

# THE COWL



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Providence College December 8, 2016



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## A Talk With Judy Shepard

### Mother of Hate Crime Victim Matthew Shepard Comes to Campus

by Tait Becker '19  
News Staff

#### EVENT

The Providence College community was invited to gather in Slavin '64 Hall on December 6, 2016, to listen to the moving story that Judy Shepard shared about the death of her son, Matthew Shepard, who was beaten and left for dead because he was gay. Feelings of discrimination and alienation from many groups within the United States have surfaced in light of the 2016 Presidential Election. Many of those feelings have even surfaced among students who reside here at PC.

There were several different talking points that were addressed by Shepard. The resounding message of her testimonial was the need for the embracement of diversity within today's society. The most successful way that this can happen is through the creation of dialogue. Her belief is that this requires collective action.

This BOP sponsored event was the result of a collective action of many different groups on campus.

Annie Panatier '17, chair of BOP's lecture committee, spoke on the importance of Shepard's visit. "BOP

is honored to have Judy Shepard come and speak about her son and her experience. She is an inspiring guest and it is an especially relevant talk for the PC community at a time where we have seen so much hate and negativity in our country." She encouraged students to work with other organizations on campus to create a rhetoric of inclusion among minority groups.

Shepard is fearful that the coming years may represent a greater challenge for this embracement of diversity, specifically the gay community. The Obama Administration worked to create greater inclusion for this community.

While a hate crime bill was passed during his time in office, there is still no federal law that protects against the discrimination of individuals based on sexual orientation. These protection laws vary from state to state. Shepard says that these laws are not only applicable to those who are gay, but also to every group considered a minority in this country.

In order to progress with the protection of minority groups, allies, and supporters of these movements must engage vocally in thoughtful ways. She believes that the best way to show this support is to be an active member in our society. One



Shepard offered a message of inclusion, cooperation, and dialogue.

NICK CRENSHAW '20 / THE COWL

can engage in this by reaching out to their legislators to either encourage legislation already in place, or advocate for new legislation to be created.

When asked by a student during the Q&A part of the discussion what colleges could do in order to make campuses more welcoming, her

response was simple. Be mindful of the surroundings and those around you. In order to create a diverse atmosphere, students must challenge ideas and work together to create campus-wide dialogue. Engaging in this conversation is the biggest tool in working towards embracing dialogue.



## "Caroling Again and Again"



### Dr. Elizabeth Bridgham Hosts Seminar on Dickens and Christmas

by Patrick Healey '17  
News Staff

#### LECTURE

For many Christmas lovers, trudging through the snow to enjoy the local theatre's performance of *A Christmas Carol* is among the most important things that must be done in December.

Last week, Dr. Elizabeth Bridgham of the Providence College English department, presented her research on the play (which is based on a Charles Dickens novel of the same name) and discussed what makes it a timeless story.

She explained that her initial intrigue in researching this play was "inspired by interactions with many of my students right here at PC, who have told me that they love attending theatrical adaptations of *A Christmas Carol* with their families every year."

Much of her research was done through inquiries at Providence's Trinity Repertory Company, which has been putting on performances every December since 1976. *A Christmas Carol* is consistently Trinity Rep's most expensive play to put on each year, costing around \$600,000 to produce and bringing in over \$1 million in ticket sales. Clearly, there is a high demand year after year and people do not get bored of this timeless rendition.

Bridgham mentioned that Dickens had never intended to have his novel made into a play, and that people often organized and performed it without his permission.

She noted that Trinity Rep gets a new director each year, and they try to have different interpretations of the play while still remaining true to the original story. There is a fine line here, she explained, because people come to Trinity Rep every year and no one wants to see the same exact



PHOTO COURTESY OF RIPR.ORG

*A Christmas Carol* is playing at Trinity Rep until December 31.

play twice, but if the director strays too far from what viewers have come to expect from a Trinity Rep performance, it will cause the audience to be equally upset.

Bridgham explained that the local traditions were often more important than Dickens' words: "For example, audiences who repeatedly attend *A Christmas Carol* at Trinity Repertory Company expect that every production will incorporate London, snow, British accents, and flying. Leave out one of these essential components, and audiences will be disappointed."

These four aspects are mandatory at Trinity Rep productions, showing the ways in which the

play is unique depending on its location and the expectations of the local audience.

Bridgham explained that the play has evolved since Dickens first published his novel in 1843. The play, which Bridgham described as a "modern myth," has been interpreted in so many ways, with Scrooge being played by men and women, blacks and whites, and the young and old.

She noted that Dickens was never actually involved in the theatrical performances of the novel. She explained that we learn about *A Christmas Carol* from a variety of sources—first and foremost from Dickens' original novel, but also from other sources, such as movies in pop culture.

"But repertory theaters add a third and specifically local, or regional, way to understand the story that is unique to the area where they perform the play," stated Bridgham. "Audiences in Providence know and love a somewhat different *Carol* from audiences anywhere else in the world."

Overall, there is so much more than what meets the eye in *A Christmas Carol*, and the way in which it strikes each person greatly depends on which versions they have seen and oftentimes where they live.

As Bridgham outlined, Trinity Rep has its own sort of tradition, audience, and way that it performs the play, and that much of the time this reflects Providence or Rhode Island in a way that further connects the local audiences with the play.

What started as a humble novel by Dickens in 1843 has transformed into a holiday favorite which continues to evolve on the screen and on the stage; it is known and loved by millions.

Not to be mistaken with holiday escapism, perhaps *A Christmas Carol's* ability to win over the hearts of its audiences is because of its underlying message of generosity.



# Friar Flashback: In Memoriam

## Remembering Lives Lost on the 39th Anniversary of the Aquinas Hall Fire

by Meaghan Dodson '17  
News Co-Editor

FRIAR FLASHBACK

Next Tuesday, December 13, will be the 39th anniversary of one of the most tragic events in Providence College history. The Aquinas Hall fire of 1977 devastated the College as it took the lives of 10 of its female students, and members of the PC community still hold the memories of these women in their hearts.

The night of Dec. 12 was the first snowfall of the year. Students had a snowball fight on the quad outside Aquinas Hall, but most had returned to their dorms by around 2 a.m. A few of the women were using hair dryers to dry their snow-soaked mittens.

The women who lived on the fourth floor of Aquinas Hall had decorated the corridor for the Christmas season, covering the walls and lights with paper and foil to transform the hallway into a “Silent Night.” Two of the girls created a manger out of cardboard and paper, using a high-intensity desk lamp to light up the Nativity scene.

At 2:57 a.m., there were reports of a fire raging on the fourth floor of Aquinas Hall. Fire fighters arrived on scene and brought students down via ladders, fire doors, and fireproof stairwells.

The fire was extinguished by 3:35 a.m.—only 38 minutes after the initial call—but those minutes were long enough; they left a grieving PC community in their wake.

Ten women died—eight from flames and smoke inhalation, and two from jumping out of a fourth-story window in an attempt to escape. In addition, 16 women suffered various injuries from burns and smoke inhalation.

The tragedy captured the attention of the nation, prompting renewed talks about the issue of fire safety on college campuses.

Father Brian Shanley, O.P., '80, was a student at the time, and he talked about his memories of the fire in *The Promise of Providence*, a film created by Mike Leonard '70 & '00Hon. in anticipation for the College’s upcoming centennial.

“I still find it hard to talk about,” Fr. Shanley



PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE.EDU

The fire occurred on the fourth floor of Aquinas Hall and claimed the lives of 10 women. Today, the PC community continues to hold the memories of these women in its heart and in its prayers.

stated. “I remember the night vividly, and I remember the incredible sadness that just descended on the campus. And I remember the next day they cancelled classes and brought us to Alumni and Fr. Peterson [the College’s president at the time] said the mass and preached. I don’t remember what he said but I remember sitting there thinking that we’re going to get through this, and that all is not lost.”

Dr. Richard Grace, professor emeritus of the history department and PC’s resident historian, also spoke in the film.

Grace stated, “The great question was ‘Why

did God let this happen?’ And nobody had a good answer.”

Fr. Shanley also remembers, however, how the College responded to this tragedy. The Rev. Thomas R. Peterson, O.P., moved into Aquinas Hall “just to be there,” and the other Dominicans were there for students and families as well. Indeed, Dr. Donna McCaffrey in her “A Brief History of Providence College” states that, in the aftermath of the fire, a “new familial consciousness” and the idea of the “PC family” was formed.

“I think it forced everybody to think about what family meant,” Grace stated.

Today, the “PC family” is stronger than ever. Around this time every year, alumni and their families reconnect, post stories, and share memories about the fire in order to ensure that the memories of the women will not be forgotten.

Martha Reynolds '80 has written about the fire on her blog over the past several years, stating, “Every year we remember, because we can’t ever forget.”

Robin Craig Piebes '80 adds, “When I talk to people about Providence College and what sets it apart, it’s that community. It was being taken in by girls I didn’t know that night. It was being given their clothes to wear, watching boys move cars and carry girls who had no shoes. It was the comfort a college president gave by living in the dorm with us afterwards and sending flowers every holiday. All of these things are what I have always thought of Providence to be.”

*The Cowl* would like to honor the lives of Katy Andresakes '80, Jackie Botelho '81, Sallyann Garvey '81, Donna Galligan '81, Barbara Feeney '81, Gretchen Ludwig '81, Cathy Repucci '81, Laura Ryan '81, Debbie Smith '78, and Dotty Widman '81.

A memorial plaque with the names of these women can be found on the outside back wall of Aquinas Hall, on the side closest to St. Dominic’s Chapel. The plaque reads:

“In memory of those whom God called to Himself and of those whom God called to show Himself to others by the love they showed one for another. December 13, 1977.”

Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to stop by St. Dominic’s Chapel on Tuesday to say a prayer or simply take a moment of silence in order to honor the memories of these 10 women.

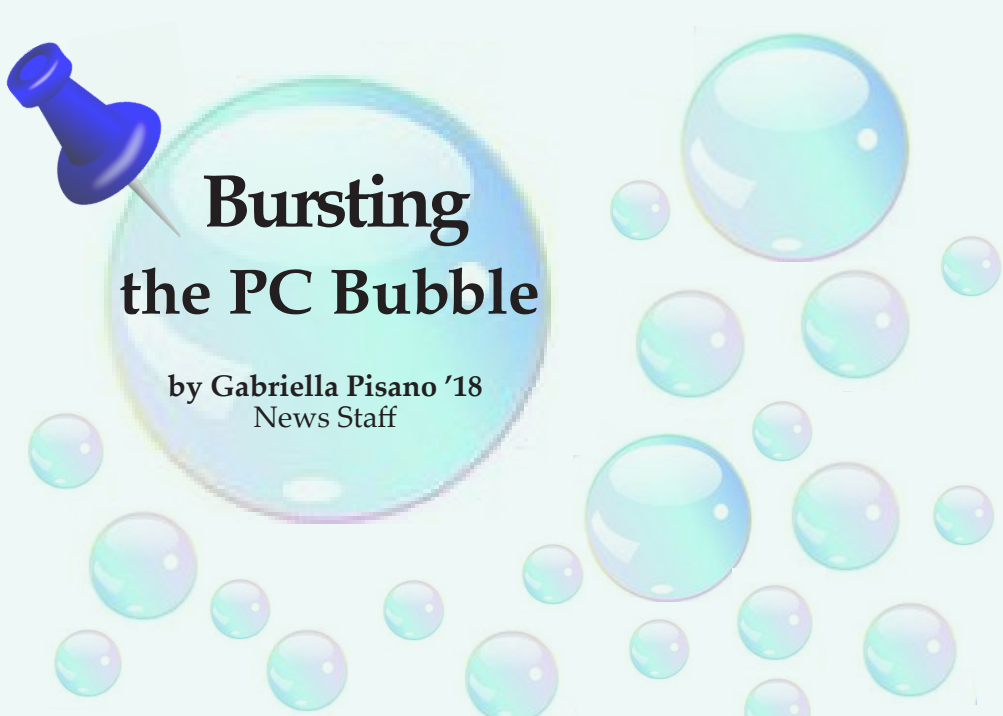
They are still remembered here at the College, and the PC community will keep the families of these women in its prayers and thoughts over the course of the upcoming week.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE.EDU

In the wake of the tragedy, the idea of a “PC family” emerged. Dominican friars, students, families, and the rest of the College community relied on each other for support and consolation during this difficult time.





# Bursting the PC Bubble

by Gabriella Pisano '18  
News Staff

## Warehouse Fire in Oakland California

During an electronic dance party at a converted warehouse over the weekend, a massive fire broke out. Thirty-six people are confirmed dead, while 70 percent of the building is yet to be searched. Alameda County Sheriff's Sgt. Ray Kelly, says it could take weeks to identify the victims through DNA and dental records. Oakland battalion Fire Chief Melinda Drayton spoke about the recovery search, saying that they are removing the debris "literally bucket by bucket in a methodical, thoughtful, mindful and compassionate way." Being with the department for almost 19 years, Drayton called this one of the most deadly fires in the city's history.

