

THE COWL

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Providence College

November 17, 2016

A Float Down Memory Lane

Will Power

by Patrick Healey '17
News Staff

CAMPUS

On Thursday, November 17, Providence College students and faculty gathered to honor the life and works of William Shakespeare.

"Shakespeare at 400" commemorates the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. It was funded by the English department and specifically headed by Dr. Russell Hillier, Dr. Stephen Lynch, and Dr. Robert Reeder. Much like the annual PC event known as "Profs and Poets," this event encouraged students inside and outside of the English department to share and read anything from the large and brilliant repertoire of Shakespeare.

"Shakespeare at 400" took place in the Ruane Center for the Humanities' Fiondella Great Room. Dr. Hillier noted there were plenty of refreshments in the form of cider and pizza to ensure that all students were well nourished for the two hours of Shakespeare reading.

Dr. Hillier stated, "Principally, I would like to see it as an opportunity for the College community to come and share their delight in some of the most ingenious and spirited poetry set down in the English language."

Unlike PC students, Shakespeare did not have a college education. Using his grammar school education, which taught him Latin and the classics, Shakespeare gained great success and became known throughout his time as an actor and playwright in London.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF INPRINT.COM



A view of the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City as they march through Times Square.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BUZZLE.COM

by Ryan Cox '18
A&E Staff

TRADITION

As the turkey roasts and the pies bake, some 44 million Americans will tune in to watch the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Since its inception in 1924, the parade has become a Thanksgiving Day tradition, alongside football. The parade began when Macy's employees in the 1920s, mostly first-generation European immigrants, wanted a way to celebrate their new American heritage. The first parade in 1924 was actually put on by the employees with floats, marching bands, and colorful costumes. The parade route ended at the Macy's store in Herald Square, and Santa Claus appeared

at the end of the parade to signal the coming Christmas season, as Macy's still does today. The first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade had 250,000 attendees, and has been steadily growing ever since.

This year's parade should be the 92nd time the parade has been held. However, production of the Macy's Parade was suspended from 1942 to 1944 to conserve rubber and helium to use in World War II.

In 1947, the parade gained massive popularity when the film *Miracle on 34th Street* used footage from its parade as the opening scene. The first television broadcast of the parade was in 1948 on CBS, and coverage was later moved to NBC in 1952, where the parade has been broadcasted since.

As the parade progressed and

grew, various aspects of it became staples, including the balloons, musical performances, and floats. This year's parade is no different. The 90th production of the parade will include over 10,000 participants to a live audience of 3.5 million on the streets of New York City, many of whom camp out as early as 4 a.m. to guarantee a spot on the parade route.

New balloons featured this year will include the characters from Dreamworks' film *Trolls*, as well as a new version of the Charlie Brown balloon. Balloons of Spongebob Squarepants, the Pillsbury Doughboy, Ronald McDonald, and others will return from last year.

MACY'S/ Page 15

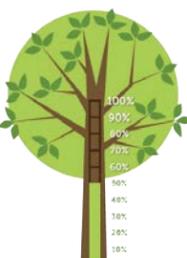
UNDER THE HOOD

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News

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This week features an exclusive *Cowl* interview with Dr. Anthony Esolen.



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Men's Soccer looks forward to the NCAA tournament.



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2017 Senior Giving Tree

by Benjamin Bauchiero '18
News Staff

ON CAMPUS



This Wednesday, November 16, was the launch of the 2017 Senior Giving Tree. The Senior Giving Tree is a program that invites seniors to make monetary donations to Providence College. The money received from these donations is allocated to a variety of programs and scholarships that are determined at the discretion of the College.

The Senior Giving Tree is primarily a student-run organization, with its board consisting of 16 student members and one faculty member.

The Senior Giving Tree earned its name because of the iconic tree that each member who donates money gets to sign. Last year's tree is located next to the Dunkin' Donuts in the Slavin Center. Each member who donates, regardless of how much or how little, puts a thumbprint on a branch of the tree and signs his or her name next to their print. This Senior Giving Tree has replaced the concept of the donor bricks that run on the pathway from St. Dominic Chapel to Phillips Memorial Library.

The tree gives a feeling of unity to all who donate, showing how students are willing to work together in order to give back to their college.

The Senior Giving Tree launch took place in the Slavin Atrium and featured a table run by committee members who distributed information about how seniors are able to donate and when they are able to do so.

While the launch was important because it provided seniors with information about the Senior Giving Tree, it was certainly not the only time for donations. Students are able to donate any amount that they are willing to give at any time they are willing to do so. The Senior Giving Tree committee will put on several events throughout the year, the biggest events being the Class of 2017 Senior Nights and "Cap and Gown Day."

While all donations are welcome, there are certain rewards and incentives for donating a higher amount. For example, students who donate \$100 over the course of the year will be invited to join the College's St. Dominic Society. All students who donate, however, are invited to attend the "Senior Send-Off" that will take place just before the Class of 2017 graduates.

The Senior Giving Tree committee has high expectations for the Class of 2017. Last year, the Class of 2016 raised around \$20,000 and had a participation rate of 65 percent of the student body. Committee co-chair Michael Gilmor '17 seeks to improve upon this number, stating that this year, the committee "hopes to bump up the participation rate to 67 percent, for a total of \$25,000."

Seniors can donate to a variety of causes, such as the Angel Fund, which provides emergency relief for students in need, or the Friars Forever Foundation, which donates to student-athletes and the athletics department. Students can even select a specific club, organization, or department where they want their donations to go.

The ultimate goal of this project is to get each senior thinking about the ways in which he or she can give back to PC. The committee understands that most college students do not have a steady income, but it emphasizes that each donation counts and that PC is very grateful to every one of its participants.

As Gilmor describes, "It is a way to give back to the school that has given each one of us so much."

2016 Achievement

65% participation

\$20,000

2017 Goals

67% participation (635 people)

\$25,000

Friar Flashback: A Brief History of PC

History Professors Chronicle the College's History from 1917 to Present Day

by Meaghan Dodson '17
News Co-Editor

FRIAR FLASHBACK

As Providence College celebrates its centennial year in 2017, members of the PC history department have worked to commemorate all of the successes and achievements throughout the past hundred years.

Dr. Donna McCaffrey '73G, '83 Ph.D. became the College's chief historian with her "A Brief History of Providence College."

The work is a condensed version of her 522-page doctoral dissertation, and it covers the College's history from its beginning in 1917 to its 75th anniversary in 1992.

The story begins on March 10, 1917 with the College's first corporation meeting. From there, McCaffrey details everything from the groundbreaking of Harkins Hall, to the year "the girls" arrived on campus, to PC's 1991 recognition as one of the top fifty liberal arts colleges in the nation.

McCaffrey organizes her history around the College's presidents, beginning with Fr. Albert D. Casey, O.P., PC's first president, and ending with Fr. John F. Cunningham, O.P., the acting president in 1992.

The "Brief History" has recently been added to the Centennial Celebration section of the College's website to provide the PC community the chance to read McCaffrey's work.

McCaffrey had aspired to update her "Brief History" in honor of the College's 2017 centennial but she passed away in January 2016 after a brave battle with cancer.

McCaffrey's mantle, however, has been picked up by professor emeritus Dr. Richard Grace. Grace was commissioned to write a history of the College's most recent quarter century—from 1992 to the present day.

Grace stated, "Dr. McCaffrey and I talked about me continuing where she left off. The very last time I saw her we talked about my assuming the job of filling out the hundred years."

Grace compiled his information from a variety of sources. He relied on the College's archives and self-study reports, as well as publications such as *The Cowl*, the *Providence College Magazine*, and the now-discontinued *Spectrum* magazine.

In addition, he conducted over 50 interviews with members of the College's administration, athletic



On September 18, 1919 faculty and students gather in front of Harkins Hall for PC's opening day. PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE.EDU

department, Student Congress, and faculty.

"The oral testimony was enriching because it opened me up to perspectives I would not have gotten from the archives," Grace stated.

Grace adopted a different method in the structuring of his history. Rather than a traditional narrative approach, he examined PC's history in a more analytical manner and looked at it not from year to year but rather as a series of trends that has transformed the College into what it is today—a story of "who we are and how we came to be."

"I wanted to write about the College as a living institution and to trace its evolution. I wanted to find a continuous thread of life rather than treat history as if

it were an artifact in a museum, frozen in time," Grace stated.

Grace's contribution is roughly 170 pages, and it will be published in the spring of 2017. It will be in "coffee table format," including numerous photographs from the College archives.

Together, McCaffrey and Grace have chronicled the entirety of the College's history. Their works show not only how PC came to be, but also where it is now and where it is going.

The PC community is encouraged to read, embrace, and celebrate the College's history in order to fully appreciate the events of the upcoming year.

ROTC Competes in 2016 Ranger Challenge

Patriot Battalion Finishes in 5th Place out of 42 Colleges & Universities

by Cadet William Hoadley '18
Guest Writer

ON CAMPUS

The Patriot Battalion ROTC program based at Providence College recently participated in the U.S. Army's Cadet Command Ranger Challenge Competition at Fort Dix, New Jersey. This competition was the culmination of a year-long training program for the Patriot Battalion's 12-person Ranger Challenge Team.

The team, led by Master Sergeant Eric Kinard and Cadet Kyle Litteral, held tryouts a week before the rest of the Battalion even showed up. All of the program's cadets were invited, some showed up, and even fewer made it.

The tryouts consisted of rigorous physical exercises that test mental toughness as well as one's fitness. Having competed in five tryouts so far throughout my college career, it is one of the toughest weeks of the year and every participant remembers it vividly.

Watching the sun rise over the Providence Place Mall while squatting on the top step of the Capital building after a tough workout was a fantastic feeling.

As was stumbling up the hill at Captain Olney Park after wrestling over a medicine ball with your best friend just because, and your body aches so bad it makes the bile in your stomach



The 2016 Ranger Challenge Team competed at Fort Dix.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN MILLHAM '17

rise from the thought of it.

The tryout week ends with a physical assessment where you are scored against every other competitor in order to determine a final ranking.

After final cuts, 12 team members begin training for the competition. There are six cadets from PC: Christopher Casswell '20, Kyle Newton '20, Ryan Cristiano '19, Justin Bergner '19, Benjamin Bauchiero '18, and Francis Hannon '17.

Forty-two schools from across the Northeast send teams of nine with a minimum of one female and one freshman to Fort Dix to compete against each other in different events.

Training over the course of the year is geared toward developing a team that is proficient in all of the events and operates well together with good team cohesion.

Training consisted of physical training every morning at 6 a.m. as well as a couple Saturdays. On Oct. 14, the team of nine starters and one alternate traveled down to New Jersey to set up camp.

The team woke up at 4 a.m. on Saturday morning ready to compete. The competition started with a 7-mile ruck with 35 pounds worth of gear, followed by a slew of military related events such as evacuating a casualty,

emplacing a pair of M240B into action, and paintball. There were also other events consisting of Tug-of-War, a Haka dance, and King of the Ring, a nine on nine wrestling match.

At the conclusion of the first day, one of our starters was crippled with severe dehydration that forced him into a hospital bed. The alternate took his spot for the rest of the competition and performed tremendously.

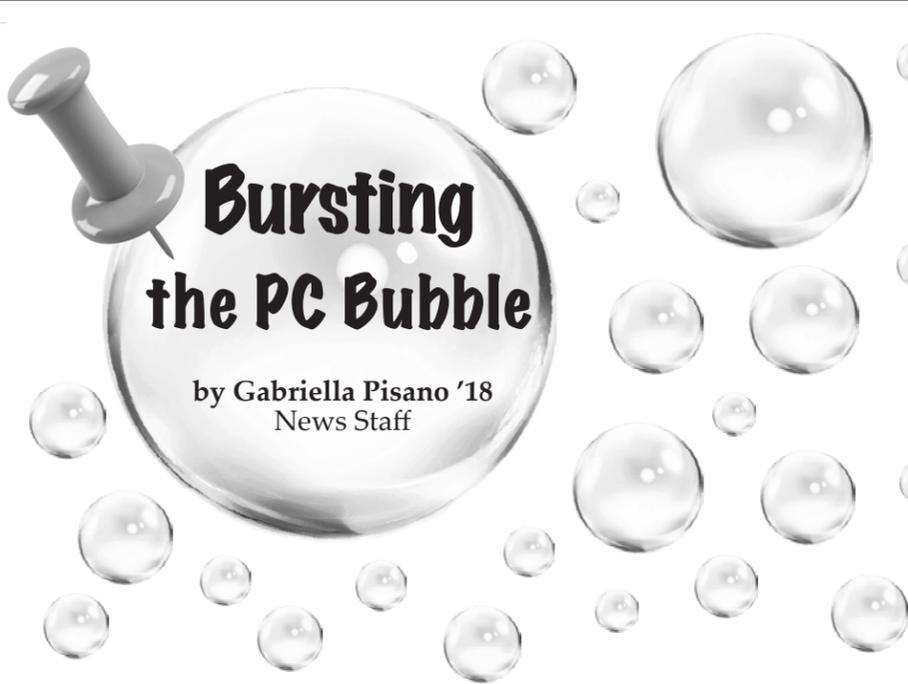
The Ranger Challenge Team represented Providence College and the Patriot Battalion with pride and finished fifth place out of 42 schools.

It was an incredible example of heart and training being put to the test. The outcome was better than we ever could have wished but the team is hungry for more next year.

The Patriot Battalion ROTC program is a leadership development course designed to prepare students to become commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army.

The program is comprised of approximately 90 students from six schools located around the Providence area who set themselves apart from their peers by answering their country's call to serve.

Cadets in the program attend physical training three mornings a week, classroom sessions, and field leadership laboratories in order to prepare them to lead future American soldiers.



Bursting the PC Bubble

by Gabriella Pisano '18
News Staff

2016's Winning Women in Politics

With all of the focus on the 2016 Presidential election, many are overlooking the fact that women made progress in this election. While Hillary Clinton, the first female presidential nominee for a major party, ultimately lost, some of the election's other female candidates made history.

Four women were elected to the Senate and eight were elected to the House. Ilhan Omar, a former Somali refugee, was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives, making her the first Somali-American legislator in the United States. Zena Stephens was elected to be the first African-American woman sheriff in Texas.

