

PC Alumni Find Success on the Big Screen



by **Luiza Alves '19**
A&E Staff

ALUMNI

It is quite possible that one has seen a Providence College alumnus appear on the big screen—or the television screen for that matter. If they have not appeared in a movie, odds are they may have directed, written, or produced it. It is fitting to say that the College has played a part in each of its former students’ lives and careers and that it continues to play a role in its current students’ paths. After all, the four years one experiences at PC are a time of learning not only in academics, but

also about oneself. Peter Farrelly, a 59-year-old film director, screenwriter, producer, and novelist from Cumberland, Rhode Island, has made a name for himself in the entertainment industry following his four years at PC. Upon graduating, Farrelly pursued writing full-time and was a waiter in his spare time. He studied writing in graduate school, first at UMass Amherst and then at Columbia University. Farrelly became interested in screenwriting and eventually began directing.

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Fr. Shanley Holds Open Forum on Diversity

by **Zak Harvey '16**
News Staff

COMMUNITY

This past Wednesday, February 10, Providence College’s President Father Brian Shanley, O.P., held an Open Forum on Diversity in ‘64 Hall. In light of the intensified discussion on campus the administration made the decision to make itself accessible in order to hear what the Providence College community had to say about the progress of diversity and race on the campus. In front of an overflow crowd in ‘64 Hall, Fr. Shanley put himself before those in attendance to take questions. Dean Rafael Zapata, associate vice president and chief diversity officer for the College, opened the forum as the moderator. Before introducing Fr. Shanley, Dean Zapata asked Father

Gabriel Pivarnik, O.P., senior vice president of mission and ministry at the College, to lead the room in a prayer. As Fr. Shanley made his opening remarks, a more solemn tone struck the auditorium. Fr. Shanley made reference to the significance of Wednesday as Ash Wednesday, noting that this should not come as a coincidence. A powerful opening remark from Fr. Shanley reminded the audience that we all were in this together. Father Shanley said, “A basic belief [we as] Christians have is praying together. Fundamental to this claim in the Our Father is that we are all sons and daughters created by God in His image.”

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Dr. Melina Abdullah Addresses Social Justice and Spirit

by **Sarah Gianni '18**
News Staff

LECTURES

Providence College was proud to host professor, scholar, and activist Melina Abdullah for a talk on Womanist Black Nationalism and Group Centered Leadership in Black Lives Matter. The talk took place at 6 p.m. in ‘64 Hall on Thursday, February 4. Dr. Abdullah prefaced her presentation, noting that she had modified some of her talk due to events that had recently

occurred within her own life, as well as on PC’s campus. She began by sharing the story of Charly Keunang, a homeless black man living in Los Angeles’ Skid Row who was brutally and unjustly murdered by members of the Los Angeles Police Force on March 1, 2015. As an organizer at the Los Angeles branch of the Black Lives Matter Movement, Dr. Abdullah explained how the struggle of Charly’s murder, along with the murders of so many other unarmed black people, is one of many components that fuels this ongoing movement.

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KRISTINA HO '18/ THE COWL

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PC Community Stands in Solidarity

Emails Used to Send Campus-Wide Message After Off-Campus Incident

by Sabrina Guilbeault '18
News Co-Editor

ON CAMPUS

Over the past two weeks Providence College students, faculty, staff, and administration have received a multitude of “emails of solidarity” reflecting on the recent off-campus bias incident. According to the Merriam Webster Dictionary, “solidarity,” is defined as unity that produces or is based on community of interests, objectives, and standards.

The *Providence Journal* published an article on Wednesday, February 3, titled, “Students Demand PC Response to Off-Campus Incident,” which was one of many outside media sources covering events that occurred in the past few weeks at Providence College. These articles stemmed from the incident which occurred on Sunday, January 31 in which a group of five female PC students of color walked to a nearby off-campus residence and were denied entrance. An investigation is presently ongoing, as the incident was reported to both the Providence Police Department and the PC Office of Campus Safety and Security.

In an email to the PC Community, President Fr. Brian Shanley, O.P. stated, “The Trustees and I want to make it abundantly clear that racism, in any form, will not be tolerated at Providence College.” He also explained that the “investigation will be thorough and fundamentally fair to everyone.”

On Tuesday, February 2, Dean Steven Sears and CDO Rafael Zapata led a conversation in the Soft Lounge in Slavin to discuss the incident. All students were invited via email and over 80 students were in attendance. Zapata and Sears led the discussion for

almost three hours, in which students were encouraged to ask questions and voice opinions. One point that was mentioned at the meeting was that although change is what is fundamentally needed, it is something that cannot occur over night.

As the *Providence Journal* stated, students are demanding a response, and although these responses are merely written words, they are a response nonetheless. The purpose of this article is to share and reflect on the statements of solidarity that have been sent to the PC Community. The language of the emails has differentiated, but the overall and underlying message of solidarity is very present.

Student support for the five women has not gone unnoticed as major clubs on campus such as the Board of

Multicultural Student Affairs, Student Congress, the Board of Programmers, and other student-led organizations have each sent a statement to the College.

“We implore the Providence College community to not stand idle towards any injustices acted towards your fellow Friars,” said the BMSA email. “Together, we can make this community a better environment for all to feel welcomed.”

The Providence College chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (N.A.A.C.P) stated, “We stand in solidarity with these five women of color, and with all other persons that have been targeted, and or discriminated against.”

In an email

from the 66th Student Congress, after expressing their solidarity stated, “Student Congress is here to support the students we serve in every way possible and welcome all students to engage with us as we actively seek social justice for our Friar Family. For this reason, we must continue to work to make PC the inclusive, vibrant, and diverse community we want it to be.”

Starting with the Women’s Studies program at the College, different programs and departments have also stated their solidarity. “We call on all members of the community to take action against any instances of racism and sexism, violence and oppression, that jeopardize the values we hold dear, as individuals and as an institution,” stated the email from the Women’s Studies Program.

In their statement of solidarity, the Black Studies Executive Committee quoted Audre Lorde who said, “When we speak we are afraid our words will not be heard or welcomed. But when we are silent, we are still afraid. So it is better to speak.”

“As we look forward to PC’s centennial celebration, this is truly our moment to transform our campus and make it one where threats, suspicion, and exclusion are not tolerated under any circumstances,” said the members of the Department of Foreign Language Studies in their email. “Our moral and academic excellence as a community depends on our individual and collective ability to model the high ethical principles on which our mission and core curriculum are founded.”

In looking to expand the conversation, Fr. Shanley invited the PC community via email to join him for a campus forum yesterday.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KIATHESS.GR

Activist: Dr. Melina Abdullah Speaks at PC

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KRISTINA HO '18/THECOWL

Dr. Abdullah inspires students during her lecture in '64 Hall about the importance of standing up together to see great change.

“Black Lives Matter is a cycle of struggle and also a struggle of hope,” she said. “We have hope we will be able to stop or change certain things, and ultimately we are met with disappointment,” she said.

Dr. Abdullah said that within the movement, outrage sparks the cycle of struggle, hope, repeated outrage, and finally affirmation. “This is also a spiritual movement, as we cannot simply struggle for social justice without spirit.” Dr. Abdullah noted that she was not always the activist she is today, as she shared her journey of being “shaken out of her slumber.”

“July 13, 2013 was the beginning of my awakening,” said Dr. Abdullah. “On that day George Zimmerman was acquitted in the killing of Trayvon Martin, and given his gun back,” she said. As a single mother of three, Dr. Abdullah said this verdict shook her to the core, as she and so many members of the black community never expected Zimmerman to be found not guilty.

“There was the overwhelming sentiment that we had to make this not just a moment, but a movement,” she said. Dr. Abdullah organized with thousands of people in Los Angeles, marching for miles within the city and

even shutting down the 110 Freeway. “We need to disrupt the system that keeps us oppressed, and need students to be involved and keep the momentum going,” she said.

Dr. Abdullah also noted the significance of everyone understanding their connection to Black Lives Matter. “While it is so important that this movement is Black led, it is ally supported and everyone needs to understand themselves as being tied to the struggle.”

In light of the recent discriminatory actions that have occurred at PC, multiple faculty, clubs, and groups have sent emails emphasizing their solidarity against this racially biased incident. However, there is still work to be done in order to heal and bring justice to those who have been hurt by acts of intolerance and racism.

Dr. Abdullah’s speech reinforced this ideal, as she encouraged members of the PC community to “start living differently.”

“Change never happens because of a special individual, but because many people begin to stand up and join in the struggle,” she said.

Diversity: Students and Faculty Discuss Their Concerns

Continued from front page

True to the Dominican teachings of the College, Fr. Shanley went on to remark how important it is for us to work together, especially in the eyes of God, "...all of our minds and our hearts are too small. [We must] release any prejudice we might have and work [both] personally and collectively to do accomplish [our goals]."

Fr. Shanley concluded his remarks and the question and answer portion of the Forum began. In an auditorium of hundreds of members of the College's community it was clear that many in attendance had something to say, though the majority of the room was there to listen. Some of the main points addressed in the 15 plus questions and statements at the Forum were along the lines of: curriculum reform, faculty sensitivity training, and the addition of a Senior Vice President of Inclusion and Diversity.

One of the cornerstone programming initiatives of this Administration has been the Difficult Dialogues sponsored by the Office of Institutional Diversity under the sponsorship of Dean Rafael Zapata. A fundamental action item that came out of Wednesday's Open Forum was that the Office of Institutional Diversity will be redefining this program and launching a program titled Dialogues

on Community and Justice. These new forums aim to include more members of the campus community than the previous discussion series and will be coming this semester.

The Demands for Redress sponsored by numerous student groups on campus also became a point of discussion at the Forum. Multiple students addressed the Demands in their questions to the College's President. The Demands have been disseminated across the campus in open forums, in meetings with the Faculty Senate, and also with the College's Executive Leadership Committee. A demand that has caused the most contention amongst the negotiating parties has been the creation of the role of Senior Vice President of Diversity. This position, per the demands, would require the person in the role to be a tenured faculty member of the College. Many individuals—both faculty and students alike—believe a tenured position would allow the new SVP of Diversity to question the status quo more freely without fear of retaliation from the Administration. As Fr. Shanley explained, this is not necessarily the case. Although the new Senior Vice President may hold tenure it does not mean that the person also holds a lifelong position in the the President's Cabinet. Fr. Shanley would still have the ability to remove

this person from their position and they would return to their respective department.

Fr. Shanley addressed this demand in the Forum, clarifying, "I have spoken about this [position] with the Board [of Trustees] and the College is not ready for that kind of major upheaval right now." One compromise Fr. Shanley alluded to is that perhaps Dean Rafael Zapata's position would report directly to the President rather than the Executive Vice President of the College, Father Kenneth Sicard, O.P.

It should be noted that Fr. Shanley has met with the student groups proposing the demands on numerous occasions. From organizing a call with the Board of Trustees to sitting with the students and their advocates for hours in Harkins, the Administration has strived to make sure that students feel that their voices—and their concerns—are heard. Fr. Shanley also broke news tonight, announcing that he hopes to create a new Diversity Steering Committee with members of the Board of Trustees and members of the campus community.

One of the most moving and eloquent statements said at the forum was that of Tom Barnett '16. Barnett recommended that Fr. Shanley require theology and diversity classes during freshman year. As Barnett concluded

his statement he pleaded with the students, faculty, and administrators in the audience to have "...open hearts, open minds, and to stand together."

As Ash Wednesday comes and goes the message from Fr. Shanley of repentance and belief in the Gospel rings true. Our campus is engaged in a very difficult dialogue regarding incredibly pertinent issues. Fr. Shanley closed the Forum by relaying how grateful he has been that students have brought these issues and their stories to the forefront. He said in part, "Most of the demands are very reasonable...I am grateful for the students. I am grateful you are forcing the issue." The campus will be engaging in conversations about the campus' climate for weeks and years to come. As one looks at the climate and the actions that are to come on campus in the future, one must remember to have patience, empathy, and, above all, love.

SABRINA GUILBEAULT '18/THE COWL

NAMI Comes to PC

Conversations on Mental Health Continue

by **Daria Purdy '19**
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

Mental illness has a pervasive presence in America and Providence College is no exception. The National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) has been working to educate the public about mental illness, to provide support for those who suffer from mental illness, and to promote research that focuses on the science of mental illness. NAMI has over 1,000 state organizations across the country. Now, NAMI has come to the PC campus through the NAMI Peer-to-Peer Program.

Constance Quinn '17 has worked to establish the program on campus. Quinn received training through NAMI in September and started the group in partnership with a Brown University student. Quinn said that the goal of the NAMI Peer-to-Peer Program is "to educate people about their mental health issues and provide strategies for dealing with the challenges it presents." The Peer-to-Peer program is meant to be more of an educational program than a support or therapy group. At meetings, information

will be given on the nature of mental illness, and on how to maintain wellness in response to mental health challenges. The program is completely run by peers, which Quinn hopes will make people "more comfortable coming to classes and learning from us."

Quinn also stated that the Peer-to-Peer Program has a broader goal that goes beyond educating members about mental illness. She is working to get people talking about mental illness, and to break the stigma surrounding mental illness on campus. As Quinn says, "Mental health is not often talked about because there is a negative stigma associated with it, but I believe that it is something that should definitely be talked about so much more." Mental illness is a common occurrence, and Quinn is working to make sure the students on this campus are more educated about it. She also wants students to know how to help themselves or others who are dealing with it.

