Providence College: Celebrating Our Time

1917 - 2017
Convocation Kicks Off the Centennial Year With New York Times Columnist, Nicholas Kristof

**Construction Continues on PC Campus**

What’s Been Started, What’s Been Completed, and What’s In Progress

by Patrick Healey '17

News Staff

**CONSTRUCTION**

With a new year of school comes new additions to the Providence College campus. The summer of 2016 has brought significant changes, the most notable taking place on Hussey Avenue and on the new Arthur F. and Patricia Ryan Center for Business Studies on lower campus, which is scheduled to be completed for next semester.

There has been a lot of remodeling of the campus lately, with the relocation of Clay Field and the construction of Chapay Field at Anderson Stadium, and there are more improvements to come.

PC’s campus is modernizing with every passing year, and this trend is continuing in a big way. Soon the sounds of drills and sights of bare soil will transform into beautiful buildings and scenery that will enhance students’ PC experience in many ways.

The Hussey Avenue construction is an especially exciting project that has been highly anticipated in Friartown ever since it was announced. After the project is completed, there will no longer be a street intersecting upper and lower campus, ultimately giving the entire campus a more unified feel. Without the flow of traffic cutting through the College, walking through campus should prove to be more efficient, less stressful, and, most importantly, safer. There will be a guard house in the middle of a very aesthetically pleasing roundabout to replace the old Hussey-security gate.

The Arthur F. and Patricia Ryan Center for Business Studies, which is quickly taking shape where Dore Hall used to be, is perhaps the biggest project in the works here at PC. Beginning at the start of next semester, this will serve as the center for business and have a modern look that will accommodate the rapidly growing business program at the College.

This new building will emphasize PC’s dedication to making the school a premier destination for students who want to study business. It will include the latest technology and modern construction, highlighted by a glass front and halo skylights in the entrance.

Albertus Magnus Hall is also receiving renovations on campus, thanks to a $1 million donation from Leo Caiafa Jr.’s family, whose great-niece currently attends PC and is studying psychology. Caiafa Jr. passed away in 2013. The Lucille and Leo Caiafa Jr. Center for Psychological Sciences will be part of the expansion of Albertus Magnus Hall.

The College has expressed its deep gratitude for this extremely generous donation, and plans to both modernize Albertus Magnus Hall and unite it with Hickey and Sowa Halls.

Finally, the houses that were damaged by the fire on Eaton Street last year have all been repaired and are currently being lived in by PC students.

Overall, the campus has undergone many changes this summer, but those are just the beginning of yet another set of PC transformations. The College has made it clear that it has made a strict commitment to improving and modernizing the campus with every chance it gets, giving proof that PC is continuing its upward trend. It is all with the goal of making the campus feel more modern and unified, and more importantly, making sure that PC students are equipped with the best educational resources available.

He told students that in 1990, he was in a rural part of China. In this small town, the brightest student, a young girl, was not allowed to go to school because she could not afford the $13 annual school fee. New York Times reporter Nicholas Kristof stepped in and changed that situation, using donations to allow the young girls of the area to go to school. It was the first time that “education was not based on chromosomes, but based on intellectual capacity,” said Kristof.

Kristof then emphasized the need for education not just for the individual, but for the community. Education was the “fundamental transformation of the entire country of Pakistan” and moved beyond the girls. As Kristof traveled around the world post 9/11, he saw and continues to see an overemphasis on military and the often forgotten or underappreciated education. “[Education is] a powerful and cheap way to transform not only the individual, but society,” said Kristof.

So how does a man who sees violence, poverty, and repression around the world continue to stay positive and optimistic about change? Kristof simply said he believes in a “drop in the bucket” attitude. What the individual does will not solve the problem and can seem like it gets you nowhere. A whole room of people cannot give 60 million girls the resources they need to read. But each person can contribute and make a difference. It is at least one person. And those “small drops in the bucket—that is the way you fill buckets.”

**Construction continues to be done to the Arthur F. and Patricia Ryan Center for Business Studies.**

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**News by Marla Gagne '18**

News Co-Editor


Kristof, along with Providence College staff, faculty, and students, gathered in Peterson Recreation Center on Aug. 31 to welcome the Class of 2020 and celebrate PC’s 100 year anniversary.

Throughout the campus, Providence College held various events to welcome the 1,955 new students and recognize the College’s special centennial year. Convocation kicked off with faculty lectures throughout the day, discussing topics such as liberal arts education, psychology, health care, and race.

Everyone was then welcomed to attend a celebratory mass and take a “PC 100” photo over Hendriksen Field. Focus then turned to Slavin Lawn, where a lunch market was hosted, featuring Rhode Island specialties and Federal Hill favorites.

Students, faculty, and staff then gathered in Peterson where Hugo Leena, provost and senior vice president, welcomed the Class of 2020 and recognized their accomplishments. The Class of 2020 is made up of 54 percent women, 46 percent men, and 2 percent non-binary. Seven hundred forty-two students will participate in varsity athletics, and 266 students participated in music, theatre, art, or dance.

President of the College, Father Brian J. Shanley, O.P., greeted students and immediately starting discussing a classic DWC figure—Aristotle. Referencing works he has students read when taking his ethics class, he brought up Aristotle’s greatest question of finding happiness. Fr. Shanley hoped students would treat college not only as a step towards a good job, but a place to find a “deep sense of purpose about [their] lives.”

Mary Pat Caputo, who is president of the national alumni association council and represents the 55,000 PC alumni, told freshmen “you are forever a Friar” and “made a wise choice” for choosing PC. Andrew Konnerth ’17, president of student congress, told freshmen they are now making their own history, shaping and molding themselves. He hopes all students will “walk together this year, knowing we are not alone.”

After these welcoming statements, Kristof took the stage to share his own experiences and address students. Kristof won two Pulitzer Prizes in journalism for his coverage of China’s Tiananmen Square democracy movement with his wife, Sheryl WuDunn, and for his work in 2006 regarding the genocide in Darfur. He has traveled to more than 150 countries, confronted disease and war, and has written four best-selling books with his wife. He currently serves on the board of Harvard University and the Association of American Rhodes Scholars.

Looking at the freshman common reading, Kristof expressed excitement to hear students were reading I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban. As a journalist, Kristof has often seen the inability of girls and women to access education around the world.

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**Academic Convocation speaker Nicholas Kristof encourages freshmen to make change one “drop in the bucket” at a time.**

**OR CAMPUS**


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Timber! Smith Quad Tree Taken Down

Risks of Structural Failure Prompt PC Administration to Take Action

by Daria Purdy ’19
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

This semester began with a significant change to the face of the Providence College campus. The Northern Red Oak tree, located in front of Howley Hall, was removed due to a high risk of structural failure. The tree greatly enhanced the beauty of campus and was beloved by the younger generation, but the risk of injury to members of the Providence College community was simply too great to allow it to remain. The tree was removed before move-in day, as students moving into residence halls such as Suites, Bedford, and Davis would have needed to travel near or under the tree in order to move in.

The decision to remove the tree was not made lightly, according to John Sweeney, senior vice president of the finance and business division and chief financial officer. “This was a decision I wish we didn’t have to make,” Sweeney said. “It was a beautiful tree. The trees on our campus help to make this place special. But the risk to the community was too great.”