The Senate also has two history-making women joining their ranks; Tammy Duckworth, a Thai-born woman, who lost both of her legs serving in Iraq in 2004, beat Republican Mark Kirk to become one of the senators of Illinois; and former Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto holds the distinction of being the first Latina to serve in the Senate.

Fifty-Two Killed in Blast at Pakistan Shrine

Explosions occurred at Shah Noorani shrine in Quetta, Pakistan on Saturday, November 13. The militant group Islamic State claimed the attack. Fifty-two people were killed and around 105 people were wounded. Local district commissioner, Hashim Ghalzai, said that hundreds were inside the shrine for a dhamaal (ritual dance) when the attack took place. The government dispatched 25 ambulances from a nearby town and due to the remoteness of the site, and the army was called in to assist with rescue operations. It was unclear whether a suicide bomber or a planted device caused the attack. The Islamic State, the jihadist group, claimed responsibility for the attack as well as the last major attack in the same province at a police academy last month.

Zuckerberg to Eliminate "Fake News"

CEO of Facebook Mark Zuckerberg is taking steps to rid Facebook of the fake news and hoax sites that influence readers. After many complained that the fake news stories that can be found on Facebook may have skewed the election results, Zuckerberg responded by saying while he believes this to be extremely unlikely, work has begun to allow Facebook users to flag fake news and hoaxes. With social media being a go-to news source, the accuracy of news stories found on the platforms is important. Zuckerberg says that the process will take longer than most would like because he doesn't want bias to be perpetuated through the site.

Iraqi Special Forces Push Deeper into Mosul

The Iraqi forces have been working to retake ground in the Mosul area from the militant group, Islamic State, since October. Since then, they have gained considerable ground. The Counter Terrorism Services force is now infiltrating the city itself. Counter Terrorism Services General Abdulwahab al-Saadi says that they are going slower than they would like because they are being careful of the civilians in the surrounding area. While ISIS is using suicide car bombs, IEDs, and mortars as primary weapons, Iraqi forces are using weapons that cause fewer mass casualties.

Congress Updates

by Meaghan Dodson '17
News Co-Editor

CONGRESS

On Tuesday, November 15, the 67th Student Congress addressed several on-campus concerns.

Sam Keating '18 spoke on behalf of the Step Up Mentoring Program. Step Up is a club under the BMSA umbrella that works with students from the San Miguel School and the Sophia Academy. Every Saturday, the program brings middle school students to campus to participate in games and activities. Providence College students are encouraged to apply either as full mentors who attend every week or as floaters who attend half of the weeks.

Patrick Rogers '17, executive secretary and orientation coordinator for the 2016 New Student Orientation Program, announced that orientation programs will run differently next year. Orientation Leaders (OLs) can apply for the paid June advising positions and also for fall OL positions. In addition, students can apply to be a part of the Operations Team (OT), which will manage the logistics of the program and other behind-the-scenes work. The OLs and OTs will be led by a group of five Orientation Coordinators (OCs).

The East and West Apartments Complex Director, Beth Sculley, announced that the Office of Residence Life is looking for students with leadership experience to apply for Residence Advisor (RA) positions. Students from all grades are encouraged to apply, and the program welcomes people from all experiences and backgrounds.

Sam Dever '19 shared that, following a recent break-in at Meagher Hall, students are raising money to replace an RA's stolen laptop.

Congress members passed a statement of position regarding an initiative to promote campus diversity. Members felt this statement should be passed because, as student leaders, they are charged with a social responsibility to act.

Finally, members discussed the proposed club, One Love. The club addresses relationship violence and 56 people have already expressed an interest in joining.

Club Spotlight: SAA

by Gabriella Pisano '18
News Staff

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

After students graduate from Providence College, they become PC alumni. The Providence College Student Alumni Association (SAA) works to strengthen relationships between current PC students and PC alumni.

The purpose of SAA is to assist the Providence College Office of Institutional Advancement to reach their goals by facilitating active relationship between students and alumni.

SAA consists of committee members and general members. General members attend bi-weekly meetings, while the committee members attend those in addition to committee meetings. There are six committees within SAA: Marketing, Programming, Legacy, Internal, Campus Relations, and Regional Clubs.

SAA plans many events throughout the year that connects students and alumni. SAA played a key part in organizing PC's St. Dominic Weekend, which included the Friar 5K. During PC's 100 Celebration, SAA

planned many events including the Groundbreaking and Room Dedication Ceremonies.

SAA also helped IA develop the event, "Veritas and Values," which hosted a panel of alumni authors who read portions of their novels and discussed their time at PC.

Members of SAA receive special invitations to alumni events, have access to key alumni speakers, and gain practical event planning experience. SAA member, Abigail Northgraves '19 stated, "I love the opportunities the club provides. It really teaches professionalism and how to put your best foot forward."

Even though SAA was recently founded in 2010 and is still a relatively new organization, there are already roughly 120 members.

While SAA definitely benefits PC students, it also benefits PC alumni. Northgrave stated, "It allows PC alumni to remain connected to PC after graduation."

At the end of the Academic year, all students are invited to apply for membership into SAA. Applicants are automatically accepted as general members while those who apply for a committee position will interview with current committee chair members.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ABIGAIL NORTHGRAVES '19

BMSA Preview: Jose Antonio Vargas

“Define American: My Life as an Undocumented Immigrant”

by Daria Purdy '19
News Staff

PREVIEW

Jose Antonio Vargas is a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, filmmaker, and entrepreneur—and he is coming to speak at Providence College. On Saturday, November 19, the Board of Multicultural Student Affairs is offering PC students the chance to hear Vargas talk about his life and work.

Vargas was born in the Philippines, but has lived in the United States since he was 12. He was part of the team for *The Washington Post* who won the Pulitzer Prize in 2008 for the online and print coverage of the shooting at Virginia Tech.

In addition to *The Post*, Vargas has worked for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Philadelphia Daily News*, and *The Huffington Post*. Vargas wrote, produced, and directed an autobiographical film in 2013, *Documented*, about his experiences as an undocumented immigrant in America.

He is the founder and CEO of Define America, a non-profit media and culture organization that encourages conversation about immigration and citizenship in America.

Vargas is also the founder of #EmergingUS, a media start-up that explored the intersection of race, immigration, and identity in an evolving, multicultural America.

Vargas' #EmergingUS is the first media property owned by an undocumented immigrant. Daniel Dougherty '17, who has organized



Jose Antonio Vargas has worked to change the immigration system in the U.S.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DANILOHES.COM

Vargas' speaking event, describes Vargas' work as “centered on the changing American identity.”

Vargas also worked as an activist for changing the immigration system in the U.S. Vargas described his experiences as an immigrant in a 2011 *New York Times* essay, in an effort to promote conversation about immigration in the U.S. and the passage of the DREAM Act.

The DREAM Act was proposed to give undocumented immigrants a path to citizenship; the immigrants would be granted conditional residency, and upon meeting

further qualifications, would be granted permanent residency. The DREAM Act has been re-introduced into Congress several times but has yet to pass.

Dougherty describes this event as being in the making for three years. The BMSA Diversity Committee has been trying to bring Vargas to PC for the last two years, and it was only this year that they were successful.

The BMSA Diversity Committee has sought to educate the student body on a host of student issues, with the hope that students will learn from the experiences of others

BMSA Lecture:

Who: Jose Vargas

**When: Saturday,
November 19**

Where: '64 Hall

and be more open-minded.

Dougherty believes bringing Vargas to PC will help achieve this goal, as he says, “Jose has already taught so many the values of compassion and tolerance for all people; we know that he will do just the same at Providence College.”

Dougherty also specifies that he believes Vargas' experience is especially relevant in the context of today's society.

He asserts, “Especially during this time of year, when the President-Elect has ostracized the undocumented community and anyone who is not white, male, heterosexual, and cisgender, we need our community to come together and see what an undocumented individual really looks like. We need to see that these men, women, and children are more than a label our society has placed on them. Jose and those like him are humans worthy of the same dignity and respect as anyone else.”

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To Party or Not to Party?

Shakespeare:

Continued from front page

He even performed with an acting company, Lord Chamberlain's Men, in the 1590s and eventually opened the famous theater, The Globe Theatre, on the south bank of the Thames River.

He started his career by writing many histories and comedies in the 1590s such as *Richard II*, *Henry V*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Merchant of Venice*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Some of his most famous tragedies were written after the year 1600, such as *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *Othello*, and *Macbeth*.

In a unique twist of fate, Shakespeare allegedly died on the same day he was born, April 23, 1616. He was buried and remains in Trinity Church. Since his death and increasing popularity, many scholars have researched and debated who Shakespeare was as a person.

Was he real? How and when did he die? Did he really write these great works? Despite some skepticism and criticism of the poet, his works continue to influence the world and be read internationally.

At PC, there are multiple English classes currently discussing the works of Shakespeare, such as *Shakespeare: Tragedies and Romances*, *Shakespeare: Histories and Comedies*, and various seminars.

The readings, therefore, covered a large variety of passages from his work. Shakespeare showed great literary range and, whether it be his saddest sonnets or his funniest plays, there is something for everyone.

Additionally, Dr. Hillier felt that this event was a nice break from the recent goings-on, stating,

“This country has recently been suffering through a great deal of draining divisiveness, and, in a very, very small way, happy events like these can make people set aside their differences, come together, and recognize each other.”

Overall, the event gave members of the PC community an opportunity to share their thoughts about or to simply listen to the words of one of the greatest playwrights of all time.

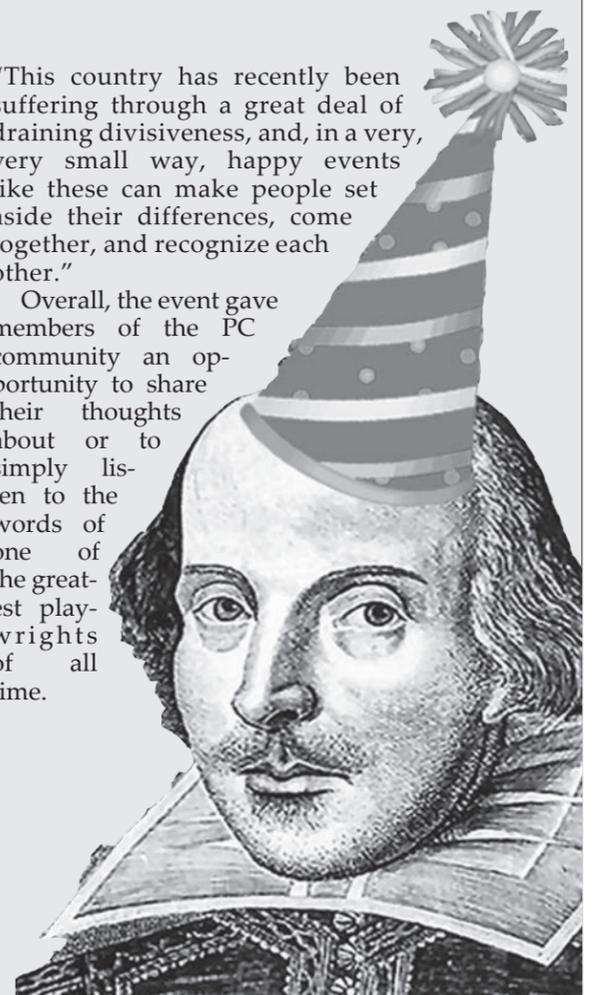


PHOTO COURTESY OF THEBOSTONCALENDAR.COM



OPINION

Our Divided Nation

by Lela Biggus '18
Opinion Staff

POLITICS

I think we've all read plenty of opinions this week. In fact, from the news media to snippets on Snapchat to your dad ranting on Facebook, there are enough extreme opinions on the Presidential Election out there to choke a horse. Usually, I find myself very sure of where I stand politically—I always know whose side I am on.

However, in the last six days, I have gone from being so confident in my convictions to not knowing what to think anymore. The anti-Trump protests that have engulfed and enlivened major cities across the country—and that shows no sign of backing down almost a full week after that infamous election night—pose for me the great existential question of the week: Are these protestors in the right? I have no idea.

This week's demonstrations in the streets of downtown Chicago, Washington, D.C., New York City, San Francisco, and elsewhere must be one of two things. They are either a strictly emotional response to a major upset followed by a reluctance to try to work within the parameters of a sad but true reality, or they signify vibrant, young, progressive America's refusal to backtrack on the social strides it has made, especially over the last decade.

From the latter point of view, these people are fighting for their rights to continue to exist in peace as equal citizens of the United States. They are fighting for justice under the Constitution and for its power to protect every person's right to life, liberty, and happiness.



People in New York City protesting the election of Donald Trump.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ABC7NY.COM

They want to be welcomed rather than rejected. They want to be respected by the government that serves them. They want to remain proud to be Americans. These are legitimate desires. I would find it very difficult to tell them to "calm down."

From the former point of view, everything about these protests is reactive. Nothing about them is actually productive. Protestors hold up signs that read "Dump Trump" and chant "Not my president" over and over again.

These are protests against the individual who has been elected to be the next President of the United States through the same electoral system that put Barack Obama in office in 2008 and 2012.

Instead of acting like sore losers, we should make like Obama and Hillary Clinton and encourage respect for our great nation's democracy and, therefore, the person it spat out to lead us. So which

side is right?

I do know one thing. The same solidarity we see today with impassioned street protests—with people willing to miss days of school and work just to show their support in this mass movement against the President-Elect—must be just as alive when the day comes that actual legislation makes its way in front of Congress that jeopardizes the rights of the people of color, especially women of color, Muslim Americans, undocumented immigrants, documented families of immigrants, LGBTQ people, and people with disabilities that these protestors represent and advocate for.

If not, when all is said and done, all of these protests and promises of solidarity and love will have meant nothing.

The opinions I hold are just reiterations of those opinions I have heard throughout my life, that I have been taught to have, that I have taken up for my own, and

that I do not yet reject. Knowing this, I cannot claim to have a well-informed understanding of what is just right now. I have no idea what the right thing to do is.

I learned this week what it means when we act on our opinions, when we share them with strangers, when we scream them in the streets. We claim their strength, their unwillingness to waver. We claim certainty of their truth, if only a partial truth, because we have seen and we have experienced those matters which they concern.