The program started on Feb. 9, but members can join until Feb. 16. The program will meet once a week for 10 weeks, in Slavin room LL19 from 6-8 p.m. The program is open to Brown students as well as PC students.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NAMI.ORG

Club Spotlight:

Providence Immigrant Rights Coalition

by **Patrick Lovett '17**
News Staff

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

What happens when a class of students approach a subject with passion? Something amazing. The Providence Immigrant Rights Coalition (PIRC) can attest to that. Ever since 10 students in a sociology class recognized that there was a severely underrepresented population on campus, they have been working to give that population a voice.

The primary focus of PIRC is to serve students who are undocumented or who come from a family with mixed immigration status. The club's mission statement vows to commit to three functions: "challenging derogatory anti-immigrant discourse, educating the campus on current and past immigration systems and policies, and raising awareness of the injustices that impact undocumented students and their families." It is a great burden, yet one that club members are both willing and enthusiastic to bear.

One of the original 10 founders, Vice President Jeff Bausch '16, understands the club has a lot of work to do. Not only in, as he puts it, "trying to establish what is going to be our niche on campus," but more so in working as quickly as possible to generate real change way the immigrant population at Providence College is treated.

Bausch says PIRC is already working on a number of projects, such as a campaign to "stop the use of the word 'illegal' when talking about undocumented immigrants," working with administrators to implement institutional reforms, and hosting events like an upcoming soccer



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tournament to raise money for the Cesar Chavez Scholarship Fund.

Even the meetings themselves contribute to the club's cause. Bausch reports that the club has been able to provide a "safe place for undocumented students and student allies with a passion for the cause to congregate and talk about the issues plaguing these people around the country and on campus." Thus, in such an environment, a population that was previously underrepresented and unrecognized has begun to find its voice.

When asked what he finds especially valuable about PIRC, Bausch says that it is not only "the first of its kind on our campus," but more importantly that it "serves the needs of a desperately underrepresented group of students on our campus."

In the future, Bausch says PIRC will try to maintain the energy that brought the club into being. He says, "We look to be allies to these students and use our own passion for the issue to make positive strides here at PC."

Bursting the PC Bubble

by Marla Gagne '18
News Co-Editor

"Prince of Providence" Laid to Rest

Buddy Cianci, former mayor and big-time Providence name, was buried in a Catholic ceremony on Monday, February 8. Around 500 people came out to say goodbye to Cianci, who is credited with rebuilding the city of Providence and bringing places like the downtown area and Thayer Street to life. Cianci first took office in 1984, but was forced to resign after being convicted of assault. He came back to office in 1990, but found trouble again in 2002 for a federal racketeering conspiracy; he was forced to serve five years in prison. Once returning back to Providence, Cianci wrote a book, created his own marinara sauce, and hosted a radio program. Last year, Cianci put up one more fight for the mayoral office, losing a close race to current mayor Jorge Elorza. His official cause of death has not been released, but Cianci was diagnosed with cancer in 2014 and underwent chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery. Flags were lowered in both City Hall and the Rhode Island State House in his honor.

Trump, Sanders Leave NH Victorious

On Tuesday, February 9, presidential candidates Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders won the New Hampshire primary. Trump won on the republican side with over 30 percent of the vote, followed by John Kasich, Ted Cruz, and Jeb Bush. Sanders beat fellow Democrat Hillary Clinton by over 20 percent and made history, as he became the first Jewish candidate to win a presidential primary (CNN). The candidates will now turn towards Nevada and South Carolina for the next election.

Collision Leaves 10 Dead in Germany

Two trains in Bavaria, Germany, carrying around 150 passengers, collided this past Tuesday morning. Ten people have been killed and over 60 people sustained injuries, eighteen remain in critical condition. German Transport Minister Alexander Dobrindt told reporters at a news conference, “There’s a curve there, so we must assume that the train drivers must not have been able to see each other beforehand.” The crash left one of the trains completely dismantled, and Dobrindt called it a “horrible picture” (CNN). The trains were believed to be going around 62 mph, and the cause of the crash is under investigation.

Zika Virus May Now Affect Infants' Vision

The Zika virus, known for causing brain defects in infants, may also be affecting their eyes. In a new study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association Ophthalmology*, Brazilian researchers found “that some infants exposed to the virus had ocular defects including atrophied retinas, abnormal iris pigmentation and lens that moved out of place” (ABC News). The Zika virus is already known for causing the rare birth defect microcephaly, which gives infants small heads and leaves the brain development incomplete. The new claims came from a small case study, but will be continually investigated. The virus has currently been detected in 13 states in the U.S.; the infected Americans traveled to the affected areas, and one case was sexually transmitted in Texas (USA Today). Pregnant women have been warned to stay away from affected areas such as Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

Congress Updates

by Marla Gagne '18
News Co-Editor

CONGRESS

Student Congress passed a recommendation that the Office of Residence Life “extend card access to all Providence College students to 24-hours a day to the lower Davis Hall study area containing the Davis printer and ATM.”

Chuck Haberle, assistant vice president of academic affairs, and Lynne Ryan attended the Congress meeting to discuss the process of academic advising. Ryan said the academic advising committee is “focusing on how to restructure the advising process to engage more deeply in student learning.” Ryan asked Congress what positive feedback they had regarding the advising process. Some answers included that it was good when majors have socials for their departments, have upperclassmen mentors, and give direction regarding who to contact or where to find resources. Negative feedback included advisors not knowing specific requirements for the core or their majors, not being invested or helpful for undeclared students, and not being told information about classes and academics earlier in their careers. Ryan expressed her concern that many advisors do not take notes during the meeting. Haberle announced that the academic advising committee will be talking to faculty within the next few weeks and then drafting a proposal for recommendations on how to move forward.

Rafael Zapata, associate vice president and chief diversity officer, and Tiffany Gaffney, assistant dean of students, also joined the meeting to talk about a bias incident that occurred off campus. The school did hold a meeting in response to the incident last Tuesday, but cannot reveal details of the investigation. The situation is currently being investigated by an outside company to maintain the integrity of the results, and it is unknown when it will be complete. The report is private and protected under the community standards process and will not be available to the public. Zapata also mentioned that the accused students in the incident are afraid to be in their house, and the College has asked the Providence Police Department to keep a stronger watch on the neighborhood. Dean Gaffney said the women who reported the incident have been offered resources, have been in contact with administrators, and have been told their rights.

In response to students' concerns of racism on campus, Zapata said his office is discussing stereotypes and biases and that Fr. Shanley, O.P., will have a meeting surrounding this topic on Feb. 24.

Reporting Assault

App Created for Victims on College Campuses

by Gabriella Pisano '18
News Staff

CAMPUS LIFE

The Institute for the Study of Coherence and Emergence (ISCE) is a non-profit group that has recently created new apps in the hopes of simplifying the reporting of sexual assault and encouraging mutual consent.

Victims of sexual assault are often hesitant to report the crime for numerous reasons. The ISCE created app, I've-Been-Violated, is meant to aid victims of sexual assault in storing evidence. This app is available in the Apple App Store.

Some sexual assault victims choose not to report the assault immediately after it takes place, but wish to do so later. The app allows users to file “contemporaneous evidence” without reporting it to the police.

The app instructs users to go to a safe place after the assault. On-screen prompts follow, instructing users to video record their story of what happened. The video is both geotagged and time-stamped. It is then double-encrypted and stored offline where only the proper authorities can access it. After the file is saved, not even the user has access.

Michael Lissack, executive director of ISCE, says that an estimated 85 percent of sexual assault victims never come forward and that when they do their credibility is often questioned.

The app exists to solve both the

matter of the changing of memories and the issue of victim credibility after a substantial amount of time has passed.

This app is currently being piloted on college campuses. These pilot programs run by the ISCE were designed to help schools improve their Title IX compliance programs.

While the app is targeted at college victims of sexual assault, the app could also be used in domestic violence situations.



OPINION

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Time for Change

Respect Should Be Incorporated into PC Curriculum

by Sarah Kelley '18
Opinion Staff

SOLIDARITY

In the last two weeks, countless emails have been sent, meetings have been held, and dialogues have been initiated regarding the racist assault a group of girls was subjected to a few weeks ago on Eaton Street. And while Providence College is definitely not sweeping this act of prejudice under the rug, there are still questions that need to be asked and changes that need to be made.

Within the timeline of the events that played out that Saturday night, there are undoubtedly numerous gaps within the accounts of the incident, as well as within the administration's response—leaving many people confused, yearning for the truth, and above all, demanding change.

Among the multiple aspects of this incident that don't quite line up, a few include: the gap between what actually happened to those involved that Saturday night and what was then reported by the police, the gap between when the group of girls notified PC Security of the incident and when the Office of Safety and Security

released a crime advisory email to the school, and the gap between the time when the event took place and when President Father Brian Shanley, O.P., finally issued an email addressing the hate act, just to name a few.

And while these holes in the timeline may sadly never be filled with the truth, or even with a satisfactory response, the overwhelming wave of statements of solidarity and support—from various academic departments, students organizations, and clubs—may provide some relief to those affected.

And yet, in reflecting upon the emails sent from all over PC declaring this solidarity and support, what do these emails really mean if we as a school do not enact change at the administrative and institutional level?

While hiring private investigators, initiating discussions on campus, and providing counseling and support to those affected may alleviate the impact of this one singular incident, prejudice and bias—whether racism, sexism, or ageism—cannot be addressed on an incident-by-incident level.

The same kind of strength and courage that those girls -who stepped forward to recognize the prejudice and hate that was present on campus -showed two weeks ago is now needed

to recognize the fact that PC needs to implement change on a structural level, in order to promote a more equitable and welcoming campus environment for all.

These ideas all led me to ask: If so many statements of solidarity have been expressed, relaying our abhorrence as a community to acts of prejudice and bias on campus, why not enact these beliefs into a part of the PC curriculum?

If PC administration can require students to take upwards of four semesters of DWC (whose curriculum by and large applauds the achievements of white European male power), why not require students to begin taking courses in cultural competency, structural and symbolic violence, or perhaps respect for human differences?

That is not to say that Development of Western Civilization does not have a great value in the educational development of PC students, but if this school can require up to two years of a course that focuses on the accomplishments of a civilization that was founded on the exploitation of native cultures and slavery (although some professors do highlight the plight as well as impact of native cultures and minority groups in DWC), why should

we not have students learning about cultural competency and respect in the school and in the workplace?

In recognizing prejudices that can affect everyone, even at a level below consciousness, and in initiating a continuous dialogue between students and faculty in the classroom, we could provide a potential starting point for PC to institute some kind of school-wide change in addressing the racism and other prejudices present on campus that can no longer be ignored.

I am not claiming that these classes will definitely provide a complete solution to the complex problem facing Providence College. I do claim that, as many faculty and students express their statements of solidarity, change will also be needed in order for us to improve the academic and social environment of the College and bring equality to all those participating in the culture of PC.

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Providence College: A Call For God's Peace

by Fr. Peter Martyr Yungwirth, O.P.,
Chaplain

PEACE

Suffering and pain are real. Often we experience suffering in our own lives, and at other times we witness the suffering of others. In light of recent events on campus, we have all seen the effects of the pains which our students, faculty, and staff have endured. All this can make us wonder if healing is really possible and whether or not there is a cure for deep suffering. Fortunately, there is a remedy: peace.

Peace can often be misunderstood. It is not simply the lack of external conflict. Rather, peace goes much deeper and concerns the heart because it also includes the interior harmony and union of wills between people. Furthermore, the deepest level of peace comes about when all the interior aspects of a single person exist in unity. This peace within ourselves, in turn, becomes the foundation for peace with others.

If we want to bring about peace on this campus, then we have a challenge which invites us to examine ourselves and see whether or not our words and actions lead to discord and unrest. How have we helped those who do not feel included? How have we been merciful to those who have been a part of the problem? How have we reached out to others on campus and collaborated with them to bring about peace through both words of encouragement and support and also

words of forgiveness and mercy? It's this sort of self-examination that will begin to foster peace with others.

Still, for this vision of peace to become a reality, we need to turn to the example of the "Prince of Peace," Jesus Christ, who both showed us true peace and gives us the grace to live in peace with others. In the Incarnation, when God became man, Jesus restored us to a state of peace with God. During His earthly life and through His miracles, He reconciled sinners, offered healing graces, and reached out to the poor and suffering. On the Cross and in His Resurrection, He showed us that no matter what wrongs we've done and sins we've committed, His love and mercy know no bounds. Jesus preached to both Jews and Gentiles, and He forgave everyone from St. Mary Magdalene to the repentant thief to those who crucified Him. Even now, His support and His mercy extend to all. By His example He teaches us, and through His grace we are able to follow in His footsteps and bring His peace to our own campus.

Bringing about an end to suffering and pain as well as the establishment of a culture of inclusivity is a noble and worthy cause, but for that to become a reality here at Providence College we need to foster peace. Christ shows us the path of peace in His own life, and He invites us to follow Him so that we may become instruments of His peace. In this way and with His grace, Providence College truly can become a place of peace.



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London Town Friar

You Define Your Own Study Abroad Experience

by Carolyn Walsh '17
Asst. Opinion Editor

STUDY ABROAD

The words “study abroad” can evoke a number of cliché images, including American students wearing berets smiling in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris or just simply gallivanting through the novel wonders of European culture. As I began the application process to study abroad in my favorite city in the world, London, I also created a certain image of what I wanted my experience to be like. As the stress of meeting deadlines, making sure I was picking the right courses, and securing credit for them became more pronounced, I held onto an image of myself: independent, happy, and having the time of my life in London.

