tell us sooner?" he asked.

Esqueleto could only give him a long, hard blank stare, before telling him that he should tell the rest of the group of this news.

"I will, but I just have to know one thing," he began, "One thing, unless of course you do not know yourself, in which case it is completely fine."

"Of course. Please, ask."

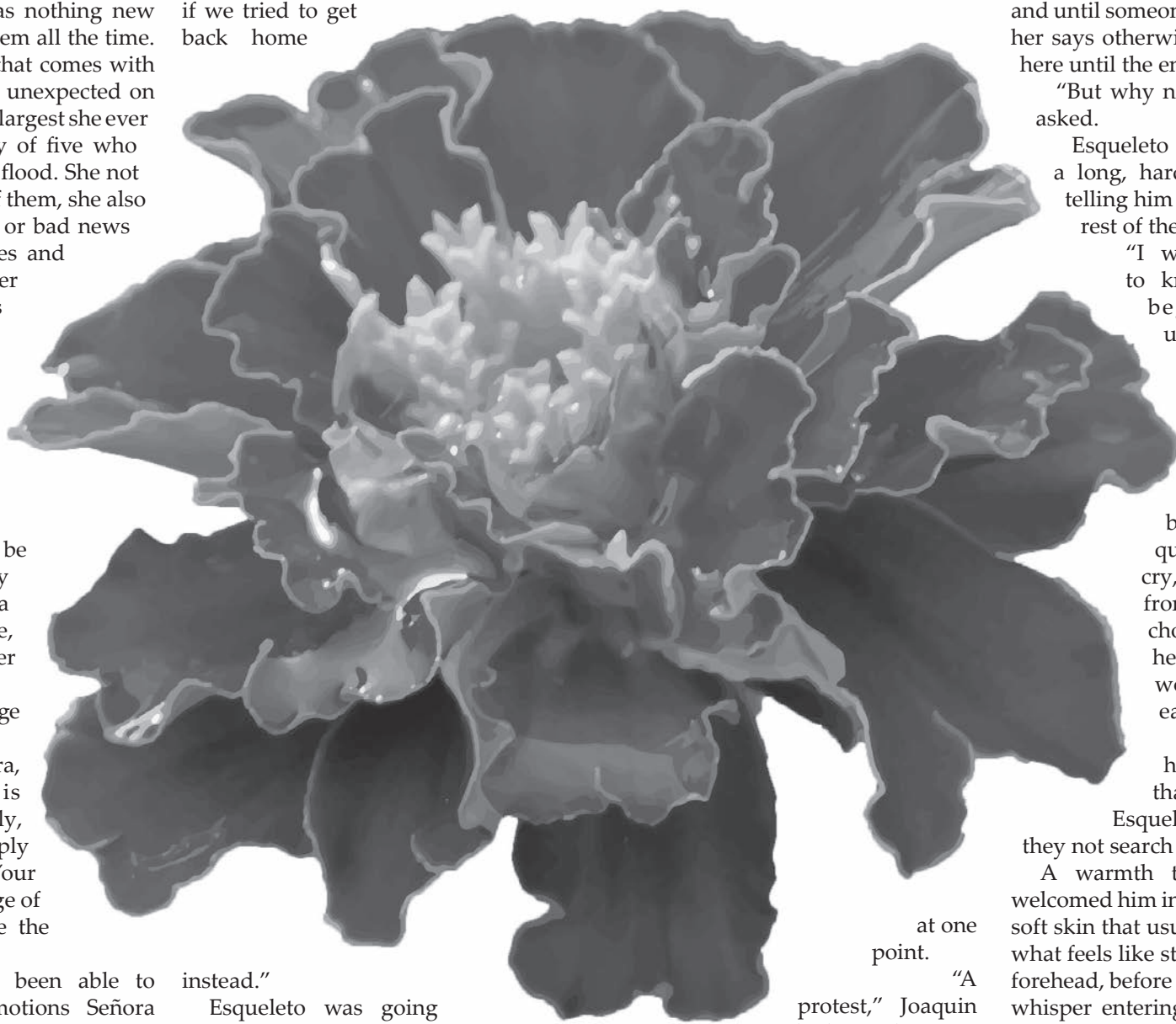
And he broke down before he could ask his question. He began to cry, and he turned away from Esqueleto, almost choking on his tears as he began to stifle the word "Mama" between each sob.