In truth, opinions are such flaky things. In their subjective nature, they are always susceptible to change. If we listen earnestly, we may learn to truly hear the people who seem fundamentally different than us. We may be moved to reassess our convictions. They may evolve in any way they like.

Whether or not they will is not up to you. Choosing to listen is up to you.

Coping With the Post-Election Blues

by Carolyn Walsh '17
Opinion Co-Editor

POLITICS

After last week's shocking election, it goes without saying that emotions are running high in America. For those people, like myself, who supported Hillary Clinton and had hope for what her administration would do for the country, it was difficult to get out of bed the morning after Donald Trump's victory.

I am unabashed to say that the outcome of the election has left me devastated, angry, and even a bit fearful for what is to come these next four years. What I have learned, though, through shed tears and conversations

with friends and family, is that in times of high anxiety and fear, it is important to be able to cope with your emotions in a healthy way. It is important to continue to pursue your passions and to not lose sight of the bigger picture.

This has been by no means a normal, run-of-the-mill election season. Insults, personal attacks and bigotry have defined a presidential race that has shaken the American system to its core. Women, people of color, religious minorities, and those who strongly believe in liberal democracy have good reason to look upon Trump's victory with apprehension and distress.

The collective grief and despair felt by many Americans over the past week are valid emotions that deserve acknowledgement and empathy. Moreover,

allowing yourself to feel these emotions, to cry, to write your thoughts out on paper, or to rant to a friend, is an essential first step in helping to mitigate any long-term effects on your mental health.

The term "self-care," frequently used by mental health professionals, describes how an individual engages in activities that fulfill their basic necessities as well as ones that promote feelings of relaxation and happiness. There is a real necessity for people to practice self-care in the continued aftermath of the election. Ensuring that you are doing things like eating well, exercising, getting enough sleep, and focusing on what brings you joy will help give you the time and space to heal.

Self-care is not the same as self-isolation, however. Talking and building solidarity with others is how we as individuals can further process and cope with our feelings and with reality. Even more importantly, it is how we will be able to fight for what matters in the coming future.

Following last Tuesday, there has been a lot of talk about hope and about how we shouldn't lose sight of it. This is certainly true, but it is equally important we do not lose passion as well. The future has no guarantees, but if each of us can learn to channel our emotions towards the causes we care about most, we can at least help guarantee that we have a say in our future.

Personally, I still need some time to process this election. However, to quote *Hamilton: An American Musical*, I take comfort in the fact that "the sun comes up and the world still spins." The American experiment continues. Soon it will be time to get up, brush ourselves off and get to work.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHARPMAGAZINE.COM

400 Years Of The Bard

Shakespeare Will Always Be Relevant

by Taylor Godfrey '19
Asst. Opinion Editor

CULTURE

William Shakespeare. Renowned English poet and playwright—more commonly known on this campus as the bane of every student's existence during the end of freshman DWC. This year, we are celebrating the 400th anniversary of his death.

The occasion will be marked by an event on campus and it has made me think about Shakespeare, the value of his work, and of all the old works we as students must read for classes—especially for Civ.

Shakespeare's stories are so well-known and have been represented in so many different ways in the media that I think his plays are some of the works students tend to skip. Why read *Romeo and Juliet* or *Othello* if you know Sparknotes has it covered or, better yet, that there is a movie?

There seems to be a tendency today to think that newer is better. Everyone always wants the newest iPhone, tries to keep up with the newest fashion trends, and be the first to make an account on the newest social media sites. There seems to be a prevalent idea in our modern society that works like Shakespeare's are no longer relevant and that the modern person does not gain anything from reading them.

Yet, it shouldn't be like this. Shakespeare's works, both his plays and his sonnets, still have merit today, and not just for English majors



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIWAND.COM

who love to crack open those dusty old tomes. Everyone can benefit from reading his works, as well as many other works from centuries ago.

Reading any piece of literature from any time transports you outside of your world, and helps you to intimately understand the viewpoint of another person. It makes you become more empathetic and helps you appreciate not only the world of the book or poem but your own world as well.

This has always been part of literature's appeal. But reading

literature from another time adds another dimension. It can help you to understand more about other people, but also about other time periods as well. Literature reflects the time and place in which it was created.

Shakespeare's works do this, but they have a more unique element as well. His works have been popular and important for centuries. People around the globe and across time have all read and appreciated them. When you read a work like Shakespeare's, you are sharing in an experience that links you to past

readers as well.

Even more than that, Shakespeare can help us learn about humanity. Why do his works continue to stay relevant even today? Such famous and well-respected literature does not become that way by accident. If people across different times and cultures found the pieces valuable, there must be something important about them. And when you find it, it will reveal deeper truths about the progress and values of humanity throughout time.

And even if you do not buy my rather existential claims about the merit of Shakespeare, there are still many good reasons to actually read your Civ assignment. You will become more culturally competent as these stories are an integral part of our culture. You may better understand allusions to these famous works in modern day movies or TV shows.

And of course, Shakespeare's plays are full of dirty jokes and puns. If anything, you should give Shakespeare a try just for the rather inappropriate laughs.

In all seriousness though, I am not advising everyone to change their majors and become Shakespearean scholars. I am only stating that there is real value for reading Shakespeare in everyone's lives.

This year is the 400th anniversary of a literary legend whose works have transcended the barriers of time. The least we can do is pick up a copy of *Hamlet* a book of his sonnets, or actually read our assigned readings.

UVA: History Is Not Erasable



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROTUNDA.VIRGINIA.EDU

by Brianna Abbott '17
Opinion Co-Editor

SOCIETY

As colleges are reeling in the post-election haze, University of Virginia President Teresa Sullivan attempted to console her campus with an email, quoting college founder Thomas Jefferson in the process. Instead of comforting the campus, however, the email sparked unprecedented and frankly unnecessary outrage.

Over 400 students and faculty members wrote a response to President Sullivan, insisting that she no longer quote the Founding Father because he owned slaves.

This response makes UVA the most recent school to follow the trend of attempting to erase their founders from the history due to their social views. Princeton also recently attempted to remove President Woodrow Wilson from their history, and Amherst College is currently going through the process of erasing their mascot, Amherst town founder Lord Jeffery.

Each argument against eliminating the legacy of these men stems from the knowledge that they either

owned slaves or were notoriously racist. Although racism and slavery should always be frowned upon, these men were alive in the 1800s and 1900s, when racism was commonplace—as was misogyny and other social constructs that seem cruel and barbaric in the modern age.

These men were products of their time. Looking back at them and judging them for their social views is looking at them in ignorance because the larger social picture is not taken into account. Granted, these men should not be celebrated for their social views, but their wisdom and accomplishments certainly should not be ignored.

History is not black and white; it is a deep, complicated grey that must be acknowledged and learned from rather than pushed aside.

Not wanting to acknowledge these men for their accomplishments or give them credit for their wisdom due to their social flaws is also inherently dangerous.

Jefferson was the founder of the University of Virginia and played a pivotal role in the founding of the United States. The fact that he owned slaves does not change this fact. The school and the country would not exist without him—the Declaration of Independence would never have been written. You

cannot erase Jefferson from history or from UVA without erasing UVA or the United States altogether.

Discrediting historical figures who may have been racist or misogynist, furthermore, essentially erases all of Western Civilization. Aristotle believed that women were inferior to men—should we discredit the founder of philosophy because he was a product of his time?

The modern age was built on the backs of giants—that does not mean that the giants were perfect or pure. It means that they accomplished great things and had imperfect views. They were human. Both their good and evil should be acknowledged.

The accomplishments of these men must be separated from their failures, and all of their actions must be discussed and struggled with in order to move forward in the future. Attempting to remove them from history is making yourself willfully ignorant of the past, and then no lesson—good or bad—can be learned.

Trying to erase Jefferson from the University of Virginia is essentially attempting to erase UVA itself. And if you no longer think it is appropriate to accept Jefferson and his accomplishments, you are voicing your opinion with the freedom of speech he helped to protect for you.

An Interview With Dr. Esolen

by Katherine Puzycki '17
Editor-in-Chief

INTERVIEW

On Thursday, November 10, Dr. Anthony Esolen of the English department graciously accepted an interview with *The Cowl* in response to two of his articles, which appeared in *Crisis Magazine*. "The Narcissism of Campus Diversity Activists" was published on Feb. 24 of this year, and "My College Succumbed to the Totalitarian Diversity Cult" was published on Sept. 26.

Dr. Esolen has been a professor of the humanities at Providence College for 26 years, and has written more than 15 books and hundreds of articles for various Catholic and other publications. In an opportunity to share Dr. Esolen's side of the story, I invited him to share his thoughts on questions relating specifically to those articles, which have been deemed controversial.

While these types of interviews are not typical for *The Cowl*, I found it my duty as both the Editor-in-Chief of this paper and as a student-journalist to share another perspective on the ongoing dialogue about Dr. Esolen's publications. That is, the duty to preserve freedom of speech and also the duty to present the public with pertinent information.

In place of our usual Editor's Column, and in order to retain the full integrity of the interview, I have provided a full transcript of our dialogue. I hope that it serves useful in clarifying points of confusion and that it might lead to further open and honest discussions about diversity and academic freedom.

Katie Puzycki (KP): In preparation for today I have read several of your articles, but I would like to focus mostly on the two articles that have received much attention here, and those are: "The Narcissism of Campus Diversity Activists" and "My College Succumbed to the Totalitarian Diversity Cult."

Anthony Esolen (AE): And remember that the titles are not mine, [the editor of *Crisis Magazine*] never uses my titles, in fact never uses anybody's titles, he puts titles on for—what is it called now, "clickbait?"—I have no power over his decisions that way.

KP: Do you personally think that if the headlines were different the articles would have received the same attention?

AE: No, no I don't think so. But I am so used to him putting stupid titles on my articles that I didn't even notice. I only know what they are when they get

published and I never know what day that's going to be either, so it might not be until its already been up there for a day or two that I finally see that he's put up the article.

KP: So, *Crisis Magazine* is an online magazine that's geared toward a Catholic audience?

AE: Yeah, a conservative Catholic audience, and by conservative we mean not necessarily politically conservative, but theologically conservative, though there's some overlap.

KP: I think you said that these articles addressed higher education as a whole, and not just Providence College. However, I can also understand why students here might feel as if it is directly related to them because it makes immediate reference to them in the first paragraph of "The Narcissism of Campus Diversity Activists."

AE: Yes, but the article is not about them specifically at all. I mention [Providence College] because that prompted my thinking about this once again. It was sort of the proximate cause. It is about Providence College to the extent that this is a fight that we have been having at this school for, since before I came here. Basically this is about the Western Civ program—this one side that's defending the value of that program as a sort of version, a watered-down version, unfortunately, of the classical liberal arts education. And the other side doesn't value it at all, accuses it of all kinds of political sins, and I think the students are caught there in a battle that they wouldn't really know is a battle that's been going on for forty years. The students are just caught in the middle. So that's what that piece is mainly about. It's not aimed at students; it's aimed at faculty. The odd thing at Providence College—and it's a mystery to me still how it's developed this way—is that, more or less, the faculty members—whether they're Catholic or not—who are comfortable with the Catholic character of the college, or even promote it, tend also to be comfortable with the fact that there's this Western Civ program and the sort of education that is offered here. But those who are not tend to be not comfortable with both of those things too.

KP: You write, "But that would compromise our standing as a more than regional school, and a weather eye for their salaries and their prestige would suffice for most of the faculty to rebel against such a policy. Cherchez l'argent." So, whom does the "they" refer to specifically?

AE: I doubt that the students would have the experience to get the target of those two lines. That has to do with faculty members here at Providence College who think it really matters whether we are ranked 31st or 97th on some U.S. News and world report list and in order to get our rankings higher we have to be more than regional, we have to be national, we have to get students from everywhere. See, I don't care

about any of that. If we serve the poor in southeastern New England, we have our ethnic diversity and racial diversity right there, automatic. Because those people are right here. But, we'd have to lower tuition, that we simply don't care about rankings. The faculty would not be pleased. So what you have going on is a conflict between the faculty's desire always to have higher and higher salaries and to have the College be more known, a bigger name, and the obvious thing to do if you want racial and ethnic diversity for the College, and one that would plant us back in the tradition of Providence College, which is that we were a local, regional school for people who couldn't afford to go to Brown, to give them a great education.

KP: In regards to finding diversity on campus, and also in programs such as the DWC program, would you say that the diversity agenda here is more out of political interest than it is out of true desire to have a more diverse college campus?

AE: No, I wouldn't say that. I think that would be unfair. All I meant by those sentences was that we could have [racial and ethnic diversity] without any kind of real political program, and without really even trying. All we'd have to do is serve the less privileged here in southeastern New England, and we'd be right there automatically. Those two sentences suggest, I think, that is what I would be in favor of because that's what Providence College used to do. Only then, the ethnic mix was different. All we'd have to do to have that, a different kind of diversity, because the ethnic mix is not the same as it was back then—it's different now—is to go back to that mission.

KP: In another part of this essay you write about an imaginary scenario in which you're bringing into the class a very different type of culture—Germanic culture. However, you say that this wouldn't fulfill our diversity core. What I understand from your writing is that courses in diversity only extend as far as faculty and students want them to go.

AE: Well it's not the students, it's the faculty. So let's say I offered that course in Anglo-Saxon, Old English. That is not going to pass muster. That will not count for your diversity requirement. So what I'm trying to do is figure out what their rationale is, if they're really thinking about an educational encounter with a different culture from ours, or if they're conceiving this in contemporary political terms. It seems to me that if what we're talking about is the encounter of young minds with a completely different world, that course that I'm imagining—how could it not satisfy the requirement? But if it doesn't mean that—that you don't encounter a completely different way of life, a totally different culture from yours—then what is it that we're talking about? And my guess is, among faculty, that we're talking about things that have to do with contemporary politics. But there's a problem there. Because now it seems to be that what they're after with contemporary politics is not at all in accord with what a sort of neutral observer would think. It is *good* to study a way of life that's different than yours. I suspect that most college faculty, when they hear the phrase "cultural diversity," are thinking of something in contemporary politics. Maybe some of them think that if you study something like ancient Hindu holy texts, okay, that would count, but not if you study ancient Greek holy texts. That's not going to count.

KP: So basically, why doesn't ancient

cultural study count as diversity, but modern politics and culture do when it is what we're living in?