I am sure that for many of the countless other Providence College students studying abroad this spring, the end of fall semester finals also came as a surreal wake-up call. Packing up and leaving campus felt like an official transition; studying abroad was no longer just a thrilling fantasy as it became a fast approaching reality. Even as I gleefully discussed my program at City University London with my friends and family, I had yet to truly acknowledge it as reality. In the weeks leading up to my departure for London, I tried hard to suppress a lot of the nerves I had about the trip and the creeping anxiety that maybe I would not be able to live up to the romantic

vision I had created for myself over there.

I have been in London for nearly three weeks already and it has truly been special and exciting. I have learned that it is okay to also acknowledge that studying abroad can be a little scary and a little tough at times. Settling into my new home in a student flat, trying to navigate my classes and the quirks of the U.K. education system have produced some frustration. Similarly, figuring out which food to eat without the convenience of a meal plan has proved to be new learning territory (Dunkin’ Donuts where art thou?). At certain times the hustle and bustle of London streets can feel a tad lonely and the comforting familiarity of Providence College and home feels even farther than an ocean away.

Yet when I am able to force myself to stop and slow down for a bit, those prior feelings of frustration and loneliness melt away. When I am able to take the 10 minute walk from my building to St. Paul’s Cathedral to sit on its steps and look around the city, I am reminded of why I am studying abroad in London; it is not to live up to a certain image, but to immerse myself in a new culture with all its rewards and challenges. Studying abroad is only what you make of it.



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Solidarity Marches Deserve Funding

It’s Our Duty. It’s Our Faith.

#BlackLivesMatter

PHOTO COURTESY OF HUCKMAGAZINE.COM

by Edward Walrod '16
Opinion Staff

SOLIDARITY

Providence College has been very active in sending its students to events it considers of great importance to its faith mission. The most well known is Campus Ministry’s organized contingent to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. every year. For those on the student newspaper, it was going to the same city to report on the pope’s Canonization Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. These events are meant to bring the College’s Roman Catholic faith to the forefront and to combine this faith with students’ passion for activism. In light of recent tensions, the College should start sponsoring such marches/events/walks pertaining to race relations in the U.S.

The concept isn’t anything new to either the protest scene or the faith. Communities of faith have often been at the forefront of racial reconciliation or likewise have contained some of the most reactionary of members. No faith has an entirely clean record on this. Yet, most faiths, including Catholicism, have strived to self-correct. Looking through some old college yearbooks, even those that predate the Civil Rights Act, one will notice a few interesting things. The student body, while still relatively homogeneous, has African American students. The College’s dealings in race relations extend further than current conversations would lead you to believe. It is almost funny how things are today. The College was founded by those who sought an equal footing for those who at the time faced discrimination, in this case for being

Catholic. The College was essentially founded as an institution to equalize opportunities for the disenfranchised. Whereas at one point we seemed to be at the forefront of racial reconciliation, recent events have clearly shown that we have slipped. This is why the general apathy or even disdain students have been treating the recent protests here on campus with is so concerning. Our history would beg to differ as would the faith of the college. This is exactly why we need these protests, to reclaim our history and to repurpose our outreach for the 21st century. This long, disorganized collection of thoughts wants to genuinely contribute ideas to the campus in order to once again make this an activist college in all areas. Central to the idea of faith is the idea of reconciliation with each other and the taking of activist stances. We send reporters to important events,

let’s now send our students. There are hundreds of protests, marches, and town halls focused on bringing racial and ethnic minorities’ rights to light. These events would serve an educational and faith-based purpose. Sending a mixed group of students consistently to one of these events would allow for meaningful human engagement on a more personal level. Hopefully, such interactions would dispel any reservations people would have. Let’s put our money where our mouth is. This past week almost every department and major administrative organization sent out statements of solidarity. That’s great. Let’s take the next step and secure funds to support students wishing to engage in meaningful discourse across the country. It’s our duty, it’s our faith.

No More Original Content

Why The Audience Is Responsible

by Brianna Abbott '17
Opinion Co-Editor

ENTERTAINMENT

So, your favorite book or movie is getting a new blockbuster remake. It doesn't surprise you —the trendiness of flashy prequels or sequels has been so prevalent in recent years that they seem to outnumber original content in the movie theaters. Some are good, like *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, and some are, well, like *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*. It seems that movies have lost their originality, and the general gossip on the street is that screenwriters can no longer think of original content. Despite how much the average movie-goer likes to bash the movie industry as bland and uncreative, the blame actually lies with the movie-goer rather than the movie maker.

The most recent remake to hit the box office, *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*, is based on the 2009 Seth Grahame-Smith novel of the same name, which is a strange fusion based on the 1813 Jane Austen novel *Pride and Prejudice* and the zombie/vampire fad that ran rampant in the early 2000s. Since *Pride and Prejudice* is one of my all-time favorite novels, I rushed to read *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*, only to return it because I physically could not finish the book. But, the weird thing is, I'm still probably going to see the movie. Why? Because I already know the plot and love some of the actors (Hello, Matt Smith from *Doctor Who*).

We love to see our favorite books come to life. If it's a movie, we love to see our favorites come back to life. There's something magical about seeing your favorite characters again, no matter how many times you've seen them before. It's comforting and exciting at the same time. Throw in some Hollywood heartthrobs, and you can't keep people away from these films. I'd choose familiar, loved characters over an original plot almost every time.

And I'm not the only one. If you look at the Top-10 grossing movies of 2015, only three of them are original, and one of those, *American Sniper*, is based on a true story. An original movie doesn't even make the top three. *Inside Out*, the highest grossing original movie, is only number four, beaten out by *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, *Jurassic World*, and *The Avengers: Age of Ultron*. And between fourth place *Inside Out* and the third place *Avengers* is a substantial gap in profit.

Movie producers and distributors notice this gap in profit. So unless distributors are sure that they can turn out movies as high in quality and profit as *Inside Out* (good luck with that one), they're going to play it safe and go with the remake. Although moviemaking is an important art, it is primarily a business, and businesses need to make a profit. Because movies are incredibly expensive to make, companies are going to make the movies that they believe will bring in the most profit, whether or not they turn down a

different, original movie of higher quality. That sentiment may be a little disheartening, but it's the reason why we're getting *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* instead of the now nameless movie the studio passed up.

Not only do distributors need to worry about the profit of the movie, but they need to consider marketing and the merchandise that accompanies a franchise. How much merchandise can you sell for *Straight Outta Compton* compared to *Avengers*? There is no comparison, and everyone knows it, including movie makers. If you're spending your money on *Star Wars* clothes and memorabilia, like me, then you're ensuring that there will be more prequels and sequels to come.

Not that there's anything wrong with that. If you want to enjoy your movie remakes and your sequels or want go to the midnight premieres in cosplay, you go. But if you do, you can't complain about the lack of originality in the modern movie industry. It is, after all, an industry. I'm still going to see *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* sometime soon; but if you want to start seeing some new original films in theaters, you need to start seeing the original films that are already there.

PHOTO COURTESY OF COMINGSOON.NET

Is There More To The Brain?

A Debate On Human Consciousness

by Matt Tinsley '16
Opinion Staff

FAITH & SCIENCE

Recently, Dr. Michael Graziano, a professor of neuroscience and psychology at Princeton University, published an article in *The Atlantic* titled, "Consciousness is not Mysterious." In his reflection, Dr. Graziano wrestles with the difficulty of explaining consciousness and the human mind in empirical, scientific terms. While he concedes that human consciousness can be described as "nonphysical" and "irreducible," Graziano ultimately sees the experience of being conscious as illusory and misleading. I submit that such a mechanical and rigidly material understanding of the human mind is simply off the mark.

In this article, I put Dr. Graziano in dialogue with David Bentley Hart, an Eastern Orthodox theologian who has written on human consciousness from the vantage point of faith. While there is much to be said on this topic, my purpose is not to cover everything. I wish only to invite you into an interesting and important conversation about the constitution of the human person. How might you explain your anthropological viewpoint? How does your vision of the human person inform your view of the world?

Consider first Dr. Graziano's conclusions. He makes a distinction between the content of consciousness and the experience of actually being conscious, the former of which is much easier to explain using science. For example, scientific studies allow us to understand "how the brain can process information about the world, how it can store and recall memories, how it can construct self-knowledge including even very complex self-knowledge about one's personhood and mortality."

Indeed, we know a lot about how human cognition and consciousness functions. But can we explain the deeply subjective experience of being conscious? Can studying the electrochemical makeup of the brain account for the human experiences of being awake, alert, self-aware, meditative, and introspective? Dr. Graziano writes, "The brain processes information. It focuses its processing resources on this or that chunk of data. That's the complex, mechanistic act of a massive computer." It would appear from Graziano's simplistic and reductionist view of human consciousness that we are not free and intelligent creatures, but rather mindless composites of matter and energy devoid of any real purpose.

In "The Experience of God: Being, Consciousness, Bliss," David Bentley Hart focuses on the dimensions of human consciousness that are not properly understood through scientific inquiry. For example, Hart writes, "One can conduct an exhaustive surveillance of all those electrical events in the neurons in the brain that are undoubtedly the physical concomitants of mental states, but one does not thereby gain access to that singular, continuous, and wholly interior experience of being this person that is the actual substance of conscious thought." This point is in service of a larger anthropological portrait of the human person: we are matter and spirit.

While this conversation can be challenging, I believe it is a worthwhile exercise. You may find the experience to be rewarding and spiritually nourishing.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIRED.COM



PHOTOGRAPHY

The Cowl 9
February 11, 2016



ALEXANDRA PORTOCARRERO '18 / THE COWL



KIMBERLY LEZAMA '18 / THE COWL



KIMBERLY LEZAMA '18 / THE COWL

ABOVE: Students decorate hats at the EY Codi's Hats event for patients receiving chemotherapy, sponsored by Ernst & Young, the Accounting Association, and Career Education.

BELOW: Students compete to see who is the most knowledgeable in Student Activities' Music Trivia Night.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Dr. Charles Toth raises awareness and spreads truth about the science behind cancer among students for Relay for Life and Colleges Against Cancer.

TOP LEFT: Safety and Security holds a class to teach students self-defense techniques.

TOP RIGHT: Melina Abdullah raises awareness of racism and its effects in a lecture to students.

BELOW: Students gather in Campus Ministry to watch the Super Bowl and cheer on their favorite team.



ANDREW BUTLER '16 / THE COWL



KRISTINA HO '18 / THE COWL



KRISTINA HO '18 / THE COWL

Photos Compiled by Kristina Ho '18, Photo Editor



PROVING PHOTOGRAPHY

Page 10

February 11, 2016

I wish I had someone with whom I could share ...?



"A hug."

Meaghan Philbin '19 and Maggie Fair '19



"A cheesy bread stick."

Rebecca Petrocelli '16 and Tori Long '16



"Ice cream."

Darny Mao '18 and Olivia Lo '18



"A smile."

Mitch Hebert '19



"Gummy bears."

Katy Hirschfeld '19 and Corey Lynch '19



"A smoothie."

Daniel Pupke '17 and Connor Murphy '17



"My life."

-Selena Gomez

PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.THEHOLLYWOODNEWS.COM

Photos Taken By Kimberly Lezama '18, Assistant Photo Editor



Irish Wit Wows at Bowab Studio Theatre

by Ryan Charland '18
A&E Staff

THEATER

This past weekend, the John Bowab Studio Theatre in the Smith Center for the Arts hosted a student production of Martin McDonagh's *The Pillowman*. The twisted tale was given its due in a wonderful presentation that left audiences awestruck. If anything, the production is a testament to the smaller, unsung projects of Providence College's Department of Theatre, Dance, and Film.

Few playwrights can blend imagination, darkness, and Irish black humor like McDonagh. His stories are touching, bleak, absurdly funny, and at times dare the audience not to laugh. He is best known for his films *Seven Psychopaths* (2012) and the masterful *In Bruges* (2008). The latter, starring Colin Farrell and Ralph Fiennes, is one of the best black comedies of the last decade. *The Pillowman* is an earlier work, first debuting in 2003 before going on to win two Tony Awards.

The Pillowman is a deviation from McDonagh's usual Ireland-centered work. Rather, its story unfolds in a totalitarian dictatorship where crime suspects may be executed without trial. Katurian (Brian Kozak '17) is under interrogation by the police (Gabriella Sanchez '18 and Joey Macari '17) for an unknown reason. At first, it appears that his short stories have drawn the eye of the government. However, the situation turns severe when his



The cast of Logan Serabian's production of *The Pillowman*. PHOTO COURTESY OF KATRINA PAVAO '16

mentally handicapped brother Michal (Jonathan Coppe '18) and a string of child killings become involved. No

The cast provided solid performances all around, but special mention must be given to Kozak for his wonderful work in the lead role. It is no easy task to make an audience laugh during a conversation with a child murderer, but Kozak manages to be both compelling and comical.

In fact, despite centering on the investigation of a series of killings, *The Pillowman* is at times hysterical even if the audience found it too uncomfortable to chuckle at first. Eventually, the crowd warmed up to McDonagh's writing and was freely laughing by the end of the story.

Katurian's stories are used brilliantly as an alternative to flashbacks, fleshing out his backstory while still providing room for speculation. These scenes are staged as puppet shows, with Kozak narrating as he manipulates characters made up to resemble puppets. Horror replaces black comedy during these sequences. Sabrina Guilbeault '18 and Colin Carroll '16 are unsettling as the puppets, adding to the otherworldliness of the show.

As his senior capstone project, Logan Serabian '16 directed and his production showcases his talent. His ability to bring McDonagh's writing to life is admirable, especially considering the grisly and nightmarish content. If this production is any indication of the usual quality of independent student projects, it would pay to keep an eye on the Bowab Theatre.

topic is taboo for McDonagh as child murder, suicide, and torture are all handled with his usual deftness.