"Mama, mama..." he continued, forgetting that he was talking to Esqueleto, "Mama, why did they not search for us?"

A warmth that is usually cold welcomed him in a warm embrace, and soft skin that usually takes the form of what feels like stone kissed him on the forehead, before he could hear a tender whisper entering the openings of his ears.

"Because, *mi hijo*...man does not look for what he does not consider lost."

*This story is dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Iguala mass kidnappings, who along with their families, have yet to find justice and peace.*



at one point.

"A protest," Joaquin replied, in between his stories to his friends.

"Most of us are on our way to becoming teachers. Our government has not been the best with the way they have been hiring, and we were on our way to let this fact be known before, well, you know..."

After several days, however, Esqueleto began to notice the anxiety and worry seeping in. Their giddiness gave way to bouts of frustration. Some were close to fighting, but they chose not to only because they worried that their situation would worsen. Joaquin also did his best to calm everyone



# Pocket Poems

*This is the premiere of our new feature,  
Pocket Poems, composed of vignettes  
and bits of verse untied to a longer piece.*

*by Ariana Pasquantonio '16  
Portfolio Staff*

My dear, I returned  
before (the morning)  
you would be alarmed  
by the absence.

**Birth**  
*by Marisa Gonzalez '18  
Portfolio Staff*

The day I held you in my arms was the day I learned true love.  
Your little body needed me and in turn I need you.

**Sunset**  
*by Konner Jebb '16  
Portfolio Staff*

Sun shuts his eyes beneath wavering  
hills. Moon tiptoes past him towards  
dimming clouds, snatching center-  
stage. To begin her dance.

**Rainsong**  
*by Jonathan Coppe '18  
Portfolio Staff*

There are many sounds within the rain  
Between its falling droplets  
And many songs of unsung words  
Locked in the human heart

*by Branan Durbin '16  
Portfolio Editor*

Forgetting your brown eyes  
is such a beautiful problem,  
yet such an empty peace,  
especially when they smile.

PHOTO COURTESY OF Billy Alexander

# Nothing But Net

**by David Martineau '18**  
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

The basketball arced through the air and struck the rim of the hoop, bouncing back in Bobby's face with a dull *thud*. Lifting his hands, Bobby managed to stop the ball before it hit him, and then chased after it as it rolled away, sighing to himself as he analyzed yet another missed shot.

Bobby was ten years old. Ever since he was six, he had loved watching basketball on television. His eyes went wide with amazement

every time he saw the players rush across the court in a great throng, their sneakers screeching along the floorboards. Every foul shot, three-pointer, and buzzer-beater made his heart beat with excitement and joy. He knew that he wanted to be a basketball player, to run across the court with the best of the best, to toss the ball into the air like a pro and

watch it swish through the net as the flashing lights of a thousand cameras winked like stars in the stands.

There was only one problem. Bobby, at ten, stood only at four feet, five inches—five inches short of the average height for boys his age, according to the Internet. He wanted to try out for his elementary school team, but his grade had a lot of tall kids. Bobby wasn't sure that he would be tall enough to make the team, or that he would play a lot if he did.

His mother told him that was silly—elementary school took everyone who wanted to play, she said, and gave everyone time on the court. But Bobby would take no chances. He wanted to be the best. And if he wasn't the tallest, he was going to shoot the most points.

So he practiced. Every day during the summer, he had gone out as the sun set, throwing his basketball at the old, rusted hoop in the driveway. But he couldn't seem to make a shot. Every once in a while, the ball would bounce into the hoop, but most of the time it just bounced right off. Bobby hated the sound of the hoop rejecting his shots—it was cold and distant, as if the hoop didn't care about what he wanted...or even worse, that it was determined to take what he wanted

away.

Bobby's mother told him that he just needed to practice more. He was convinced, however, that it would never work. He was too short. He would be an embarrassment to the entire team, missing every shot he took until the entire crowd booed him. His dreams would be shattered, and he would never make it onto any team ever again, because he was the kid who couldn't make a shot. It wasn't fair, he thought as he oriented himself for another throw and hurled the ball into the air. It just wasn't fair!