Beginning in 2011, the College has employed Bartlett Tree Experts to conduct an inventory, status, and management plan for over 2,000 of the trees located on campus. The team of arborists conducted a visual inspection of each tree and identified 34 that should be removed due to the extent of damage on the tree and the likelihood of it falling and causing injury. This inventory was updated in 2015, during which it was discovered that the oak tree on Smith Quad had significant structural defects and is likely to fail or fall. In the original assessment by Bartlett Tree arborists, it was asserted that “the tree may look healthy from a foliage standpoint, but there is clear evidence that it is unable to comportmentalize decay and unable to produce new wood.” The assessment also explained that “there are enough faults and defects in major structural tree parts that in our experience deems the tree an unreasonable risk of failing.” A second assessment conducted by Schwartz Tree Care concurred with the first assessment, saying that the tree did not have an effective wound response mechanism and posed a danger to vehicles and pedestrians in the immediate area.

City Forester Douglas Still inspected the tree and offered some alternatives to removing it entirely. His recommendation was to “remove all deadwood in the crown, and make reduction cuts where appropriate to remove some weight from some of the branches.” Further measures he recommended were to build a decorative fence around the tree to prevent students from walking or sitting near it. Despite these proposed alternatives, according to Sweeney, “we again consulted the independent arborists and they were not convinced that the proposed approach (suggested by Still) would remove the risk of tree failure (falling or loss of major limbs) and were convinced it would destroy the beauty of the tree.”

Acting on the assessments of the arborists, staff removed the tree in order to prevent any possible injury or damage. The tree was featured in the animated campus transformation presentations, as it was an important part of future plans for the campus. To remove a tree that was integral to campus beautification was a hard decision, but one that removes the risk of injury from tree failure. According to Sweeney, the College has arborists searching for mature trees to replace the one that has been removed. The plan is to install the new tree when the weather is cooler and more suitable for transplant. The transplant of a new tree could cost over $10,000.

Malala: Inspiring the Providence Community

Nobel Peace Prize Winner Touches Hearts with Her Speeches and Book

by Meaghan Dodson ’17
News Co-Editor

COMMON READING

On Thursday, July 28, 2016, 6,000 people filtered into the Dunkin’ Donuts Center in downtown Providence. The speaker for the evening was an internationally known human rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate. Malala Yousafzai was 11 years old when she began advocating for female education, speaking out against the Taliban who had taken over her home country of Pakistan. When she was 15 years old, a gunman shot her at point-blank range as she was coming home from school. The Taliban attempted to silence her, but since then her message for equal education has been heard worldwide. On her 16th birthday she spoke before the United Nations, and at age 17 she became the youngest person to ever receive a Nobel Peace Prize.

During her talk, Malala stated that all she has accomplished in the fight for equal education is a result of passion, a love of learning, and the encouragement of her parents. She discussed how a person does not have to be exceptional to make a change; simply has to be brave enough to speak out. Malala discussed how her nonprofit organization, the Malala Fund, is built on three principles: advocate, amplify, and invest. She seeks to advocate her cause to all leaders, to amplify the voices of the younger generation, and to invest in the future by doing ground-level work, such as building schools in third-world countries. Within the past three years, Malala has done service work in Nigeria, Jordan, and Lebanon, and Kenya and Rwanda for her 17th, 18th, and 19th birthdays, respectively. She stated how her goal is “to speak for young women so they can learn how to speak for themselves,” and that, although she received the Nobel Peace Prize, the award “wasn’t given to me—it was given to children. Children won that prize.”

Malala’s visit to Providence is especially fortuitous as her autobiography, I Am Malala, is Providence College’s official 2016-2017 Common Reading book. During freshman orientation this past week, the incoming Class of 2020 was broken up into small groups to discuss the book.

Christian Dean ’20 stated, “I really liked I Am Malala because it gave insight as to what life is like in a country other than the United States. It helped me appreciate the opportunities I sometimes take for granted.”

Ann Manchester-Molak ’75, assistant to the president and the executive vice president/treasurer of the College, stated that I Am Malala has been near the top of the Common Reading Committee’s list for several years, and the committee was waiting only for the book to be released in soft-cover format. Manchester-Molak revealed that there were many factors that made I Am Malala an ideal choice. First and foremost, the book stresses the importance of education, and especially the importance of equality in education. When students read about how hard Malala fought for her right to be educated, Manchester-Molak stated, they will hopefully become aware of how easy it is to take their own education for granted. I Am Malala also plays an important role in raising awareness of other nations and cultures because the modern world, as Manchester-Molak stated, is a “global society, where we need to be aware of the hopes and dreams of others.” Furthermore, as a nineteen-year-old woman, Malala is exactly the age of the PC students who are reading her book.

Malala and her message will be repeated throughout this upcoming academic year. The value and importance of education will be emphasized as the College celebrates 100 years of educating PC students, and the winner of the 2016 Common Reading Essay Contest will be revealed later in the year. Furthermore, Shiza Shahid, the co-founder of the Malala Fund, will be the guest speaker at this year’s Freshman Family Weekend and will play a key role in giving a voice to both the book and the nonprofit organization.

Manchester-Molak summed up what she wishes the PC community will get out of Malala’s example, stating, “Malala stresses the importance of equality in education...that every human being has the right to become who he or she is meant to be.”

Malala’s first-person account hopefully will encourage introspection, as well as thoughtful dialogue with others, as we move through the academic year.”
Rio Olympics 2016

Every four years, the world comes together to watch men and women compete in summer sports. The 2016 Olympics saw athletes from over 200 member nations come together in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This was the first ever Olympics to take place in South America. A total of 11,303 of the world's best athletes competed in the events. The United States had a total of 121 medals, 46 gold, 37 silver, and 38 bronze. The U.S.'s 121 medal count is the most won by any country since the 1988 Olympics in which the Soviet Union claimed 132 medals.

Changes to Facebook's Trending Feature

After Facebook was accused of promoting more liberal viewpoints, an overhaul of the trending feature has come to be. The trending news feature on Facebook keeps users up to date on currently "trending" topics. In the past, staff members have had an input as to how the news was displayed and worded. After complaints from conservative users, Facebook has decided to limit staff input so that fewer individual views will be expressed. Facebook is taking this step in an effort to allow users to form their own opinions on what is going on in the world. With all of these updates, users will still see the personalized views they are used to, but the wording will be simplified and instead the focus will be on the number of other people talking about the topic.

Louisiana Flood Prompting Help

After the most recent flood in Louisiana claimed the lives of 13 people and ruined over 60,000 homes, Raycom Media to have a benefit concert to raise money to help the victims. Henry Connick Jr. and Randy Jackson are set to co-host the event. The event, “Louisiana Rising: A Benefit Concert for Flood Relief,” will feature more than a dozen local bands. This flood is said to be the worst natural disaster to hit the United States since Superstorm Sandy in 2012. The flood caused about $20 billion dollars in damages, and many are hoping that the event will provide both monetary and emotional aide to those affected.

Congress Updates

This week’s Student Congress addressed the election dates for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Freshman Elections:
Nomination Period: Tuesday, September 6 & Wednesday, September 7
Elections: Tuesday, September 13 & Wednesday, September 14

Fall 2016 Special Elections:
Nomination Period: Tuesday, September 6 & Wednesday, September 7
Elections: Tuesday, September 13 & Wednesday, September 14

Executive Elections:
(Executive elections will also be used as a special election if a space must be filled)
Nomination Period: Wednesday, March 15 & Thursday, March 16
Elections: Wednesday, March 22 & Thursday, March 23

Regular Class Elections:
Nomination Period: Thursday, March 30 & Friday, March 31
Elections: Thursday, April 6 & Friday, April 7

Congress meets every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in Ruane LL05.

Check Out PC’s Clubs!