Alumni: PC Graduates in Entertainment

Continued from front page

Along with his brother, Bobby Farrelly, he has written, directed, and produced various comedies including *There's Something About Mary*, *Dumb and Dumber*, *Shallow Hal*, *Me, Myself & Irene*, and *Fever Pitch*, to name a few. *Dumb and Dumber* alone, on a \$17 million budget, made \$16 million opening weekend and went on to make \$247 million worldwide by the end of 1994. Farrelly is also a published author, having written *Outside Providence* and *The Comedy Writer*; he now lives in Los Angeles.

Alumna Janeane Garofalo, while studying history at Providence College, entered a comedy talent search sponsored by the Showtime network, and won the title of "Funniest Person in Rhode Island." Inspired by watching David Letterman, Garofalo, after graduating from PC with degrees in History and American Studies, became a professional stand-up comedian. Her big break came in 1990 when she met Ben Stiller in Los Angeles while hanging out with stand-up friends. Garofalo's first exposure on TV was as a stand-up comic on MTV's *Half Hour Comedy Hour* and on the short-lived but Emmy winning *The Ben Stiller Show*, which ran on Fox 1992.

Garofalo was later offered a role as Paula on *The Larry Sanders Show*, which earned her two Primetime Emmy Awards nominations for



PC alumna, comedian, and actress Janeane Garofalo. PHOTO COURTESY OF BROADWAYWORLD.COM

outstanding supporting actress in a Comedy Series. Garofalo was the original choice to play Monica in *Friends*, but turned the offer down. She had major roles in *Wet Hot American Summer*, *The Truth About Cats & Dogs*, and *Reality Bites*; she was also the voice of Colette Tatou in Disney's movie, *Ratatouille*.

Actor, voice actor, author, and television personality John O'Hurley graduated from PC with a B.A. in theatre in 1976. O'Hurley went on to appear in over 30 TV productions and played Jacopo Peterman in *Seinfeld* from 1995 to 1998. He was also runner-up in *Dancing with the Stars* in 2005 and hosted *Family*

Feud from 2006 to 2010. O'Hurley has written three books and one of them, *It's Okay to Miss the Bed on the First Jump*, became a *New York Times* Best Seller. He also led the national tour of *Chicago*, making his debut on Broadway in 2006 and later returning in 2010, 2011, and 2013.

Explore Providence: Fellini Pizzeria

by Isabella Goldstein '17
A&E Staff

LOCAL

Although this may be difficult to hear, there is more to life than Big Tony's or Golden Crust pizza. In fact, Rhode Island is filled with delicious pizzerias that are equally as tasty as our campus favorites.

If you are feeling adventurous, make the 15 minute trek to Cranston, Rhode Island, where you will find Fellini's, a New York-style thin crust pizzeria that has won countless food awards and has even been featured on *Phantom Gourmet*.

Our party arrived at Fellini's around 4 p.m. on Saturday for a late lunch. We were seated immediately, although there certainly were other diners there. The space, which included both a bar and traditional seating along with counter service, was large but inviting due to the dim lighting and warm decor. The space was clean and the service was friendly and fast. The only downfall was that the temperature inside the restaurant seemed colder than the actual temperature outside.

Despite the fact that we wanted to wear our jackets at the table, the menu included a wide variety of warm comfort foods. These included appetizers, salads, and pizza—either by the slice or one-size pie—

sandwiches, and desserts. Some of the notable mentions include an array of specialty pizzas, such as The Villager, topped with baby arugula, goat cheese, caramelized onions, dried cranberries, and balsamic glaze; Meat Lover's Code Blue, consisting of Italian sausage, bacon, and pepperoni; the traditional BBQ chicken; and chicken pesto.

We began our meal with a Mediterranean plate, which included hummus, Kalamata olives, roasted garlic, tomato, onion, feta cheese, and focaccia bread. This combination of ingredients was tasty, but the portion size was definitely on the smaller side. We then decided on two specialty pizzas: The Sweet Haven, topped with bacon, ricotta cheese, scallions, and a creamy Parmesan sauce, and a traditional buffalo chicken pizza. The Sweet Haven definitely deserves a 10 out of 10; however, I have to admit, the buffalo chicken pizza cannot compare to the Big Tony's version. Despite the disappointment of the buffalo chicken pizza, the portions of the pies are large and the prices are reasonable. We all left wanting to come back again, considering how delicious the mediterranean plate and bacon pizza were.

Not convinced just yet? There is a smaller location on 166 Wickenden Street here in Providence that is known for its take-out service, so grab a slice—or five—today!



A look inside of Fellini's Pizzeria, Cranston location. PHOTO COURTESY OF FELLINIPIZZERIA.COM



Lady Gaga performing the National Anthem during Super Bowl 50. PHOTO COURTESY OF COSMOPOLITAN.COM

This Week: Lady Gaga's National Anthem

by Ryan Cox '18
A&E Staff

MUSIC

Lady Gaga is a polarizing figure. She played the system by breaking out in the music industry with bizarre antics and catchy, dance-pop hits even though she had the talent to get a record deal without all of the theatrics. In the past few years, however, Gaga has showcased her true musical ability as a pianist and vocalist, performing duets with Tony Bennett and paying tribute to Julie Andrews with a beautiful medley of songs from *The Sound of Music*. When I found out that Lady Gaga was singing the National Anthem at the Super Bowl this year, I had high expectations and she delivered.

Singing the National Anthem is daunting. There is a lot of pressure on the performer to do the song justice; there have been great renditions (Zac Brown Band), bad ones (Idina Menzel), and some unfortunately terrible ones (Christina Aguilera). The song's huge octave-and-a-half range, combined with the sheer pressure placed on the singer to sing it correctly, makes "The Star-Spangled Banner" one of the most difficult songs to perform. Gaga's version had more hits than misses, so I will

start with the short list of negatives. Most notably, the tempo was slow. A typical performance of the National Anthem is around 90 seconds. Gaga's clocked in at two minutes, nine seconds. A couple long pauses and held notes could have been shortened to move the song along.

Ornamentation of the National Anthem is controversial. There is a thin line between tasteful and excessive. Gaga's stylistic choices fell on both sides. Some were appropriate, like her embellishment of the beginning of the song. Others were too much, like the jumps at the end of "O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave."

Neither of these points take away from the emotion and power of Gaga's National Anthem. It was well done because she cut out the theatrics and antics and just sang. No props, no crazy outfits (what she wore was mild compared to what she used to sport), just simple piano accompaniment and a killer voice. She chose a key that demonstrated her entire range, from her sensitive lows to her powerhouse highs, and made the song her own without detracting from the meaning of the moment. Lady Gaga took a high-pressure song and executed it with emotion, making it look effortless.

Top Five Super Bowl Commercials

by Kealy Robertson '16
A&E Staff

TELEVISION

The Super Bowl is the biggest sporting event that everyone gets together to watch with their friends and family, even if they do not like the teams playing. Packed around chips, dip, and a hundred wings, what becomes more interesting than the game are the commercials. This year, many companies knocked it out of the park with creative and unique ads for their brand.

The first commercial that got the crowd talking was “Avocado from Mexico’s” commercial of futuristic characters in a museum that highlighted the biggest moments of 2016. This included the hilarious moment when the blue and black—or white and gold—dress that took social media by storm in early 2015 appeared. It started another commotion in living rooms across America as people argued over the color they saw.

T-Mobile’s “Restricted Bling” created a wave of laughter as well. Drake, who sang his song “Hotline Bling,” which might be considered overplayed, took pointers from the representatives of T-Mobile. His humorous responses to their requests made every viewer fall in love with Drake yet again. The greatest part was the T-Mobile workers who were dancing to the song in his music video box at the end of the commercial.

The Hyundai commercial featuring beloved comedian Kevin Hart also came in on top this year. He gives his Hyundai to the boy taking his daughter out on a date so that he can keep track of them throughout the night. He pops up at each place they go, eventually scaring the boy so much that the date is cut short—a father-daughter moment that some can certainly relate to.

The Heinz “Wiener Stampede” commercial was absolutely adorable. The dachshunds dressed in hot dog costumes were to die for. Everyone watching



The ending of Heinz’s 2016 Super Bowl commercial, “Wiener Stampede.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF USATODAY.COM

fell in love with the commercial as the dogs frolicked over to the men dressed up in Heinz bottle costumes.

Finally, the most heartwrenching commercial of the 2016 Super Bowl was Audi’s, “The Commander.” The older man, obviously sad and lonely, missing his life as an astronaut, is able to relive the rush of flying into space in Audi’s new car. Though the commercial

played with viewers’ emotions, it had everyone smiling in the end.

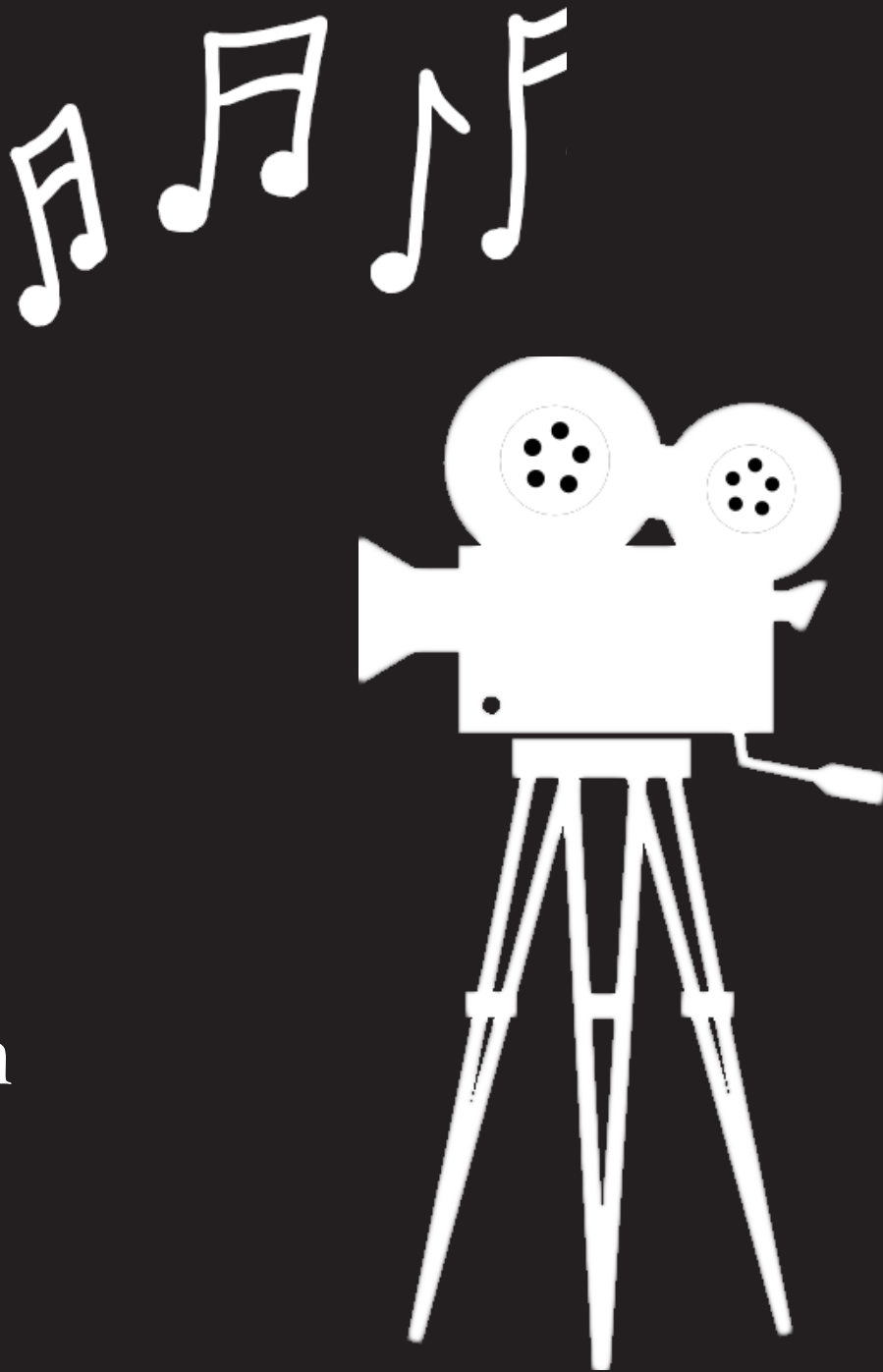
Although the game might have been a little slow, the commercials definitely made up for it. This year, brands did a fantastic job of keeping fans concentrated on the television as they pulled the strings of our hearts and made us laugh over and over again.

Interested in films,
theatre, art, or music?

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PORTFOLIO

The Cowl 14
February 11, 2016

Shrouded

by Konner Jebb '16
Portfolio Staff

PROSE POETRY

Why can't you just be happy? Try harder. Eat better. But brain chemistry isn't some bellowing beast you can wrap a lasso around and wrangle in one go. It's a soothing blanket that suffocates reality, the lack of a breeze brushing against skin's numbness of nerves. The thick, self-imposed cover silencing self-acceptance morphs fuzzy walls into a cavernous echo of self-hatred. It's forgetting there's medication to take, food to eat, friends to see. Only sleep, sleep, sleep in a stuffy room perspiring with your own tears.