A swishing sound caught Bobby's attention, and his heart froze as he saw the ball fall through the hoop. For a moment, he was too stunned to think. Then, he rushed over to the ball, grabbed it, and rushed back, placing himself in the same position he had been in. He threw the ball again, and nearly screamed with joy as it fell through the hoop, without a single sound.

Grabbing the ball, Bobby turned and looked towards the house. His mother was standing in the window, watching him. She had a big smile on her face, and Bobby remembered what she had told him. All he needed to do was practice, and he could be the best basketball player there ever was. Smiling, Bobby turned back to the hoop and shot again, his grin widening as the ball swished through the orange ring, hitting nothing but net...

PHOTO COURTESY OF Robert Horvath



# Listomania

## Unconventional Study Spaces

Fennell-to-Dore Tunnel\*

Al Mag Fourth Floor Women's Restroom

Perched on the Slavin Clock\*

Branches of the Tree Outside of Meagher\*\*

Bottom of the Center Staircase of Harkins

In an Eyes to the Skies Music Video

One-Person Pew in St. Dominic Chapel

Bottom of Koi Pond (With Waterproof Phone Case)\*\*

Tiny Balcony off the Front of Harkins\*\*

Cello Locker in Smith\*\*

Ceramics Building (Watch Out for Ghosts)

Slavin Atrium Support Beams\*

**\* do not attempt**

\*\*if you do this, send us a selfie at portfolio@thecowl.com

# Tiffany & Earl

*Making PC an emotionally stable  
place one letter at a time*

Dear Tiffany and Earl,

I recently bought a North Face jacket because they were so cool in high school. The next day I am bombarded with people wearing Vineyard Vines. Is North Face not cool here? What’s the deal with Vineyard Vines? Like seriously, it’s just a place with grapes. Also why is there a whale? Whales don’t eat grapes! And most importantly, am I going to be pointed and laughed at because of my North Face? HELP!

Love,  
Dazed and Confused

Dear New York Fashion Week,

In order to answer your question, you must first understand the history behind Vineyard Vines and North Face. Once you do, you will know why there is such animosity between them.

It started in the year A.D. 476. North Face, the greatest and oldest of the preppy clothes hegemon, had filled the vacuum left by the fall of the Western Roman Empire. Its power grew as peasants fled to its land and factories for protection from the tribes of American Eagle, Abercrombie, Hollister, and Gap. For over a thousand years the North Faceudalism went unchallenged.

North Face remained unbent and its refusal to adapt to a more stable landscape slowly made its followers grow weary. The final straw was on July 4, 1776, when its colonies—founded on clothing freedom—had grown wealthy enough that they felt either equality with North Face or independence from it was necessary. Obviously, they chose the latter and with this choice, brands like Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfiger, and Vineyard Vines were born.

In an effort to regain its colonies, North Face invaded in 1812. The loosely affiliated brands of Vineyard Vines, Ralph Lauren, and Tommy Hilfiger banded together to form a truly united front. There were those who remained loyal to North Face, though, and to this day have been called North Angfacephiles. They wage war on campuses around the country in an effort to regain its lost empire once again.

So, you see, the Pink Whale is one of freedom. The Vineyard represents our deepest struggles for preppy clothes in bright colors! That being said, get with the times.

Kisses,  
Tiff



Tiffany

Dear Dazed and Confused,

Always remember this: you are your own person. What you want to wear is what you want to wear, and you don’t have to change for anyone. So here’s what you should do: grab a pair of yoga pants to go with your North Face and you’ll look no different from every single *other* girl on this campus. Every. Single. Girl. Enjoy your newfound individuality!



EARL

### 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.

# Equinox

by Ariana Pasquantonio '16  
Portfolio Staff

PROSE POETRY

The sunlight trickles through (flickering light, shade, light) when the breeze pushes past the green-gold of the leaves. It’s still late summer. The light, the air no longer brings the heavy stupor of midsummer but it is too early for the rawness that bites at browning leaves, seeking their tawny crunch. Late summer, and the thinning air envelops everything it can in a final embrace. The sunlight follows suit, filling the crevices in the sidewalk where the forgotten pebbles fall, pouring into the abandoned holes in trees. It runs down their sides, pooling at the bottom. Light settles on my skin and drips off in the wind before I can scoop it up by the handful, before I can harvest it, jar it, keep it for myself. I lie in the grass and let it wash over me, an unapologetic last surge of warmth before the season’s quiet goodbye.