A Cappella Club
Accounting Association
Active Minds
African American Society
American Marketing Association
Amnesty International
Anime Club
Anscome Society
Armenian Society
Art Club
Asian American Society
Ballroom Dance Club
Best Buddies
Biology Society
BMSA
BOP
Campus Ministry
Chemistry Society
Chess Club
Circolo Italiano
Classics Society
Colleges Against Cancer
Council for Exceptional Children
Dance Club
Dance Company
Economics Club
Education Club
Entrepreneurship Society
Fête Française
Film Club
Footprints Gospel Choir
Frosh Divers
Friar Faithful
Friars Club
Future Friars Executives
Gaelic Society
Health Care Club
Heart to Heart
History Club
Investment Club
Irish Dance Club
ISO
MESA
Mock Trial
Motherland Dance Club
OLAS
Outdoor Adventure Club
PC Democrats
PC Finance Society
PC Lifestyle and Fashion
PC Pals
PC Republicans
Philosophy Club
Photography Club
Pre-Dental Society
SAA
Science Fiction Club
SEAC
SHEPARD
Simply Healthy
Six-Gents
SOAR
Sociology Club
Student Congress
Tierra Latina
Toastmasters
Urban Action
WDOM
Women Empowered
Women Will

The annual Involvement Fair takes place on Sunday, September 4 from 4-6 p.m. on Slavin lawn. Stop by to get more information about how you can get involved on campus!
What’s the best way to enjoy your freshman year? To come to school a week before classes start and participate in one of the many pre-orientation programs that Providence College has to offer.

The four major programs that the college offers are Faithworks, Urban Action, the International Student Welcome Program, and Transitions. Faithworks and Urban Action are similar in many ways; both are service-oriented groups that spend their days helping out the greater community around Providence, Rhode Island.

Faithworks is a faith-based community service program that works strictly at Catholic service sites. They worked diligently at different locations, one of which was the foundation My Brother’s Keeper. This program worked to deliver furniture and food to families in need, keeping with the program’s mission statement “to bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve.” They also worked at programs such as Little Flower House and Jeanne Jugan Retirement Home.

Not only did this program serve its community in a number of ways, it also served as a tool for incoming freshmen. Members from Faithworks explained that during the day students were allowed to ask questions regarding their upcoming first year of college and the coordinators were able to share helpful tips in tricks on how to thrive during their time at PC. This program had 42 participants with 10 coordinators leading the program.

Urban Action follows a similar schedule; however, their service sites are not specifically Catholic nor necessarily connected to a Catholic mission. It is a five day program in which incoming freshmen volunteer during the week at various locations throughout the city of Providence. One of the major activities that Urban Action does on a yearly basis involves cleaning up some parks in Providence. They worked to pick up the trash around the park to beautify the area.

Students are also able to learn and ask questions about what to expect during their freshman year. Activities are provided for all the students during the night to ensure that they are both having fun and meeting their peers with whom they will share these next four years.

The third major pre-orientation program that the college offers is the International Student Welcome Program. This program is designed to help assimilate international incoming students and prepare them for the upcoming school year. The Welcome Program is led by the Assistant Dean of International Studies and the Welcome Program International Student coaches, and is assisted by various PC staff and faculty.

The students in this program are able to meet faculty members who will be extremely important throughout their time here at Providence College. In addition, they learn more about their student visas and are able to go on shopping excursions, allowing them to be prepared for the year to come.

Transitions is another popular program at Providence College that has a mission to “build trust in our students and help them reach their personal and career goals throughout their college career.” Some of the activities that the students participate in involve training in social and cultural transitions and bystander training, as well as specific training regarding Providence College resources.

Included in this program are numerous activities that allow for the incoming freshmen to bond with their peers. Scavenger hunts, burger challenges, and movie nights are a couple of activities that were provided for these students. The Transitions program helped ease the move from high school to college and prepared new students to succeed during the best four years of their life.

Interested in writing? Love to attend events around campus? Want to get the scoop on PC issues? Join the News Section today! Apply @ Thecowl.com/join All majors and grades welcome!
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Submissions can be sent to:
cowlads@providence.edu
Dealing with Development

New Facilities Worth Annoyance of Construction

By Taylor Godfrey '19
Asst. Opinion Editor

CAMPUS

For students returning to the Providence College campus this week, it is clear that much has changed in the few short months we were away. Huxley Avenue is almost unrecognizable, and what once used to be Dore Hall is now looking like a full-fledged business center. All of the construction on campus hints at promising things to come, as long as we are willing to struggle through it.

This time of year seems to be the season of construction. Everywhere you go roads are closed, bright orange traffic cones and neon yellow tape abound, and driving is made more treacherous as cars struggle over bumpy pavement. It is a nuisance that is unavoidable in the outside world, and now on campus as well.

No one wants to have to deal with construction. It makes commutes longer—even if you only have to get from Ruane to Sienna, skirting around construction will take precious minutes that could have previously been spent sleeping. Students living in Davis Hall and other buildings are now treated to a view full of piles of dirt and beeping trucks. The construction sites are a blight on the physical appearance of campus as well as a source of frustration for students, even though we know they will not be around forever.

In the midst of all of this confusion, it seems that the normal response is usually to complain. It takes longer for us to get to class, our campus has become torn apart, and we are unsure when the craziness will really end for good.

It is understandable that students are fed up, or at least a little bit leery about the disturbance in their normal schedules and routines. However, as bothersome as the construction is, the end result is definitely going to be worth it.

The expression “it is going to get worse before it gets better” comes to mind when thinking about the construction on campus. Yes, we would rather not have to contend with these issues, but think about all the problems these new projects will solve. No more seeing your life flash before your eyes when a RIPTA bus does not stop for you in the crosswalk! No more business classes being held in random buildings around campus because there is not one designated building! And think about how beautiful and functional the campus will be without the street running straight through the middle and the rather old looking Dore Hall being one of the first buildings you see as you pull up to campus.

As irritating as all this construction is, it is a necessary evil in order to bring forth the changes that will make our campus even better than it already is. Change never comes easily, but for the continuance of the College’s functionality in the rapidly changing world and its ability to serve its students, progress is key. We can moan and gripe about the struggles of living on a campus under construction if we like, but it is worth remembering why we are doing it. As a community and as a school, we must keep moving forward, for both our own sake and for the sake of the future Friars in the years to come.

Family Has No Definition

We Need to End the Stigma Against Non-Traditional Families

By Carolyn Walsh '17
Opinion Co-Editor

SOCIETY

Among the skilled athletes competing at the 2016 Rio Summer Olympics, American gymnast Simone Biles’ performance earned her a spot among the best of the best. Biles, who has not lost a competition since the 2013 World Championships history, was able to represent the U.S. over the past decades. Then there are kinship families like Biles’, where grandparents or other relatives step up to take on full child-rearing responsibilities because parents may be not be able to care for their children. These families may not fit the traditional nuclear definition of family, but that should not be seen as reason to demean or ostracize people who are a part of these kinds of families.

Trautwig’s insistence that Biles’ grandparents are not her parents poses that the legitimacy of a family depends on the nuclear definition, and also ignores the fact that many adoptive, multigenerational, and kinship families have significant difficulties to overcome and deserve support. It should not be strict biological bonds that determine a family, but rather it should be love and strength. It took an incredible amount of love and strength for Biles’ grandparents to adopt her out of foster care after her birth mother became dangerously addicted to drugs and alcohol. The guidance, stability, and comfort they provided her with in her childhood is what any real parents would do for their children. Their support is no doubt what helped her blossom into one of the greatest gymnasts in history. Ultimately, the Biles are a testament to the fact that families help children prosper, and that every type of family deserves access to support systems. Since many adoptive, multigenerational, and kinship families can face an array of issues, from financial to health, because of their circumstance, support services can go a long way in helping to strengthen these families and get them the help they need.