The good days are the ones where dreaming is possible. If it's just walking past a window to discover the caress of a breeze again, wanting to wake up despite aching nerves and heavy bones, breathing in the refreshing air of aliveness. Taking one's pill perhaps, stomaching a bite of a crusty sandwich, forcing a laugh with someone you might know. And damn, that feels good. If it's just seeing the sunset as a piece of art and not as time's stopwatch, then there's meaning somewhere. That smidgen of meaning might be worth unrolling your blanket for, inch by inch...

WINTER'S LAMENT

Black-Out in the Corner

by David Martineau '18
Portfolio Staff

by Ariana Pasquantonio '16
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

POETRY

Snow! Why must you fall from the heavens above,
To weigh down the boughs of once-friendly trees
And cover all on Earth like a thick, wet glove,
With your torture condemning all to freeze?
And whilst we suffer the scourge of ache and sneeze
You laugh, and descend to plague us all the more—
And when finally we plead with you on our frigid knees
You depart, leaving behind the crystalline hoar
That encrusts like diamond the once-clean floor.
But hark! Behold what we bring forth now,
A vital weapon in our bitter, everlasting war!
Upon you we shall bring the might of the plow,
To end the fight with the strength of our arms
And bring an end to your icy harms!

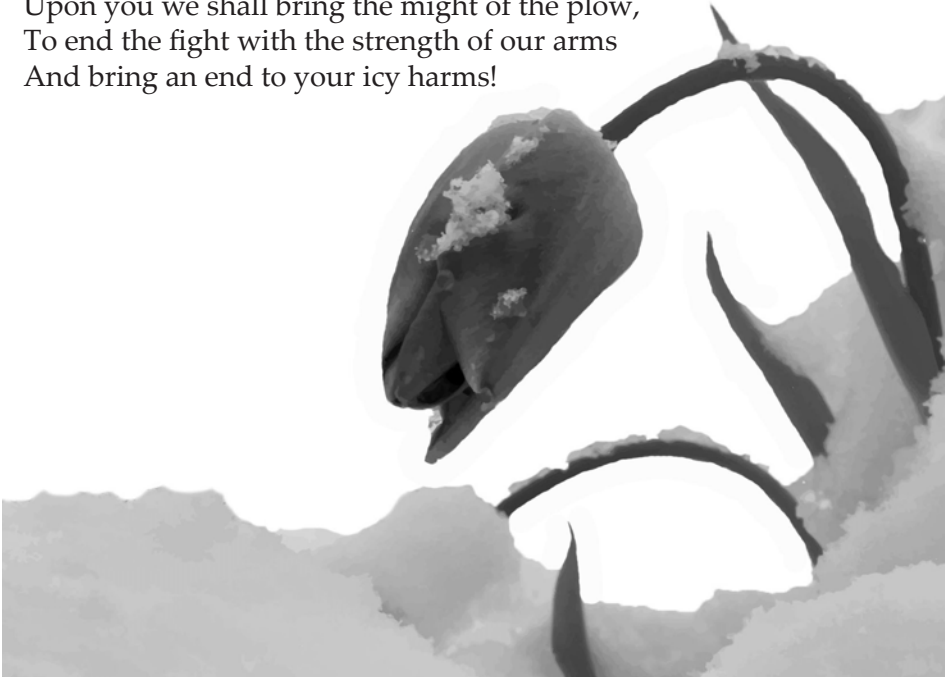


PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDY STAFINIAK

REPLY

...of the ...
...of, ...
...the ... and this includes ...
...other whom we encounter ...
...be as objective as I can. What I desire ...
...even if he is my enemy. I want ...
...eliminate all false assumptions and prejudices. Indeed, all the ...
...sides of the historian are needed in every historic ...
...between ...
...encounter may belong to a different social ...
...nation. It is, I must learn ...
...and so on. ...
...with ...
...logical deduction ...
...from the work of the biographer if he was personally ...
...with his subject he must be particularly careful to ...
...as he really was and let him be ...
...all the accuracy and ... of the historian.

... it is impossible to ...
...reject ...
...and accept ... because it is ...
...the ... of the past ...
...the ... of the ...
...enmeshed in ...
...our ...
...ambiguity ...
...the ...
...of ...
...thought. ...
...the ...
...the ...

Do's and Don'ts of PC dating

Do: LaSalle

Don't: RayGuest Swipe

Do: Stroll By the Koi Pond

DoNot: Stroll by Eaton St. on Saturday

NEVER: RI Comic Con

ALWAYS: open Skate

Listomania

Unique Gifts for Your Beloved on Valentine's Day

Dead Carcass of a Turtle

Dad?

Piñata Filled With Anatomically Correct Heart Chocolates

HDMI Cable

DVD Set of *Downton Abbey*

A Message on a Potato (potatoparcel.com)

A Spare Tire Full of Flowers From the Side of the Road

Bouquet of Bees

Prepaid Shell Gas Card

Finger Puppets (thepuppetstore.com)

Morphsuit

Wings of a Bird

A Year-Long Subscription to *The Cowl*

Their Freedom

Bolex

by Jose Martinez '16
Asst. Portfolio Editor

PROSE POETRY

Vera pulls a box out of a shopping bag, and then she tears the tab off, and out comes an unrolled spool of crisp celluloid. The strip, which at a paltry one hundred feet, doesn't seem like it's that long. But were it unrolled, it would be like performing the endless handkerchief trick. It can't be handled that much nor too roughly for fear of the final image having the appearance of something that came out of a horror show, so whatever time is spent as it sits between her thumb and forefinger has to be savored. Her digits send it through tiny, thick hooks, which shelter it and ensure that the hard plastic braid won't be wrung like a soggy pair of socks. It wraps around an empty spool several times, helped once more by careful digits; one last guarantee that the inside won't look like a hurricane while the talkie is being shot. *Snap, swivel, click*, the compartment door hugs onto the machine for dear life; the most difficult part has been taken care of. The handle on the side of the cinematic paintbrush is given a couple more turns, for the sake of the first shot. It's a lovely sound, she thinks, hearing the faint grinding of those few gears and levers. A button located at the front of the machine is pressed, and the black ribbon of wonderful can be heard being eaten up, *whir, crunch, crunch*. And the images she just captured may be used, or they may not. Either way, it's all magic.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMIDREZA AHMADI

Tiffany & Earl

Making PC an emotionally stable place one letter at a time

Dear Tiff and Earl,

I am in love with both of you. Fight for my love.

Sincerely,
Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places

Dear Fundamentalist Mormon Cupid,



I don't want your indecisive garbage love. I am the definition of feminism. A strong independent woman who don't need an indecisive piece of yesterday's sale rack. If you can't automatically choose me over such a disgusting slob whose mustache screams "get in my van!" then we are not meant to be. Honestly in a recent national poll Earl was placed above Friar Dom as the creepiest single living entity in the United States. I am up here, and you are down here.

Who is the one with flare? Fashion? Beauty? Romance? The envy of all who lay eyes upon me?! IT'S ME YOU IDIOT! I DON'T WANT THE LOVE OF YOU OR TRUMP SUPPORTERS. The fact is I can have you not love me and still have millions who love me through this publication. I DON'T NEED YOU, JUST LIKE I DON'T NEED MY KID TO GET AN ALIEN MUTATION WITH THOSE GOVERNMENT CONSPIRACY VACCINES FORCED ON US BY PRESIDENT OBAMA.

Earl acts like he is five which is coincidentally his SAT score after the fifth time he took it. Scientists have called him the "missing link," atheists call him proof that God does not in fact exist. He is used by Ted Cruz as an example as to why social safety nets are not permissible. AND THE WORST PART IS HE IS A TOILET-PAPER-UNDER-NOT-TOILET-PAPER-OVER PERSON. Literally Satan incarnate. Idk why the Dominicans haven't filed the form to get him exorcised.

In the words of Taylor Swift, "We are never ever ever getting back together."

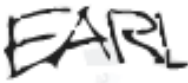

Not faithfully yours,
St. Thomas Donquinas



Dear Poor Judgment,

Are you blind or just illiterate? Not only am I more attractive than Tiffany and have a grasp of the English language that makes Shakespeare sound like a sloth dying of suffocation on the moon, I also offer far better advice. Seriously, Tiffany will just probably tell you to take hallucinogens, since they're the only thing that make her look better than me. Not only that, I don't walk around in Vineyard Vines and North Face, but in the finest garments of Persian silk (as far as anyone has to know). So when you are looking for a candidate to love this year, remember that you've got a Pearl in Earl. Or, Hey Girl Wanna Take a Whirl with Earl? Wait, wait, wait, how about Tiffany Will Make You Hurl, This Year, Go With Earl! I should hire a campaign manager.

—#Earl2016 #MakeLoveGreatAgain



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.

2

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HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY, FRIARS! ENJOY
YOUR WELL-DESERVED LONG WEEKEND.



PHOTO COURTESY OF POLIVORE.COM



Editor's Corner: Let Cam Be Cam

by Joey Ciccarello '16
Sports Editor

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Last Saturday night, Cam Newton received arguably the highest honor in the National Football League: he was honored as Most Valuable Player. It was a fitting tribute to Newton's otherworldly 2015-2016 season, one in which he led the Carolina Panthers to a 15-1 record and a Super Bowl berth.

Most everyone, myself included, expected "Super Cam" and the Panthers to not only win Super Bowl 50, but beat the Denver Broncos comfortably. Most everyone, however, was dead wrong, as the Broncos defense, led by Super Bowl MVP Von Miller, stifled Newton all night en route to a 24-10 victory.

It was not so much the game itself that put Newton at the center of nearly every Super Bowl discussion come Monday morning. Instead, the immediate aftermath raised a bevy of questions about the character of the man that just one day earlier seemed to be on top of the football world.

In his post-game press conference, Newton had the look of a defeated man, giving curt, vague answers to nearly every question asked of him. For many, the most damning moment came shortly after the press conference began, when he abruptly ended his media availability by unexpectedly leaving the stage.

It is no secret that

Newton is a polarizing figure; for every person that loves his exuberant personality on and off of the field, there is one person that would love nothing more than for him to fail, and fail miserably at that. For Newton's haters, his press conference validated every doubt and criticism they had ever had of him. Clay Travis of *Fox Sports*, a vehement Newton basher, went as far as to say that Newton had solidified himself as the NFL's version of Donald Trump: brash in victory, surly and sore in defeat.

Personally, I love watching Newton play football. He loves what he does, he has fun doing it, and he is really, really good at it too. This is not to say that I absolve him of any poor conduct on Sunday night. He has a responsibility to address the media, win or lose, and do so in a way that helps those same media members do their job to the fullest.

I will, however, defend the fact that no matter how superhuman Cam Newton looks, he is truly no different than any one of us. Like you, like me, Newton has emotions, ones that were likely running extremely high following the greatest disappointment of his career. He was a defeated man, a man crushed by the weight of expectations that he and his teammates had prior to kickoff on Sunday.

Some critics dubbed

Newton a "sore loser" following his actions on Sunday night. Newton, rather than deny the allegations, took them in stride on Tuesday afternoon. "Show me a good loser," Newton said, "and I'll show you a loser."

This is a man who does not hide how he is feeling. If he is happy, he will let you know by dancing around the field. If he is upset, he will let you know like he did on Sunday night. This is not a bad thing at all; in fact, I'd argue that Newton's emotional displays show that he is a human after all.

No player in the game seemed to be bothered by Newton's post-game actions either. Peyton Manning, widely regarded as one of the game's good guys, pointed out that Newton went out of his way to shake his hand following the game's completion. If his colleagues aren't offended by what he did, why should we be?

Newton is one of the most polarizing figures in sports today. He faces more criticism, much of it unwarranted, than any other player that plays the game of football. He is a man who, for better or for worse, puts a world of expectations on his shoulders. If he is not the best loser in the world, so be it. Let Cam be Cam, and enjoy what he does each and every weekend.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPORTINGNEWS.COM

BUDDY HIELD

I want to preface my stance by stating that I love Kris Dunn '17RS as a basketball player. I firmly believe he will be a lottery draft pick in the upcoming NBA draft this summer. He is talented, works hard, and has the drive to put the Friars on his back. Now, objectively speaking as a basketball enthusiast, there is a reason why the Oklahoma Sooners Men's Basketball Team is considered one of the favorites to go deep in March Madness.

The reason is Buddy Hield. Hield has single-handedly carried his Sooners a Top-5 spot in the AP Poll and Coaches' Poll all season long. The hype around Hield has been suppressed in prior seasons due to his team's lack of success. However, his consistency in his offensive game has always placed him within the radars of NBA scouts. This season, Hield has put on amazing performances. Hield's 25.7 points per game ranks second among all active NCAA division I basketball players. This includes dropping 46 points on the Kansas Jayhawks in a triple-overtime game that featured a matchup between the then No. 1 and No. 2 teams in college basketball. It is this skill and confidence in the biggest games that makes Hield the best player in college basketball.

Hield has the uncanny ability to tell his coaches that he wants to be the guy to bring his team back when they are losing. Not only does Hield tell them, he delivers! Don't believe me? Go on Youtube and watch Hield highlights while keeping track of the score. You can even just watch his game-winning, three-point buzzer beater against the Texas Longhorns to get a sense of what I'm talking about.

An aspect of any athlete that wants to be great is how they respond to adversity. Any great player ascends to superstar status if they are capable of making winning plays when their team is in dire circumstances. Hield is as good as a guarantee to lead the charge for his Sooners to win basketball games on any given day. That is because he walks, lives, and breathes the aura of the next great professional baller.

-Brannon Walker-Hodges '16

WHO IS THE BEST PLAYER IN COLLEGE BASKETBALL?