*Starting this week, our staff will also be working with the often overlooked form of the prose poem, a form that captures the spirit of poetry within the realm of prose. These pieces are products of the Prose Poem Seminar class offered annually by the English Department here at PC.*



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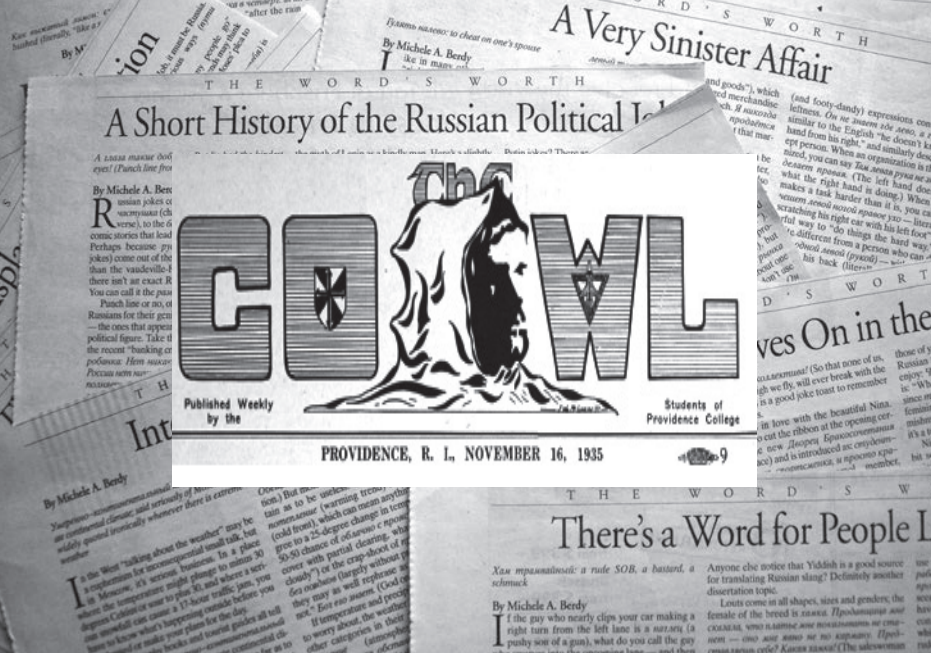
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## Men's Soccer Bounces Back at Northeastern

by Nate Svogun '16  
Sports Staff

### MEN'S SOCCER

Following two heartbreaking overtime losses at home, a comfortable 2-1 victory on the road against Northeastern could be just what the Providence College Men's Soccer Team needed to get back into the swing of things.

The team's Sept. 19 match-up against Northeastern University was crucial for two reasons. First, the game came in the aftermath of two tough losses at home—one, a 2-1 overtime loss to Brown, the other, a 2-1 double overtime loss to Columbia. Secondly, the team needed a strong showing in their last non-conference game of the regular season before beginning a tough Big East campaign against national heavyweights like Creighton (currently ranked first

in the country), Butler (who has yet to register a loss in six games this season), and Xavier (who just toppled nationally ranked number two Notre Dame).

Saturday's game against Northeastern was clearly a way to rekindle some early season momentum that resulted in the Friars rising to eighth in the NSCAA national rankings.

In fact, the Friars, fresh off of last year's Big East Championship victory and NCAA Tournament Final Four appearance, were ranked seventh in the nation in the Preseason Coaches poll released on Aug. 3.

The slight drop to eighth was through no fault of their own – the team shined in their first two games, beating Bryant at home in a thrilling overtime season opener, 2-1, and following up with a 2-0 shut-out of Monmouth at home.

Next came a 1-1 draw at Holy Cross, followed by the team's first away victory of the season, a 1-0 effort against the University of Rhode Island.