As a society, it is becoming increasingly essential that we end the stigma surrounding different kinds of families and that we provide ones that are less advantaged with the supports they need. Family is the foundation of all of our lives, and it is time that we respect and help one another.
Is Clickbait the Future of News?  
What Harambe Has Taught Us About The Media

by Daniel Barton '18
Opinion Staff
SOCIAL MEDIA

In this day and age, the American media is no longer able to find news stories of the past. With the current racial climate, as well as the 2016 presidential election, the news cycle is very rarely dry. That is true, at least, for major news outlets such as CNN, Fox, and NBC. Yet there seem to be new outlets that are grabbing the attention of young people across America.

Independent blogs, the most notable examples being Barstool Sports, Total Frat Move, and Buzzfeed, and a less notable outlet, Tap-Talk, have used social media to divert the attention of young, college-aged Americans from some of the most important news stories of the year.

A phenomenal example of this is the popular story that took place last spring at the Cincinnati Zoo in Cincinnati, Ohio, where a child fell into the cage of a gorilla exhibit. The child was approached, grabbed, and dragged through the exhibit by Harambe, a large male silverback, who was promptly shot and killed out of fear of harm to the child. The incident, which was initially widely reported on both large and small media outlets alike, came along with a great deal of criticism. There were animal activists claiming there could have been non-lethal measures taken by the zoo to keep the gorilla alive, and there were Internet commenters saying that, if anything, the parents of the child should have been shot, for doing such a horrendous job looking after their child.

Nonetheless, the Internet exploded with support for the fallen gorilla. "RIP Harambe," "Harambe was an inside job," and "Avengne Harambe" T-shirts lined the Internet's virtual shelves, and became the next internet fad. It seemed that for a better portion of this past summer, a common Facebook or Twitter feed would have real, informative political writings sandwiched between headlines that read ridiculous statements such as "Hillary Killed Harambe" or "Zoo animals everywhere act up in attempts to avenge Harambe." It was impossible for your average internet user to escape.

All of the credit for this fad goes to independent online blogs, and the extent to which the fad caught on shows the inability of the major news outlets to appeal to America's youth. Young people are not going to the major news outlets for their news every day. They look to the headlines on Barstool and know that even a site based around political satire, sports gambling, and popular culture will report an actual news story if it is deemed important enough.

Many news outlets are slipping further and further out of range of the young people in America, despite many news outlets expanding their social media presence. The fact is that independent Internet blogs use characters, satire, and internet fads to appeal to the "millenial" generation, and major news outlets will simply fade away if they cannot catch up.

No More Bashing Millennials  
Young People Do Not Deserve Harsh Criticism

by Hannah Paxton '19
Opinion Staff

As young adults, we are often labeled and depicted as a self-centered generation. It is a stereotype that older generations seem to so stubbornly believe, whether as a way to put the blame on young adults for today's societal problems or as a means to dismiss the newer generation. Either way it has become common practice to classify young adults as a generation that is too wrapped up in themselves and their technology to pay any attention to the world around them. However, this is a dangerous stereotype, as it creates obstacles for not only this generation, but for generations to come.

With all of the resources and technology that we have today, this generation could easily become the most educated in American history, as well as the most technologically experienced. What should be viewed as something good is leading to many generalizations that people make about the values and mindsets of young adults. It does not matter what kind of person you are because, at the end of the day, any older person sees you as a narcissistic kid whose greatest achievement is staring at your phone for hours straight.
New Year Brings New Changes

by Katherine Puzyczy '17 and Jacquelyn Kelley '17  
Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editor-in-Chief

We come back to campus this fall at an exciting time for Providence College. Our community continues to grow as we welcome the Class of 2020 and take in the campus transformation unfolding around us. We are celebrating the College’s Centennial as well as the eight-hundredth year of the Dominican Order, which are both monumental accomplishments for the founders of our institution. Just as the freshmen are beginning their college journeys, we are embarking on a journey of our own at The Cowl. Having recently completed our annual Summit training for editorial staff, we observed former writers transition into leaders. We were really impressed by their enthusiasm and are thrilled to see their energy and new ideas come to fruition.

We are hoping that, as you start the new year at PC, you are filled with the same excitement. The celebration of one-hundred and 800-year-old traditions is not an opportunity that everybody can partake in; Making the most of this time will only add to your memories of your time spent here, whether you are just beginning to make them or have wanted them to grow over the course of three years. For some, the start of college might carry with it daunting tasks like making new friends, starting classes, or learning how to navigate newfound freedom. Because of this, it might be easy to let your current fears overshadow the exciting new opportunities before you. We encourage you to approach this year with open minds and challenge yourself to join in on the exciting events taking place around campus.

As classes begin, we hope that all of you have a wonderful start to the school year, and that you, our readers, look forward to our publication each week.

TANGENTS & TRIBES

Dunkin’ Donuts Is a Drug

You may be surprised to learn that Providence College has been permitting the sale of drugs on its campus for a long time. Students have formed long lines to pick up these drugs right in the center of Slavin. Why is such a seemingly dangerous transaction allowed on a campus ruled by traditional Catholic values? Because these drugs are the Dunkin’ Donuts coffee, donuts, and breakfast sandwiches that so many PC students, faculty, and staff rely on to get through the day.

Dunkin’ has created a strong presence on campus and in the subconscious of many individuals who cannot help but make a trip to Lower Slavin to get their daily order. While the caffeine found in coffee is a drug recognized by the FDA, Dunkin’ Donuts as a brand has become drug-like in the way its customers need it over and over again. Its consumers often consistently return—think about your roommate who gets Dunkin’ every day for breakfast and talks about fighting the urge to grab another coffee in the afternoon. Imagine the line on Sunday mornings at around eleven—you’ll be spending at least fifteen minutes waiting. Caffeine, of course, has no dangerous effects in small or moderate amounts, but remember that every time you need coffee, it is not your own decision but rather a command from the drug lord Dunkin’ Donuts.

- Kevin Copp '18

A Message For New Tutors

After attending tutor orientation this past Thursday, I remembered how scared I was when spring semester freshman year to just apply to the tutoring center, let alone officially become a tutor. I began to think about the new tutors, or "newbies" as they were referred to during orientation, and how nervous they must be to begin tutoring fellow students. I want the new tutors to know that they are not alone in this—we all were once in their first session and the tutees, or students who are being tutored, are also afraid! However, I promise you that once you complete that first session, you will feel so relieved and accomplished. Knowing you helped someone truly is the most rewarding feeling. My advice is to hang tough through the first-day jitters, be friendly and yourself, and to always come to every session with a smile on your face. Why? Because even though your first session may be over at this point, your tutor’s may just be beginning.

Now, after that first dreaded hour is up, you can start to enjoy yourself and your time at the tutoring center, whether it be in the general tutoring center or the writing center. I personally am a tutor at the writing center and although I have been one for a while, we are still mighty. By this I mean that I have noticed many returning tutors become more confident each year and ones that are no longer making the same mistakes they once did during sessions and in their essays.

Growth. I notice growth, and at a tutoring center, what could be better than that? Just knowing that in every session, you have the opportunity to directly and positively influence a fellow student’s life. So make that hour a complete one.