KRIS DUNN

Kris Dunn '17RS has proven to be a top contender for Player of the Year not just in Big East basketball but in college basketball as a whole. In an article from December of 2013, ESPN described Dunn as one of Coach Ed Cooley's "backcourt gems." Even with repeating injuries his freshman and sophomore years, Dunn has proven to be not only one of the most significant players for the Friars but one of the best players in the nation.

The most notable things about Dunn's career so far is that he continues to improve each season, and with his improvement the team as a whole has had continued success. Because Dunn is only a junior, the team has a great outlook for the rest of this season and for next season provided he is not in the NBA. There may be players who outrank Dunn in points per game, but his strongest features are arguably his strength in rebounding the ball and taking the ball away from opponents. Dunn averages 5.9 rebounds per game, a high average for a guard. He also averages 3.2 steals per game, which ranks second nationally. More so than most offensive players, Dunn exhibits strong skills both on offense and defense, something that most teams and coaches can only dream about.

Also notable is his ability to overcome injury and adversity. Dunn joined the team and right off the bat was hit with a major injury that followed him all the way through his sophomore year. He has been showered with recognition each year, and was named Big East Defensive Player of the Year for the 2014-2015 season.

There are many strong players in collegiate basketball—that is what keeps it interesting, but Dunn has proven to be above the rest. And possibly the most important fact about Dunn is that he is one of us: a Friar, and that makes him all the better to root for and cheer on each game.

-Gretta Schultz '17

Men's Hockey Sweeps Maine

by **Brent Bauerle '16**
Sports Staff

MEN'S HOCKEY

Oftentimes, a great team simply needs a tune-up against lesser competition to rediscover what made it so great in the first place. In hockey, and especially Hockey East, a few soft goals and strong defensive showings against the dregs of the league are usually the recipe for top teams to get back on track, and both would have seemed to be in the cards as the Providence College's Hockey Team took on the lowly University of Maine in a two game road series over the weekend.

After riding high as the No. 1 overall team in the country for weeks (though, notably, never having been named number one in the mathematical Pairwise rankings) the Friars hit a rough patch over the last month, losing to Harvard and Boston College while mixing in a few ties and dropping five spots to number six in the nation.

And while normally a two game road trip would not seem to be the cure for any

ills—especially in the perennially tough Hockey East—a matchup with the bottom-dwelling Black Bears, with whom the Friars were undefeated in their last ten meetings, seemed to be just what the defending champs needed. Yet after the final horn of regulation sounded, Friar fans’ concerns had not been assuaged. If anything, they had been exacerbated.

The Friars attacked the Black Bears all night, employing a powerful forecheck to bog down Maine’s rush and winning nearly every battle in the corners in order to control possession. Though the Friars failed to score in the first period, they assaulted the net, especially via standout defenseman Jake Walman ‘18, who registered three shots on goal in the period and nearly snuck a wrist shot by Maine’s Matt Morris to give the Friars the edge.

Despite nothing to show on the scoreboard, the Friars continued pounding the offensive zone and sparking golden opportunities to score that they simply couldn’t put through. The defense was similarly dominant, though it found itself (thankfully)

bereft of the miscues that had derailed the Friars in recent weeks. Despite a solid two-way performance, however, the Friars went into the locker room after 60 minutes of hockey tied with the Black Bears and perilously close to walking away with an incredibly frustrating loss. Thankfully, Nick Saracino ‘16 scored a goal a little over two minutes into the extra period to save Providence from dropping the first of back-to-back road tilts.

Having grabbed a much needed win, PC had little time to rest on their laurels before the next day’s rematch. To the intrepid observer, the Friars' win on Friday was not much of a win at all, as they continued a frustrating inability to finish opportunities at the net and deepened what has become a disconcerting funk on the power play. And while not all of the team’s consternations were addressed Saturday, the ensuing 4-2 win to cap off the Friars fifth weekend sweep of the year perhaps portends a step in the right direction.

While Maine was somewhat able to reverse the trend from the previous night, peppering Nick Ellis ‘17 with 32 shots

and forcing the standout goalie to make several spectacular saves to preserve the win, the Friars too were able to flip the script in a few meaningful ways. First and foremost, the Friars exploded out of their rut on special teams, with Erik Foley ‘19 making a remarkable individual move to deke out the Maine defense on his way to an unassisted goal. And, perhaps more importantly, the rest of the offense seemed to find a groove, with four different players scoring as the Friars moved the puck and crashed the net effectively.

But issues remain. Though both games resulted in wins (wins the Friars desperately need as they attempt to climb the rungs to the top of Hockey East), the defending national champions were unable to put together a complete game against an objectively inferior opponent. With both the Hockey East and NCAA tournaments rapidly approaching, Providence must look to recapture the magic from their lengthy undefeated start if they want to consistently beat teams at or near their talent level, rather than simply skirting by against inferior competition.



Kris Dunn's struggles have hurt the Friars in back-to-back losses.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FOXSPORTS.COM

Men's Basketball Slumps Through Week

Losses to DePaul and Villanova Drop Friars in National Polls

by **DJ Anderson '16**
Sports Editor

MEN'S BASKETBALL

In lieu of last year’s first round exit against Dayton, the Providence College Men’s Basketball Team will be looking for a much stronger performance in this year’s NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament. However, in order to lock up a higher seed and hopefully grant themselves a favorable bracket in the 68 team tournament, the Friars will need to play much better than they have been down the final stretch of conference play.

After two straight losses to in-conference foes DePaul and Villanova, the Friars will head to the road to take on Marquette, a team that they stumbled against earlier in the season during a one point loss at the Dunkin’ Donuts Center. This means that they will have to deal with the all-conference

big man and future NBA lottery pick Henry Ellenson, who has been giving opponents fits all season long. Nevertheless, if there is one thing that the Friars have proven this season, it is their ability to beat tough opponents on the road.

After their matchup with the Golden Eagles, the team will battle Georgetown on this upcoming Alumni and Family weekend. In their only other game against the Hoyas, which came on Jan. 1, the Friars were able to squeak out a win by a margin of 73-69. This marked their third straight win against Coach John Thompson Jr.’s Georgetown team, and they will be looking to make it four this coming Saturday.

After the Georgetown game, the team will play two straight away games against Xavier and Seton Hall. These could both be tricky games, as the Friars have had trouble matching up with both teams this season. The team

will definitely need to get sharpshooter Ryan Fazekas ‘19 going behind the arc if they hope to take down the Musketeers on their home court. In their first matchup with Xavier, the team shot a miserable 7-34 from behind the three point line.

On the bright side, they only lost the game by seven, and the outcome could have been a lot different had a few of those three-pointers found the bottom of the net. After the Seton Hall game, the team will close out the season against DePaul, Creighton, and St. John’s. These are all very winnable games, as DePaul and St. John’s are currently the bottom dwellers of the Big East. Creighton has proven to be a tough opponent for teams all throughout the season, with a 7-5 in conference record and an overall standing of 16-9.

The Blue Jays will definitely be playing their hardest in this game, as a win over the Friars could be huge for them when the tournament selection committee is deciding the on bubble teams that will

make the field of 68. However, the Friars played one of their worst halves of a season in the first-half of the DePaul game on Jan. 12, and were still able to come away with a victory. Creighton is a very tough environment to play in, but the Friars were able to pull through thanks to a last second game-winning jump shot from Kris Dunn ‘17RS.

With wins in several of these games, as well as a respectable performance in the Big East Tournament, the Friars could be in great shape when the first round of the tournament comes around. In Joe Lunardi’s most recent Bracketology update, a bi-weekly bracket predictor which previews the field of 68, Lunardi had Providence slated as a six seed. With great play down the stretch this seed could improve greatly, and Providence could be looking at a possible four or five seed.

New Season, Same Story for Men's Hockey

Friars Confident Headed into Season's Final Stretch

by Sam Hardwick '17
Sports Staff

MEN'S HOCKEY

History may be repeating itself this year for Providence College's Men's Hockey Team. During the past two seasons, the friars started performing at their best at the beginning of February. Last year at this time, we were seeing flashes of Jon Gillies '15 and his developing skills and this year it may be Nick Ellis '17 that we are watching. Ellis has had his struggles at points this season but Saturday's performance must be a sign of things to come for the goaltender during the championship season. Since letting up four goals back on Jan. 9, the Friars have gone on to win six of their last eight with Ellis dominating University of New Hampshire on Friday night in a hard fought defensive battle that cumulated in a 3-1 victory.

Taking a look into Ellis' numbers versus Gillies' last year, the statistics are almost identical. Taking a look at their respective saves per game, Ellis is currently averaging 26.75 saves per game through his 27 games played. Gillies, through the entire season last year, averaged 26.38 saves. In addition, Gillies had a total of 1,029 saves on the entire season. Ellis currently has 722 saves and if he continues to average

around 26 saves a game, he is well on track to earn over 1,000 saves this season as well. The Friars will look for Ellis to continue to have similarities to Gillies as the season comes to a close and move into the playoffs. Gillies let up only 15 goals throughout the entire month of February. If Ellis can recreate that type of goalie magic, the Friars will look to make a run come playoff time.

One of the other keys to success for the PC team is Head Coach Nate Leaman. After the game against UMass Lowell, Coach Leaman expressed frustration over the issues that could be fixed. When the coach was asked what needed to be fixed he said, "We need to finish what we started." Continually expressing this throughout his post-game interview, he also said, "We need to generate more offense in order to win these games." In previous years the Friars have had solid play throughout January and February but have sometimes failed to convert their chances into goals. That changed last year when the offense turned on at the same time as their goalie.

One of the problem areas for the Friars has been penalties, specifically penalty-killing. Anthony Florentino '17, defenseman for the Friars, cited this in an interview last week, saying, "Trying not to beat ourselves with the refs and the officiating. Obviously penalties are a big part and special

teams as a part of that, can make or break a game." The Friars average about 12.25 penalty minutes a game which is right around the average for all of the NCAA. To compare, Boston College averages almost three and a half more penalty minutes than the Friars, among the most in the NCAA, but still remains on top of the Hockey East. BC is able to do this because of their efficiency at penalty killing, a skill the Friars have lacked at times during the season. Boston College kills their penalties with an 87 percent success rate whereas the Friars only successfully kill 81 percent of penalties. On the other side of the puck, Providence has great success when put on the power play, successfully converting those chances 23 percent of the time. This is an almost reversal of their statistics from last year, where they were number one in the Hockey East in killing penalties but enjoyed only a 15 percent success rate on the power play. But having one side of special teams perform well worked out for the Friars last year—it could be enough to lift the Friars into serious contention this year as well.

Finally, looking back over the schedule and comparing how the championship team played in relation to this year, the similarities are compelling. Through December to February, this year's team has a record of 19-5-4. Last year at the same time, the hockey team was 14-1-5. The

statistics also reveal the truth behind Coach Leaman's words. If the offense is converting chances to goals, the Friars will do well. In the past two seasons if the Friars scored less than three goals they lost over 80 percent of the time. If they scored three or more goals, they won by the same percent. No doubt the Friars live and die by their offense producing goals to support their goalkeeper.

If the men's hockey team had a Facebook their current status would probably be "time to step up" with a muscle emoji. Looking back on the past seasons, the Friars are in an almost identical position, and if the right players turn on at the right time, a deep playoff run could be in the midst. Last year, goaltender Gillies was able to bring out his best performances in February and into March. If Ellis can figure out a way to do the same, the Friars would be off in the right direction. In addition, the special teams of the Friars need to continue to do well on the power play and kill off their penalties in order to give their offense a jump start and keep Ellis from being pounded with shots. If they can do all of that and rally behind Coach Leaman as they have done in the past, the Friars could be seeing déjà vu when they find themselves in Tampa Bay for the Frozen Four this April 7 and 9.



Anthony Florentino and the Friars once again find themselves among the country's elite teams.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK.COM

The Cowls Valentine's Day Insert

THIS ISSUE INCLUDES:

- DATE IDEAS
- SAPPY POEMS
- PRETTY FLOWERS
- SURVIVAL GUIDES TO LOVE

AND NO, JUSTIN...YOU STAY ON THE BACK.

IT IS TOO LATE TO SAY SORRY.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RLV.ZCASHE.COM

A Dramatic Reading from Cassidy Howard’s 8th Grade Break Up Journal

by Brianna Abbott ‘17
Opinion Co-Editor

ROMANTIC ANGST

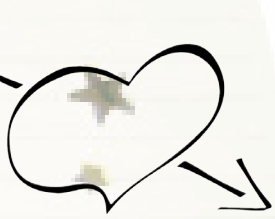


I miss your eyes.
I miss the way that they sparkle like the sea,
The way that they move with the tides of the moon,
And other things that have to do with water.

Your blue, crystal eyes set my soul on fire.
Which is deep because it’s a paradox.
And then they closed,
Your eyes, I mean
Leaving me behind.
And the burn in my soul is a different kind of hurt.

The sky is also blue, just like your eyes.
I looked into them, and I saw the world.
And then my world grew dark when you closed your eyes to me.
Your eyes are filled with, like, dark, stormy clouds now.
Because they’re closed.

I still have that picture in my head,
A snapshot of you and your eyes that day we got ice cream.
I also have the actual picture here,
On my phone.



I don’t want to look because it hurts,
But I need to get lost in your eyes once more.
I’m, like, so self-destructive that way.

...it appears that I’ve made a mistake.
Your eyes were green.
Have they always been green?
Well, the sea can also be green sometimes
And crystals.
I’ll just take out that part about the sky.