But the 3-0-1 start was followed by the consecutive home losses to Brown and Columbia, which prompted the Friars to drop out of the Top 25. Against Northeastern, the Friars bounced back in a big way.

The Friars smothered a lackluster Northeastern attack from the starting whistle—PC goalie Ben Seguljic '18RS was only forced to deal with three shots on goal in the entire game, two of which he saved. Indeed, the only goal of the game for Northeastern (and their second goal all season) came from Khesanio Hall in the last 10 seconds of the game, with a PC victory all but secured.

The Friars started off the scoring

in the first half, when Mac Steeves '17 fired in a shot in the 38th minute, assisted by Dominik Machado '17 and Brendan Constantine '19. It was Steeves' seventh goal in just seven games—his preseason All-Big East selection has certainly lived up to his billing so far—ranking third in the nation in goals scored and averaging a blistering 1.5 goals per home game this season.

The next to score for PC was Machado, who boomed in a kick from 25 yards out in the 79th minute, giving the Friars a more comfortable two-goal lead to work with. In the remaining minutes, the Friars did what they had to do, emerging with an important 2-1 road victory.

The team will look to continue their undefeated road record against their first Big East foe of the season, Georgetown, on Sept. 26.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK.COM

## Field Hockey Downs Brown

by Brannon Walker-Hodges '16  
Sports Staff

### FIELD HOCKEY

Another chapter of Rhode Island's most intense in-state school rivalry was won by the Friars as the Providence College Field Hockey Team defeated the Brown University Bears 6-1 on Sept. 17 at the Lennon Family Field. The Friars dominated the Bears early and often in the match, as the Friars outshot their opponents 22-5 and had a 12-5 penalty corner advantage.

The Friars capitalized early in the match as midfielder Emma Lucas '19 scored at the 2:01 mark off of a rebound from an initial shot. Adrienne Houle '17 scored Providence's second goal of the game to take a 2-0 lead four minutes into

the match off of a deflection from the right post that credited the assist to Abby Thornton '18.

Providence broke the game open at the 14th minute with a 3-0 lead as Megan Hamilton '18 scored off of a rebound with a shot on goal that went high under the crossbar and into the back of the net. Brown countered before halftime at the 23rd minute with a goal of their own scored by Alexis Miller off of a pass from teammate Emily Arciero during a penalty corner. The Friars were leading the Bears 3-1 going into the half.

The intensity of this in-state rivalry was all the motivation the Friars needed to continue to stay on the offensive and not let their opponents have any momentum in the second half. Kali Kilmer '17 continued the scoring for the Friars as they took a 4-1 lead during the 38th minute off of a penalty shot.

After a scoring drought on both sides, the Friars sealed the inevitable victory with two more goals. The first came at the 55:10 mark as Lucas scored her second goal of the match, with a direct shot coming off an assist from Emily Matthews '16. Thornton followed up with her goal at the 60:36 mark off an assist from Emma Mackie '16.

Head Coach Diane Madl has to be pleased about the way her unit came out, eager to apply pressure to their rivals with a nice balance of sound defense and a mindset to put shots on goal against the Brown defenders. Megan Guilbert '18 was a steady force in the net for the Friars, playing all 70 minutes while recording four saves.

Moving forward into the season, the Friars will have to have their core of young midfielders control the tempo in matches against much stiffer Big East competition.

Defense will be led by experienced players such as Matthews, Kilmer and Thornton that will support Guilbert in goalkeeping. A key aspect to watch this season will be the development of young prospects, such as Lucas.

Coach Madl has a vision to turn this program into a contender in the Big East by recruiting talented young women who have raw skills and great instincts on the field. Those key moments of capitalizing on opponents' mistakes while limiting their own will be the biggest difference between wins and losses for our field hockey team as they look to return to the Big East tournament, which was hosted on Lennon Family Field last year.



# Up High and Down Hard

## Women's Volleyball Continues Early Season Surge

by Brent Bauerle '16  
Sports Staff

VOLLEYBALL

For years, the Providence College Women's Volleyball Team has been akin to Charlie Brown trying to kick the football: so close to completing their goal, only for it to be snatched away at the last second.