- McKenzie Tavella '18

Time To Change Language Studies

Within the past couple of weeks, I have taken on a new adventure—that being the European Continent. With all the excitement, there is a lot to learn. In my time here so far, I have learned one thing; compared to other countries that view English as a true second language, the United States falls significantly behind in that category.

The first country I entered was England; therefore, I was expecting to be greeted by the English language. Yet, as time went on, hitting more countries, such as France and Italy, it became quite evident that I was a minority in my inability to act as a multilingual person.

In trying to become more acquainted with my surroundings, I often turned to the civilians of that specific country, aware that they most likely know better than anyone else. When I did, I often used the phrase, “Parlez-vous Anglais?” Most would respond that they only spoke a little. Yet to my surprise, they held conversations better than I could have ever imagined. When I asked them how they knew English so well, they simply said, “Well, we had to learn it in our schools.” Why is it then in other countries learning other languages is important, but in America it appears we cannot care less? In my opinion, it would, in fact, better our country and the people within it if we created a change in America’s educational system and the ways in which we enforce multilingual education.

- Kelsey Dass '18
TOP LEFT: Students attend classes on the first day of school.
TOP RIGHT: Students of the Class of 2017 order rings for their Senior Ring Weekend.
BELOW: The PC A cappella group, strictly speaking, performs at Providence College Academic Convocation.

ABOVE: Students decorate their own fish bowl and take home their new pet goldfish, sponsored by BOP.
BELOW: Students and faculty gather to be a part of the PC 100 group photo.
How would you describe your first day of classes?

“Nostalgic.”
Madeline Boffi ’17

“The first day is hectic but fun.”
Shawn Reynolds ’19

“A little overwhelming, especially civ.”
Riley Mullin ’20 and Jillian Jianos ’20

“Busy and exciting.”
Cara Milluskey ’19 and Caleigh Rockwal ’19

“Eventful. My professors were approachable and intelligent, and I am excited for the new semester.”
Gabriela Chiaramida ’18

“It was enjoyable and only had one class, it was great.”
Dan Clark ’20 and Nick DeMeo ’17

“Great meeting the new Friar fans.”
- Friar Dom
Gene Wilder: Iconic Actor Dies at 83

by Patrick Lovett ‘17
Assistant A&E Editor

CELEBRITY

On Monday, August 29, Actor Gene Wilder passed away in his home at age 83 due to complications from Alzheimer’s disease. Best known for his roles in Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, Blazing Saddles, and Young Frankenstein, Wilder was and will continue to be widely recognized for his ability to evoke laughter, thought, and a sense of wonder from his audiences.

It has been made known that Wilder had been dealing with Alzheimer’s for three years prior to his death but kept it secret because “he simply couldn’t bear the idea of one less smile in the world,” his nephew said.

Wilder’s family, friends, and coworkers were quick to pay tribute to the legendary actor following his death. His family released a statement saying, “he passed holding our hands with the same tenderness and love” he had exhibited throughout his life. The statement fittingly ended with a quote from Willy Wonka, saying, “We are the music makers, and we are the dreamers of dreams,” thereby representing the depth that so often accompanied Wilder’s career.

Director Mel Brooks, who often collaborated with Wilder, called the late actor “one of the truly great talents of our time,” saying additionally, “He blessed every film we did with his magic and he blessed me with his friendship.”

Countless others added to the outpouring of love and admiration for Wilder. Actor Billy Crystal said, “His legacy of films is inspiring. A true genius,” while film critic Leonard Maltin wrote, “Bless you for all these years of laughter and love, such warmth and humanity. Thank you, thank you, thank you.”

Much of the admiration for Wilder has been in relation to his role as Willy Wonka, an eccentric chocolate factory owner who inspired the imaginations of countless children—some of whom have grown up into actors, musicians, and celebrities.

Rob Lowe, Larry Wilmore, James Franco, and James Gunn are but a few who have expressed their appreciation for that role which played such a big role in their childhoods. The quirkiness, charm, and wit that characterized Wonka helped to immortalize Wilder as the likable and nostalgic figure. PBS is near impossible stop from feeling like a kid again when watching him sing, “Come with me and you’ll be in a world of pure imagination-Take a look and you’ll see into your imagination.”

Gene Wilder as Willy Wonka in Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.

A Look Inside Anaclastic

by Luiza Alves ’19
Associate Staff

CAMPUSS

Many agree that after watching Pitch Perfect, a movie that showcases a college’s a cappella program and its quirky members, A cappella became more recognizable to those with no vocal talent as something cool, fun, and creative. Nevertheless, singing with no musical instruments other than their voices was always of interest to Providence College’s all female A cappella group members, Anaclastic’s Erin McCarthy ’19 and Lindsey Madeira ’19.

Each year, the A cappella program hosts auditions in search of their newest members; McCarthy and Madeira were lucky enough to be chosen as the only two freshmen girls to join their group of singers. McCarthy knew she’d be auditioning since “she [had] been in all girls A cappella group in high school and absolutely loved it.” Madeira had done “chorus and A cappella in high school but wanted the experience of a more student directed and oriented program, and [had] heard about PC’s A cappella before coming to school in the fall.” Both wholeheartedly agreed on the fact that anyone with [little] to [extensive] experience is encouraged to try out. Madeira believes that “anyone who wants to be in a group with all girls and having [the] flexibility to be creative!”

She is also inspired vocally by Alicia Keys, claiming to have been “singing along to her music since [she] could remember.” McCarthy’s favorite song, to sing with Anaclastic is “Landslide” by Fleetwood Mac, and gave me a glimpse of just how fun the groups can be when they are together stating that, “at the end of almost every rehearsal [they] all belt out “Stone Cold” by The White Stripes and [they have] never performed it, but it is so fun and kind of a little tradition [the group has].” McCarthy also wants to bring “Sunday Candy” by Donnie Trumpet and The Social Experiment, because [she] thinks “doing a piece with some rapping and singing would be so cool.”

Some words of wisdom? Madeira advised everyone to “if anyone is having doubts or is nervous, they should still come and meet us all and hopefully before they sing for [them], [they] are able to calm their nerves a bit.” She goes on to say that she “never really feels nervous performing because [she] is on stage with 12 of [her] best friends.” Also she says they “are a pretty easy going, friendly group, and are easy to get along with in those shoes at some point, whether it was one year ago or three. If anyone likes to sing and wants to try to perform because [she] is on stage with 12 of [her] best friends.”

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Another A cappella group member, Anaclastic’s Erin McCarthy ’19 and Lindsey Madeira ’19.

When asked what being in Anaclastic meant to McCarthy and Madeira, both pointed out that it quickly became more than just singing together for the school. McCarthy stated that “being in the group means everything to [her].” [she] is honored to be able to sing next to not only some of the most beautiful voices [she] has ever heard, but some of [her] best friends too.”

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Gene Wilder as Willy Wonka in Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CURVA PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIRED.COM

A cappella group, Solidly Speaking, performs.

A Look Inside Anaclastic

by Luiza Alves ’19
Associate Staff

Campus

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Gene Wilder as Willy Wonka in Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIRED.COM

A cappella group, Solidly Speaking, performs.
Setting Gillette On Fire

CountryFest Comes to New England

by Ryan Cox '18
A&E Staff
MUSIC

The 2016 New England Country Music Festival brought an unofficial close to the summer with Kenny Chesney’s “Spread the Love” tour that came to Gillette Stadium for its final shows on Aug. 26-27. The tour brought both an impressive and diverse bill of Chesney, Miranda Lambert, Sam Hunt, and Old Dominion, catering to the incredibly wide range of tastes that today’s country music includes. The seats at Gillette Stadium were packed tight both on the floor and up into the nosebleeds, welcoming more than 60,000 fans total for the two-weekend and for the nearly six-hour concert. Despite the long night, Chesney’s raw energy and message to “Spread the love” created a positive environment where he could connect with every one of the fans in the stadium.