AE: We're living it and we know quite a lot about it, it's all around us. The other stuff we don't know well at all because we're not around it. And this is not aimed at the students; this is aimed at faculty, especially faculty who are not in the liberal arts. If what we're after is diversity then, for instance, why should you be requiring this college to be like every other college?

KP: In another part of that article you write: "With plenty of exceptions, a Faculty Senate is usually made up of the more politically ambitious professors. Ours will be sympathetic to the students."

AE: I'm still thinking of one of the demands there that have to do with either eliminating the Western Civ program, or changing it radically so that it's really no longer what it has been. The Faculty Senate will be sympathetic to that. What is hard for people to get, because you're here at Providence College and you take for granted that the kind of education you get here is a common thing, well, it's not common, and most professors have not had anything like it. It's not their fault though, that they have not had a strong liberal arts education, if any at all. A liberal arts education is just very rare these days. So, they don't really know it's value, and they have had plenty of opportunity to encounter it here—but most won't do that, they'll refuse to do that. I mean, I've been here since 1990, and the critics of Western Civ that come from the non-Western Civ departments, they never sit in on a class. Only *one* did, and *he* was converted, and he ended up teaching Civ—Dr. —, from the political science department. And he's a great guy. But otherwise, no, they have not had this type of education in their own history, and they have not shown any interest in acquiring anything like it since they've been here.

KP: I want to go back to this other article you wrote back in September, "My College Succumbed to the Totalitarian Diversity Cult" that students kind of took arms to—

AE: Well, yeah, that article hardly mentions students at all. That article is squarely about what it means to be a Catholic college and why people who are always using the word diversity, why they never apply that to the Catholic college as being a different kind of college from other colleges.

KP: You ask a series of questions on the second page here, and the first one of those is "What is diversity as opposed to divergence?" What I've understood from reading this article is that there seems to be a strong focus on that question, what is diversity, *real* diversity, versus *divergence*—that seems to be an important aspect of this article specifically. So an important question to ask you now is: What would you define diversity, in these contexts, as being?

AE: I don't know. I think this is a question to return to over and over. One of the points of this article is that people haven't defined what they mean by diversity. What does that mean? Let's say that you have a school where you've got this wide ethnic and racial diversity, so people come from this place and that place, but they all think alike. Would that really be a place of diversity? Or suppose that you have a place where you have a majority of the people who are in a certain cultural pattern, but then there are others who



Interview

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rebel against that and go off in their own direction. They diverge from the majority, deliberately. Is that a good thing? It depends. Second, is that what we're talking about here? So, you've got a kind of ordinary set of expectations for the majority of people and then some people veering off from that. And I'm not talking about the people of a certain race or ethnic background, that doesn't matter to me. But to say there is a certain group of people who rebel against the majority—they diverge—is that a good thing, a bad thing, sometimes a good thing, sometimes a bad thing? Is that what we're talking about when we talk about diversity? Or do we mean something different? I don't think it has been defined. It would be nice if you were pushing for something, and it would be nice if you defined what you mean by it.

KP: This seems to be more of a question, not about diversity in terms of race, but in terms of how a supposed Catholic college fits in to this topic of diversity. You talk about the difference between God, I think, and people, and the diversity that stands there alone. So to me at least, my interpretation—

AE: Those questions are challenges, not to students but to people who read *Crisis Magazine*, and also to faculty members. The tremendous irony of it all is that the Catholic Church, which is now 2,000 years old, is the most multi-cultural institution in the world right now, and it has always been that way. This is the missionary question, front and center, that's always had to be asked: How do we present the Catholic faith to people who belong in this group over here that live very different lives from the way we live? That's the key missionary question. How to bring the knowledge of Christ to people who were the Heron Indians living on the banks of the Great Lakes, or the Aztecs in Mexico, or the Anglo-Saxons, the pagan Germanic peoples. The answer to that question is never the same. Well, you're obviously always going to teach them about the history of salvation, you're going to baptize them. But *how* the Church encounters those various cultures—different from culture to culture, from time to time—I think, in general, has been very good. That is, the Church has not been a crusher of cultures. The cultures still live, and maybe they even live, I hope, more strongly, or better, or purely than before. But there's this tremendous irony that that is what the Church is [an institution that values diverse cultures], that's what the Church has been, but people who are not part of that have no idea.

KP: Right, and the moment that I perceive this irony the most is in the paragraph that starts with, "Why should a Catholic institution not then *be itself*, precisely to offer to that increasingly homogenous and nothing-adoring world a *different word*, the word of Christ and his Church?"

AE: Yeah, and the other thing, and that's another part of my nightmare, is that the secular West—and that is tremendous power and wealth—will flatten every culture in the world, and reduce every culture to our way of life. And I think that plenty of faculty—secular faculty—across the United States would be perfectly happy with that. But that's part of my nightmare. I mean these are people who are making food and medicine conditional upon, I'll say, a poor country in Africa accepting Western sexual ethics. I had a student in here, and he's a good friend of mine, and he was yelling at me for saying that would be a bad thing. And I said, "J—, you've got to be kidding. You're



Providence College humanities professor, Dr. Anthony Esolen.

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going to say we'll only give you this food and medicine if you adopt the ways of the United States in regards to sex? Why is that right?" Anyway, that's what I mean by neo-colonialism; you're going to treat these poor countries as your clients and you're going to starve them or not bother to give them medicine unless they adopt your whole sexual agenda. And that, I think, is wrong.

KP: So what you're saying—and you can correct me if I'm wrong—is: What is right about making people assimilate to the thoughts and ideals of a single individual on either a college campus or anywhere else in life? That seems to be completely against diversity, since that individual would be suppressing someone else's right to have a different thought.

AE: Though that—see, whenever you get human beings together, and we know what people are like, they're going to sometimes rub each other the wrong way. They're going to get on each other's nerves. In fact, they're going to do bad things to each other, although, we hope not too bad. But that's the case with everybody. And that can't be cured. That's going to happen. The question is not whether we can get all people to think the same, I don't think we would even want that, I don't think that's a good thing. But how we can bring people together in friendship, so that they forget about their grudges, they drop their grudges, they overlook the faults of other people, and hope that other people overlook their own faults. That's what we've got to be aiming for in my mind. But that's not a political aim in terms of partisan politics or international politics or anything like that. It's a political aim if you mean by political what maybe Aristotle once meant by it—getting people together in a group for the common good. But that has to do with friendship. And I don't see these initiatives as being helpful in that aim. I want people to be friends together regardless of where they come from, or race, or ethnic background—that doesn't matter to me. I just want them to be friends. I have no political aims for these kids. What they do politically is not my business. It's not my interest. My interest is giving them what's left of a really good, classical, liberal arts education. And my human interest is that they become friends. I have another interest, which is that they will draw closer to God, although I can't have that as my primary interest, that has to be in the background too—they didn't hire me to be their CCD instructor, they hired me to teach them English literature and so forth, but always that too is on my mind.

KP: A lot of feedback—negative feedback—I've heard from students is in regards to the part where you discuss the

"Alphabet soup of sexual proclivities"—

AE: I thought that that was the thing that got under the skin and not anything else.

KP: At least, in understanding the audience that you are writing to in *Crisis Magazine*, this part is very factually based on what Catholic teaching is on these moral issues. It's not necessarily anything that is meant to, let's say, offend someone—

AE: I don't ask my students who they were in bed with last night. That's—as a teacher—that's not my business either. But the question is how does a Catholic school reconcile what seems to be a celebration of certain activities that are opposed to Catholic teaching? How do those two things fit together? And I don't know that they can fit together. It would be like a Catholic school holding celebrations of divorce. Well, you can't do that as a Catholic school. In order to celebrate divorce, you have to cease to be Catholic while you're doing that and there's a conflict there. And I don't think that conflict can be resolved. You either have to be Catholic or not.

KP: In regards to that, would you say that it's still important or necessary to have respect for those who have differing sexual orientations, for example, regardless of whether you support their habits or not?

AE: Well persons, persons are owed respect and love—more than respect—love. That we owe to all persons. But, opinions are only owed as much respect as accords with their truth or their coherence, and activities are only owed respect according to their goodness, to their morality. So if you say: "If a kid is acting on homosexual desires, for instance, should that kid be accorded respect?" I'd say: "Respect? More than respect! That kid should be accorded love." But, if you then say: "Well then you have to approve of what he's doing." Well, I can't because I'm a Roman Catholic. But I also can't approve of what these heterosexual kids are doing a weekend either. And I can't approve of what some of their parents have done. And I can't approve of what liars do, I mean, everybody's got sins, everybody's got temptations, so there's nothing particularly special about this one. That's why I ask the question: If we are going to approve of that sort of behavior, why don't you approve of pornography and other sorts of behavior that the church opposes?

KP: And I think that's an important clarification that you might not get upon first reading this article—that you don't have to necessarily support someone's actions to respect or love the person. If that happened you'd get people saying you're

every kind of "-phobe" the dictionary has to offer, for having certain opinions, certain moral opinions, certain religious moral beliefs.

AE: If I say I oppose abortion, does that mean I hate women? That doesn't even make sense...

KP: But that is what's happening.

AE: Yeah, I understand that. But that doesn't make sense. That should have no place in an institution of higher learning where people are supposed to be able to have a broader vision of things than in the weeds and the dust of the political arena.

KP: So, in conclusion on this piece, are you asking for more respect of your opinion and voice as someone that supports Catholic thought, just as it's given to a secular teacher?

AE: No, I don't want any respect. I don't care if people respect me. Okay? That's neither here nor there. What I want is the freedom for my Catholic colleagues—see I have freedom—or I did—but I want freedom for Catholic colleagues to be themselves, and not to have to fear that they are going to be charged with this or that form of bias or whatever just because they uphold what the Church teaches. And I want the classical liberal arts education that we have here at Providence College to be enhanced, not to be watered-down, and not to be abandoned. I'd also like it, but I can't make it happen, if we could focus less on politics, and more on human needs and also students, especially students who feel uncomfortable here, but all students too. We haven't done that. That was the half of the piece [the Nov. 10 Letter to the Editor] that I sent to you. There are all sorts of things that we can do to bring young people together that we don't bother to do. So, these articles are not about me at all. They were prompted by things that were done to some of my friends, and they're prompted by a 30 to 40 year long attack on the Western Civ program and on the Catholic character of the College, which seems somehow to be intertwined, so that the people who attack one are usually attacking the other. Why that is, I think, is peculiar to Providence College's history. It might not be that way in a different place, but it happens to be that way here.

I have a thing of tremendous beauty and power to give to students, and that is a classical liberal arts education, if they would just ask. And it is a scandal that some people would suggest to them that it is not worth getting. It's a thing of great power, and it can open all kinds of doors for these kids and I'd be delighted to give this to anybody at all. Anybody.

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TANGENTS & TIRADES

Don't Rain on My Christmas Parade

It's the most wonderful time of the year—or at least, according to some, it will be after Thanksgiving.

Beginning Nov. 1, there are already shops decorated with trees and ornaments. Carols have started playing on the radio. People are planning gifts for friends and family. Candy with red and green wrapping is on sale.

Yet, there are so many people who will complain ceaselessly about all of it. "It's too early for Christmas music," they will say, "wait until Thanksgiving is over."

I, for one, was not under the impression that there was a set time to start celebrating Christmas, and that it was only socially acceptable to do so after another holiday is done and over with. Why can't Christmas be celebrated with Thanksgiving?

Both days are considered a part of the holiday season. Not to mention that Christmas requires a lot more preparation. Of course Thanksgiving is important and large family dinners require a lot of work, but Christmas is different.

You need a tree, decorations, presents for all your family members (even the ones you may not like), and lots more.

Christmas is also a holiday meant to promote joy, so it seems a little counterproductive to criticize others for being happy about what most would consider to be the most cheerful day of the year.

-Hannah Paxton '19

Veterans Deserve To Be Celebrated

In today's society, we have the privilege of understanding history in a way that not many have had before us. Our research and resources are unmatched, giving our generation a look on past events through a totally different lens.

A prime example of how society's lens has changed can be seen through what we choose to celebrate and remember through holidays.

Veterans Day is a day that celebrates both past and present veterans, brave individuals who answered the nation's call and stood ready to fight for this country in any time and place—regardless of the identity of the Commander-in-Chief. This holiday is an example of how historical events have been honored throughout this nation's history.

Interestingly, during Veterans Day, a day where many public and private offices, schools, and companies are closed, Providence College remains open.

It makes sense that within a semester a college can only give its students so many days off, but compared to other celebrated holidays, like Columbus Day, Veterans Day should be given the upper hand.

As a society, we have been able to better recognize the flaws in Columbus' actions, making it pretty clear that celebrating a holiday of its likeness is in poor taste.

Yet what is more so in poor taste is blatantly leaving such an important holiday like Veterans Day out.

-Dan Barton '18

Watch Where You Donate

This past weekend, I went to a charity event for the Lumos Foundation, created by bestselling author of the *Harry Potter* series, J.K. Rowling. Besides being my role model, she is also such an inspiration to millions of others, not just through her writing, but through her activism.

The name of her foundation, Lumos, literally means light. It is a spell in *Harry Potter* that creates light. This is extremely fitting as Rowling created this charity in order to shed light on the truth about global orphanages.

At the event, Rowling asked the audience to raise awareness about where people's donations are going this holiday season. As donations to charities spike during the holiday season, it is important to know your money is going to the right place.

Rowling wants to educate people on the problems with global orphanages. According to her foundation, these institutions are corrupt and abusive. Many children in these orphanages are not actually orphans, but are forcefully separated from their families and communities.

So, I am writing this to the Providence College community, with Thanksgiving right around the corner, to encourage you all to be aware of what you are donating to. Rather than donating to orphanages, I encourage you to donate to community based organizations that are not run by the government or the "system."

Instead, donate to privately run organizations, such as Lumos, or anywhere else that is reliable. Keep this in mind this holiday season and use the power of word of mouth to let others know as well.

You do not have to be a *Harry Potter* fan—or even a J.K. Rowling fan—to do this; you just need to be able to use your voice.