After the fire was put out on Saturday, the building was said to be too unsafe for emergency responders to enter. The roof collapsed onto the second floor and parts then began collapsing onto the first floor. According to property records, last month the warehouse's owners received notification of city code violations for hazardous trash and debris. The investigation into a November complaint about an illegal interior building structure is still underway.

## Italian Prime Minister Resigns

After a vote to reform the Italian constitution failed, Prime Minister Matteo Renzi resigned. Renzi said that on Monday afternoon he would tell a Cabinet meeting that he was resigning and he would tender his resignation to the Italian president after two-and-a-half years in office. According to BBC News, Renzi is a self-styled reformer with promise to stabilize politics and kick-start the Italian economy. Yet his time in office seems to refute this. Populist parties supported the vote against Renzi's proposal, which proposed to reduce the number of members in the Senate in order to pass legislation more easily. The proposal was rejected, however, because it was thought to give too much power to Renzi's party. The referendum was regarded as a barometer of anti-establishment sentiment in Europe. Immediately after the exit polls came out, the euro fell against the dollar.

## Dakota Access Pipeline Re-Routed

The North Sioux Tribe and their many supporters have been camping out for months fighting the Dakota Access Pipeline. The Pipeline could be dangerous and damage the water supply of their reservation. The Army Corp of Engineers recently announced that it will look for an alternate route for the pipeline to cross under Lake Oahe in North Dakota. The Army Corp of Engineers said that it will not grant a permit to allow the proposed pipeline to go under the lake, since more work had to be done on the project. While this is a victory for the tribe and the activists who stood with them, many fear that the decision will not be long-term, especially with Trump's incoming administration. Many Republicans, including Speaker of the House Paul Ryan and North Dakota's sole member of the House of Representatives, Rep. Kevin Cramer, oppose the plan to re-route the pipeline, with Ryan calling the decision "big-government decision-making at its worst."

## Japanese Prime Minister to Visit Pearl Harbor

Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzō Abe, will be making a historic visit to Pearl Harbor with President Obama. In a statement, Abe stated that the purpose of the event is to remember the victims of the aerial attack, which killed more than 2,000 American servicemen and plunged the United States into World War II. With the upcoming 75th anniversary of the attack, this visit speaks volumes. Six months ago, President Obama became the first sitting U.S. president to visit the memorial in Hiroshima for victims of the U.S. atomic bombing. The White House released a statement saying: "The leaders' visit will showcase the power of reconciliation that has turned former adversaries into the closest of allies, united by common interests and shared values."

# Congress Updates

by Marla Gagne '18  
News Co-Editor

### CONGRESS

On Tuesday, December 7, Congress reviewed the issue of the installation of a handicap accessible ramp at the Office of Safety and Security proposed by Jacqueline Kelly '20, a Class of 2020 representative. The 67th Student Congress recommended "that the current Office of Safety and Security of Providence College immediately install a handicap accessible ramp, temporary or permanent, at its main entrance so that individuals with temporary or permanent mobility limitations will be able to more easily access the services of this office."

Congress also discussed the installation of security cameras in residence halls, presented by Morgan Itz '17, the student life chair. Cameras would be installed in Meagher Hall, McVinney Hall, Suites Hall, Bedford Hall, and Davis Hall—dorms known to have the greatest amount of theft. Warren Gray, the assistant vice president of Business Services, has promised money from a special pool of funding, but the exact amount has not been specified. While some feel it would increase the distrust of the community, others argued this would hold the community accountable and help students avoid fines. Congress has recommended this installation starting in 2017 to increase student safety and prevent theft.

The next issue discussed was the proposal of the Protection of Undocumented Students at PC. The proposal "encourages Providence College to commit to exploring all ways to protect all students at Providence College, including students that may not have citizenship status." Members suggested that the College would protect student documents and not automatically hand over paperwork. The school would only need to comply with the government if they presented a warrant for the documents.



# Club Spotlight: CM Events

by Gabriella Pisano '18  
News Staff

### CLUB SPOTLIGHT

There is no shortage of clubs at Providence College. There are clubs involving academics, athletics, hobbies, or just socializing. Many of the clubs on campus host events for students to socialize. Campus Ministry (CM) Events is one of those clubs.

Campus Ministry Events hosts events such as Fall Fest, Dinner with Dominicans, and Jingle Bell Bash in the Campus Ministry Center.

Events Coordinator for Campus Ministry, Leicia Henderson '19, said, "These events are a fun way to spend time with friends and foster new relationships."

The club works with Sister Anne Frances Klein to offer a safe place to

foster new relationships and build on existing friendships. The club meets every Wednesday, except for the weeks following events hosted by the club. The meetings are held in the Campus Ministry library and are normally around a half hour long.

At the meetings, the members plan the events they will be hosting and figure out food, decorations, music, and activities. The group works together in order to come up with events that they think will offer the best time to PC students. Campus Ministry Events has about 10-12 consistent members, and they are always looking for new members to join.

Henderson says, "My favorite part of the club is during the event when I can see everyone laughing, talking, and enjoying time together. I think it's really important to spend time with people and let relationships build and grow."



CM Events organizes functions such as the College's annual "Dinner with Dominicans."

PHOTO COURTESY OF LEICIA HENDERSON '19



# 2016 St. Nicholas of Myra Conference

## *Discussing Labor, Capital, and Technology in the 21st Century*

by Meaghan Dodson '17  
News Co-Editor

LECTURE

What role should the Catholic Church take in solving the socioeconomic problems of the modern age? That is the question that Providence College asked as it hosted its third “St. Nicholas of Myra Conference on Catholic Social Thought” from Friday, December 2 to Saturday, December 3 in the Ruane Center for the Humanities.

Catholic social thought is a 125-year-old Church tradition that began with Pope Leo XIII’s 1891 encyclical, *Rerum Novarum*. It seeks to address modern socioeconomic issues such as capitalism, industrialism, property relations, and social relations.

The conference gets its name from St. Nicholas of Myra, a fourth-century saint who was the inspiration for Santa Claus.

St. Nicholas was renowned for his generosity and love of the poor, once even having thrown coins into a man’s window in order to save the man’s daughters from destitution and disgrace.

The St. Nicholas of Myra conferences are meant to reflect St. Nicholas’ giving spirit and his concern for others.

The theme of this year’s conference was “Labor, Capital, and Technology in the 21st Century: Insights from Catholic Social Teaching.” There were various panels and lectures, as well as two keynote events that both the PC community and the general public were invited to attend.

Frank Daly from Bentley University was Friday’s keynote speaker, giving his talk about “Meaningful Work.” Daly emphasized the role that St. Nicholas played in creating a foundation for Catholic social thought, and he differentiated between work and the “concept and reality of ‘meaningful work.’”

He also spoke about his experiences in the world of business ethics and the “challenge of bringing a perspective driven by [Catholic social] teaching and of the humanities to a structurally secular environment.”

On Saturday, meanwhile, Paul Blackledge from the U.K.’s Leeds–Beckett University gave a lecture entitled, “What Are We To Do About Alienation: The Church, The Left, and Capitalism?” Blackledge is a trade union advocate as well as a professor, fighting for the rights of workers as he philosophizes about them.

During his lecture, Blackledge drew comparisons between Marxism and Christianity, and he discussed how people can look for a fulfilling, flourishing life through the lens of these two ideologies.

Blackledge stated that workers who enter low-paying jobs do not freely choose them, but rather are compelled to do so, and he argued that although technology has made goods cheaper and people’s lives easier, it has also made wages lower.

The conference is an international affair, with scholars coming from countries such as France, Poland, Sweden, Brazil, and Mexico.

Dr. Jeffery Nicholas of the PC philosophy department, who was responsible for organizing the event, stated that the goal of the conference is to “build a community of people devoted to Catholic social thought.”

Nicholas was hired by the College specifically for his expertise in Catholic social thought, which is an important component of the Dominican tradition and is exemplified in figures such as St. Thomas Aquinas and Bartolomé de las Casas.

Reflecting on the conference as a whole, Nicholas stated, “The goal of the conference was to really think about what shape labor is going to take in the 21st century with the large increase in automation and to understand these changes through the eyes of the dignity of the worker.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF OHNSANIDOPOULOS.COM

The St. Nicholas of Myra Conference is meant to exemplify the spirit of St. Nicholas of Myra, a 4th century saint renowned for his generosity and concern for others.



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# OPINION

## Don't Test Me

### *Taking Exams Is Not For Everyone*

by Katherine Opelia '20  
Opinion Staff

FINALS

As finals week approaches here at Providence College, anxiety and frustration seem to overtake the minds of many students who are overwhelmed by the amount of knowledge they must master prior to exam day. With these feelings, the question of whether or not finals should be optional seems to surface in conversations amongst both students and faculty.

Already, we see stress levels rising as students head into the last week of classes and try to get an early jump on studying. Civ classes are filled with students who have been fairly quiet all semester now asking questions. Your favorite study spot in the library is occupied all hours of the day. Your secret stash of chocolate for those stressful times is long gone. Contrary to what the holiday song says, this does not feel like the "most wonderful time of the year."

Of course, while it feels like most students approach finals with a certain amount of dread, for other students, specifically those with excellent, photographic memories, finals week doesn't feel as daunting as it does

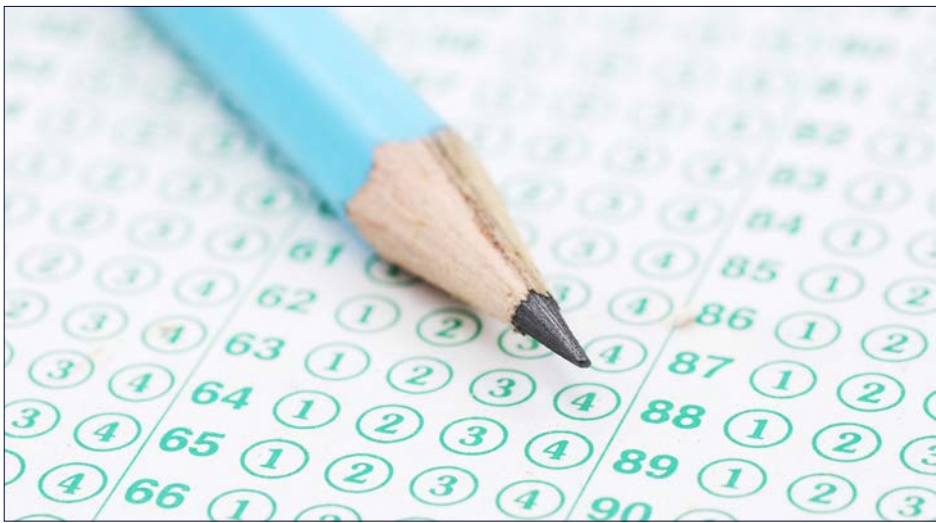


PHOTO COURTESY OF SUPPORTINGEDUCATION.ORG

for most. In fact, these seemingly professional test-takers embrace finals with comfort and joy, eager to get their grades up a few points. They have a new spring in their step as they walk across campus. They linger over their meals, or maybe even go to a movie.

Of course, the blatant confidence of these students only adds to the stress for other students whose strengths in academia lie elsewhere and for whom finals week is extremely intimidating and overwhelming.

Not being the best test taker myself, I believe that students should be given the option of whether or not they will participate in the final exam

for a particular class.

Those who are confident in their knowledge of the subject and enjoy and excel at taking tests could still choose to take the final exam while those who are less successful in testing could perhaps be given another option to convey their knowledge rather than a lengthy exam.

Projects or papers would be two excellent options for those who choose to opt out of having the knowledge they've amassed over the course of the semester evaluated by a two hour long final exam.

Certainly, these two alternatives would work to the advantage of

weaker test takers by reducing their stress, boosting their confidence, and keeping their final grade for the class out of harm's way.

And who is to say that these test-dodging, paper-writing, project-producing students wouldn't come away from the class with a better understanding of the material than those who crammed for two days straight?

Additionally, for any classes that had to stick with a final, perhaps there could be a cap on how much the exam counts towards the final grade. After all, while the final grade measures, to some extent, how well you have studied and prepared all semester, there is also a certain amount of luck involved in the days leading up to the test. Did you focus on the right material? Did you get a good night's sleep the night before? Did you catch that cold that's been sweeping through your dorm? Could you find your lucky pen?

Having a multitude of options to evaluate students' knowledge and reducing the percentage of the total grade that comes from these assessments would improve the stress level for all students.

It could also help everyone feel more confident in the classroom without having to anticipate the final exam date approaching.

## Perspective Not Perfection

by Carolyn Walsh '17  
Opinion Co-Editor

FINALS

Finally, we have come to the home stretch of the semester. There is some good news and some bad news. The good news is that the only thing separating Providence College students from Christmas bliss is one week left of school. The bad news is that this one week is finals week, which means papers, exams, and stress upon stress upon stress. It is no secret that as college students we put a lot of pressure on ourselves.

We want to excel in everything we do—whether it is an English essay, a presentation in philosophy class, participating in campus clubs, or landing the perfect internship. So naturally when it comes to finals, most of us desire the perfect outcome where we ace all of our exams and come out on the other side with a semester of

straight A's.