Foxboro, Massachusetts, and Gillette Stadium held special meaning for Chesney, who coined the name of his fanbase, “No Shoes Nation,” four years ago at Gillette. Throughout the concert, Chesney reminded fans how much he loves playing in New England, playing some songs in his set that he doesn’t play anywhere else, including his 2005 song “She’s From Boston.” He constantly thanked the New England crowd for working hard and playing hard, two of the qualities of No Shoes Nation, according to Chesney. Wearing a Patriots tank and displaying a Patriots helmet in front of the drum set, Chesney’s appreciation for Gillette Stadium was clear as he jumped around the stage, often walking to the smaller “sandbar” stage to work the crowd. He closed the night by bringing up two young fans who each received a signed football helmet, one Patriot, the other No Shoes Nation.

Chesney’s energy on stage was electric, and his performance was an hour and a half of nonstop music, a mix of his greatest hits (“No Shoes, No Shirt, No Problems”), new music (“American Kids”), and covers (Steve Miller’s “The Joker”). Chesney brought out Old Dominion for his 2015 hit “Save it for a Rainy Day,” and Lambert for “You and Tequila,” his 2010 duet originally recorded with Grace Potter. With 23 years in country music under his belt, Chesney’s sound has undergone several shifts in style (from partying down to his core, island-influenced vibes, making for a night that was as laid back as it was energetic.

Lambert’s set was also a mix of her own music and some cover songs as she brought her hatred of driving, rock-influenced country music that shatters the mold of the country girl stereotype. She rocked the stadium with hits like “Gunslinger & Lead” and “Mama’s Broken Heart,” then pulled back for powerful ballads “Over You” and “The House that Built Me.” Lambert also performed her current single “Vice,” and now offers us the opportunity to watch her as she narrates the divorce between her and country star Blake Shelton.

Appealing to the pop-country fans at Gillette Stadium were rising star Old Dominion and more-pop-than-country artist Sam Hunt. Both brought their own unique styles to the night. Old Dominion blends what they call “country and country music” — layers of rock and roll r’ n’ roll grit [with] radio-friendly hook-heavy pop nuggets [source: countrymusicfanband.com]. They played their recent hits, including their latest, “Song for Another Time,” as well as other songs from their album, Meat and Candy, and their self-titled EP. Hunt’s music is much more pop and R&B-influenced, and his performance was an up-and-coming power within the streaming providers. According to the Nielsen media rating agency, an average American spends more than five hours per day watching television. Therefore, it is safe to assume that the Providence College community is watching about four hours of television each week (after homework is finished, of course). With such a wide variety of program options to pick from, it is worth determining which shows are “binge worth” and which shows are bombs.

To date, 2016 has been a great year for the small screen. High ratings have been achieved not only by traditional cable networks, but also for the streaming providers. According to the Nielsen media rating agency, an average American spends more than five hours per day watching television. Therefore, it is safe to assume that the Providence College community is watching about four hours of television each week (after homework is finished, of course). With such a wide variety of program options to pick from, it is worth determining which shows are “binge worth” and which shows are bombs.

Zombies have seemingly taken over many television shows this summer. By just turning on the television or flipping through your social media, it seems as though the world is obsessed with a plague that will eradicate nearly the entire population and the survivors will become “chew toys” of the reanimated.

Lone Survivor: The Walking Dead
In its sixth season on the air, AMC’s The Walking Dead has shown its fans that you do not have to be a premium network to have blood, violence, and character death. The show received an 8.6 rating from IMDb and an 85 percent on Rotten Tomatoes. At the conclusion of season six this April, 14.1 million viewers watched mankind try to struggle on.

A Better Way: Fear the Walking Dead-The spinoff series of the hugely successful Walking Dead started off very promising, with 10 million viewers for the first episode, and received favorable ratings. However, the show’s critical response and viewership has taken a slide, as shown by this Sunday’s midseason reprise which only garnered 3 million viewers.

The use and popularity of satire and its controversial comedic genre has been one of the craziest election trends continuing over the summer. 2016 has been one of the craziest election cycles of the modern era and the late night talk shows have really been given an arsenal of comedic ammunition. Jester: Full Frontal with Samantha Bee: It has been a year since the late night satire legend Jon Stewart left the air. However, a number of his understudies are now hosting their own programs. Samantha Bee’s Full Frontal has been dubbed by critics as the true heir to Stewart and is even boasting a 100 percent approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

Clown: The Daily Show with Trevor Noah: Trevor Noah is coming up to a year now since he took over for Stewart at The Daily Show and it is clear that he is much more reliant on his co-workers to deliver comedic gold. Reception is still generally favorable, yet the viewership has tanked tremendously compared to Stewart’s show.

Home Box Office is proving to be an up-and-coming power within the television arena. Currently, HBO is not only the “cool kid” of the television world, but with 126 Emmy nominations in 2015, it has become the “jock” as well.

King: Game of Thrones- It is almost impossible not to hear the mention of this show on a Monday morning. Not only is Game of Thrones hug (American kids”), yet it boasts a 9.5 rating on IMDb and 94 percent on Rotten Tomatoes. Despite the show’s lack of songwriting style is evident in his hits, such as “Break Up in a Small Town” and “Take Your Time.”

with the expansion of Netflix streaming excellent original content, it proves that it is actually worth buying your own subscription and not just stealing your neighbor’s password.

President: House of Cards- If there were ever a better look into the inner workings of the White House, this would surely be it. For the past four years, House of Cards has eerily mirrored the crises facing our nation and now offers us the opportunity to decide, Underwood 2016? The show boasts ratings of 9.1 on IMDb and 10/10 on Metacritic, with the President Correspondences Dinner.

90s Nostalgia: Fuller House- Ever the show that was born in the ‘90s, including Friends, Nirvana, and Pokemon, so what would be better than checking up with your favorite San Francisco family twenty years later? However, with a 33% rating on Rotten Tomatoes, Fuller House is like Adam Sandler’s career—it should be kept in the ‘90s.
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Writers Wanted!

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“Ok Kimmy. You can do this. Just go up to the big, scary tables with the intimidating people. No problem. Just breathe. You can totally do this!” I muttered to myself as I stared at the massive sea of people roaming around tables like sharks looking for their next kill. When a towering poster board caught the attention of one of the roaming students, the person standing next to it plastered a welcoming smile onto his face. Another unsuspecting student was captured by the bold, colorful letters painted across the board. I would soon be one of these students, or so my mother wanted me to be.

It is my freshman year of college and as I left home, my mother left me with two things: don’t bring home a jerk and make my mother proud. No pressure join clubs. Love ya hon. Bye.”

So please if you want your dear, old college to be proud remember two things: don’t bring home a jerk and don’t show them too much. I don’t want you to bring home a jerk. A good way to get yourself out into the college scene is to join clubs. So please if you want your dear, old mother to be proud remember two things: don’t bring home a jerk and join clubs. Love ya hon. Bye.”