In fairness, after years of mediocrity, the Friars' goal is not nearly as lofty as winning championships or conference titles—after all, Charlie Brown simply wanted to kick the football; he never said he wanted to kick the game-winning field goal in the Super Bowl. No, the Friars' goal has been to remain competitive in every game, and hopefully come away with more wins than losses.

The Friars were already on their way to accomplishing that goal last week, as a strong 3-0 showing at the 11th annual Friar Classic had left them with a 7-4 record entering the Bucknell University Tournament. Well, for the Friars it was simply a case of different venue, same result as they powered their way to victories over Delaware State and host Bucknell before losing a five-set thriller to Colgate in the tournament finale.

The game against Delaware State exemplified a youth movement in the making, as Emily Horner '19 and Allison Impellizeri '19 led the team with eight and seven kills, respectively, in a three set romp over the Hornets. Horner's versatility is particularly notable, as she registered kills from all three front row positions (outside hitter, middle blocker, and right side



Marina Rose '17 sets during a game last season.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK.COM

hitter) in helping the Friars power their way to victory.

Their next game of the tournament, against host Bucknell, started off ignominiously, with Providence losing a tight affair 30-28 to drop their first set in their last seven tries. The Friars quickly rallied, however, on the back of a next-level performance by outside hitter Kayla Fitzgerald '17,

who tallied a video game-like line of 26 kills and 24 digs in helping to lead the Friars to sweep the next three sets.

Perhaps even more impressive, however, was the play of setter Jordan Weisler '16, who orchestrated a finely-tuned offensive attack and tallied an astounding 61 assists in the process.

With two wins in their pocket, Providence had only to defeat a

struggling Colgate squad to seize victory in the tournament. Having won their eighth straight game by defeating Bucknell and facing a Colgate squad with a 2-9 record, the tournament seemed to be in the bag. Providence came out firing, taking the first two sets each by only a combined seven points to position themselves one set win away from victory.

Colgate rallied back, however, engaging in a tense contest that featured a bevy of ties and lead changes. In the end, Providence fell in the fifth set 15-9, losing a match in which neither team had won a set by more than six points. Despite the loss, however, the Friars did not leave the tournament completely empty-handed, as both Fitzgerald and Michelle Cruz '17 were named to the All-Tournament team for their outstanding play.

Though it must have felt disappointing to lose out to Colgate in the final, the Friars have every reason to be optimistic going forward. They have a budding young core of freshmen to supplement experienced seniors who, to this point, have produced incredible numbers to help buoy Providence's record. Only time will tell, but maybe—just maybe—this Charlie Brown will get to kick his football after all.

# Born to Run

## Men's and Women's Cross Country Programs Start Strong

by Jeff Williams '17  
Sports Staff

CROSS COUNTRY

Whether on the soccer field, the basketball court, or the hockey rink, Providence College athletics are in an age of success. Often ignored are the Friar Cross Country Teams, which under legendary coach Ray Treacy '82, have had an extended period of dominance. The Women's Cross Country Team took home the NCAA title in 1995 and 2013, and the men have not been too shabby either. In this year's Preseason Regional Rankings, the United States Track and Field Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) picked the Friar women as the best in the Northeast region and eighth in the country, with the Friar men taking third in their region and 25th nationwide.

Both teams marked the beginning of a new season on Sept. 5 in Durham, New Hampshire for the UNH Dual Meet. The Friars dominated the New Hampshire Wildcats and the Holy Cross Crusaders. The men won with 15 points (a perfect score, as the top five finishers were PC runners). Tom O'Neill '18 won the race for the second straight year with a time of 15:29.07, and was named the Big East Athlete of the Week. The runner-up, Aaron Hanlon '18, was 12 seconds behind. Trevor Crawley

'17, Stephen Robertson '16, and Hugh Armstrong '17 rounded out the top five, finishing side by side to clinch an easy victory. Austin Scola '19 grabbed 10th while Christian Costello '16 took 11th. The women also won with 16 points. Returning All-American Catarina Rocha '17 won by four seconds over Lauren Mullins '16, Brianna Ilarda '18, and fellow All-

American Sarah Collins '16. Katie Lembo '18 was sixth, Emily Bushey '17 was 11th and Keelin Hollowood '17 came in 17th.