Those green, grassy eyes were like a field in my mind,
Stretching on and on forever.
And now all that I have left of you is a memory of that field.
A memory of your eyes.
And your yearbook picture that I stole from your locker.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CLARA LAM

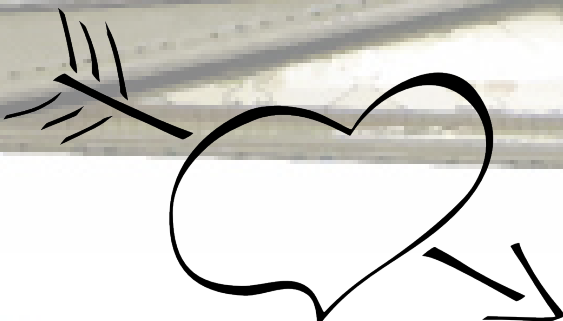
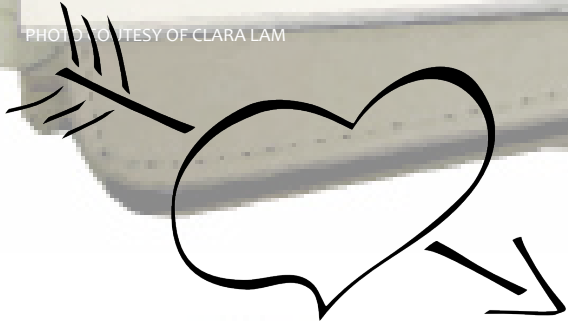


PHOTO COURTESY OF CLIPARTPANDA.COM

Petals

by Branan Durbin ‘16
Portfolio Editor

LOVE POETRY

What if you were a flower?
I could pick a petal from you each day,
pressing your memory between
pages in my mind.
Would your scent still play
with the corners of my mouth?
Or, eventually, would I use up
each beautiful piece of you
until I have nothing left?

When I see you, my face and mind open
like a morning glory to the sun —
so I know that you will never fade.
I don’t want to save petals as tokens
of a whispering, fading love,
eventually using and losing
each glorious, mystical snapshot.
No, there’s no need
to steal your smile,
the creases of your eyes,
because I know you’ll rise every new morning,
your light warming me, raising me to face the day,
to seize the world and journey onward, upward.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PNGIMG.COM

Creating Your Own Unconventional Hallmark Gifts

by McKenzie Tavella ‘18
Opinion Staff

GIFT ADVICE

What you need if you are single in college on Valentine’s Day, ft. 2016:

1. A Valentine’s Day singing-gram

Last year, my friend surprised me by buying me one of these and the male a capella group sang me The Little Mermaid’s “Kiss the Girl” (basically, my childhood dream came true).

2. A care package from your family

Even though every holiday our grandparents ask us whether or not we have a boyfriend or girlfriend yet, don’t be ashamed to say no this time. Homemade baked goods outdo boxed chocolates any day.

3. A boyfriend pillow

Okay, this one might seem a little unconventional, but it’s real. Don’t watch Netflix by yourself, invite your boyfriend pillow.

4. Anything that’s not chocolate or flowers

I say instead of chocolate and a dozen beautiful long-stemmed red roses, go out and get a nice burger with fries. You can replace those stems with straws that are slurping down a delicious milkshake.

5. Last but not least—NOT a Rom-Com, but a Horror Movie!!!

Let’s be real, if I’m sad about being alone on Valentine’s Day (blah blah blah), nothing is going to snap me out of it like a pop out from *Insidious* or any of the *Paranormal Activity*.

What you need if you are in a relationship on Valentine’s Day, ft. 2016 and a significant other: (Warning: Some of these gifts may be slightly more expensive and are more likely suited for girls.)

1. A Hoverboard

Even though they light on fire and are banned from campus, I could still use it at home, right?

2. A Love Your Melon Beanie

If a guy can make this happen, he’s a keeper. They are SOLD OUT EVERYWHERE!!!!

3. Tickets to the Big East Tournament at MSG

Even if your significant other doesn’t go to PC, they should know how HUGE Friar basketball is.

4. A trip to see *The Choice*

Yes, I had to throw at least one cheesy Valentine’s Day tradition in here, even though it’s apparently physically painful for some guys to sit through “chick flicks.”

5. A Princess Pandora Ring

I have been seeing these everywhere! They are a little hard to find, but make it happen, boys.

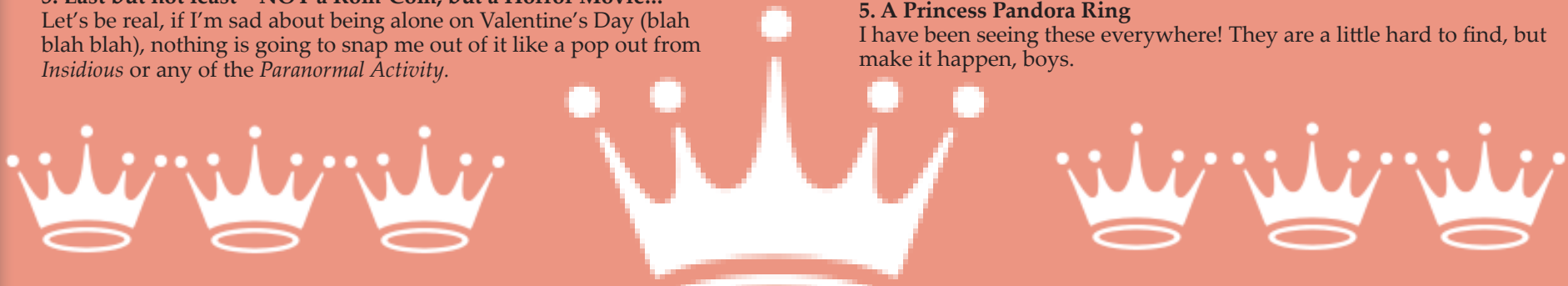


PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Valentine’s Day: A Day About Me

by Taylor Godfrey ‘19
Opinion Staff

SELF LOVE

Ah, Valentine’s Day. A day to spend with the one person that you love most in the entire world. A day of pampering and caring for that person and outwardly showing to him or her all of the love that you feel

inside. So this Valentine’s Day, I have chosen a slightly unconventional person to be my Valentine: me.

What at first seemed a rather silly idea soon made more and more sense the longer I thought about it. Why shouldn’t I be my own Valentine? Who knows how to give me the best day better than me? I know all of my favorite foods, my favorite things to do, and I can buy myself my favorite kind of chocolate and watch the exact movie I feel like watching. There is no guessing, no disappointment. I really am my own perfect Valentine.

Moreover, if Valentine’s Day is about showing love for the person I care most about, why shouldn’t that person be me? In society today, we are too harsh on ourselves. We are our own worst critics. We can list every flaw in our bodies and our personalities, but we struggle to compliment ourselves. We should stop thinking of the idea of loving ourselves as selfish or narcissistic. I think we could all use a day devoted to loving the one person who should matter most in our lives: ourselves.

We all work very hard at school and work and all the other stressful situations that fill our lives. We deserve a little pampering. And if we cannot learn to pamper and love ourselves, how can we expect other people to do so?

Starting this Valentine’s Day, I am going to work on caring for myself as I would care for a significant other. Paying more attention to my own feelings and needs, dressing up not for someone else’s enjoyment but just to make myself feel good, treating myself when I have accomplished something or even when I don’t have a reason. After all, if I think I deserve that treatment from another person, whether a friend or a significant other, then I should definitely deserve it from me.

So for me, this Sunday is going to be a “me day,” a day when I can celebrate the person I love the most, who is most important in my life. And I will do it with no shame, no sadness, and a whole lot of chocolate.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAMILYTREECOUNSELING.COM

EDITOR vs. EDITOR

This Week: Valentine’s Day

Katie Puzycki

Favorite Sassy Candy Heart: “LOL No”

Her Views: While Valentine’s Day is cute and romantic and all, I cannot help but count the number of times in my life that a bag of sassy conversation hearts would have come in handier than their saccharine originals. Out of all of the short, sassy phrases though, the “LOL No” heart really takes the cake for me. So much so that I can envision myself handing these out to people who can’t take a hint in real life. It is as if some genius—or the god in charge of the love department—has answered every prayer to the “Netflix and chill,” unwanted flirty texts, and excessive PDA problems of the world with the greatest response of all time: “LOL No.” Harsh? Maybe. Effective? Definitely.

Her Views on Serena: I admire Serena’s choice of the “Nah” heart. In all honesty, someone should write a pop anthem dedicated the word. Probably Kelly Clarkson. There is some quality to the word “Nah” that makes it so incredibly different in context from a straightforward “No.” I mean, “Nah” pretty much implies that you are so nonchalant about what is being asked, showing your sincere lack of interest. “No” says that you had to think about what was being asked, and it also means that you have probably invested more of your precious time on a question than you should have. Besides, after a while saying the word “No” can become pretty one-dimensional. I say throw a curveball and start saying “Nah” instead—it will definitely add some spice to your previously bland, sass-less conversations.

Serena Ambroselli

Favorite Sassy Candy Heart: “Nah”

Her Views: The clichés are overwhelming. The chocolates, flowers, teddy bears, cards, Cupids, heart-shaped things—I think we’ve all had enough. I have decided that the best response to anything about Valentine’s Day comes in the form of a chalky, pastel candy heart inscribed with one little word: “Nah.” It is the ultimate way to instantly shut someone down with sass levels that far surpass the absurdity of that one aisle in CVS that is just a red explosion of stereotypical knick-knacks that apparently suffice in showing your affection for a special someone. Now, I’m not saying that I hate chocolate or flowers or teddy bears, but if you believe that that’s all it will take to keep our love alive, I will throw a handful of my sassy candy hearts at you. Give me a crown and tell me that I am the princess of Genovia and then we can talk.

Her Views on Katie: There is a reason that Katie and I are editors together—we’re like-minded. So, if for some reason you don’t think my sassy candy heart is a strong option, this is a pretty great alternative. Just put the corniness of Valentine’s Day out of its long-awaited misery. Kick back with a few bottles of rosé and eat fistfuls of candy hearts, occasionally throwing them at unsuspecting couples from a higher elevation. I’m advocating for original declarations of love. If you are incapable of being original, you will be promptly handed a seemingly harmless edible token that says “LOL No.” Do I look like I have time to waste on your heart-shaped box of chocolates held by a teddy bear dressed up as Cupid? Because I don’t.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK APLET

Cupid: More Than a Cliché

by Francis Hannon ‘17
A&E Staff

HISTORY

Every year when Valentine’s Day rolls around, the chubby god of love, Cupid, becomes an accepted part of seasonal advertising. You see him beaming his radiant smile on everything from candy to commercials, and most people probably do not think twice about it. Cupid has become a fixture of the Valentine’s Day season, so much so that it is easy to forget the less lovely origins of the winged baby’s legend.

In Roman mythology, Cupid is the son of Venus, with a father who is rarely mentioned. He is the god of desire, affection, and erotic love. His counterpart in classical Greek mythology, named Eros, was often portrayed as a winged and slender youth. It wasn’t until later in the tradition of Western Art that he was portrayed as a chubby infant with a bow and arrow, but the fixture has stuck through the centuries. Cupid has been heavily featured in Romantic and Renaissance Art, but by now he is usually only pictured as a cartoonish character on Valentine’s Day-themed merchandise.

However, Cupid was also the source of much tragedy and pain in the Greco-Roman tradition. Perhaps the most famous example of Cupid’s hand in tragedy is found in Virgil’s *Aeneid*. In the epic, Aeneas, a survivor of the Trojan War, is looking for a place to bring the remainder of his troops. A storm drives his ships to Carthage, where he meets Dido. Cupid sets Dido’s heart aflame with love for Aeneas, but Aeneas must leave the island and continue his voyage. Dido is utterly distraught by the pain of losing her lover, and she commits suicide by throwing herself on a pyre,

while Aeneas sails off to eventually establish Rome. Cupid is the culprit in this tragic death, and his intervention is what drives Dido to her misery.

This, as well as other such examples, illustrate Cupid’s character as more than a cute matchmaker. In mythology, Cupid represented the fickle nature of love, as well as the dangers of the passion it enflamed. In literature, Shakespeare famously deals with the irrational and potentially disastrous nature of love in many of his comedies. While today a picture of Cupid conjures nothing more than superficial associations of flowers and chocolates for a short time in February, the mythological character represents a prominent theme in the stories we tell across time and in different genres. Love and desire are not rational and often have unfortunate consequences; Cupid has been a character who represents this timeless motif in the history of humankind.



10 Things to Love About PC

by Kathleen McGinty ‘16
Editor-in-Chief

CAMPUS

Number 10: Chicken Nugget Day

Being gluten free has kept me away from Chicken Nugget Thursday in Ray, but I don’t think any list about students’ favorite things about PC is complete without its recognition.

Number 9: Civ

It’s the class we all love to hate. The course’s demanding reading and writing requirements dominate our curriculum freshman and sophomore year, but trust me—in some strange, unexplainable way, you will come to miss (or miss complaining about) Civ as an upperclassman.

Number 8: The Learning Environment

From small class sizes to professors who respond instantaneously to emails, the learning experience at PC is an intimate one that allows us to forge relationships not only with our peers but also our instructors.

Number 7: Friar Dom

Sure, other media outlets might accuse him of having the ability to scare children, but he’s a true representation of PC’s roots.

Number 6: Study Abroad

My experience studying abroad in Rome last spring demonstrated to me just how fortunate we are to have such transformative opportunities available to us.

Number 5: Athletics

With the Men’s Hockey Team’s National Championship win last spring, the Women’s Cross Country Team’s podium finishes at the NCAA Championships, and the Men’s Basketball Team’s run to the BIG EAST Semifinals, PC athletics have risen to the national radar over the past few years.