Over the next week most of us will push ourselves to achieve this perfect outcome by staying up late and drinking our weight in caffeine in order to cram as much information into our heads before going into an exam. The countless hours spent worrying about grades and GPA will leave us exhausted and drained by the time we have to pack our dorms up and head home for winter break.

But what if it did not have to be this way? What if we could go into finals accepting the fact that sometimes perfection cannot be achieved? What if we can learn that, in the grand scheme of life, one grade on one final does not matter that much nor is it worth the sacrifice of our health and happiness?

To quote The Rolling Stones, "you can't always get what you want," and when it comes to finals next week, most of us will not get what we want. Maybe on an exam your professor will throw you a curveball question or

maybe in another exam you will feel yourself start to blank on the material.

We expect ourselves to perform perfectly on all of our finals, but it would be foolish to prepare for them as if we can. It may sound cheesy, but all we can really do is prepare to the best of our apabilities and to trust in ourselves that our personal best, is more than good enough.

Moreover, doing less than perfect or even poorly on a final exam is not the end of the world. Sure, it never feels great to know you very nearly bombed an exam but it is important to keep things in perspective.

As students, it can feel like our identities are wrapped up in the number grades on our transcripts, but this is not true; each one of us is worth more than our grades.

So going into finals remember: take a deep breath and do not expect perfection.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRALNOVELTY.NET



# Shop Before You Drop

## *It's Okay To Indulge This Christmas*

by Brianna Abbott '17  
Opinion Co-Editor

SEASONAL

We need Christmas. College students need Christmas. The United States of America needs Christmas. Hillary Rodham Clinton needs Christmas. The entire world needs Christmas. We need a time to heal, time to come together and celebrate the birth of Christ and all the good he represents. The world should be enveloped in good cheer and vigor.

Consumerism also accelerates at Christmas time; however, it often comes under fire as contradictory to the Christmas spirit. People should be selfless during the holiday and focus on giving and love and others rather than that jacket they've had their eye on.

Yes, Christmas is about all of those wonderful things and coming closer to God, but that should not be reserved for just this season. Christmas, after all, is about the birth of Christ, the beginning of his life. Why should that immense amount of good will, charity, and people claiming to be selfless end as soon as their presents are unwrapped if Christmas is a beginning? The Christmas spirit seems empty if it is done only at Christmas.

Furthermore, Advent, the preparation of Christmas, or secularly known as the Christmas season, is the preparation for the coming of Christ into the world. It is preparation for the giving and love and selflessness that accompany Christ.

So, how can you prepare?

Well, you could prepare by treating others with love and charity; however, before treating others with love and charity, you have to be selfish.

The year 2016 wore most of the world down, especially college students working through finals. A semester of classes, politics, and constant social interactions leave most students barely functioning at the end. In order to prepare for Christmas, these college kids—and anyone else who is feeling run down—need to relax, prepare, and think of themselves.

In an exhausted, grumpy, unhappy state, giving yourself up to others in the name of Christ and Christmas is going to be almost fruitless.

It's impossible to help others unless you are a functioning human being, so you need to help yourself recover from the semester in order to prepare for what's coming next. You're more likely to be generous after you've caught up on all of your favorite TV shows and done some reckless online shopping. Remember, the Grinch was a horrible Santa Claus.

So buy what you want for yourself and don't feel guilty about it. Give into consumerism while attempting to be the best person that you can be, and be that person the entire year when it is much harder and much more powerful to do so. Prepare for Christmas by reflecting on and recovering from your year so that you can carry the Christmas spirit into the next.

Hopefully next year we'll need to treat ourselves a little less, but desperate times call for desperate impulse buys.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE-CLOTHING-SHED.COM

# Everyone Needs a Buddy

## *Forming Friendships With A Lasting Impact*

by Allison LaBelle '20  
Opinion Staff

CAMPUS

Best Buddies International is a nonprofit organization that consists of middle school, high school, and college students who work to create opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Adult citizens are also involved in this program, but one of the main reasons I find this program so empowering is its large embodiment of students who desire to make a difference. The Best Buddies program promotes one-on-one friendships between individuals with and without disabilities.

Providence College has a Best Buddies Club here on campus. Events are organized once a month where buddies can spend quality time together while also participating in fun activities. This past weekend was Bingo Night, with a guest appearance by one of the men's A Cappella groups. Other activities that have already taken place this school year were a Halloween dance, and a night spent making sandwiches for homelessness awareness week.

Buddies also hang out on their own time, talk on the phone, and

keep in touch through social media. It's all about making connections, and creating friendships in which both individuals feel that they are gaining something from the relationship. It is just like any other kind of friendship, yet a Best Buddies friendship feels even more special.

At PC, many individuals have the same buddy for all four years of college, and these friendships

continue even after students graduate from Providence College. Best Buddies is such an amazing club to join because it is not something that simply ends. Joining this club has an everlasting impact.

There are 99,715 volunteers around the world who participate in Best Buddies, and this program has already impacted 997,150 individuals. This number is amazing considering this program

was created in 1987. So many lives have already been changed by Best Buddies, and this program continues to grow and influence people.

In my own best buddy friendship, I feel that it is such a mutually rewarding experience. My buddy always looks on the bright side and is friends with everyone he meets. I have learned so much from his positivity and he encourages me to always look for the good in things. We both enjoy each other's company and we always have fun together.

This program is not about "helping" those with disabilities, it is about forming friendships in which each individual feels rewarded and happy. It is about making sure that everyone feels included, and that everyone has someone to talk to, look out for him or her, and spend quality time with.

You do not have to be in the Best Buddies Club in order to come to one of the events, so I encourage everyone to stop by sometime to see if Best Buddies is something for you. Best Buddies is such a sociable organization in which everyone is always welcome.

Tom Brady, a Best Buddies Ambassador, once said, "What strikes me most about Best Buddies International is the simplicity and magnitude of the mission. Friendship is a simple idea." Everyone needs a buddy: it really is as simple as that.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WORDPRESS.COM



# Condemning The Nation

## *How Respect Was Lost For Colin Kaepernick*

by Lela Biggus '18  
Opinion Staff

SOCIETY

Chicago veterans and military supporters rallied outside Soldier Field before the Bears game on Saturday, entreating San Francisco 49ers' quarterback Colin Kaepernick to stand during the national anthem.

Members of the crowd took turns at the microphone sharing their reasons why the quarterback's choice not to stand was "wrong, totally wrong." James Balcer, who organized the gathering, proposed Kaepernick leave the country if he is so dissatisfied with it.

While Kaepernick supporters have repeatedly defended his actions as protesting only racial inequality and police brutality in the United States, veterans and active members of the military have expressed feeling personally attacked.

Until this morning I was a huge fan of Colin Kaepernick. I wholeheartedly supported his choice to kneel during the National Anthem at football games this year. Kneeling on the sidelines is a quiet and peaceful way to make a very heavy social statement, that I am all for. He has also donated substantial sums of money to organizations focused on developing communities in need; the man is clearly not all talk.

Before this morning, I felt his critics just didn't understand the nature of his protest. There is a very strong tradition



Kaepernick kneeling during the National Anthem.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SPORTINGNEW.COM

surrounding most sports that prides itself on temporarily settling differences and supposedly transcending social divisions, if only for 90 minutes or three hours or what have you.

Knowing that such a culture revolves around football, and that this culture is intensified by great feelings of patriotism, surely the outrage surrounding Kaepernick's choice has more to do with respecting the sanctity of the sport and the aspects of American culture it represents than it does with what Kaepernick's argument really is.

I understand that members of the military and others find his reluctance

to honor the flag as disrespectful and unappreciative. However, it was my understanding that Kaepernick is confronting the oppression of people of color in America and that he intends to do everything in his power to change it.

I thought I understood Kaepernick. This morning it became clear that I do not. Kaepernick shamelessly admitted that he did not vote in the presidential election because "you have to pick the lesser of two evils but in the end it's still evil."

Choosing the lesser of two evils is the essence of the democratic experience, especially for anyone with

even a remotely progressive agenda. Choosing the candidate that most represents your needs and your ideals is just how it works. Kaepernick wants to completely overhaul "the system" and he thinks he can do it alone.

Kaepernick's refusal to vote in November's presidential election is comparable to an 18-year-old writing in the name Harambe because he thinks it is funny. Colin Kaepernick, of all people, must have felt the seriousness of this election. He is currently the poster child for combating racism in America, yet he did nothing to even try and stop a man with a terrible history of racist and hateful comments and actions from winning the White House.

In condemning the power of the United State's democratic system, Kaepernick seems to condemn the nation in its entirety. He condemns the possibility of change. His once poignant social commentary loses its relevance and its power when he seems to say that everything is evil and there is no use trying.

What confuses me the most is his statement to reporters: "let's make America great for the first time." This is of course a reference to President-Elect Trump's campaign slogan: "Make America Great Again."

I have a question for Kaepernick: how do you propose we initiate making America great for the first time? What kind of steps might I take as just one of hundreds of millions of American citizens? What power do I have? Oh, that's right.

# It's About More Than The 'W'

## *We Need To Bring Ethics Back To Sports*

by Kevin Copp '18  
Opinion Staff

SPORTS

The ethics of sports has always been a fascinating topic especially in a culture like ours that values sports like religion. What is the right thing to do when an official makes an obvious mistake? Is it okay that the unwritten rules of a game allow cheating as long as the perpetrator doesn't get caught?

And when is it the right time to stop piling on the points, especially in selection sports like college football and basketball in which margin of victory is an important component of making the postseason?

While it might be tempting or easy to say that the spirit of competition should never be tampered with and that the only goal is to win at all costs, this attitude misses the true point of sports. The benefits that games bring to our society is that they help people develop virtues that apply to other parts of their lives.

Players learn fairness, winning and losing with class and dignity, and most importantly, togetherness. American culture, however, values winners as the manifestation of hard work and persistence. There isn't anything wrong with this, besides how winning has been increasingly held above those other virtues.

What is important to remember, and what needs to change, is that winning isn't everything. In fact, it shouldn't even be the first thing.

For example, take what happened in the Central Michigan/Oklahoma State football game this past September: Oklahoma State had the lead with four seconds remaining and they threw the ball away as time expired. The referees correctly called intentional grounding but incorrectly extended the game, awarding Central Michigan the ball. Central Michigan scored on an untimed down and got the victory.



An Oklahoma State player after the team's loss on Sept 10.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SI.COM

The referees' error, naturally, was blasted by Oklahoma State players, coaches, and fans, mainly because there was a clear point in the game in which the victory should have been given to Oklahoma State. The crew was suspended, but their mistake did not need to go uncorrected. The commissioners of the respective conferences could have overruled the referees. Central Michigan could have conceded the game to Oklahoma State.

But neither of these things happened because winning has become too valuable. Even when victory is falsely given to us, we do not decline it because that would be crazy. No one gives back the points when a teacher makes a mistake in our favor. So why should we do it on the football field?

Central Michigan didn't earn the win. They do not deserve to have an extra "W" in their victory column just as Oklahoma State does not deserve another "L" in the loss column. The idea of meriting the appropriate results in sports is slowly being withered away.

It's not as if the team that deserves to win always wins, but it would be a great example for his players if a coach would forfeit a game he knew his team had won outside the rules. Such an instance might never happen on a big stage, but it would definitely get the message across that life goes on after the scoreboards are turned off and the wins and losses are tallied.

Unfortunately, even the courts are getting involved in some places. After a recent high school football game in Illinois in which the same exact scenario as the Central Michigan/Oklahoma State occurred, the "losing" school sued to overturn the results. Thankfully, the judge refused to change the result as the officials called it, avoiding the horrible standard of using the judicial system to decide athletic contests.

The attention on sports has become too focused on the end result. The winners are glorified, the losers are scapegoated. The next time a flood of final scores moves in, however, remember that there is more to be gained from sports than numbers on a scoreboard.