-McKenzie Tavella '18

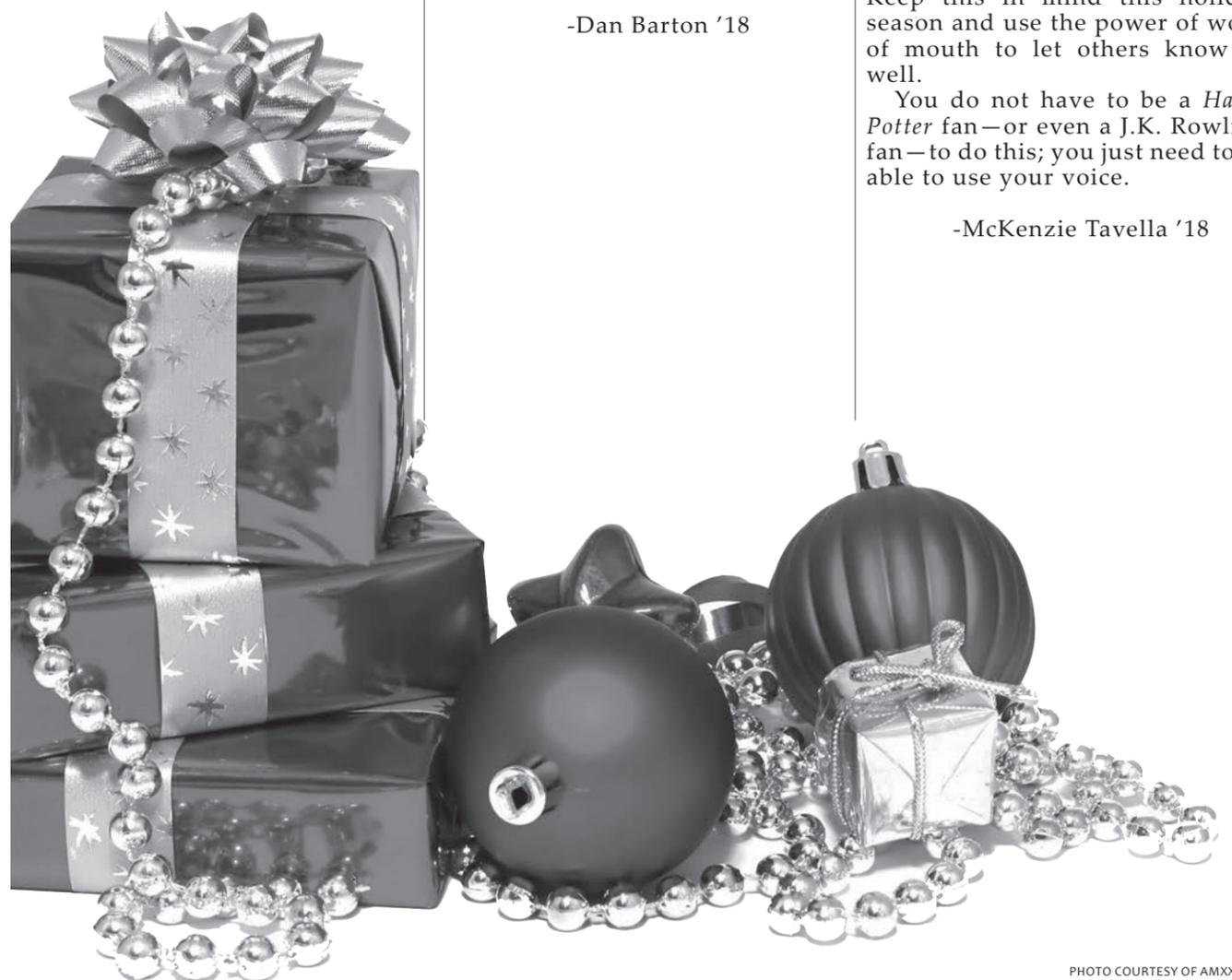


PHOTO COURTESY OF AMXXCS.RU



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PHOTOGRAPHY



KRISTINA HO '18/ THE COWL

ABOVE: Students enjoy a variety of cheeses from different cultures at Cheesefest, sponsored by BMSA.

TOP RIGHT: Students listen to the political science department comment on the progress and the results of the 2016 Presidential Election, sponsored by BOP and Student Congress.

RIGHT: Students learn how to plant with Frey Florist, sponsored by Student Activities.

BELOW: Students and faculty share what makes them happy by spreading positive messages, sponsored by Active Minds.



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/ THE COWL



KRISTINA HO '18/ THE COWL



KIMBERLY LEZAMA '18/ THE COWL



PROVING PHOTOGRAPHY

What is your favorite music genre?



"Country and Christmas music."
Ellen Griffin '19 and Julia Fernandez '19



"Pop-rap and tropical house."
Gloriana Navarro '18 and Gabriela Short '18



"Alternative rock and house music."
Emily Ryan '17 and Alana Dermody '18



"Country and '80s music."
Marissa Tashjian '20 and Sophia Tsoupelis '20



"Country and R&B."
Andrew Brazel '20, Jack Noonan '20, and Kevin Huang '20



"Pop and country."
Abby Northgraves '19, Natalie Phelps '19, and Kelly Donnellan '19



"Hip hop and R&B."

- Chris Brown

PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.PINTEREST.COM

Photos Taken By Kimberly Lezama '18, Assistant Photo Editor



Joy Harjo Poetry Reading *Giving hope to a divided world*



Poet and musician Joy Harjo poses for a photo with her saxophone.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THERUMPUS.NET

by Alexis Jais '18
A&E Staff

CAMPUS

This past Thursday, November 10, I had the opportunity to attend the Jane Lunin Perel Poetry Reading featuring poet Joy Harjo. I have been studying Harjo's latest work, *Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings*, in my Creative Writing in Poetry class for the past week.

This piece in particular centers on Harjo's call for resolving conflict in today's modern societies, specifically through the eyes of Native American peoples who are still experiencing serious oppression from the government.

Especially in light of the current presidential election and controversy at Standing Rock, the lecture and reading shed much-needed light on the topic of acceptance, understanding, and free speech for all populations in our country.

Harjo was born in Tulsa in 1951 and is a member of the Muscogee Creek Tribe located in Oklahoma. She graduated with degrees from The University of New Mexico and The University of Illinois, has received one of the most prestigious literary prizes, The Wallace Stevens Prize, has written over 10 poetry books, three children's books, and a screenplay. Today she is acknowledged as the most honored and recognized Native American female poet in North America.

She now teaches at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville as a member of the Chair of Excellence in the Department of English. She has also been designated one of the most prominent members in the Native American Renaissance of the late 20th century.

As an author, poet, performer, and educator,

Harjo provided us all with more than just a poetry reading. She has developed song melodies by which she sings her poems, and is also an accomplished saxophonist. Jazz music, an evident aspect in *Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings*, was also incorporated into her poetry reading at Providence College, where she played the saxophone and flute between poems and narratives.

Throughout the hour and a half reading, Harjo recited a few poems including "Eagle Song," "The Rabbit," "In Mystic," "This Morning I Pray for My Enemies," "Grace," and "A Kitchen Table Poem... Perhaps the World Ends Here." Each poem told a different story and had a different message.

All of the poems from her book, however, had something to say about oppression of marginalized groups such as the Native Americans and how we can learn to develop communication tactics and resolve conflict in the most inclusive and peaceful way.

Perhaps my favorite poem of hers, and the poem Harjo closed the reading with, "Perhaps the World Ends Here," left the audience with a ray of hope for our future as a country. The world is a place of war and violence, but is also a place of love and peace. Many people have walked the land, and many bonds have been formed and broken. In Harjo's words:

"This table has been a house in the rain, an umbrella in the sun. / Wars have begun and ended at this table. It is a place to hide in the shadow of terror. A place to celebrate the terrible victory. / We have given birth on this table, and have prepared our parents for burial here. / At this table we sing with joy, with sorrow. We pray of suffering and remorse. We give thanks. / Perhaps the world will end at the kitchen table, while we are laughing and crying, eating of the last sweet bite."

PC Trip To NYC: Part 2

by Luiza Alves '19
A&E Staff

CAMPUS

My trip to New York City this past weekend exceeded my expectations, as the City always manages to do. The Flagship Trailways coach bus sponsored by the Department of Art and Art History left Fennell gate at 7:35 a.m. and everyone on the bus was awake and buzzing, despite the early departure time.

We arrived at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the bus's first stop, at 11:30 a.m. My friends and I decided to get off there and explore the MET before going to brunch. Our plan was to remain in the Upper East Side and explore the area for the day.

We first visited the museum's Greek and Roman art collection, which is made up of more than 17,000 works ranging from the Neolithic period to Roman Emperor Constantine's conversion to Christianity.

In addition to the Greek and Roman collection, we also viewed the MET's collection of Egyptian Art. It consists of over 26,000 objects from the Paleolithic period to the Roman period. We viewed the Temple of Dendur, which has been on exhibition since 1978 in Gallery 131.

The gallery has a great window overlooking Central Park which displayed the park's lively performances and autumnal colors. After looking through the Egyptian Art collection, we made a pit stop at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum on our way to eat and viewed its beautiful atrium.

We finally walked over to Bluestone Lane Coffee, an Australian-style café which was a five-minute walk from the Guggenheim. The café's store is one of the most interesting spots I have ever been to. It is located at 2 E 90th St., in the heart of museum mile and conjoined with the Church of the Heavenly Rest.

The church's beautiful Roman architecture was maintained within the store and gave it an euphoric ambiance. The food itself was unlike any other. It was my first time in an Australian-styled restaurant of any kind so I blindly chose the "Bacon & Egg Roll." It contained crispy bacon and a fried egg topped with spinach, tomato, chutney, and aioli on a brioche bun. I have no idea what chutney and aioli are, but whatever they are, they made for an amazing meal.

After drinking a strong and tasty macchiato, we made our way to Central Park's model boat pond as it was the perfect day for a stroll through Central Park. Before heading back towards the MET where the bus would be waiting for us at 6:30 p.m. we stopped by Ladurée, a French luxury bakery for macarons. We ate our macarons as we walked past the Upper East Side's alluring houses.

Overall, it was a successful day and neither of my two friends, nor I, had any complaints about the trip. We realized we did not even take the subway the entire day. The Art Department also sponsors a spring bus trip to New York City, which I highly recommend everyone to be on the lookout for.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GIOVANNICARRIERI.COM

Photo of the Manhattan skyline.

Stranger Things: What's Up Next?

by Kerry Torpey '20
A&E Staff

TELEVISION

Season two of the hit Netflix series *Stranger Things* is officially underway as production and table reads of the new scripts have begun.

During this past summer, it was hard to go online and not see hundreds of news articles about the new Netflix series.

Set in Hawkins, Indiana in November 1983, *Stranger Things* pays ode to entertaining thrillers of creators, such as Steven Spielberg and Stephen King.

When a boy named Will Byers disappears without a trace following a night of Dungeons and Dragons with his three friends, Dustin, Lucas, and Mike, the small town is thrown into a mix of hysteria and mystery.

As the boys do their own investigating and discover Eleven, a quiet, psychokinetic girl with a troubled past, they realize not everything in Hawkins, Indiana, is as boring as it seems.

As Will's mother Joyce, who is played by Winona Ryder, desperately searches for her son, Chief of Police Jim Hopper sees that maybe Joyce's "crazy" antics in search of her son might actually lead to his discovery.

Hopper also finds himself investigating the mystifying Hawkins Laboratory, which might

hold the key to discovering Will's whereabouts, finding out what it exactly is that took him, and, at the same time, learning more about Eleven's past.

Stranger Things seems unlike anything previously released on television or Netflix. It is a rare show in that not only is the writing and production impressive, but so is the creative design and acting. The child actors, especially Millie Bobby Brown, prove themselves to be highly skilled and future contenders in the acting field.

Ryder gives a commendable performance that is so realistic that you forget you are watching the *Edward Scissorhands* star.

Composers Kyle Dixon and Michael Stein of the Austin-based band Survive created an '80s inspired score that is delightfully rhythmic and recognizable.

As fans anticipate the summer 2017 release of season two, writers and creators Matt and Ross Duffer have started to reveal more information about what fans can expect to see when they sit down to watch next summer.

One of the first things released were the episode titles. Ranging from "Mad Max" to "The Pollywog," the titles do not necessarily reveal anything to fans, but episodes like "The Lost Brother" and "The Secret Cabin" have definitely sparked conversation.



Scene from Season 1 of *Stranger Things*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THEVERGE.COM

The Duffer Brothers have also said that they will provide more answers too. Supposedly, the creators have written a document about 30 pages long that offers extensive answers to all the questions regarding the Upside Down and its origins.

Two new big-name additions to the cast are actors Sean Astin and Paul Reiser. Astin played Mikey in one of the biggest movies in the '80s, *The Goonies*. Fans might also recognize the actor from other

critically acclaimed films, such as *Rudy* and, most notably, *The Lord of the Rings* series, for his role as Samwise Gamgee. Reiser also starred in several '80s films, such as *Beverly Hills Cop* and *Diner*.

Season two of *Stranger Things* has a lot to live up to after the success of season one, but if the Duffer Brothers continue writing and producing in a similar, creative fashion, season two will definitely be on many fans "watch lists" next summer.

Highly Suspect Kills it in Cambridge

by Blaine Payer '18
A&E Staff

MUSIC

A few weeks ago, I wrote an album preview for *The Boy Who Died Wolf*, the sophomore album by Cape Cod rock trio Highly Suspect, which is set to come out this Friday. Last Thursday, I saw the band perform at The Sinclair in Cambridge, in support of their upcoming album. This was my second time seeing them live, and by far the best concert experience I have ever had.

The energy was through the roof from the first note of the opening band, Slothrust, and remained there for the duration of the show. I hadn't been crazy about Slothrust before the show, but after seeing the lead singer/guitar player rip solo after solo of California beach-inspired riffs, I was an instant fan. Being front row and pressed up against the stage definitely helped the cause too.

After seven or eight songs, Highly Suspect took the stage, and it felt like the building itself wouldn't be able to contain the excitement of the crowd. Johnny Stevens, the lead singer and guitar player, introduced the band and told the crowd how good it felt to be home, which was met with overwhelming cheers from the Bostonian audience.