Ok, so I only had to do two things to make my mother proud. No pressure right? Nope! As soon as I walked into the sea of eager sharks, pressure began to build inside of me. It’s difficult to join a club when every single club I have joined in middle and high school ended up being a disaster. It also didn’t help that I generally didn’t like to talk to people. I tried to stop walking, I really did, but my stupid feet were going on their own. They led me to the poster board covered in sparkles and pink pom-poms. Cheerleading club. Definitely not something for me to try. In high school I attempted to branch out and auditioned for marching band. I was pretty good at the flute and figured I needed the exercise. During the audition I had to follow a line of marchers while having my upper body facing the right. I had no idea where I was going and ended up crashing into the marcher next to me. Soon the field was littered with fallen marchers and smashed flutes.

My feet then brought me to Drama Club. In middle school I auditioned for Waiting for Godot. I was quickly a laughing stock when I mispronounced “Godot.” After that the director made me the tree. So I quickly passed the Drama Club. I really wanted to stay a human. After wandering around the sharks and welcoming smiles, my feet stopped at a board that read: “Stargazers: Always Looking Toward Greatness!” “Yes” I thought, “I could totally do an astronomy club.” I quickly signed up. Big mistake. You see, at events such as the club fair, it is imperative to read the whole poster board before signing up. When I was about to put down the pen a manicured hand stopped me.

“What is your vocal range?”

“What?” “Vocal range, you know singing.” Oops. I lifted my head up to find emerald eyes staring back at me. “Umm.” Real eloquent. A chuckle interrupted my stammering; “I am Pauline. I’m the president of this A cappella group.” A cappella! Oh poop. “Ok, so you seem to not know your range. That’s ok. You signed up so you have to come to the first meeting. It’s on Friday at 4 p.m. See ya then.”

Pauline’s eyes were quite piercing. If I did not come to the meeting, I was pretty sure she would find me and feed me to the sharks.

And that is how I ended up auditioning for an A cappella group. The audition took place in the gym. All the hopefuls stood in a circle. Pauline stood in the center. Her voice was very commanding. “Ok newbies. Please sing your names and tell me why you want to join this club.” One by one, the hopefuls sang his or her name and explained why they signed up. I was doomed. What was I going to say? Hi. I signed up because Pauline’s eyes saw into my soul? Um no. Oh and I can’t sing! My panicking was interrupted by a beautiful tenor. He bellowed “Ross.” I was blown away. Ross seems like such a tough name but this guy managed to make it sound like an angel’s. I swear birds flew by as his name was sung. Now I was super doomed. Suddenly it was my turn. I cleared my throat and squawked out “Kimberly.” Millions of birds fell out of the sky. Pauline was quite taken a back. “Wow. Ok. So that was interesting. But sadly this group is not looking for interesting. We are looking for good so I am sorry but you did not make it.” “Maybe I can try a different pitch.” “No. To be fair to everyone else you only get one shot.” Well, that sucked. I buzzed my lips in annoyance. This also shocked Pauline, but in a good way.

“What! Was that you? That was way better than your singing.” “Um thanks.” “You totally sounded like a trumpet and that could give us an edge in competitions. So I know I told you to leave but we could use your unique ability so um you’re in.” Ok weird turn of events. But I accepted. And you know what? I had a fun time. After Pauline accepted me into Stargazers, I realized that one didn’t have to change him or herself to fit into a club. A person just had to believe in their true self and greatness will shine through. It may seem tough but it worked for me. I buzzed my lips to greatness and led the Stargazers to a first time Nationals gold.
Heavy Hearts Never Lose Beats

by Matt Farrell ’17
Portfolio Staff

Dreams die, stream of consciousness psychotic,
A safe haven painted in blood
By a self-proclaimed martyr, with no burden for murdering,
Wading in the water, waiting to live,
But blood is thick.

Hot lead burns thin skin,
Cold men scold the dead in life.
Condemned lives forced to survive, tortured for sport.
Masses use God to condemn lovers,
But use faith to pray for loss, but who was lost?
Their identities ignored.

It wasn’t just any victim, any perp, any traitor.
It’s all relative in America, memories become relevant revenants
Of the slain.
Stains bleached but colors still so bright,
A Pulse is still here, and a flag is waving in sight.

First Essay

by Abby Johnston ’17
Portfolio Staff

Dredge up opinions,
Swat the horseflies
Named Worry, Sloth, Petty,
Busy and Distrust...
Rinse off the apathy.

Tear off sheets of numbness,
Wake up meter,
Roll effort out of bed,
Make my hand begin
That stumbling tread.

Bring a psalm to my soul
Rub out the blur—
The film off this word-tin.
Let beauty stretch out:
Fill this data-dead skin.

This Is My Goodbye

by Clara Howard ’19
Portfolio Staff

I don’t know how to talk to you anymore.
There are so many things I want to say,
So many apologies I want to make,
So many rewinds I want to take.

I wish I’d met you sooner.
I wish we’d had a chance.
But at the same time,
I don’t wish I had never told him yes.
I don’t wish that you never met her,
Because maybe she’ll make you happier
Than I ever could.

But I can’t help but wonder.
That pesky “what if...” won’t leave me alone.
And my brain conjures up so many scenarios,
It’s like I’m being forced to watch a tragedy of my own making—
Over and over and over again.

And every time I think of you,
I want to cry.
My heart bursts when I think of you.
Hurts in a way that it never did with anyone else.
Hurts almost more than it did when he broke up with me.
And maybe that’s because I’ll never know
What you and I might have been,
And I already knew what he and I could’ve been.

I wish we could’ve had a fighting chance.
I wish it didn’t feel
Like there’s so much left unfinished between us.
I wish I had the guts to admit all this out loud—
Not just to you,
But to him, too.
And to myself.
Dear Tiffany and Earl,

Where do babies come from?

Sincerely,
A Confused Citizen

Dear Confused Citizen,

You should already know the answer to that question. You were a baby once. Think about it, where did you come from?

The obvious answer to that rhetorical question is that you came from the hospital. The baby section of the hospital, specifically. The babies are packaged in blue or pink blankets for travel convenience and handed out to their families after being matched to a specific pair of parents based on looks and eventual personality traits. Only sometimes do the nurses who work in the shop mix up the orders and give a child that doesn’t really match. That child can either be kept by the family or returned for a voucher for one free baby.

All babies also come with instruction manuals for when the families take them home from the hospital. There is a lifetime warranty on the baby, so every time the baby is broken or sick, the baby is returned to the hospital for repair. That’s why hospitals are misrepresented as where people go when they’re sick instead of a more accurate description of a baby shop.

Why babies come from the hospital specifically and where they were delivered from to get there is currently unknown.

Dear Tiffany and Earl,

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Dear Uneducated Human,

When a mommy and a daddy love each other very much and they decide it is time to bring a new life into this world, they set aside a special night for mommy and daddy fight club. They make an arena in their home and invite a friend over to officiate their fight. The winner of the fight gets to determine the sex of the baby, what the baby will be named, and any other baby attributes that may be contested.

Once the terms of the fight have been decided the friend will blow his whistle signifying that the fight can begin. The friend serves as an official and also a witness to the fight. He or she will determine who is the victor and pass on the results to the Mommy and Daddy Fight Club Association, or the MDFCA. The MDFCA then reviews the results and the victor’s requests for a child, so that they can put in the victor’s order right away. Orders generally take nine months to be processed and fulfilled, although sometimes they can come a little earlier or even a little later.

So there you have it, citizen. That is where babies come from. If you have any further questions or maybe you and your significant other are looking to schedule a fight, please contact the MDFCA at their toll free number 1-800-BABY-FIGHTS.