Both teams headed out to Smithfield, Rhode Island on Sept. 12 for the Nassaney Invitational against 11 schools, including Bryant, Sacred Heart, Boston University, Northeastern, Brown, and URI. This time, it was the women who swept



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the field with 15 points. Rocha and Collins controlled the race, with the younger star edging out the Swiss-Irish veteran by a miniscule margin at 16:48. Ilarda, Mullins, and Lembo rounded out the top five, Bushey took seventh, and Molly Keating '16 came ninth in her season debut. The men, also won, but with O'Neill and Hanlon sitting out settled for a 36 point victory. In his season debut, All-American Julian Oakley '16 finished second. Armstrong took fourth, Robertson came in seventh, Crawley grabbed 10th, and Costello clinched victory in 13th. Michael O'Leary '19 (16th) and Brendan Ungemach '18 (25th) rounded out the Friar lineup. Rocha and Oakley were subsequently awarded the Big East Athlete of the Week honors.

With a dominant beginning to the season, both the men and the women have maintained their high national rankings. The women will compete next at the Coast-to-Coast Battle in Beantown (hosted by Boston College) on Sept. 25, and the men will compete in the Princeton Invitational on Oct. 3. The first real test for both squads will be at the New England Championships in Boston on Oct. 10, which will prove just how dominant the high-flying Friars really are.



# Editor's Corner: Heisman Watch 2015

by DJ Anderson '16  
Sports Editor

COLUMN

Bo Jackson, Barry Sanders, Rashaan Salaam, Eddie George, Ricky Williams, Ron Dayne, Reggie Bush (the forgotten year), and Mark Ingram. These are the eight running backs that have won the Heisman Trophy since 1985. Unlike the early and mid 20th century, a running back winning college football's most prized individual award has become a bit of a rarity in recent years. Quarterbacks have dominated the race over the past 15 years, winning 13 of the 15 trophies in the pass dominated era of early 21st century football. In fact, many experts feel that the quarterback position has been favored to win the award over this time period.

However, the start of this season has a different feel than past years, as there are several running backs that appear to be front runners for the 2015 Heisman Trophy. These candidates are led by Leonard Fournette, the Lousiana State University tailback that has looked incapable of being tackled through the first three games of the season. He is followed by Georgia Running Back Nick Chubb, Ohio State ball carrier Ezekiel Elliott, and Texas Christian University Quarterback Trevone Boykin. Each of these candidates look like they will have built a real case for the trophy by season's end.

Leonard Fournette

After Fournette's b r e a t h t a k i n g performance against Auburn on Saturday, it has become clear that the LSU star could step into an NFL training camp this coming summer and win a starting running back job. Fortunately for LSU, and to the dismay of the rest of the Southeastern Conference, Fournette is only a sophomore, meaning that he will have to return to school for at

least one more season. With the way that he has played this season, it is scary to think of the level that Fournette could be playing at by the end of his junior year. However, the Tiger tailback has made it clear that he is focused on this season and winning a national championship before his career is over. If LSU can run the table in the SEC, and Fournette can continue to run the ball like he is Walter Payton, then a running back could be taking home the Heisman Trophy for the third time this century.

Nick Chubb

Whenever a school loses a running back like Todd Gurley, you may think that they would have an enormous void to fill at that position. However, at the University of Georgia, the new running back U, running backs are in high supply. Gurley's replacement, Nick Chubb, has become one of the most productive running backs in the country, breaking off 60 or 70 yard runs nearly every Saturday. In three games this season, including two against SEC opponents Vanderbilt and South Carolina, Chubb has totaled 468 yards and 4 touchdowns, averaging 8.3 yards per carry in that span. Despite this incredible play, Chubb's Heisman status may not be in his own control this season. Georgia has had shaky quarterback play since the loss of star Aaron Murray in 2013. If the same situation occurs this season, then Georgia may have to ride Chubb's coattails throughout the entire season.