Stevens then began playing "Bath Salts," their usual concert opener and one of my favorite tracks, to which everyone jumped in sync with. Stevens brought all of the passion found in the albums onstage with him that night, in addition to some theatrics like taking 15-second pauses to see how loudly the audience would scream for him, or dancing as though he had entered a demonic fit. If you closed your eyes, it sounded exactly like you were listening to the album, just with more violent shoving going on around you (and with the temperature resting at about 485 degrees).

About halfway through the show they started playing songs off the new album, specifically "My Name is Human" and "Serotonia," two of the pre-released singles. One of the new songs, "Viper Strike," had come out the day of the concert, and remarkably



Highly Suspect performs at the 58th annual Grammy Awards.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPECODTIMES.COM

most of the crowd already knew all of the words to it.

The audience mirrored the passion that the band brought on stage, be it by singing every word to every song or losing themselves in feverish dancing. It was the same kind of whole-hearted devotion that you find in young girls at One Direction concerts, albeit in a much different demographic.

The closing song, "Claudeland," didn't seem like it was ever going to end. The track runs about four minutes on the record, but they managed to extend that to 15 minutes live, turning the ending of the song into the blues-inspired jam "The Devil Went Down to Georgia."

Instead of leaving the stage and waiting for the crowd to inevitably demand that they return, Stevens acknowledged that he knew the "encore formula" and opted to skip it and just close the show with one more

new track, "Fire in the Bed Study," a Rage Against the Machine fueled rap-rock that shook the foundations of the small venue.

Although I didn't get to meet them all after the show like I did the first time I saw them in a bar last year, I did get to jump on stage and rock out with them for the last song. It was unlike any other concert experience I have ever had, and I won't soon forget it. If you ever get the chance to see Highly Suspect live, take it; you won't regret it.

The Boy Who Died Wolf comes out this Friday, November 18, just as the band hits the final stops of its North American tour. Don't be surprised to hear them on the radio and see them once again take the Grammy stage by storm, for, to borrow the words of Johnny Stevens himself, this band "was born to rock, and now [they're] gonna roll."

Celebrating 90 Years

Macy's

Continued from front page:

In addition to the balloons, the Macy's parade has a lineup of musical, dance, and theatrical performances that cater to a wide variety of tastes and styles. Musical performances will feature artists such as Beyoncé, Fitz & the Tantrums, and Tony Bennett, as well as twelve marching bands ranging from high school to semiprofessional groups.

The casts of NBC's *Hairspray! Live* and the Broadway revival of *Cats* will perform. U.S. Olympic Gold Medalists Laurie Hernandez and Michelle Carter will make an appearance as well. And, as always, the parade will feature the Radio City Rockettes and Santa Claus.

The 90th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade will air live on NBC (channel 10, locally) on Thanksgiving Day from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and will be hosted by *The Today Show's* Matt Lauer, Savannah Guthrie, and Al Roker.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLARKSVILLENOW.COM

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in 1957.

Spotlight on *Hacksaw Ridge*



Promotional photo from the film *Hacksaw Ridge*

PHOTO COURTESY OF BUSTLE.COM

by Joe Clancy '18
A&E Staff

FILM

This past Friday was Veterans Day and the country celebrated our nation's heroes in a number of ways, including going to see the World War II true story movie *Hacksaw Ridge*.

The movie was originally released at the Venetian Film Festival and then released worldwide on Nov. 3. The film has earned 33 million dollars thus far. The film also boasts successful reviews from both Rotten Tomatoes, with 86 percent, and an 8.7 rating from IMDB.

The movie was directed by famed

actor/director Mel Gibson. *Hacksaw Ridge* has received a great deal of anticipation, as the last film Gibson directed was ten years ago in 2006 when he released his critically acclaimed *Apocalypto*.

Gibson is not a stranger to action-packed movies, as he received the Oscar for Best Picture of the Year in 1995 for *Braveheart*, a film chronicling the bloody war of Scottish Rebellion, focusing on the famed William Wallace.

Hacksaw Ridge itself was in production for nearly 14 years as Desmond Doss, the main character of the story, and his family, after his passing, wanted to ensure that the story was told accurately.

Hacksaw Ridge is the true story of Desmond Doss, the first and only recipient of the Medal of Honor during World War II and a conscientious objector. Doss was a devout Christian and did not believe in violence.

The film examines the struggles Doss faced in trying to remain an objector to violence, despite often being the victim of abuse from not only his fellow soldiers but also from his commanders.

The film also shows Doss's legal struggles of refusing to carry a weapon as he faced potential imprisonment for insubordination. However, he was ultimately allowed by the courts to refuse to carry a weapon as it was cited that the constitution ensured he did not have to.

The film then displays Doss's amazing feats in the heat of battle. During the Battle of Okinawa in the late stages of the war, from April to June 1945, the Allied Forces faced 20,195 deaths. Doss was able to maintain his objections to war by not even firing a shot.

During the battle, the Allied Forces were responsible for scaling a massive cliff known as Maeda Escarpment. Doss was able to save a number of his men, some so wounded that it did not seem like they would make it.

Doss went on to survive the war and maintained a strong sense of devotion to his religion. Unfortunately, he never got to see his epic tale told on the big screen, as he passed away in 2006.

Doss's son praised the film as a triumph, as it accurately represents the sacrifice and struggle of an American hero.

Young Justice Makes a Comeback

by Michael Welch '17
A&E Staff

TELEVISION

After all these years, *Young Justice* is finally back! When? The third season could be available sometime in late 2017. Where? We still do not know what network, but let's all pray its Netflix.

Young Justice was cancelled back in 2013, despite having the deepest characters and story of any animated superhero show since *Teen Titans*. The seasonal arcs of *Young Justice* juggled intense, mature storylines with the development of an ever-expanding cast of young heroes. The show was beloved by many upon its cancellation, leading to an intense and long-lasting backlash against Cartoon Network.

But if *Young Justice* was so beloved, why did it get cancelled? The most popular theory is that the show was selling too well with girls. Basically, marketing is extremely segregated by gender and superhero shows like *Young Justice* market their most profitable merchandise to boys.

Therefore, when the show started overstepping its boundaries and selling too well to its many female fans, Cartoon Network pulled the plug. Regardless of the sexism behind the show's cancellation, everyone agreed that *Young Justice's* high quality meant it deserves a second chance.

The creators and voice actors all agreed that they would return should Warner Brothers want to give *Young Justice* a third season. Fans petitioned online for years and got #RenewYoungJustice to trend on Twitter multiple times.



Photo of prospective characters for *Young Justice*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF N3RDABL3.COM

When the first two seasons were added to Netflix, the creator said the show had a chance if people re-watched it on Netflix to show them a third season could be profitable. So fans streamed the show relentlessly, and it looks like all the tireless support and campaigning has finally paid off.

Young Justice is finally back, but what can we expect from the third season? There was a huge time jump between the first two seasons, would the creators consider another one before this season?

Another difference between the first two seasons was a massive increase in cast that some fans found overwhelming. Many fans would prefer a trimmed down main cast for season three so the creators could focus more on developing a few well-rounded

characters. The final episode of season two also teased the famous DC villain, Darkseid. As one of the most powerful figures in the DC universe, it would be interesting to see how the creators use him in the future.

The *Young Justice* team has already dealt with countless world-ending threats and it would benefit the show to focus on smaller scale personal conflicts for a while. However, Darkseid can only serve world-ending conflict considering his massive power and arsenal. Whatever the creators have in store for us in the future I am grateful for them never losing faith in their show and its many loyal fans. Expect *Young Justice* season three sometime in 2017.



PORTFOLIO

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Providence College's Home for Creative Writing

November 17, 2016

My Sense of Dignity, My Sense of Pride.

Introducing our newest writer:

Kiley McMahon '20
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

I followed him home that day,
The thunder striking all around me,
Zeus abusing his power over the skies in every which way.

We ventured off towards the cliff of the mountain,
The rivers flowing flawlessly to each end of my peripheral vision.

I sank into the crux of my warmed up seat,
A sense of comfort as the skies cried all around me.

Then I saw her car,
She followed him inside,
While I continued to wait in the crux of my warmed up seat.

A love story that I still struggle to explain,
I thought that he felt the same way.

I could never love again,
He had taken my sense of dignity,
My sense of pride.

Why was I not enough?
How could I ever trust again?

He told me that he loved me,
How could he be so crude?

The first night that we met,
He swept me off of my feet,
We danced to the rhythmic music,
As he moved my body,
So that we slowly began dancing to the tango.

The sense perception of his cold lips embracing mine,
Is still existent,
Even to this day,
Three years after our first encounter.
The things that he bought me,
We were living a life of lavish,
Diamonds all around me,
And everything that I could ever want and need left at my feet.

I began to wonder if I really loved him,
Or if I loved the things that he never failed to buy me.

Every week,
A new business trip,
Is that where he betrayed my seemingly unconditional love for him?

So many questions still unknown,
She is getting into her car,
My phone begins to ring.

The ringtone he set,
His favorite country song,
One I can't resist,
The swaying motions of the tango still fresh in my mind.

Instead of answering his call,
And listening to his false accusations,
I ignore the country song,
And quickly drive away.

As I am driving,
The tears begin to flow,
But I quickly remove them from my cheek,
Not a thought to ever rethink.

Goodbye to my first love,
The one that bought me diamonds,
And the one that coldly kissed my lips.

I am now stronger than your buyings,
And the fool you have been making out of me.

I now sit straight up in the crux of my warm seat,
And I drive away with my eyes dry,
And my head held high.

He calls me once again,
My next course of action to delete his number.
I can't stand him now,
I hope she follows him home one day,
Only to figure out his real and true ways.

The day my thoughts of love changed,
11/11/2016:
A day of corruption,
A day of lost hope for love,
A start to a stronger sense of self.



STU(DYING)

by Christie Smith '17
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

I'm going to paint a picture, one of complete desperation. I really think it's going to resonate with you. Imagine the moment when you've procrastinated so spectacularly that you must now choose between adopting acute panic or complete indifference.

Some slough off their impending failure with a shrug of the shoulders ("I'll never need to know this!"), Others crumble ("If I don't pass, I'll be homeless post-graduation").

You start mentally labeling every piece of material you don't understand as "unimportant" and most likely "untestable."

Blaming your professor ("He doesn't even post the slides!"),
Your roommate (just because),
The pet goldfish you never feed ("It's been so moody lately"),

That watery coffee ("This definitely tastes like Splenda..").

Surely everything but your own procrastination is the cause for this tragic dilemma.

Why did you wait so long? If you start studying now, you'll have a solid seven hours and 36 minutes to understand everything.

Symptoms of complete breakdown include the following:

Calculating precisely how awful you can do on an assignment and still throw your cap in the air someday (you need a 77),

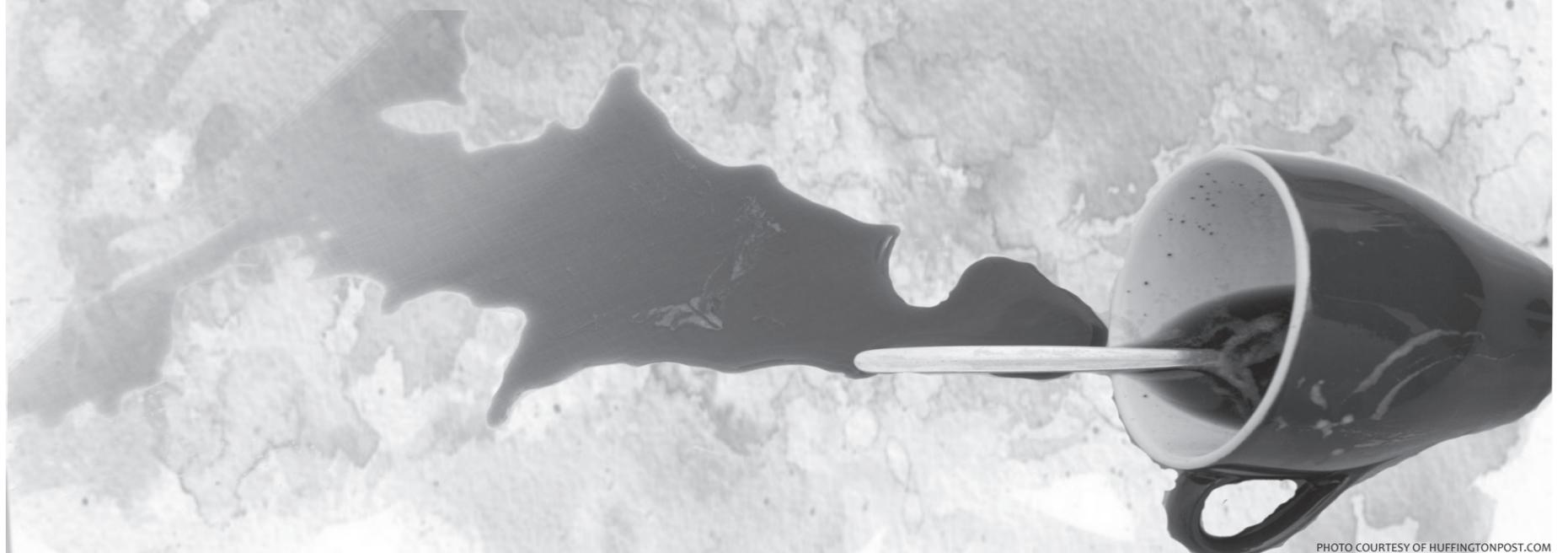
Spending more time making a study guide than actually studying it,

Taking an odd pleasure in hearing that your fellow classmates are equally unprepared ("Gosh, she doesn't even own the textbook"),

Feverishly searching Google for alternative career options ("I could probably be a car salesman if I had to"). Steve Jobs, Michael Dell, and Bill Gates didn't put up with this. If you quit now at least you'll be in good company.

Except you don't know anything about software or computers. Better make that coffee extra-large.

Misery loves company, so you claim a library table (this is home now) and invite all your friends. Redefining pity party.