# PHOTOGRAPHY

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December 8, 2016



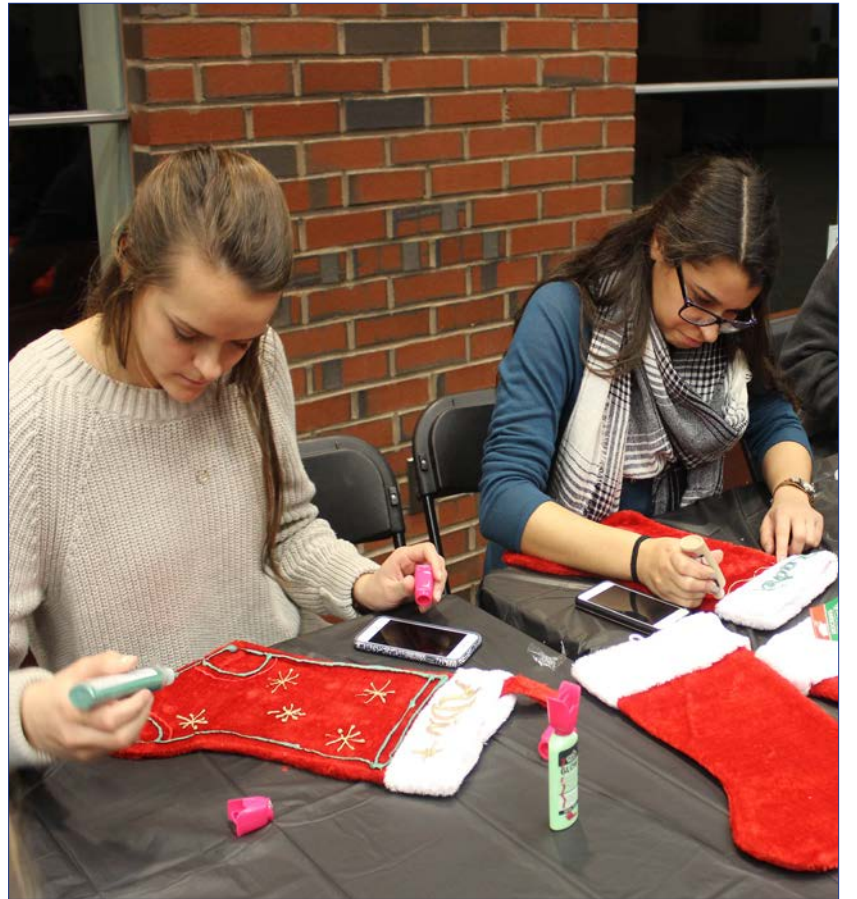
NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/ THE COWL

**ABOVE:** Students show off African clothing designs at Essence of Africa, sponsored by Motherland Dance Group.

**TOP RIGHT:** Students decorate Christmas stockings at Things for Thursday, sponsored by BOP.

**RIGHT:** Students decorate miniature Christmas trees at 'Tis the Season Holiday Spectacular, sponsored by BOP.

**BELOW:** Students listen as fashion designer, Royallaine, speaks about his designs at Essence of Africa, sponsored by Motherland Dance Group.



KRISTINA HO '18/ THE COWL



KIMBERLY LEZAMA '18/ THE COWL



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/ THE COWL

Photos Compiled by Kristina Ho '18, Photo Editor





*We're  
Going  
To  
Have  
The  
Hap-  
Hap-  
Happiest  
Christmas*





# I am the light.

by **Connor Zimmerman '20**  
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

I am the light that shines brightest when it is darkest.  
My flames glitter more than gold,  
a purer orange than the sun,  
hotter than the desert.

Whenever your reality is starkest  
and you feel like you are walking with a blindfold.  
Know that I will light the way for everyone  
and raise you to your highest spirit.

Your mind may be clouded  
and your ideologies corrupted,  
but I won't let you be crushed.  
I will raise you up in my light.

I am your protector giving you the strength of thousands.  
You will have peace uninterrupted.  
All I ask is your trust  
and you will never be in plight.

Look to your ancestors for the inspiration  
that I have bestowed upon them.  
Persecution could never keep them down  
nor will it ever destroy you.

I preserve all that are within my nation.  
Giving them the perseverance to overcome.  
I always make everything right by sundown  
because that is when I am true.

In blackest night when there is no hope  
never abandon me because I never leave.  
My power is never extinguished  
because your faith fuels me.

So, whenever you feel you cannot cope  
there is no need to cry or grieve.  
In my eyes, you are distinguished  
through a past greater than the Red Sea.

I am the light.





# THE ADVENTURES OF PHIL FELLOWS: A CHRISTMAS STORY

by Clara Howard '19  
and Jonathan Coppe '18  
Portfolio Staff

## SHORT STORY

Hennessey tastes better when it's cold out.

Or maybe it's that Hennessey tastes better when it's Christmas. Does it matter? Phil hadn't seen his home or talked to his family in three months, stuck in this hell-hole of a town out in the Wild West circa 18-blasted-30. He was starting to wonder whether he would ever make it back. Would he ever spend Christmas with his family again, or with that now-oddly-attractive next door neighbor girl, Evangeline, who always made eyes at him at their Christmas parties? Or was every Christmas from here on out to be spent like this: drunk in a saloon with all the ne'er-do-wells and One-Eyed Howley breathing just a little too heavily in his ear?

"Hey Harrison," Phil said, "How's another gin? Yeah, let's make it a gin this time."

"All right, boy," the bartender replied. "On the house this time, since it's Christmas and you're one of my best customers."

"Thanks, Harrison. You know, you're a great man, I don't know if I ever told you, but you're just great, man."

"Yeah, yeah... Phil, just do me a favor and drink this one slowly." Harrison handed him the gin. Phil took it from the counter and settled down on a rocking chair in the corner, facing the entrance.

It was pretty empty tonight. Most everyone was at home on Christmas. Bill Hard had been caught cheating on his wife a week before, so he was seated at a table here. Nobody was happy. Everybody was male. Phil stared at the door. Surprisingly, someone walked

in through the swinging saloon doors. More surprisingly, that someone was a woman.

And not just any woman, either. Pink feathers the size of Phil's forearms adorned her head, with smaller purple ones bunched around her hair. A pink, purple, and black corset encased her bosom, and black tights covered her long, long legs. Phil watched as she shivered, shrugging off her black shawl and revealing her bare shoulders. He looked up at her face, and nearly dropped his gin in surprise. "Evangeline?"

The woman sauntered past him, a smirk playing about her painted lips as she slid onto a barstool. "Harrison," she drawled, her voice oozing confidence, "pour me a stiff one, would you? It's a bit chilly..." she paused for a moment and leaned forward, shivering dramatically, her smirk widening at

One-Eyed Howley's exaggerated pitch forward to watch. "... out there."

Harrison smirked, knowing her game well, and poured a tumbler of whiskey. "Busy night tonight, Evangeline?"

"Not tonight, Harry old boy. Most folks are home with their families, it being Christmas, after all."

Phil stumbled quickly to his feet. He made his way to the bar. He leaned forward, his elbow on the counter. "Evangeline?" he heaved out with disbelief.

She turned her head slowly. Harrison watched him with a crinkled brow.

"Can I help you, sugar?"

"What are you doing here?" Phil gasped. "Did Chibbs send you to the Wild West, too?" He slammed his fist on the bar. "When I get back to town, I am going to throttle that man." He turned to face her, his voice getting teary, a lump forming in his throat. "I've been so lonely here. God, Evangeline, Christmas in this

town! Nothing like all those Christmas parties at my house growing up. It makes me want to cry. Doesn't it make you want to cry? Oh, how I've missed you!" Phil suddenly threw his arms around Evangeline.

She tensed for a second, surprise freezing her at the contact, before she relaxed again. She made soothing noises as she gently pushed him away from her. Cupping his face in her hands, she squinted her eyes as though trying to place him.

"Phil!" — she cried — "Phil Fellows! Don't you remember me, Evangeline?"

"Phil!" she exclaimed, "Oh Phil. My dear, dear boy, I hardly recognized you. How long has it been?" But before he could get a word out, she had pressed the side of his face to her chest.

"Only a year since last Christmas," he said, his voice muffled. "Don't you remember?"

"Well it's just that you've changed so much, Phil darling. What's happened to you? It must have been something terrible!"

Phil nodded, his bottom lip quivering as he recalled the hell he'd been through the past three months. "Terrible's one way to put it."

"Oh, you poor thing, Phil." She snuck a wink to Harrison over Phil's buried head. "Harry darling, let's get a couple drinks for me and my poor old, long-lost friend Phil, here. What do you have that's in the Christmas spirit?" And, turning to Phil, lifting his face back up to eye-level, "well, we'll get you all fixed up, I promise, sugar. It'll be just fine. You can come with me back to my room. We'll make Christmas just like old times."

Harrison rolled his eyes and walked off to find a "Christmas spirit."

Phil pulled away from her hands, feeling tears well in his eyes as he thought fondly of her kindness. "Evangeline...I just...I mean...I can't even...describe to you...I mean you just...you really...and for me...it all just...I...I...I mean to find—you! Here! In Hell!" He struggled to find the words before

starting again, "It's just, it's Christmas! And I was so alone. But now you're here—my Christmas angel! We're just two souls at the wrong time in the wrong place, but fate has brought us back together. Just don't leave me, Evangeline. Please don't leave me!"

"I'll never leave you, Phil," she reassured him, gently shaking her head.

And with that, Phil reached forward, his hands cupping her cheeks, his fingers stroking her delicate face. His eyes fixed on her lips, painted a deep red that played off of the freckles dotting her pale cheeks. They were full and inviting, the cupid's bow of her top lip just begging to be nipped. He leaned in, all sense of self-control forgotten. His lips touched hers in the barest whispers of a kiss that grew more tender with each passing second.

Then suddenly his cheek met a rough, calloused hand that knocked his face sharply to the left. He rubbed his face and stretched his jaw; his hand was wet. He looked. He was holding a glass of gin, now spilled on his hand and on his trousers. He looked around wildly. "Evangeline?"

"Who?" Harrison snapped.

"Harrison, where did Evangeline go?"

"Who the hell's Evangeline?"

"Evangeline! The woman! Where did she go?" Phil cried.

"Ain't no woman been in here for the past five hours, but I'm guessing you been missin' one. You started kissing your tumbler there, son. Had to slap you out of it. Old Rector Jim was looking mighty worried about you." The old Baptist pastor stared uncomfortably from the end of the bar.

Phil looked back at the seat next to him, almost expecting her to still be there, but the only soul was One-Eyed Howley, two seats down and ten sheets to the wind.

Phil put down his glass. He was still in this town. He was still alone. He still didn't have Evangeline.

He threw back the last dregs of his gin. "Merry Christmas to me."







Dear Santa,

Before I get started, I wanted you to know that I've been very good this year. If my mom sends you a letter, don't believe anything it says about me. She lies all the time! I think she should get extra coal this year...

I've only got one thing on my list this year: a super power. I know that sounds difficult, but hey—you can make anything, right? Besides, I'm not interested in jumping into a vat of nuclear waste to see if something happens...too risky, if you ask me. I don't really care what superpower you decide to give me (I like a little bit of surprise in life), but make it something good. I don't want something stupid, like making plants grow or something. I mean, what can you do with that? You can't fight crime by making trees grow!

Also, nothing too simple. We've already invented flight, so you don't have to give me that—in fact, you could just give me a jet for my superhero hideout instead. Oh, and maybe an invisibility suit, so I can be invisible and use my superpower at the same time—that'd be cool. Oh, and I guess you'd have to build the actual hideout, too. You can just put it under my house. We have a big backyard that the jet can rise out of. Oh, and I'll need a cool superhero costume to go with my powers—but don't make it too goofy-looking. I don't want to get made fun of here. Better yet, you might as well just make the costume turn invisible. That way you won't need to make the invisibility suit as well. I don't want you to work too hard...

So, yeah, that's it—just a superpower. Hopefully you won't get bogged down by all those other people's gifts. After all, mine's really important—there's a lot of crime that needs to be dealt with, am I right?

Thanks in advance, and remember not to listen to my mom. And don't tell her about my superpower—if you do, she'll give me all sorts of lectures on how to use it right, instead of letting me use it for good...like getting back at Billy Thompson for stealing my notebook.

Love,

Jason (a.k.a. —oh, yeah, I'll need a superhero name, too)

Dear Santa,

Here we go again. I mean, look, I feel like each year I go out of my way to give you more realistic requests, yet you still can't seem to pull through. You completely ignored me when I asked for a magic treehouse in third grade. Also, even though I wrote you faithfully every year, you never gave me a dog in middle school (it's fine, I'm over it). Let's not even talk about last year, because I think I actually heard you laugh when I asked for a 4.0 GPA. Needless to say, I'm a little hopeless at this point, so I'm going to take things back to the basics for 2016. I want a bag of Dunkin' coffee. Can you handle that?

Sincerely,

Mildly frustrated but still asking for stuff

Atan

Dear Santa,

I've noticed you get a lot of flack. You've been blamed for everything from elf slave-labor to biased naughty and nice lists. But I wonder, how do you feel about the song, "Santa Baby"? Do you actually feel...younger? Or do you feel objectified, like an ATM? Because it seems that people only write you letters when they want something under their tree. And I think that's rather unfair to you—after all, you do exist year round.

While we're on this subject of objectification, I'd like to ask you to sprinkle a wee bit of Respect Powder and Grow-the-Heck-Up-and-Ask-a-Girl-on-a-Date Dust in most college boys' beers. Not only would this cause mass confusion in the upper echelons of college administrations—whole divisions would be rendered pointless—but pop culture wouldn't know what to do with itself, either. It's not that I particularly enjoy sowing discord, I just think that the world needs shaking up once in a while. Like a snow-globe. I'm sure you understand. And besides, as things are now, I'm going to have to start looking for a commencement date in January.

Let me know if you want to have a heart-to-heart over the milk and cookies—I'd love to hear how you and Mrs. Claus met!