Trevone Boykin

Coming into the season, Boykin was many people's Heisman frontrunner. Through three games, Boykin currently sits at third in the ESPN Heisman Watch, and

this is through no fault of his own. In three games, Boykin has 945 passing yards with 10 touchdowns and three interceptions. In addition to these passing totals, Boykin has totaled nearly 150 yards of rushing and two more touchdowns. However, TCU hasn't yet had a real test in their schedule. Their toughest game has come against Minnesota, and they barely squeaked out that game by a score of 23-17. If Boykin wants to win the Heisman trophy, then his TCU Hornfrogs will need to win games in the fashion that they did last year. Nonetheless, Boykin will have several chances to prove himself down the stretch, as he finishes the season on the road at no. 15 Oklahoma and at home against no. 5 Baylor.

Ezekiel Elliott

After last season's impressive championship run, many people were touting Ezekiel Elliott as the best running back in the country. Much of this praise was deserved, as Elliott carved up the defenses of the Alabama Crimson Tide and the Oregon Ducks, leading his Ohio State Buckeyes to a national championship in the process. This season, Elliott's play has remained impressive, as he has totaled 331 yards and four touchdowns in three games. Despite his productivity, Elliott has lacked a bit of the flash and explosiveness that so many people fell in love with during last year's College Football Playoff. Nevertheless, if Ohio State can run the table, especially with their current uncertainty at quarterback, then Elliott will need to play a massive role. If this happens, then he will find himself right at the top of the Heisman race come season's end.

## AARON RODGERS

December 12, 2012, nearly three full years ago, was the last time that Aaron Rodgers threw an interception within the confines of Lambeau Field, the home field of the Green Bay Packers. In the time since, Rodgers has thrown for 4,687 yards and 41 touchdowns, while compiling a 15-2 home record. This type of flawless play is what football fans all over the world have become used to seeing from the Green Bay signal caller, who led ESPN anchor and radio host Dan Lebatard to say, "[Rodgers] can't play the position any better than he currently is."

Despite the stunning play of Tom Brady, who has made Patriots fans reminiscent of their quarterback's record-breaking 2008 season, Aaron Rodgers is currently the best player in the NFL. He has the greatest effect on each and every game, and gives his team the best chance to win out of any player in the league. Rodgers' ability to make quick reads and decisions regarding the opposing defense is unparalleled. This innate mental ability, combined with pinpoint accuracy and a rocket of an arm, has made Rodgers unstoppable against almost every team that he plays.

The Chicago Bears and Seattle Seahawks can attest to the challenge of containing Rodgers. Both teams have dropped games to the Packers this season. In those games, Rodgers posted quarterback ratings of 140 and 115 and did not turn the ball over one time. There will surely be some tough games over the rest of the season, but Rodgers has the Packers poised to make a run through the NFC North, the Conference Championship, and maybe even Super Bowl 50.

-DJ Anderson '16

# WHO IS THE BEST PLAYER IN THE NFL?

## ROB GRONKOWSKI

When he was selected by the New England Patriots in the NFL Draft in April 2010, Arizona tight end Rob Gronkowski was relatively unknown. Now, Gronkowski not only looks like the biggest draft steal of that year, but he also has the look of the best player in the NFL.

The idea of a tight end being the best player in the NFL may be dismissed by many right off the bat. However, when taking a look at a variety of factors, it is abundantly clear that no one player changes a game like the man they call Gronk.

There are players in Gronk's stratosphere of course: Texans defensive end J.J. Watt, Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, Jets cornerback Darrelle Revis, and more. No other player on this list, however, is simply impossible to gameplan around.

If you stick a defensive back on Gronkowski, he's simply too big and strong to lose that matchup. Stick a linebacker on him? Gronk's too fast and athletic. He can run routes like a wide receiver, still block like a tight end, and has an uncanny nose for the end zone.

To measure just how important Gronkowski is to his team, take the past four seasons into account. He was hurt in Super Bowl XLV, a game where the Patriots' offense slowed to a creep in a 21-17 loss to the Giants. He broke his arm in the 2013 playoff game that resulted in an AFC Championship loss to the Ravens. A torn ACL ended his 2013 season, a season that ended with another disappointing offensive performance in the AFC Championship. As he worked his way back to peak health in 2014, however, the Patriots offense took off en route to their first Super Bowl victory in over a decade.

Gronk, simply put, is better than anyone else that takes the field with him. For that, there is no disputing that he is the best player in the NFL.

-Joey Ciccarello '16