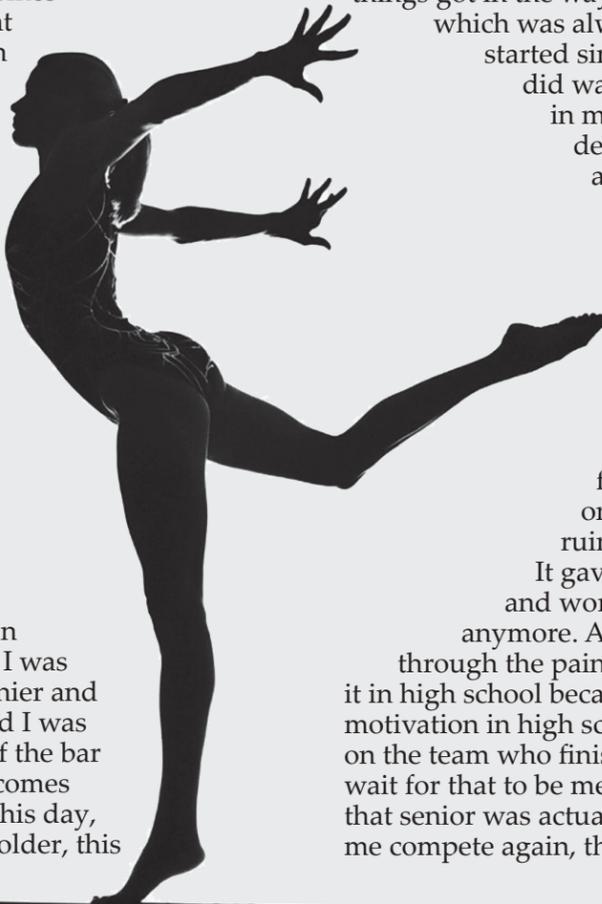


An Open Letter to Gymnastics

by Sam Pellman '20
Portfolio Staff

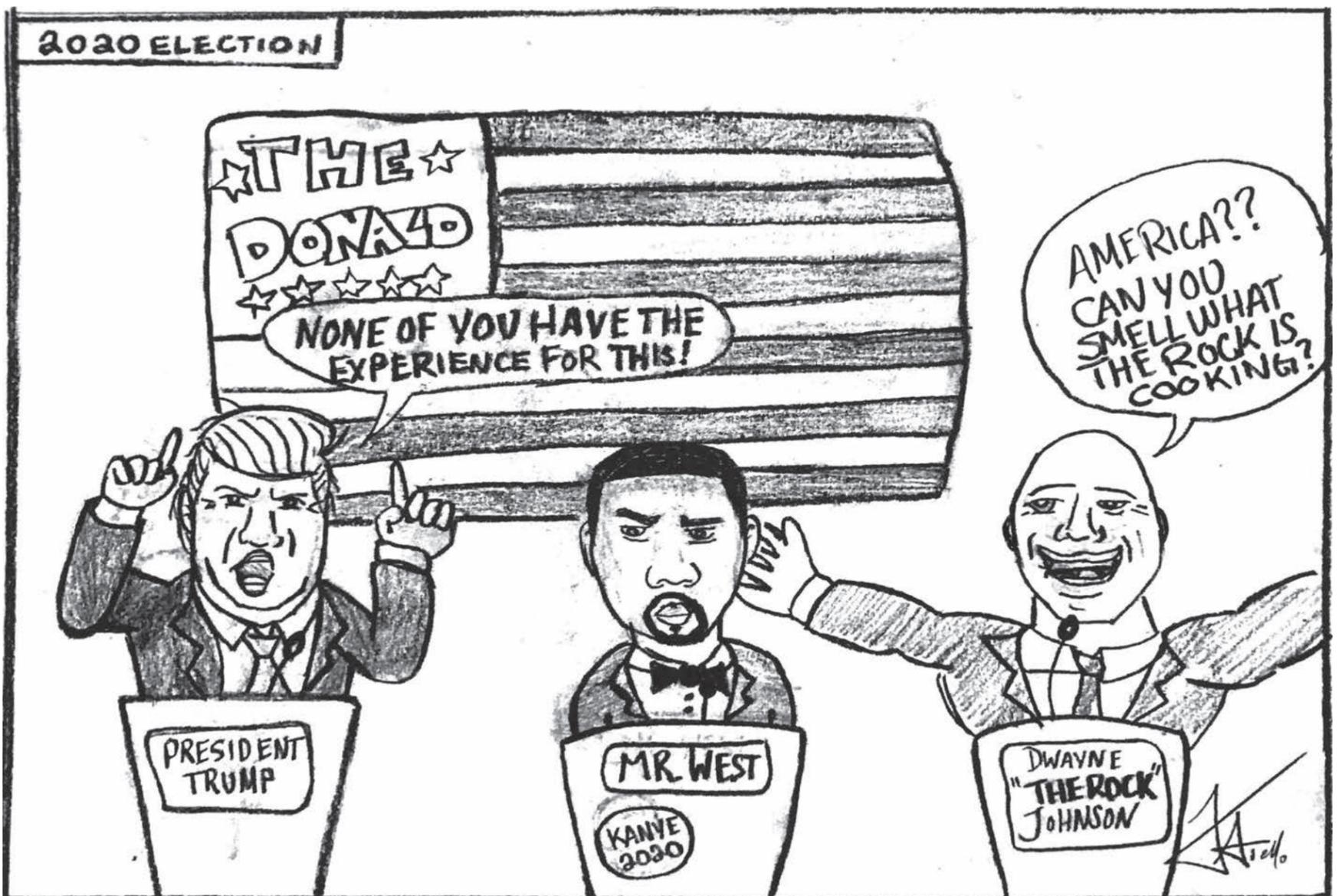
MEMIOR

I'm not one to talk up gymnastics, or to tell you I love it with all my heart. In fact, I'll tell you I hate it. I'll complain about its difficulty, the stress, and the pain that comes with it. It wasn't until this one moment, a moment that hit me all at once. Here I was at my final high school meet (aside from champs the following weekend) standing by the beam, watching my girls warm up. It was the last event of the meet, the last routine. Both my mom and dad came to watch me because they weren't able to make champs. My dad called me over and whispered into my ear, "This is the last time I'll see you compete since you were four years old. I've always been there watching you through it all. Show me what you got, show me that this whole ride was worth it." That's when it hit me. I started gymnastics at the age of four, and I was in love with it. Yes, I was in love with the impossible sport, the sport that literally made you feel worthless. For a while I was excited to go to practice almost every day. I went back to a time when I was younger, practicing for hours in my old gym, the gym I spent most of my time in. I was absolutely in love with the sport; my body was tinier and more in shape to do the moves, I was younger and I was braver, I didn't think about how scary flipping off the bar was because little minds don't have fear when it comes to that. I loved all my friends that I had made to this day, life-long friends I couldn't go without. As I grew older, this love died down. I got older, bigger, smarter. My body began to give out, I couldn't do the



things I used to be able to. I was now afraid to throw any moves because I realized how dangerous it truly was. Other things got in the way, school, friends, family; gymnastics, which was always at the top of my list, but soon started sinking lower and lower. All the sport did was cause me physical pain, every bone in my body ached. My body was slowly deteriorating. I broke my arm and my ankle both in the gym doing skills. All the sport gave me was anxiety and made me feel worthless when the judge gave me a low score on something I had practiced hours on. All it did was show me that it's impossible to perform perfectly even if you practiced the skill 300 times. It literally brought me down onto my face, crashing onto the mat after falling for the 50th time. It gave me a rip after rip on my hands. It made me so frustrated, it ruined my mood and it made me unhappy. It gave me coaches that would scream at me and work me until I physically couldn't walk anymore. And they'd tell me to get up and fight through the pain, and I learned how to. Yet I continued it in high school because might as well, right? I lost motivation in high school, I became envious of the seniors on the team who finished gymnastics for good. I couldn't wait for that to be me. But in this moment I couldn't believe that senior was actually me. My parents would never see me compete again, this was it. They had been there for me through the ups and downs, at all my meets, when I broke my bones, when I scored my highest. They spent money on the classes, competitions, leos, grips,

PHOTO COURTESY OF PINTEREST.COM



It's Still Happening

by Matt Farrell '17
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

Movements push through closed minds,
Walls put up, tear down. For hate is easy,
It takes effort to love.
I've seen tears burst through floodgates
With fear leading the brigade.

I've seen others smug
My words of advice: be sincere in kindness.
Speak with a heavy heart,
You love the cause, now see the effects.
I've seen all people react, how will you act?
Raised fists staring at the sky as freedom rings,
Peace brought together upon God.
Different fists hold the nooses,
For nightmares no longer apparitions,
Dreams that haven't been put to rest.

Tiffany & Earl

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

Dearest Tiffany and Earl,

How do I deflect the dreaded, yet inevitable, "what are your plans for after graduation?" question this Thanksgiving?

Sincerely,

Senyahs

Dear Scared Seniors,

Talk about politics. I know that sounds insane because politics is the last possible thing in the world that you want to discuss with your family right now, but isn't explaining to your parents that climate change is dangerous for the 1,000th time better than figuring out what you're going to do with your life when you're three glasses of wine deep (and over 21 years old)?

Seriously. When your super conservative aunt asks how you could possibly still be single at this point in your life, ask her how she possibly could have voted for Donald Trump. The ensuing chaos at the table will drive your future from her mind, leaving you in the clear.

If, however, you want to avoid negative conversations altogether, try switching the conversation to universally likeable things. Start playing the song "Hello" by Adele or bring up Paul Rudd. Either way, your inevitable fate will be pushed off for another holiday. You're on your own during Christmas.



Tiffany

Dear Young Adult on the Cusp of the Real World,

Answer their question with a question of your own. Flip the script on them and put them on the spot. "What did you do after graduation, Auntie Susie? If that is your real name? Are you happy with how your life turned out? Is this everything you ever wanted? Or, did the unbearable weight of reality inevitably crush your dreams forcing you to settle for mediocrity?" Dear old Auntie Susie, or whatever the name of the offender that presents you with such a daunting question, will be so awestruck that they will probably run into the bathroom and spend the rest of the day sobbing and your mother will shout, "Nice going Earl, you ruined Thanksgiving!" I stand by the success rate of this method, it never fails...to ruin Thanksgiving and the self-esteem of your relatives.



EARL

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Courses We Wish Were Offered

Crying 102*

Advanced Napping

Physics of the Tunnels

How To Survive on \$2 and Microwavable Food

Marvel Cinematic Universe Colloquium

Making Dad Proud 380

How to Afford to Go Here

The Magic, Mystery, and Art of Mimes

Paul Rudd Seminar 480

Physics of Fitting in an Aquinas Double

Sword Fighting 101

DWC: The Age of Memes 202

Senior Thesis on Taking the Perfect Selfie

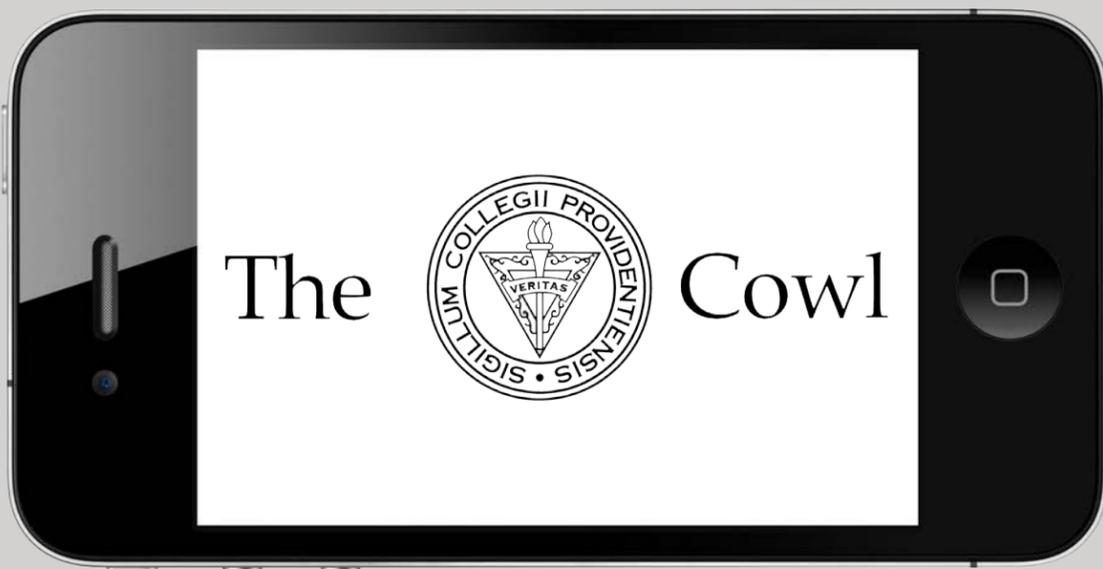
Watermelon Sculpting

Post-Structuralist Architecture

WTF 101: The Class That Asks, WTF?

*Pre-requisite: High School

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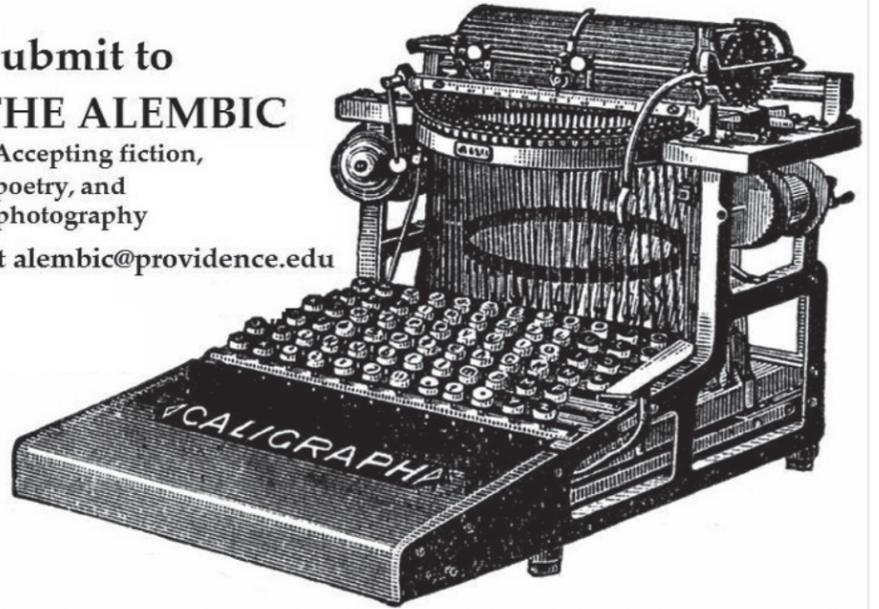
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SPORTS

Men's Soccer Ready for NCAAAs

by Jeff Williams '19
Sports Staff

MEN'S SOCCER

After a slow 4-5 start that included losses to the University of Rhode Island, Clemson, Georgetown, Butler, and the University of Connecticut, Providence College Men's Soccer has turned on their jets and has become one of the hottest teams in the nation. In the month of October, they went on an incredible eight game winning streak that catapulted the Friars into the national rankings at #22.