Sincerely,

Binging Hallmark Movies

DEAR MALL SANTA,

I SAT ON YOUR LAP ON TUESDAY. YOU MIGHT NOT REMEMBER ME, BUT I WAS THE 20-YEAR OLD WITH POPSICLE ON HIS SHIRT AND TEARS IN HIS EYES, FOR I AM AFRAID OF STRANGERS. THE POINT IS, I'M ONTO YOU SANTA, WITH YOUR NETWORKING SKILLS TO CREATE A FACTION OF OTHER SANTA CLAUSES. SO WHO IS TRYING TO ASSASSINATE YOU? FBI? KGB? I WOULD ASSUME NOT THE KGB DUE TO YOU SHARING A BORDER WITH RUSSIA, OR AT LEAST AN ICE PATCH WITH THEM. WHAT DID VLADIMIR PUTIN ASK FOR CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR? I HAVE A VERY DEADLY SET OF SKILLS THAT WILL TAKE OUT ANYONE, FAKE MALL SANTA OR REAL MALL SANTA. OKAY, SO I MAY HAVE COPIED THAT FROM *TAKEN* BUT I CAN STILL FIND YOU AND TRY TO TAKE YOU OUT. AND DON'T TRY TO FOOL ME WITH THAT, "THE REAL SANTA CLAUS LIVES AT THE NORTH POLE" NONSENSE. I KNOW THAT IS A TRICK TO DIVERT MY ATTENTION FROM THE REAL WHEREABOUTS: THE MALLS THAT HAVE BEEN TRYING TO TAKE OVER AMERICA. I AM NOT DOWN WITH YOUR COMMERCIALISM, SANTA, AND I WILL FIGHT EVERY RED-COATED CREAMPUFF IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES.

YOURS TRULY,

MATT FARRELL

P.S. I WANT A TEDDY BEAR TO SLEEP WITH ME WHEN IT GETS DARK.





OFFICIAL NORTH POLE PRESS RELEASE

Directly from Santa’s Desk



Dear People of the World,

Ho ho ho, Merry Christmas to all and, and to all a good — ah, whatever, you know the rest. What you may not know, people of the world, is that I have a big beef with you. Yeah, that’s right—I, Santa Claus, Kris Kringle, the holly jolly benefactor of all your Christmas cheer, am not happy with you all. As a matter of fact, I’m pissed. Like, really pissed. Toss-up-my-hands-and-eat-five-pounds-of-candy-canes pissed.

Seriously, what is wrong with you people? Does Christmastime mess up the chemicals in your brains, or are you just hiding how selfish and demanding you are the other 364 days of the year? I can’t take it anymore! The gift requests I’ve received this year are just way

too much! You all need to start asking for the regular old stuff again—I mean, an iPhone 7? What kind of workshop do you think I’m running up here? I can barely get one of those things made before Apple releases a new one, and then you guys are just going to ask for that one next year! Also, to you Americans out there, stop asking me for free passports to Canada so you can move there now that Trump is President-Elect—it’s no longer funny.

The amount of greed you guys are displaying is atrocious. I mean, do you even know how much work it takes for me to get ready for Christmas each year? I have a diet to maintain, reindeer to train, elves to organize, and an entire planet to travel in one stinking night! But you don’t care about that, do you, you little ingrates? Oh no! You just want more, and more, and more!!! “Dear Santa, I asked you for a unicorn

last year, but you didn’t give me one—now I want two, so you can make up for lost time!” Well guess what, little Emma? Unicorns aren’t real! I can’t make one! I don’t even have the energy to draw you a picture! I’m dealing with a union uprising over here! The elves want a cut of the Christmas cookies I get—God knows why they don’t want the milk…just the cookies!

All I’m saying is, cut me some slack. I mean, come on, I’m just one guy, and I didn’t even want this job! Why do you think I went to the North-freaking-Pole? To get away from all of you nutcases! What, you thought someone would live up here willingly? It’s like minus 80 every day! I’m not this fat because of my image, you know—I need all this weight just to keep my body temperature steady! I’d like nothing more to be thin, ripped, and sitting on a beach in Honolulu, drinking hot

chocolate (Yes, I’d drink hot chocolate in Hawaii. I’m kind of addicted to it—don’t blame me for being what you’ve made me).

So, in conclusion, get it together, people. Christmas is all about giving, not getting, so turn off the TV, get off your lazy butts, and give. Donate something, work at a soup kitchen—do something selfless for once in your life. Maybe that’ll get you thinking about asking for less a little bit more. Now, if you’ll excuse me, I must be going—Mrs. Claus is yelling at me through the door…something about a reindeer in the living room.

Merry Christmas!

PHOTO COURTESY OF PINTEREST.COM

The Christmas Night



Kiley McMahon ’20  
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

The beautiful trees,  
Engrossed with fluff,  
And the once barren grounds,  
Embraced with stone-covered moss,  
Stand looking lovely,  
Untouched and scarce.

Cut and burned stands the surface of my tongue,  
Thanks to the hot chocolate that I rapidly devour,  
All but the marshmallows to alleviate my pain.

The bells that ring,  
Only a child can hear,  
For I have surpassed those days,  
And am alone and elderly now.

The 12 days ’till Christmas,  
Careen in my mind,  
They could not help but linger,  
As I slowly counted the minutes,  
Until Christmas night.

As the snow began to fall,  
And the trees continued to glisten,  
I began to place my presents under my tree,  
Just as I did for my children,  
12 score years ago.

I am alone on this day,  
Hoping a visitor will come through,  
The presents are waiting,  
Just as the carrots for the reindeer do the same.

Interrupting my thoughts is a knock at my door,  
It is he who I once loved but never gave a fair chance to.

The rekindling of love,  
On the Eve of Christmas night.

A Kitty for Christmas

Marisa Gonzales ’18  
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

All Sally wanted was a kitty.  
One orange and pretty.  
That was furry and  
Purry and fluffy and  
Not at all stuffy.

One Christmas day,  
She heard her mother,  
“There is a surprise in  
The kitchen. But first  
You must listen.”

Sally listened and from  
The kitchen she heard  
A bump then a thump  
And saw a big box.  
Pulling on her socks,  
To the kitchen, she  
Walked and happily  
Talked.

“Kitty, Kitty! Oh,  
I bet it’s so pretty.”  
She opened the top,  
And out a cat popped.  
With a snarl and hiss,  
Things began to go  
Amiss. It scratched up  
The door and the table  
Even more. Then to the  
Rug that used to be snug  
It was pulled out and mother  
Let out a shout as the table  
Shook and the cookies she  
Cooked, fell to the ground  
No one made a sound.

The cat continued on.  
Father wasn’t very fond,  
Of this cat who had just  
Eaten his hat. He yelled  
“Stop this fiend!” His  
Anger clearly seen. And  
All the while, Sally had  
A smile. One would think  
She would tear. But instead  
She shouted, “I’m so  
glad kitty’s here!”

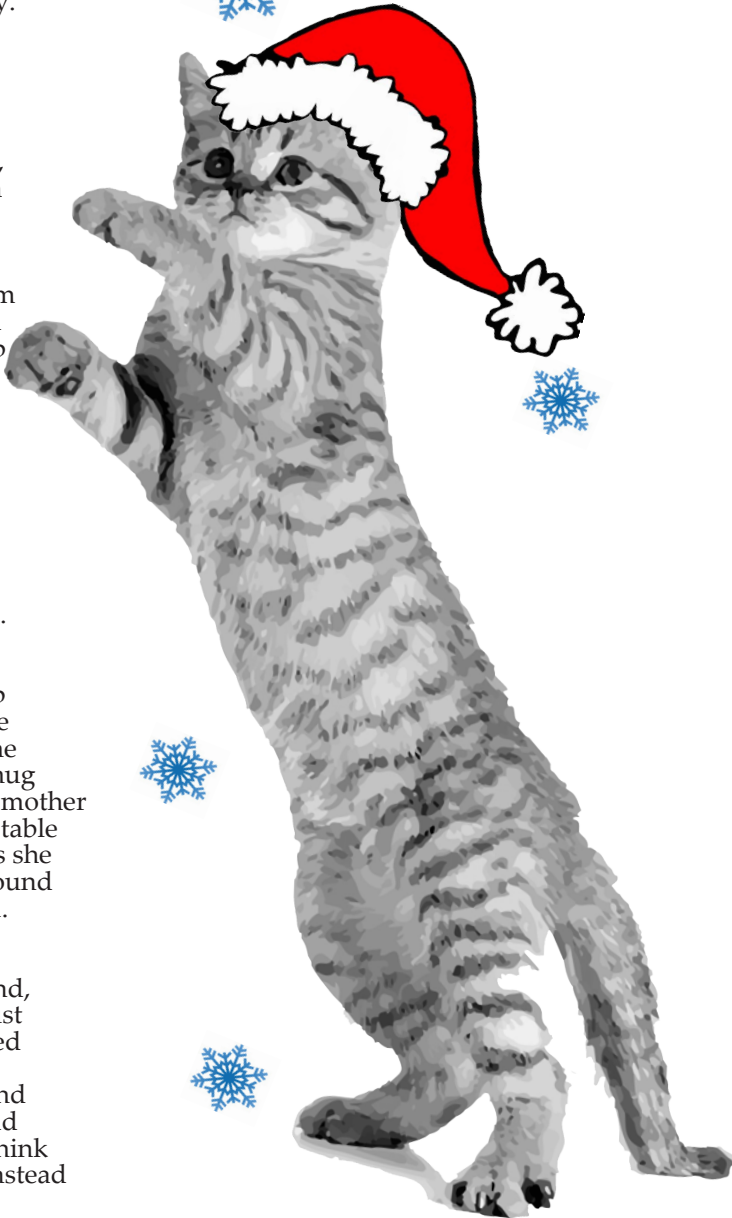


PHOTO COURTESY OF PINTEREST.COM





# Festivus

## The Airing of Grievances

I can't  
see my  
forehead

"This week's been a shit show"

Simultaneously too much and not enough angst in my life

Not having a van to distribute *The Cowl*

Last minute assignments before finals

Not having Veteran's Day off

The bunker classrooms in the library

It's dark out all the time now

No Take3 on the weekend

Santander ATM fee

DJ Khaled's Snapchat

No Take3 after 8 p.m.

Kay's weekend hours

4:30 p.m. seminars

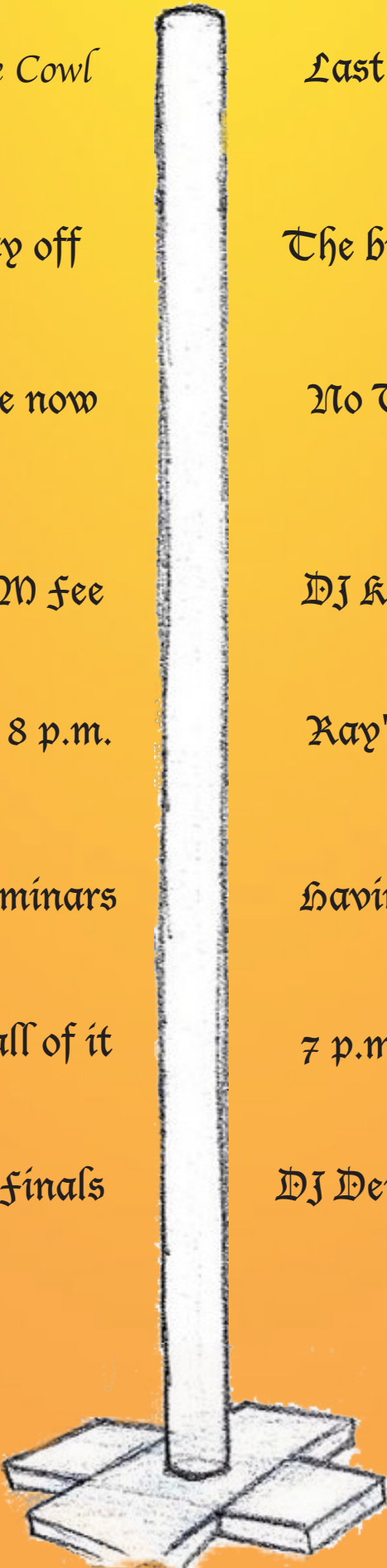
Having no power

Just all of it

7 p.m. seminars

Finals

DJ Deisel





# The 12 Stories of Christmas

Courtesy of the Portfolio Staff



## Tiffany & Earl

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

Dear Tiff and Earl,

What's your favorite Christmas tradition?

Sincerely,

Looking to Have a Feliz Navidad

Dear Christmas-ers

Christmas, like all of the important holidays, is a sensory-based holiday. The blinking lights, the scorching taste of hot chocolate on your tongue, and the silky smoothness of your Santa suit truly bring magic to Jesus's birthday. The best sensory sensation of the holiday, however, is the sound. Christmas music.

I start listening to Christmas music on Nov. 1, I listen to Mariah Carey's "All I Want For Christmas Is You" year-round; it is a classic, iconic song that surpasses any genre that attempts to hold it back.

But I start listening to other Christmas music on Nov. 1. because it is happiness for your ears. My entire family agrees, which is why my favorite part of Christmas is when we all gather around our grand piano on Christmas Eve to sing the classics. Everyone wants to take the lead for "The Christmas Song."

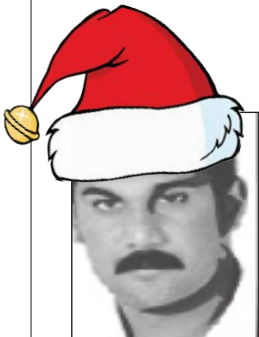
Of course, Uncle Bill will throw the biggest fit because he's had the most wine and then pushes my father over the piano. My mother hysterically starts screaming about how my father isn't a man, which triggers my grandfather's war flashbacks as he takes cover behind the tree, and my grandmother and I open up another bottle. Christmas magic.