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USA Dominates Rio

by Lauren Altmeyer '17
Senior Sports Writer

The 2016 Olympic Games in Rio saw record breaking success for Team USA. With 121 medals, including 46 gold, 37 silver, and 38 bronze, Team USA led all other nations for the sixth consecutive Games and topped the medal chart in every category for the seventh time in Olympic history, and the first since 1948. The team’s 121 medals are the most ever overall, and Ashton Eaton, who tied with six golds and nine medals to become the all time winningest woman in Olympic track and field, became the first American gymnast to win four gold medals at a single Games. Biles and her teammates, Aly Raisman, Gabby Douglas, Laurie Hernandez, and Madison Kocian, were the favorites to win team gold, and did just that with some incredible floor and balance beam routines.

USA Men’s Basketball won its third consecutive gold while the women’s team won its sixth straight title. Women’s Water Polo was also able to defend their Olympic title, becoming the first to do so since the sport debuted in 2000. Some other notable achievements from Rio include Team USA winning its 1,000th gold medal in summer competition, Simone Manuel becoming the first African American woman to win gold in swimming, and fencer Ibtihaj Muhammad becoming the first U.S. athlete to compete in a hijab. On top of that, runner Abbey D’Agostino received the Rio 2016 Fair Play Award, given to athletes who show selflessness and sportsmanship.

When speaking to TeamUSA.org, Alan Ashley, USOC chief of sport performance and Team USA chef de mission, said, “This has been an incredible Games for Team USA by any measure, and I’m so proud and amazed by the spectacular performances of our athletes, the quality our coaching and the way our organization came together to support them. There have been so many first-time performances by so many athletes in different sports and our hats go off to the Rio 2016 Organizing Committee for creating an environment in which our athletes could thrive and reach their potential.”
**Remembering the Greats**

by Sam Hardwick ’17  
Sports Editor

Two thousand and sixteen has been a hard year for those in sports. Some of the greatest athletes and coaches of our generation, and of all time, have passed away this year, including the great Muhammad Ali. Muhammad Ali had been known as “The Greatest” long before he passed away on June 3, and his career speaks for itself. He won some of the biggest fights the world has ever seen, including the Rumble in the Jungle with George Foreman in 1974. For how good Ali was in the ring, what set him apart from so many other boxing champions, was his demeanor and values that he vehemently upheld throughout his life. He is survived by his fourth wife Lonnie, two sons, and seven daughters.

On June 28, women’s sports lost one of the greatest coaches to ever live. Pat Summitt was the Tennessee Volunteers women’s basketball head coach for an astonishing 38 years, winning 1,098 games during her time there. She has won the most games in NCAA basketball history. Like Ali, Summitt’s impact off the court is what pushes her from great to all-time great. Just two years after Title IX came into effect, Summitt took the Lady Vols head coach position and became a face for women’s sports everywhere, showing everyone that women’s sports not only worked but thrived.

The NFL was also no stranger to loss this year, losing another great coach, James David “Buddy” Ryan. Ryan was an NFL coach for 26 seasons, specializing in making defenses that could pound opposing teams down like nothing that has been seen. He is most known for creating the 46 defensive scheme that helped the 1985-1986 Bears win Super Bowl XX. Buddy Ryan is survived by his two sons, Rex and Rob Ryan, who also are NFL coaches, carrying on his legacy as defensive specialists.

**Women's Field Hockey Kicks Off Season**

by Gretta Schultz ’17  
Sports Editor

The Women’s Field Hockey team opened their season with a 1-0-1 record against the University of Maine and Sacred Heart University. The Friars first took on the University of Maine in 1978 where they defeated the Black Bears 4-1. The last time Providence College defeated University of Maine was in 2014. PC’s all time series record against the University of Maine is 20-13-1. As for the Sacred Heart Pioneers, they met the Friars for the first time as recently as 2001. In this short lived competition, the Friars have a winning all time record of 3-0 against Sacred Heart.

The Friars had a rocky start to their season opener, losing to University of Maine 7-1. They entered the season just shy of the Pen Monto/NFHCA Division I National Coaches’ Poll Top-20 list. The University of Maine had already secured a 3-0 lead in the first 6:33 minutes of the game. The University of Maine continued to push forward with their lead until the Friars secured their lone goal at 19:05, making the score 4-1. The Friars seemed more determined after their score, but the Black Bears were able to secure one more goal in the first half, and another two goals at the beginning of the second half, ending with a score of 7-1.

The Friars were able to rebound the next night against Sacred Heart with a 6-1 victory. Five different players contributed to this victory by scoring the six goals. Adrienne Houle ’17 led the Friars with two goals. The Friars built up a 2-0 lead in the first half. In the second half the Friars hit a streak scoring four more goals by the end of the game.

After playing their season opener against Maine and Sacred Heart in Maine, the Friars return home to Lennon Family Field to take on Vermont on Friday, September 2 at 6 p.m. and Bryant on Sunday, September 4 at 1 p.m. The Friars first took on Vermont in 1987 and in their all time series record the Friars lead 13-2. The Friars have only faced Bryant once before in 1976, where they defeated Bryant 1-0.
As the baseball season comes to a close, the Chicago Cubs have been the toast of the town this summer, becoming the first team to reach 80 wins in late August. Even though Vegas may consider the Cubbies to be the odds on favorites to win the World Series in the fall, I think they will fail to even win the pennant, thanks to the Washington Nationals. With 75 wins, the Nats are not far behind and would certainly be the toughest test for the North Side in October.

After a pedestrian career with the New York Mets, Daniel Murphy has emerged as an MVP candidate in his first season in the nation’s capital. His numbers give him a distant shot at the triple crown, with 25 home runs, 98 runs batted in, and a sterling .343 batting average. Catcher Wilson Ramos has blossomed into a steady force, batting .314 with 20 homers and 69 RBIs. The Nationals have a potent offense that can challenge Chicago’s stellar pitching staff.

Sluggers Kris Bryant and Anthony Rizzo have wowed at the plate for the Cubbies, but Washington’s pitching staff will be up to the task. Stephen Strasburg has suffered yet another setback in his tragically injury-prone career, but if he can make it back he will be a menacing force on the mound with a 15-4 record and 179 strikeouts (11 per nine innings). Max Scherzer and Tanner Roark will be able to pick up the slack with ERAs under 3.00 and 450 strikeouts between them.

Meanwhile, the Nationals have one of the best away records in all of baseball, which is essential to playoff success. Unfortunately for Cubs fans, the refrain will again be, “Wait ‘til next year,” as the Nationals pull off the upset and advance to the World Series.

- Jeff Williams ’17

The Texas Rangers are the team to beat in the American League. With veterans Adrian Beltre and Ian Desmond leading the team along with young fiery players Rougned Odor and Elvis Andrus, it is hard to see a team being able to compete with them offensively. With the midseason additions of Jonathan Lucroy and the heavy bat of Carlos Beltran, they added enough to their lineup for me to say they are the favorite in the American League.

As we all know, it is not just offense that gets you through the postseason. There have been plenty of teams with the strongest offenses but still fail to get it done because they lack the pitching. The Rangers are not like that. They have strong arms in Cole Hamels and Yu Darvish who both have postseason experience. With Hamels currently leading the league in earned run average and five players on their team with more than 20 home runs it is safe to say they have a lot of talent and could easily make it to the postseason.

Beltran was arguably the best player on the Yankees before he was traded, which was arguably the best trade of the midseason. Not only did they add Beltran and Lucroy, they also recently picked up Carlos Gomez. Gomez is not the shining star he has been in the past, but he still holds the ability to hit and score. If he is able to regain some of the talent he had in his earlier years in Milwaukee, it will put the Rangers very far ahead of anyone in the American League.

- Chris McCormack ’18