On Oct. 1, the Friar men had lost three games to go below .500, and their chances of reaching the postseason looked bleak. That night however, PC came from behind to beat the Xavier Musketeers 2-1 in an overtime thriller. Four days later, the Friars shut out their cross-town rivals, Brown, 1-0. The Friars smacked around the Villanova Wildcats in an easy 3-1 win on Oct. 8. A week later, the Friars headed to New Jersey and stuffed the Seton Hall Pirates 1-0. After another week, Providence beat the DePaul Blue Demons 2-1 in Chicago. Returning to Anderson Stadium on Oct. 26, the Friars beat the Marquette Golden Eagles 2-1 on Senior Night. Three days later, they traveled to Omaha and defeated the Creighton Blue Jays 1-0, and closed out the season with another 1-0 victory over the St. John's Red Storm in Queens on Nov. 3.

The Providence College men's soccer team finished the 2016 regular season on an absolute tear with eight straight victories and a 12-5 record. Their resume of seven wins and just two losses in-conference handed them the Big East Regular Season title. The Friar men reached #25 in the NSCAA rankings on Nov. 2, and moved up to #22 a week later. Co-Captain Julian Gressel '17 (11 goals) was named Big East Co-Offensive Player of the Year, and Colin Miller '19RS (11-0 record, seven shutouts) was named Big East Co-Goalkeeper of the Year. They were joined by Mark Jecewiz '18RS on the All-Big East First Team, while breakout stars



PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE MEDIA RELATIONS

Danny Griffin '20, Joao Serrano '20, and Liam Wilson '20 are on the All-Freshman Team.

The top-seeded Friars hosted the Creighton Blue Jays (ranked #24 nationally) in Providence for the Big East Semifinals. It was an absolutely wild crowd that packed the stadium, circling the players from all sides. The Friars cashed in on the high energy very early. In the seventh minute, Steven Kilday '19 dribbled down the sideline and sent a perfect feed into the middle. It met Griffin at the top of the box, and the wunderkind hammered it home for the seventh time this year, putting his team in front, 1-0. However, Creighton quickly fought back. In minutes 31 and 41, the Blue Jays equalized and then pulled ahead, 2-1. In the second half, the Friars dominated the ball, and had a clear advantage in shots, but could get nothing

past the Jays' goalie. Despite chances at the very end that had everyone on their feet, the Friars went home unhappy with their first loss since September, ending their Big East season.

Monday brought hope for the Friars in the form of the NCAA Selection Show. PC earned the first at-large bid that appeared on the screen, and will face Delaware (12-7-1, CAA Champions) at Anderson Stadium on Thursday at 7 p.m. The winner will face top seeded and undefeated Maryland on Sunday, but the Blue Hens should not be overlooked in what should be an intense battle. The Friars join Butler, Creighton, and Villanova in the NCAA Tournament, and will look to perform as well as they did during their run two years ago. If the Friar men are going to go on another tear, they might as well start now.

The Time Is Now for Men's Ice Hockey

by Sam Scanlon '19
Sports Staff

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY

The Providence College Men's Ice Hockey Team is about to enter a crucial part of their season before heading into winter break. After a weekend off, the Friars are sitting on a 3-3-2 overall record and a 0-1-1 conference record. With five out of the next six games being conference games, including an upcoming weekend series against the Northeastern Huskies, the Friars are looking to define themselves and prove to be a difficult team to play against. With nine Friars performing at the collegiate level for the first time, a slower start was to be expected. However, although young, this very talented team needs everyone to slide into their roles, and once that clicks, the Friars are going to be tough to beat.

So far this year, the Friars have been riddled with penalties. With players seemingly always in the box, the Friars are allowing opponents to gain more scoring chances, while their own offense is unable to gain momentum by going a man down. Discipline is definitely an area in which the Friars need to improve if they are looking to win games.

With ten new faces in the locker room and a goaltender in a starting role for the first time, a 3-3-2 record is nothing to be concerned about. Comfort is also an area that is going to be improved with experience, which this team certainly lacks, but everyone will be more confident in their roles as

the season progresses. The pieces of this winning team will be put together and great success will be the result.

While the Friars are loaded with scoring potential on offense, the team's defensemen have surprised with their ability to produce and control games. Anthony Florentino '17 has always been a physical presence on the ice, as well as a great defender. So far this season, the senior has already notched three goals in his six games played. Florentino had only tallied 13 goals in his previous three seasons combined. Continued production out of his heavy slap shot from the point would help spark the offensive scoring threats as well as supply insurance goals for a much needed cushion on the scoreboard. Another blue liner has surprised with his level of play this season. Jacob Bryson '20, only standing at 5'9" tall and 175 lbs., is the smallest player on the team. However, his smooth skating and passing ability allows him to control and dominate the ice whenever he is on it. Appearing in all eight games, the freshman has posted four points on a goal and three assists, including a power play goal as he participates on a power play unit. Although on the smaller side, Bryson has been a huge asset to the squad thus far.

With 26 games left on the regular season schedule, and the majority of them being Hockey East tilts, the Friars have plenty of time to connect, make a splash, and emerge as one of the nation's top teams by the end of the season.



Bryson '20 takes control of the puck.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS EMERSON

The Friartown Experience

by Sam Hardwick '17
Sports Editor

EDITOR'S CORNER

It shouldn't take much for me to convince you to go to a Friars basketball game. But let's assume you have no desire to go to any basketball game, for the sake of argument and because I need something to write about. I am convinced that all it should take for me to get you there, then, is a description of the night you would have had if you went to see the men's basketball team win over the University of Vermont on Monday, November 14.

You are sitting in your room at 6 p.m. with your homework all done and the knowledge that Tuesday's class schedule really isn't that bad. You have a ticket for the basketball game but you don't have a car! How can you possibly get from campus all the way to the Dunk? Lucky for you, there are buses lining the road behind Ray waiting to take you there—for free. This is where the night begins. Packed with students, the buses carry you to the game, and the anticipation of seeing Coach Cooley pacing the sideline causes your Friar fever to begin.

As you enter the Dunk, you are fortunate enough to be one of the first students arriving (always a good idea) because there is free stuff galore. A T-shirt as you enter, bearing the Friar Family logo and a \$5 Dunkin' Donuts gift card—you really couldn't ask for anything else. Your fever begins to climb with every new student entering the stands until the student section is mobbed with people. The pep band is playing those fire jams you can't help but dance along to, and the team has taken the floor. It's time for Friar basketball.

The whole stadium rises for the national anthem and stays standing for the first basket. Luckily, Rodney Bullock '18 is able to score within the first minute. The fan section begins the cheers, the whole stadium chanting along to "LETS GO FRIARS!" It's hard not to get swept

away with the crowd. In fact, you are having so much fun cheering along, that after ten minutes it feels like the Friars are up by 100 and not just one. But there's no need to worry, because Jalen Lindsey '18 hits a three-pointer and the Friars aren't going to be looking back.

As halftime rolls around, you wander about the stadium, seeing local fans and alumni alike, and it dawns on you that the Friar family is more than just the student body, but something more. As you make your way back to your seat, the sound system starts to play the Bon Jovi anthem, "Livin' on a Prayer", everyone is singing along, and this idea begins to grow. The second half begins and the Friars really start to pour it on. Emmitt Holt '18, a transfer from Indiana University, is leading the charge, piling up the buckets. Kyron Cartwright '18 is dishing it out like he's an ice cream man and the rest of the team is eating. During a timeout, the fan cam appears on the big screen and pans around the stadium, looking for dancing fans. Dabbing is the dance of choice, with everyone and their mother seemingly doing the move. The Friar Family, you begin to realize, is a community that supports each other and cheers on each other's success, not just a collection of students.

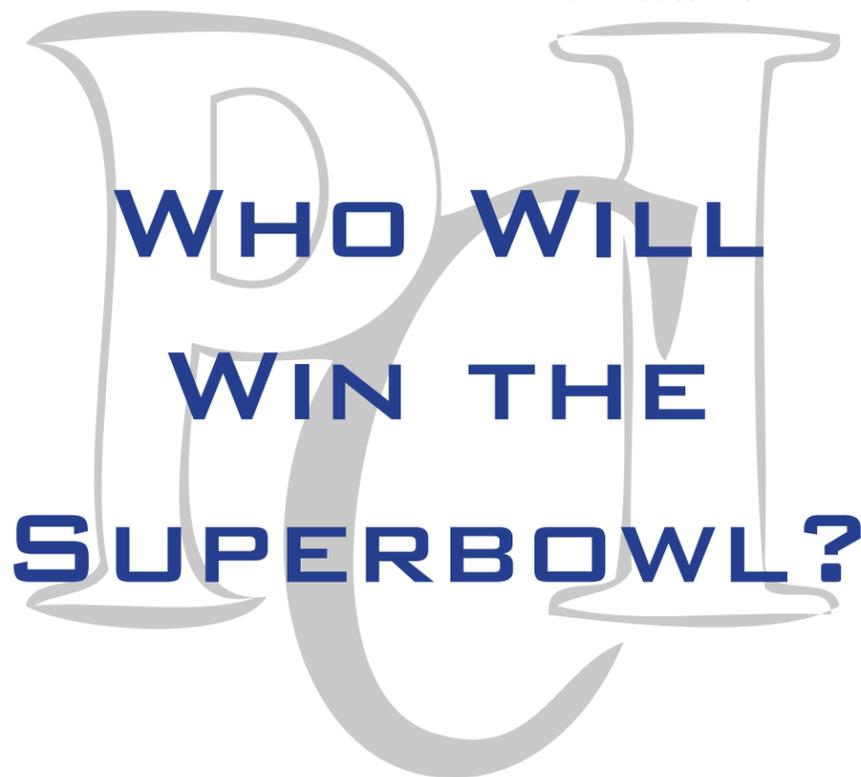
With a minute to go, the Friars have been up for the entire game, and the divide has grown to over 20 points. The Friar faithful begin the song every away team fears. "Na na na na, na na na na, hey hey hey, goodbye!" And like icing on the cake, as the final syllable is sung, Ryan Fazekas '19 hits a three, to send the fans into one more frenzy. As you leave the game to head back to school on the buses, you look around and see students with arms around each other, fans smiling and high fiving. Reflecting on the night, as you get back to your room, you really could not have asked for anything better.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

If this article was written before the conclusion of week ten, I would have said, hands down, that the Dallas Cowboys would be winning the NFC and heading to Houston for the Super Bowl. However, after watching the incredible performance the Seattle Seahawks just put on against my New England Patriots, I honestly do not believe any team in the NFC will be able to defeat the Seahawks in the playoffs. Seattle looks to be forming back into the team that went to two consecutive Super Bowls back in 2013 and 2014; Russell Wilson has been hobbled by leg injuries, but is gaining his mobility back and is throwing the ball better than ever, Jimmy Graham is back to being Jimmy Graham, and the defense continues to be one of the best in the NFL. While there is no question that the Dallas Cowboys are one of the hottest teams in the NFL, the youth of this team is what concerns me the most. Yes, Dak Prescott has looked better than anyone would have imagined, and yes, Ezekiel Elliott could very well be the NFL MVP if the season ended today. However, the biggest concern with both Prescott and Elliott being the leaders of this Cowboys offense is the fact that both are rookies; Elliott, after all, is barely old enough to legally buy a beer.

While I personally think that Prescott and Elliott will be stars in the NFL someday (Elliott already is for that matter), I just don't think this team could out battle the Seahawks in the playoffs, due to Seattle's experience. The Cowboys also haven't faced a pass defense like the Seahawks all year; the Seahawks could easily stack the box against Prescott and force him to throw. At the end of the day, I don't believe the Cowboys youth will be able to top the Seahawks experience, and, come January, I believe it will be the Seahawks hoisting the NFC championship trophy, and heading to Texas for their third Super Bowl in four years.

-Max Anderson '18



NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

With week 10 in the books, the Patriots sit at 7-2 coming off a loss against arguably the best team in the NFC, the Seattle Seahawks. I can't guarantee the Pats will win the Super Bowl like most New England fans do, however I can say that I would be shocked to not see Belichick & company at least in the AFC Championship game this year. There is no team even close to being able to compete with the Patriots in the AFC. For those of you who say Denver, obviously their defense is the best in the league, but the Pats' offense has some great matchups that at least allow for the hope of success. Lesser teams dread having to face the Broncos defense, so the idea that the Patriots offense could even come close to winning that battle is more than impressive. It speaks volumes to the amount of talent Belichick has assembled over his tenure as both head coach and general manager. Therefore, the big factor that drives this inevitable battle is the Broncos offense vs. the Patriots defense. While New England's defense looked shaky on Sunday, the Broncos offense is mediocre at best. Don't believe me? We'll see during week 14 when the two square up in Denver.

I'll spare you all the stats about New England's offense, because the criticism of the Patriots comes on the defensive side of the ball. This past Sunday's game against Seattle certainly proved there are some holes that Belichick is going to have to tighten up if the team hopes to continue playing into February. But if there is one thing for sure, it's that the Patriots will come to play no matter whom their opponent is. Belichick will have the team ready, and Brady will be Brady. Pats 38, Seahawks 21.

- Kevin Skirvin '18

Box Score Vs. Vermont

Players	MIN	PTS	REB	AST	STL	BLK
Rodney Bullock, F	25	18	4	2	1	0
Emmitt Holt, F	31	22	5	0	0	3
Kyron Cartwright, G	32	9	4	12	1	0
Jalen Lindsey, G	27	6	3	0	3	0
Ryan Fazekas, G	24	11	3	1	1	0
Kalif Young, F	13	2	6	1	1	2
Ricky Council II, F	2	0	2	0	0	0
Maliek White, G	19	4	3	1	1	0
Isaiah Jackson, G	16	2	6	0	1	0
Alpha Diallo, G	11	6	0	0	0	0