Tiffany

Dear Holly Jollies,

My favorite Christmas tradition is lights. I love lights. They're so bright, fun, colorful, and festive. There's the white lights—those are really classy. There's the white and red combo, which is festive and classy. There's multicolored lights, which honestly get bad rap. If used tastefully, they add a nice splash of color and fun. And if lights are done exactly right for the holiday season, they almost shine as bright as Earl, baby.



EARL





*Hallelujah  
Holy S#@!  
Where's The  
Tylenol?*







# PROVING PHOTOGRAPHY

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December 8, 2016

## *If you could have one thing for Christmas, what would it be?*



**"A trip to Hawaii and a golden retriever puppy."**  
Peter Shanley '19 and Devon Guanci '19



**"A camera."**  
Alana Capasa '20 and Alexa Brown '20



**"A puppy and a summer vacation to Greece with all of my friends."**  
Briana Alberti '19, Sarina Trethewey '19, and  
Avalon O'Shaughnessy '19



**"A job."**  
Gabby Shkreli '17 and Brenda Moreno '17



**"World peace, a boyfriend, to meet Chance the Rapper, and rose gold Beats."**  
Taylor Annicelli '19, William Oser '19,  
Emily Kennedy '19, and Rose Shelley '19



**"A prepaid trip to Iceland."**  
Danielle Sgroi '17, Elizabeth Weber '17,  
Jaime Dempsey '17, Meaghan Creamer '17, and  
Bethany Lynch '17



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.MYMERRYCHRISTMAS.COM

**"You."**

**- Mariah Carey**





## Instruments are Overrated

by **Blaine Payer '18**  
A&E Staff  
CAMPUS

This past weekend held the biggest A cappella event of the semester—the Fall Concert. Housed in Ryan Concert Hall, the two-night event saw full houses each night, with Saturday’s show being forced to overcrowd people on the far balcony.

This year, each of Providence College’s own student-run A Cappella groups brought their best work to the stage, having had nearly three months to rehearse because of the later show dates.

The energy was high on opening night, featuring the usual lineup of pre-show jitters and last minute run-throughs of songs, as well as an excited and very responsive crowd. From the moment Anaclastic, the all-female group, took the stage, the place filled up with cheers and applause and stayed that way the whole night.

Anaclastic kicked off the night with “Starving” by Hailee Steinfeld, and since it just would not be an A cappella concert without at least one country song, followed that up with “Jesus Take the Wheel” by Carrie Underwood.

Although their group was smaller than ever this year due to losing last year’s seniors and those who went abroad, Anaclastic stepped up to the plate and hit a home run with one of their best sets to date. Closing out with the Michael Bublé arrangement of “Feeling Good,” Anaclastic set a high standard for the level of both raw talent and entertainment for the night.

Up next was PC’s premiere all-male A Cappella group, Special Guest, beginning their set as any all-male group should with the “NFL Sunday Night Football” instrumental theme. Senior Billy O’Brien, the musical director of SG, channeled his inner color commentator as he introduced the new members to the audience (while the NFL theme

persisted quietly behind him).

Performing favorites such as “When You Were Young” by the Killers and “Wake Me Up” by Avicii, Special Guest delivered their usual level of light-hearted entertainment, showcasing some serious talent along the way.

With the crowd fired up and SG delivering high-fives and “good lucks” backstage, the co-ed group that I am a member of, Strictly Speaking, took the stage. The feeling of walking onstage into a room full of your friends and family cheering you on is something out of a fairytale—a mix of anxiety, excitement, and overwhelming joy.

As I looked around at the same 15 faces I had spent all semester rehearsing with, I knew that it was going to be a great night.

The group started off with an oldie-but-goodie, the Hall and Oates classic “Rich Girl,” followed by some lesser known songs like Bishop Briggs’ summer single “The Way I Do” and the title track off of the Civil Wars’ 2011 Grammy winning album, “Barton Hollow.”

We ended the night with the slow-burning love ballad “Give Me Love” by Ed Sheeran, closing the book on another successful semester of performing music without using instruments.

Congratulations to all three of the groups for a weekend of great performances, and also to all of the new members who experienced their first time onstage at a PC A cappella show. With the bar set so high in the fall, I look forward to what the spring concert will bring.



Anaclastic performs during centennial celebration.

PHOTO COURTESY OF COWL PHOTO STAFF

## Artists Show Solidarity Post-Election

by **Alexis Jais '18**  
A&E Staff  
FINE ARTS

Last month’s election left many people around the world in a state of disbelief, numbness, and subsequent fear for the unknown future. Political and entertainment journalists, critics, musical artists, and other members of the arts community around the country are calling for art now more than ever.

Different types of artists from around the country have responded to these calls with various pieces, curations, and performances.

Already, the reactions of countless artists who specialize in a variety of different media have found their way to the public eye. They hope to spark reflection and solidarity. Their reasons for such hopes, however, are personally intimate and emotionally driven.

One pastel artist, Natalie Frank, drew a piece illustrating the necessity for mobilization against negative forces in the White House called “Taming the Animals.” Fearful of Trump’s threat to eliminate funding for Planned Parenthood and other tools for women facing



Tona Brown performs.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HUFFINGTONPOST.COM

personal dilemmas, Frank wants to get involved in Planned Parenthood while she still can in order to defend the rights of women, and hopes her art will convince others to fight for the same cause.

Violinist and singer Tona Brown has sparked change by leading a college tour around the country. As a transgender African American herself, Brown feels it

is crucial for minorities, women, and LGBT youth to not only have a supportive community while the future of the country is unclear and overwhelming, but also to encourage them to stay up to date on politics, current events, and to stay motivated so that they can make the future of America brighter and more inclusive.

Another artist, Aaron Johnson, believes that now is the time for

artists to become activists. There has always been a clear subtlety in art forms like painting and drawing in particular, but Johnson believes that when something happens that hurts many people, he can retaliate with his art. He is torn between filling his works with the hatred present in this particular election and thus retaliating in a more forthright way, or using escapist tactics to keep his art, for the most part, as is, and ignoring the political state of our country. Johnson has participated in protests but is conflicted about whether he should keep these parts of his life separate, or combine them in order to produce more meaningful work and hopefully influence public thought.

There are countless artists like these across the United States who have risen above a state of disbelief and anger to a place of hope and change.

In order to make the country “great again,” we must think and work in solidarity. Art has the power to slip into people’s subconsciouses and spark passion and movement.

At this time in our nation’s history, a time of division, looking out into the unknown, everyone’s passions must matter.



## A&E Abroad: A Day in Amsterdam

by Elizabeth Jancsy '18  
A&E Staff

FINE ARTS

It is hard to believe that my time abroad is coming to an end. It seemed like just yesterday I was headed to the airport, ready to cross the pond for the semester.

Aside from enjoying my last few weeks in London, I had one last place I wanted to visit. This place was Amsterdam, located in the Netherlands! Knowing very little about the city, I was pleasantly surprised by the beauty of its canals, architecture, and city life that I came across while walking around. Besides the unique urban vibe, I was also blown away by the incredible culture that is offered in this area.

After sitting outside in the rain for over an hour to receive a ticket, I spent the first part of my day in the Vincent van Gogh Museum. It was pretty spectacular to be surrounded by van Gogh's brilliant work in every corner and room of a three-story building.

One room was dedicated solely to his self-portraits, while another room was dedicated to his landscape paintings, enciting fascination at every turn. It was worth the wait in the for sure!

After visiting the museum, we went across a few canal bridges, over to the Anne Frank House. If there was only one thing I could do in Amsterdam, I wanted it to be a visit to the Anne Frank House.

Growing up, reading her novel in my fifth grade classroom, I was haunted by this girl I had never met before, yet felt like I knew. I remember finding it hard to understand how all these terrible things happened to her because she felt like a sister or a best friend.

Walking around in the house where Frank and her family stayed in the secret annex was chilling and heart wrenching. In order to get to the secret annex you must crawl up into the loft, hidden by a secret bookcase Frank mentions in her diary.

Walking around to each room, I was suddenly transported back to fifth grade. I remember my teacher talking about how small Frank's room was, and there I was standing in it. It was surreal to see the posters still glued to the walls of her bedroom—simple things that made her feel happy and safe.

As our tour came to a close, near the exit was a quote painted on the wall from the British actress Emma Thompson. Speaking about Frank herself, Thompson said, "All her would-haves are our possibilities."

That quote stuck with me long after I had left, as I felt it spoke to not only the hope Anne had even in the cruel world she lived in, but the hope we should continue to have and encourage in one another in our world today. It was a wonderful way to close my trip to Amsterdam, and one that made it a place I will never forget.



Anne Frank House in the Netherlands.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALAMY.COM

# New York Film Critics' Circle

by Kerry Torpey '20  
A&E Staff

FILM

On Dec. 1, the New York Film Critics Circle announced the winners of the 2016 New York Film Critics Circle Awards. The award for Best Picture went to the romantic and heavily musically-influenced film *La La Land*, starring Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone.

Another big winner was *Manchester by the Sea*, starring Casey Affleck and Michelle Williams. Both Affleck and Williams won Best Actor and Best Supporting Actress, respectively, while screenwriter Kenneth Lonergan took home the award for Best Screenplay.

Alongside *Manchester by the Sea* was *Moonlight*, which won three awards: Best Director for Barry Jenkins, Best Supporting Actor for Mahershala Ali, and Best Cinematographer for James Laxton.

Other winners included *Zootopia* for Best Animated Film, Kelly Fremon

Craig and *The Edge of Seventeen* for Best First Film, Trey Edward Shults and *Krishna* for Best First Film, and *O.J. Made in America* for Best Non-Fiction Film (Documentary).

There are plenty of group and organizations like the New York Film Critics Circle who give out their own awards with no affiliation to the Academy. There is a likely chance that the nominees or winners that appear in categories across the various associations will be repeated once the nominations for the Academy Awards are announced on January 24, 2017.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is the largest "movie-related" organization in the world with over 7,000 active members. They "recognize and uphold excellence in the motion picture arts and sciences, inspire imagination, and connect the world through the medium of motion pictures."

In recent years, there has been controversy surrounding the Academy and the fairness at which nominees and winners are chosen. Despite all

this, it is logical to believe that to receive an Academy Award is a lifetime achievement for many men and women working in the film industry. For this reason, once winners for awards from smaller factions such as the NYFCC are released, the media and film industry begin to sort out possible Oscar contenders.

Interestingly enough, however, the NYFCC and the Academy frequently disagree about what films deserve particular awards. For example, looking at the 2015 lists of awards, there are many overlaps in nominations, but not in winners. The two awards that the NYFCC and Academy agreed on were Best Supporting Actor for Mark Rylance in *Bridge of Spies* and *Inside Out* for Best Animated Film.

A number of NYFCC award winners of 2015, however, were nominated for Academy Awards, but fell short to the ultimate winners. Saoirse Ronan took home the NYFCC award for Best Actress for *Brooklyn*, but Brie Larson won the Oscar for *Room*. Ronan did receive a nomination from the Academy, but her loss emphasizes the differing opinions of many organizations across the nation.

The small number of connections amongst winners from the different organizations could be a result of many factors. One might be the clear difference in size and number of members. The Academy has over 7000 members, whereas the NYFCC has 37.

The NYFCC feels that their awards are "a principled alternative to the Oscars, honoring aesthetic merit in a forum that is immune to commercial and political pressures." With that being said, the NYFCC might argue that Oscar winners do not frequently correlate with their choices because the Academy bases their choices on "commercial" success.

Either way, both groups recognize and appreciate all aspects of artistry that goes into making films and rewards those who succeed accordingly.



Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone in *La La Land*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF COLLIDER.COM

# 2016's Breakout Artist: Chainsmokers

by Joe Clancy '18  
A&E Staff

MUSIC

Chances are that if you have heard of the Chainsmokers, by the end of 2016 you can already hum their tunes. The Chainsmokers have been one of the biggest groups of the year with massive hits and widespread critical acclaim.

When the Chainsmokers came to Providence College this past spring, they had just released a top five hit in February, and since then they have continued their impressive rise in pop culture.

The group is made up of two friends, Andrew Taggart and Alexander Pall, the later replacing the 2012 founding member DJ Rhett Bixler. The electronic dance DJ group first came onto the scene in 2014 with the release of their song, "#Selfie" which received airtime across the globe and even reached top 20 on the charts in the United States.

This breakthrough success helped the band secure a lucrative record deal and be signed to a number of music festivals and events. By early 2015, the band really started to hit their stride.

By performing at music festivals and rehearsing in the studio, the Chainsmokers were

not only able to practice more and more but were introduced to a number of up-and-coming musicians.

In June 2015, the band had their first real triumph with their hit single "Roses" with they produced with singer Elizabeth Mencil, who now goes by the stage name "Rozes."

The song itself features beautiful vocals and an invigorating beat, so it was no surprise that it received frequent airplay. The song peaked on the Billboard Top 100 at number six and was America's number one EDM song.