Number 4: The Campus

Just look at the Hogwarts-like Great Room in Ruane and the state-of-the-art fitness center. The aesthetically pleasing walk through campus promises to become more so over the next few years with the completion of new sports fields and the construction of the new Center for Business Studies and Ruane Friar Development Center.

Number 3: The Alumni Network

This year’s Alumni and Family Weekend, headlined with the slogan “I ‘Heart’ PC,” falls on Valentine’s Day. If that doesn’t show Friar family love, what does?

Number 2: The Community

I don’t think there is any other place where people will hold the door for you when it feels like you are still a mile away from its entryway; and you practically have to run to relieve them of their door holding duties.

Number 1: The Cowl!



PHOTO COURTESY OF FRIARS.COM



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLIPARTBEST.COM

A Few Ridiculous Sports Related Love Stories

by DJ Anderson ‘16
Sports Co-Editor

LOVE STORIES

There are several cases in sports where relationships can become major stories. This makes sense, as high level sports figures are almost always heavily speculated upon, and their love lives are covered in the speculation process. As a result, there are sometimes ridiculous tidbits that can be released to the public involving the lives of these couples. In the last few years, there have been a few of these stories that have stuck out more than most.

Brent and Miko Grimes: The Dolphins have been a revolving door of scandal and negativity throughout the past few years, and this has resulted in more than one of these athletic power couples creating a media circus around their once-proud franchise. The greatest example of this came earlier this season when Miko Grimes, the outspoken wife of Miami Dolphins’ four-time pro-bowl cornerback Brent Grimes, set the Twitter world ablaze with her comments regarding the franchise that her husband plays for. In December of 2015, Miko came out with a few tweets regarding the ineptitude of Grimes’ quarterback, Tannehill. In the words of Miko, “I knew this qb stunk the minute we signed him to this team but I tried to keep quiet so that I didn’t discourage bae from believing in his team.” As if the bashing of Tannehill combined with the use of bae was not enough, Miko continued to fire away on Twitter. “I should’ve known we were gonna lose when I heard he didn’t complete a single pass in two minute drills this week against the practice squad defense...My column: how many people does Ryan Tannehill have

to get fired before you realize he’s the problem.” You can only imagine the awkward situation created in the Dolphins locker room once the media had gotten wind of her comments about the Fins’ quarterback. However, after some of the other events that have occurred in Miami over the past few seasons, this situation is hardly surprising. Only in Miami!

Ryan and Lauren Tannehill: In one of the most unbelievable sports stories of the last decade or so, Lauren Tannehill, the supermodel wife of Miami Dolphins Quarterback Ryan Tannehill, forgot to remove an assault rifle from the backseat of a rental car. Tannehill was not given any sort of charge in the situation, as the weapon was legally owned by the college sweethearts. However, you can only imagine the on-duty police officers face after figuring out that the weapon belonged to a previous maxim cover girl and had merely been forgotten in a rental car.

Kris Humphries and Kim Kardashian: Unlike the previously mentioned Lauren Tannehill story, the 72-day marriage between Kris Humphries and Kim Kardashian was one of the least surprising pieces of news to ever come out of a sports-related relationship. From the “I love you” signals sent out from Kardashian to Humphries at a Nets game, all the way to the absurd proposal and marital ceremonies that became a spectacle for Kardashian fans. It was pretty easy to see the direction that the marriage between Humphries and Kardashian was going to take. However, I cannot say that I did not enjoy watching this fake marriage come to an end, as well as the phony reactions that ensued.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PINTREST.COM

PHOTO COURTESY OF ZIMBIO.COM



I Hate That I Love You

by Joey Ciccarello ‘16
Sports Co-Editor

RELATIONSHIPS

Happy Valentine’s Day, Providence College Men’s Basketball. I hate that I love you.

I hate that you have exceeded any and all expectations this year. I enjoyed the old days, the days when you were the underdog. I enjoyed the days when I didn’t have to stress over every waking moment of the game, terrified that the next play would lead to a season-ruining tailspin. I agonize over every loss, thinking about three or four plays that could have swung the game in our favor.

I also love that you have exceeded expectations this year. I love that “next year” might be this year after all. I love heading into every game with a confidence and swagger that was not there previously. I love the aspirations of an appearance in the NCAA Tournament’s second weekend, and I love the chance for our first March Madness win since 1997. I love how far this team has come since I arrived four years ago, fresh off of a 15th place finish in the

Big East. I love the energy at the Dunkin’ Donuts Center every night.

I hate that I hold my breath every time Kris Dunn ‘17RS or Ben Bentil ‘18 crashes to the floor. I cannot help but have flashbacks to Dunn writhing on the ground during an exhibition, or Bentil rolling around in pain after an ankle injury against Boston College. An injury to one is an injury to the whole team.

I also love watching Dunn and Bentil play. Both are a joy to watch night in and night out, a highlight waiting to happen every time they touch the ball. I love the chemistry between the two, the best one-two combination that the whole Big East, and maybe the whole country, has to offer.

I hate that so much of my day is contingent on this team’s success. The thought of returning to the same mundane routine after an excruciating loss is salt in the wound, a slap in the face that I can no longer bear to go through.

I also love how happy this team’s success makes me. I love heading out the exits of the Dunk after a big win, reveling in the pure, unadulterated joy of the 9,000 other Friar Fanatics that witnessed it with me.

So, PC Basketball, I hate that I love you. I hate how low the lows can be, but love how high the highs are. I hate to put so much time and energy into a team that very well may break my heart, but I love that the heartbreak may not come this year after all.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FLYINGNOTSCREAMING.COM

PHOTO COURTESY OF 123RF.COM

Cupid Not Visiting This Valentine’s Day

Minnesota Elementary School Bans Celebrating Holiday

by Marla Gagne ’18
News Co-Editor

SCHOOL BANS

Heart candies, “be mine” valentines, and chocolates. These are the usual essentials needed to celebrate Valentine’s Day. You may even be one of the one billion people sending out a Valentine’s Day card. But for this coming Feb. 14, not all kids will be participating in the holiday celebration.

Bruce Vento Elementary School, located in St. Paul, Minnesota, has outlawed the celebration of Valentine’s Day among other holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Halloween. The elementary school, which is made up of 63 percent Asian Americans, 24 percent African Americans, 10 percent Hispanic Americans, and 4 percent Caucasians, believes these holidays are not inclusive of their diverse student population.

At the end of January, the principal of Bruce Vento Elementary, Scott Masini, sent a letter to parents discussing the change. In the letter he stated the school aimed to “create a school climate that is welcoming and respectful of all students.” The CBS article went on to state, “The move falls in line with

St. Paul School Board policy, which discourages programs and festivities that celebrate observances unless they are required by law.” These required holidays include Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents’ Day, and Veterans Day.

Valentine’s Day originates from both the Catholic Church and pagan practices. There have been various St. Valentines in Rome that were martyrs for the Catholic Church; some believe February commemorates their death or burial. Others argue Valentine’s Day was a way to Christianize a pagan event. The fertility festival of Lupercalia took place in February and paid homage to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, and Romulus and Remus, Rome’s founding fathers. It was not until much later in history that Valentine’s Day turned into a romantic holiday, which is now celebrated by the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Mexico, France, and Australia.

Masini’s decision to eliminate holidays has received both negative and positive feedback from the community. Bruce Vento Elementary is one of many schools struggling with which holidays to celebrate and how to do it as the U.S. population increasingly becomes diverse. Teachers and parents are also concerned with having enough time for teaching regular lessons, students having fun that includes all, and not

eliminating educational experiences that benefit all students.

Amanda Lock ’18, an education and special education major currently student teaching at a local elementary school, sees both sides to the issue. “You want to see that all students are accepted, but you also want to give them a fun day or something to celebrate,” said Locke. “I had it so I know what they’re missing out on and how much fun the parties are and... just appreciating each other.”

While schools continue to discuss the best way to educate their students, Valentine’s Day celebrations are underway at Providence College. Dunkin’ Donuts is decorated in pink and red and is selling its signature heart shaped donuts, while students were able to send strawberry and orange sodas to their crushes on campus. And as the holiday draws closer, the school will be receiving many cards, flowers, and chocolate deliveries.

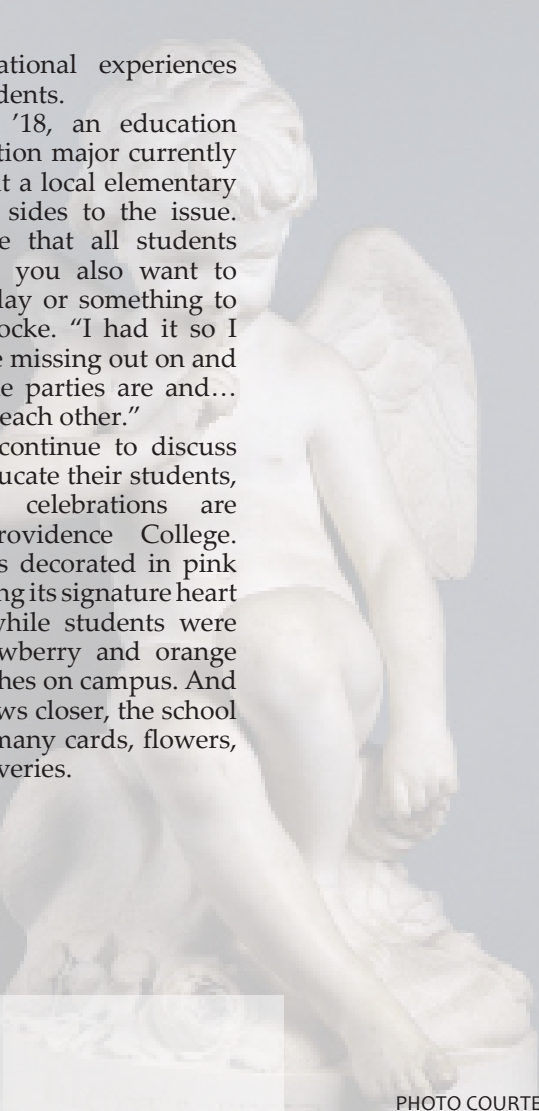


PHOTO COURTESY OF WGA.HU

Galentine’s

by Gabrielle Shkreli ’17
News Staff

GIRLS’ HOLIDAY

Well, Friars, it is that time of year again. You know, that time of the year where every step past the Slavin ticket office—filled with bouquets, chocolates, and massive stuffed animals— is a constant reminder of your imminent future as a lonely cat lady. Have no fear, Galentine’s Day is here!

Although not an official holiday, Galentine’s Day is traditionally celebrated on Feb. 13, the day before Valentine’s Day. The very first reference to Galentine’s Day occurred in Season 2, Episode 16 of *Parks and Recreation*.

Leslie Knope, the bubbly feminist played by Amy Poehler, is the founder of the holiday. In the episode, she explains its origins as she proudly exclaims, “What’s Galentine’s Day? Oh, it’s only the best day of the year. Every Feb. 13 my lady friends and I leave our husbands and our boyfriends at home and we just come and kick it breakfast style. Ladies celebrating ladies.”

So, while the couples on campus are busy being all mushy-gushy this upcoming Sunday, here are some tips on how to let your lady friends know just how much they mean to you this Galentine’s Day.

No Galentine’s Day is complete without a massive brunch. Thankfully, the city of Providence has plenty of great brunch spots for the occasion. This Saturday, treat your girls to a yummy breakfast at Classic Café, or the Duck and Bunny. And when I say

“treat,” I mean it. None of that “low carb, gluten-free kale omelet with a non-fat soy latte, hold the foam” stuff. Galentine’s Day is all about strawberry Nutella waffles with whipped cream, mounds of bacon, and gourmet hot chocolate. Really ladies, I cannot stress this enough: treat yo’self.

Another important aspect of Galetine’s Day is the gift-giving. Present-swapping is a great way to show your friends just how much you love them. If you have a tight budget, or are feeling a little thrifty this Galentine’s Day season, you might want to follow Knope’s lead and take the DIY approach. Gift bags, according to Knope, should hold items such as bouquets of hand-crocheted flower pens, mosaic portraits made from the crushed bottles of your friends’ favorite diet sodas, and personalized 5,000 word essays of why they are all so awesome.

If, however, you are a newbie to Galentine’s Day, and Knope gifts prove to be a little too intimidating, there are several other gift options. All girls love a new nail polish set, or a bag of their favorite chocolates. Why not give each of your gal pals an infinity scarf, some fragranced hand cream, or a copy of the latest Mindy Kaling biography?

As the afternoon comes to a close, make sure to continue your Galentine’s Day celebration into the wee hours of the night. Some acceptable activities include watching all seasons of *The O.C.* while simultaneously eating your body weight in Ben and Jerry’s Phish Food, stalking your crushes on Facebook with your computer attached to your television’s HDMI cord for all to see, or having a night on the town and hitting up your favorite dancing

establishment with the girls.

While Galentine’s Day remains relatively unknown, its impact on the community has become more visible in recent years. Danielle Lorizio ’17, Galentine’s Day participant and *Parks and Recreation* fanatic, shared what Galentine’s Day means to her. “It means a lot. I think so frequently, we focus on the people in our lives who

we think complete us romantically. It’s time to start showing our love and gratitude for the chicks in our lives that support us every day without us fully realizing it.” Happy Galentine’s Day Friars, and remember, sisters before misters!



PHOTO COURTESY OF NBC.COM

*Promise me...
You'll go love yourself.*

*Xoxo,
Justin*