The band continued to build on this success and use the methodology behind the production of the song going into 2016.



The Chainsmokers pose for a photo.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAKKASANLV.COM

In February, The Chainsmokers worked with artist Daya to release the hit "Don't Let Me Down," which again proved to be a massive hit as it blended vocals, instruments, and electronic dance noise throughout. "Don't Let Me Down" ultimately reached number five on the Billboard Top 100.

In April, the Chainsmokers came to Providence College and electrified the Concannon Center, which was arguably the biggest thing they did all year.

Going in the summer hot, the Chainsmokers teamed up with Halsey again to release "Closer," which gave the artists their first number one hit in America. Since then, the band has received the American Music Award for Favorite Electronic Dance Group of the year and the NPJ award for Best New DJ group of the year.

2017 is shaping up to be a big year for the band as well. The band has been touring all year, playing at festivals like Ultra Music Festival and venues like Boston's House of Blues on Monday, and are planning on continuing their tour in 2017 as well.

The group is also up for nominations for the 2017 People's Choice Awards for Favorite Group and Favorite Breakout Artist. There is no doubt that 2017 should shape up to be another big year for the Chainsmokers.



# Universal Brings Nintendo To Life

by Brigid Walshe '19  
A&E Staff

FILM

Nintendo and Universal Studios made a huge announcement last Tuesday, November 29, when they revealed their plan to build Nintendo-themed areas at all three of Universal's locations: Universal Studios Japan, Universal Orlando Resort, and Universal Studios Hollywood.

Universal and Nintendo intend to bring the characters and adventures of Nintendo video games to life within the parks, similar to what Universal did with their Wizarding World of Harry Potter.

The success of The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, which increased the Universal Orlando Resort's total attendance by more than one million people only one year after the opening of the Wizarding World, may be a motivating factor to the creation of these Nintendo-themed areas.

As fans of the worlds of either Harry Potter or Nintendo (or in Disney's

case, *Frozen*), it is almost a dream come true for them to actually spend time in their world, literally, and fans flock from all over the world to see their favorite stories and characters brought to life.

These Nintendo theme parks will be "expansive, immersive and interactive," according to both Universal and Nintendo representatives. They will make visitors feel as though they have entered into the world of Nintendo, almost as if visitors feel like they have just walked into a game.

While specific details relating the exact themes of the parks (although one can expect that Mario, Luigi, and all their pals will make an appearance), these parks will contain themed attractions, shops, and restaurants, and both Universal and Nintendo promise that there will be attractions for gamers of all ages and experience.

We live in a world with such advanced technology that it is possible to bring these imaginary worlds to life, not just on a screen, but

to actually build a "Nintendo World." There are relatively few limits on what Nintendo and Universal can do to bring the virtual Nintendo world to life.

While planning and designing is well underway for all

three Universal parks, we may not see Nintendo come to life for years; officials from both companies hope to have all three parks finished by 2020.

So, for now, we can only sit back and wait for more announcements, but before you know it, you will be immersed in a world with some iconic video game characters, and your lifelong dream of playing Mario Kart in real life may be one step closer to becoming true.



PHOTO COURTESY OF Lebeau's Le Blog

# A Special Gift: Pokémon Gives Us New Series



PHOTO COURTESY OF 9 Wallpapers hd

by Michael Welch '17  
A&E Staff

TELEVISION

Another Pokémon game, another Pokémon television series. That is how the cycle goes, and now *Pokémon Sun & Moon* has become the fastest-selling Nintendo game of the last 10 years. That means Nintendo must release yet another Pokémon series starring franchise staple Ash Ketchum.

This time Ash is traveling to the new Alola region, for what appears to be a vacation. This works too, since Alola was based off Hawaii. It is a whole new region of Pokémon for Ash to explore, but how is it different from the previous five regions we have already watched him explore?

New art style! Ash looks completely different in the new animation style, using much brighter colors and somewhat more simplistic designs.

This change fits the trend many new cartoons are following, but it works for the laid-back style of the Alola region. Ash still has his signature hair and Pikachu, but looks noticeably different, which has turned many viewers off at first.

However, getting used to the new style can be a refreshing twist on a character we have watched many times before.

We also get a much larger cast than any of the main cast's previous incarnations. Ash has six friends helping him discover all the new Pokémon in the Alola region.

This helps to retain the traditional Pokémon show's theme of getting a slice-of-life in the Alola region. Ash is not out to win the Alola league or become the best just yet. He is on vacation, and the show's style respects and reflects that.

It should be noted that out of Ash's six new friends, he is the only one who is new to the region. Therefore, his friends bring the sort of experience we are not accustomed to seeing in the pilot of one of these shows.

A large part of every Pokémon show's appeal is seeing the main cast interact with all the new regional Pokémon. So far, the new show has done a surprisingly terrific job integrating these new Pokémon.

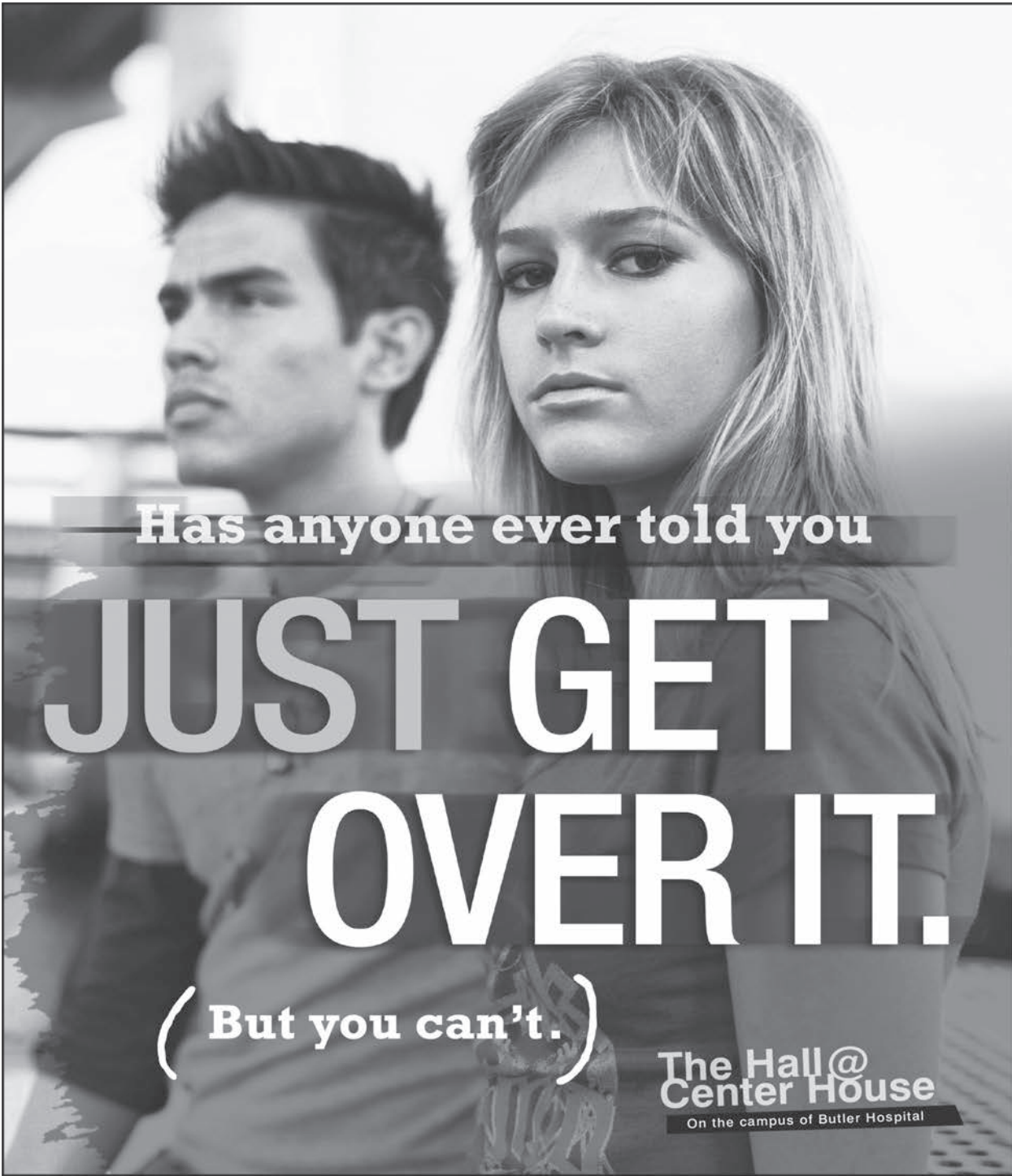
Ash already has a Rowlet, the fan favorite and undeniably adorable owl Pokémon. Team Rocket has caught another fan favorite, Mimikyu, the Pikachu doppelganger who has insofar proved a worthy rival for Ash's near unstoppable Pikachu.

It joined Team Rocket only so it would be able to constantly fight Ash's Pikachu, whom it despises. It is the most powerful Pokémon Team Rocket has ever caught and adds a refreshing and powerful change to Ash's comic villains.

The new *Pokémon Sun & Moon* television show adds a surprisingly different and definitely refreshing take on the original cast the world has been watching for the last two decades.







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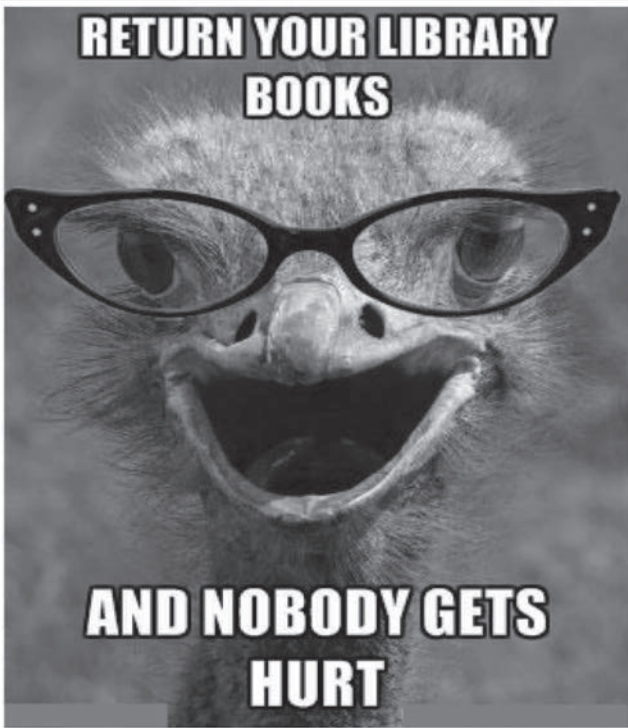
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# Happy Holidays!







## Friars Hitting the Big Time

by Sam Scanlon '19  
Sports Staff

### MEN'S SOCCER

As the first half of the year is coming to a close, the Friars have displayed an incredible amount of excellence on all playing surfaces. From overtime thrillers, to unthinkable comebacks, to big upsets, and great award honors, Providence College athletic teams have provided us with performances that we can all be proud of and talk about for years to come.

Who doesn't love an underdog story? The Providence College Men's Soccer Team was the ultimate underdog throughout the 2016 season. The entire student body, as well as Barstool Sports founder Dave Portnoy, rallied behind this team as they embarked on their championship run. In their second round contest, the Friars traveled down to the University of Maryland to take on the #1 ranked Terps that had not been defeated yet this season. After being down 4-1, Julian Gressel '17 tallied his second goal of the game in the 70th minute, sparking the four-goal comeback that was finished by Joao Serrano '20 who buried the game winner with a corner kick in the 82nd minute. Nick Sailor '17 added an unbelievable strike from deep range, and Steven Kilday '19 notched his first career goal in the midst of the comeback. Unfortunately, the boys fell to the University of North Carolina in a 1-0 overtime heartbreaker this past weekend. However, that will not take away from their incredible victory that will be talked about for ages. This game was truly an unforgettable moment from the first semester.

Soccer was not the only sport to pull off an exciting upset. Just this past weekend, the Men's Basketball Team welcomed the 21st ranked Rams from the University of Rhode Island in the Ocean State Battle. Led by a 19-point effort from Kyron Cartwright '18, the Friars squeaked out a 63-60 win. The electrifying atmosphere at the Dunk made this game one of the top moments of the year. This game is always a highly anticipated and intense contest due to the rivalry, so an upset over a ranked URI team in front of the home crowd is a big deal for the fans and a moment like this makes the entire school



Men's Soccer celebrating one of their big wins this year.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

proud to be Friars.

Schneider Arena was home to another upset earlier this year. This one came on Oct. 22 when the 12/13th ranked St. Lawrence University Saints matched up against the Men's Ice Hockey team. The Friars exploded to an overwhelming 6 goal route over the Saints as four new Friars found the back of the net, including two career firsts. Shane Kavanagh '20 was sprung on a breakaway and finished with a smooth forehand touch past the goaltender's pad that pumped up the crowd. The other first career marker came off the stick of Jacob Bryson '20 as he scorched a one-timer from the point. Josh Wilkins '20 and transfer Scott Conway '19 were the other two new Friars who added their second goals of the season. A demanding 6-3 effort over a top team in the country with new faces stepping up on the score sheet is a huge positive for this team that cannot be overlooked. This is a talented group that we should

be excited about, and the victory over St. Lawrence was a big moment for the Men's Ice Hockey team as they are looking to define themselves as a tough team to beat, which they proved with the exciting win over St. Lawrence.

The Women's Cross Country Team has been one of the most successful and storied programs at Providence College over the years. However, this year the Friars ranked third in the final poll of the season before running to a 13th place finish at nationals. Coached by the great Ray Treacy, the Friars are an absolute powerhouse. This year, the Northeast Region Women's Coach of the Year Award was named after Coach Treacy. To no one's surprise, he ended up being named this year's recipient, as it was well deserved after another successful season at the helm of this team. This award is a token of their great success and an honor for the school and Women's Cross Country Team.

## New Era for Women's Basketball?

by Chris McCormack '18  
Sports Staff

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

With the end of the fall season and winter sports now under way, a lot of the attention in the Providence College community is focused around men's basketball. That being said, one team that might get overlooked is the Providence College Women's Basketball Team.

Before this past weekend, when the Lady Friars lost a close game to Brown, they began the season 7-0. The season started off with a double overtime thriller against Colgate, a game in which five Friars notched double digit points. The fact that the first game of the season went into double OT gave a hint that the season would be interesting. The ladies followed the Colgate game with 23 and 13 point victories against North Dakota State and Binghamton, respectively. After a win against University of Hartford on Nov. 22, the team went into the UNCW Hampton Inn Thanksgiving Classic 4-0. The tournament consisted of four teams, UNC-Wilmington, La Salle, and Miami Ohio. The women were able to go on to win the tournament by defeating UNCW and Miami Ohio. That made the team 6-0 going into the Ocean State Tip-Off Tournament,

where they would play Bryant and Brown. They were able to beat the Bulldogs by an 11 point margin, but their winning streak came to an end in tough fashion when they were outscored by the Bears 77-70. The team starting the season 7-1 marks the best start the team has had since 2006-2007. The exceptional start has, without a doubt, been a team effort, but that is not to say some players have not stood out among the team.

Guard Sarah Beal '17 has been featured on the Big East Weekly Honor Roll twice, Nov. 14 and 21 respectively. Throughout the first three games, Beal averaged almost 16 points per game. Beal was the only Friar named to the list until the week of Nov. 28 when Maddie Jolin '19 made the honor roll. Jolin also had a good first three games where she averaged 14.7 points, 5.0 rebounds, 2.0 assists and 1.7 steals. She has proven herself as a strong utility player and a reliable shooter as she averaged a 50 percent field goal percentage and three-point field goal percentage. With the success of the Men's Basketball Team thus far, especially after their victory against in-state rival URI, it seems as if the Women's Basketball Team does not get as much credit as they deserve. With the best record at this point in the season since the 2006-2007 team, the women hope to continue their success over the next few games

and go into Big East play with a chance to prove themselves as one of the best in the conference. The Friars have three more out of conference games against Colgate, Boston College, and Monmouth. Big East play will start up

on Dec. 28 against Xavier. Make sure to keep an eye out for the team going forward, as this could continue to be a very interesting season for the Lady Friars.



Maddie Jolin '19 takes the ball up the court.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK.COM





# COACH COOLEY

Coaching a Division I college basketball team is never easy, but combine the fact that Providence College only has 4,000 undergraduates, it makes the task even more difficult. Ever since March 22, 2011, when he was hired, Ed Cooley has been leaving his mark on the men’s basketball team. He is clearly the best coach at PC, not because he coaches the most popular sport but because his impact on the team is massive. Coach Cooley was not just hired because of his talent in teaching the game of basketball but also because he can teach his players how to be better people off the court. Cooley’s on-court success has been unmatched as well. There has been a marked improvement in every year he has coached which is paramount to successful coaching. In Cooley’s first season, his squad won 15 games and his win total has increased each year—now winning 24 games a season. He has an overall coaching record of 109-69 with the Friars and has led his team to an impressive 7-2 record so far this season. Coaching college basketball is all about winning and Cooley has the numbers to prove it. He has also reached the March Madness tournament for the last three seasons, which is the pinnacle of coaching success in Division I basketball. The Friars only won one of those three tournament games but playing even one game shows incredible success for a small school like PC. Cooley’s seminal moment, which illustrates he is the best coach at PC, was the Big East Championship game in 2014. It was a win against a tough opponent in Creighton which proved, on the biggest of stages, that the Providence College Friars are a force to be reckoned with in college basketball. Cooley has been the most amazing coach for the basketball team and should most definitely be considered the best coach at PC. He has raised the men’s team to the national stage with all his hard work he puts in for the program.

-Jake Searbo '17





PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN FLUHARTY



WHICH HEAD COACH

IS DOING THE BEST

JOB AT PC?



# COACH LEAMAN

While I believe both Coach Cooley and Coach Leaman are among the top coaches in the country for their respective sports, I would have to give the slight edge here to Coach Leaman as the top coach at PC. When looking at the respective statistics of Coach Cooley and Coach Leaman, you see many similarities between the two; both are in their sixth season as coaches at PC, both have posted four seasons above .500, and both have made the NCAA Tournament for their respective sports three times. However, there is one significant quality on Coach Leaman’s resume that gives him the slight edge over Coach Cooley: an NCAA Championship. In 2015, under Coach Leaman’s guidance, the Friars hockey team shocked the country, and won the NCAA Division I Men’s Ice Hockey tournament. Not only was it the first championship in Providence College hockey history, but it was also the first NCAA Championship ever for Friars athletics. Coach Leaman also followed up the NCAA Championship with a number one seed in the NCAA Tournament the following season. While the Friars were eliminated in the first round, it was still the first time that any Providence College athletic team had ever been a number one seed in any NCAA Tournament. Along with the one seed, the Friars also recorded 27 victories in 2016, the most victories for a Friars hockey team in over 30 years. While I have no doubt that Coach Cooley will be hoisting the NCAA Championship trophy sooner rather than later, this article is about who is the top coach at PC currently. And while Coach Cooley has done so much for this school, I have to give my vote to Coach Leaman, as he brought the Friars a championship in just his fourth season.

-Max Anderson '18



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS EMERSON



# The NFL Disaster: Head Coaching

by Kevin Skirvin '18  
Assistant Sports Editor

EDITOR'S CORNER

Every NFL coach has their own football philosophy that is personal to them. The job of being a head coach in the NFL is arguably the most influential position in the franchise. They handle the media, the connection between the team and the front office, the practices, and most importantly, the locker room itself. As important as talent is, work ethic and preparation are what create championship teams.

With more than half of the 2016-2017 NFL season in the books, there are approximately six teams that I feel have a real chance to win the Super Bowl. That's six out of the NFL's 32 franchises, and that's being generous. So why is it that such a small portion of the league is so far above the other competition? Sure, talent is important, however, setting a mindset and being a source of motivation is what wins football games.

Coaching ability in the NFL is at an all-time low right now. The quality of football that fans are exposed to these days is abysmal. Typically, there are only two or three games actually worth watching each weekend, and that is not due to a lack of talent by any means. Think about it in the sense that each spot on an NFL roster is filled by someone who was probably a top 10 player on their team in college. So for all you folks who think Ohio State would last even a quarter against the Cleveland Browns, you're wrong. Every player on an NFL roster has earned that spot because they are

very, very good at what they do.

Gus Bradley, head coach of the Jacksonville Jaguars, is the farthest thing from what I consider to be a professional football coach. Just like being a player, the head coaching spot has fundamentals that are critical if you want to be considered a pro. Things like clock management, and knowing how and when to use timeouts, are basic skills that are merely the groundwork of coaching. Bradley shows on a weekly basis that he possesses neither of these elements, especially against the Bills this past week when his team fell 28-21, partially due to multiple coaching errors that left Jaguar fans scratching their heads.

Chip Kelly of the San Francisco 49ers is the perfect example of a head coach who designs and implements his personal football philosophy. Kelly believes in a fast paced offense that proved its worth during his tenure as head coach of the Oregon Ducks. Kelly also shows us that what works in college does not necessarily translate to the pros, posting a record of 27-32 as an NFL head coach. The problem with NFL coaches is their transparency, which results from their inability to adapt game plans and stray from their primary weapon. In Kelly's case, his high tempo offense can only be so effective, so being able to re-evaluate and play to his strengths is a quality that he, as well as a large portion of NFL coaches, fails to utilize.

Four Super Bowls and 13 division titles over the course of 15 years is the kind of production NFL owners look for in coaches. Bill Belichick of the New England Patriots has



Bill Belichick stands on the sidelines during a Patriots game.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CSNNE.COM

solidified himself as the best head coach in Patriots history, and possibly the greatest coach of all time. Reason being is the philosophy he developed over a decade ago, one that focuses on playing to the opponent's weaknesses and not over-relying on any one aspect of the team. He uses every weapon at his disposal, and keeps defenses guessing with countless formations and personnel. He ensures that his team is never one-dimensional. He focuses every week on dominating the special teams aspect of the game, as well as practicing every situation and every moment a team could ever fall victim to. Belichick is developing a trademark attitude for eliminating all distractions and keeping everything

about football.

As each week becomes ever more important for teams' playoff hopes, most can imagine that at least New England, Dallas, and Seattle are going to be playing deep into January. The rest has yet to sort itself out, but in looking at teams like the Oakland Raiders, Kansas City Chiefs, and Denver Broncos, the battle will come down to who prepares and executes better on the field. Hopefully when the Super Bowl airs from Houston on Feb. 5, the world will be treated to a matchup of two teams whose talent and coaching is unmatched. Until then, let's sit back and enjoy the most wonderful time of year.

# Much More to Come This Spring



Friar Dom is excited for next year.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

by Jeff Williams '17  
Sports Staff

SPORTS COLUMN

When Providence College students return for the second semester, they can expect a continuation of what has already been a stellar year for Friar sports. The Women's Volleyball Team enjoyed its best season since 2008 with 13 victories. After winning only four games last year, the field hockey team enjoyed a bounce-back season, going 13-6 and losing to Liberty 1-0 in a hard-fought Big East semifinal.

The Women's Cross Country Team won the Big East and Northeast Regional titles and finished 13th at Nationals, while the men came in second in the Big East, fourth in the Northeast, and at number 24 nationally. The Women's Soccer Team went 11-7-2, but fell short in the playoffs, but the men shocked the world. After winning the Big East regular season title, the Friars dispatched the University of Delaware in the first round of the NCAA

Tournament. But days later on top-ranked, undefeated University of Maryland's home turf, they faced a 4-1 hole with 20 minutes to go. Yet, PC still won an improbable come-from-behind 5-4 victory, and would only fall to North Carolina in the Elite Eight. The PC community can look forward to continued success in 2017.

After yet another successful fall season for Coach Ray Treacy '82, the indoor track season is now officially underway. Look for both the women and the men to be a factor at Big East Championships in late February. The Women's Tennis Team will look to improve on a promising fall campaign where they went 2-1, losing to the University of Rhode Island but easily dispatching Fairfield University and Holy Cross. The Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Teams kicked off their 2016-17 season in November, and will hope to better last year's twin fifth place finishes in the Big East Championships in February.

The softball schedule hasn't been released yet, but the women will likely begin the 2016 campaign south in February before returning to Glay Field in late March.

The Friars won 21 times in 2015 (including five of their last seven games), and the promising young group is primed to shine on the diamond. Not long ago, the Men's Lacrosse Team was a perennially struggling squad, but last year's seven-win term and conference semifinal berth have breathed new life into the program. On Feb. 4, Coach Chris Gabrielli's men face Boston University at Anderson Stadium, which will host the Big East Men's Lacrosse Championship from May 4-6.

Winners of only 10 games last year and six before that, Friar Women's Hockey has improved, already notching eight victories this season. After many years of below-average play, the women may finally have become a factor. Dates to look out for include their series versus Boston University Jan. 21-22 and Boston College Feb. 18-19, as well as the Hockey East tournament a week later. The Friar men have struggled in the first half after losing several key players to graduation and the professional ranks, stumbling to a 5-6-3 record. However, with a national championship under his belt, Coach Nate Leaman should never be counted out.

The best performance of the first semester has come from the cross country and soccer teams, but at this point it is no surprise when those programs do well. On the other hand, the basketball teams have certainly exceeded expectations. After winning a total of 18 games in the past three seasons, new coach Jim Crowley and the Friar women have raced out to a 7-1 record, losing only at Brown. Despite losing program greats Kris Dunn '16 and Ben Bentil '18 to the NBA, the Friar men have exceeded expectations with a 7-2 record. Picked to finish ninth in the Big East, the hoopsters knocked off #21 University of Rhode Island for the seventh straight year and have only lost to #7 Virginia and Ohio State in Columbus.

Friar fans have a lot to look forward to in the second semester. Can the softball and lacrosse teams build on their promising last seasons and break in their new stadiums with sustained success? Can the hockey teams finish strong and make the NCAAAs? Can the basketball teams keep proving doubters wrong and winning games? After a great first half, the second half has the potential to be even better, if recent history is any indicator.



