



The Right Fight



GRAPHIC DESIGN COURTESY OF KATIE PUZYCKI '17/THE COWL

by Sarah Gianni '18
News Staff

CAMPUS

At Providence College, students, faculty, and administrators have been working diligently to protect community members who may be affected by new legislation on immigration.

The Providence Immigrant Rights Coalition (PIRC), strives to enhance the acceptance of the immigrant population at PC. The group—which was officially recognized as an on-campus club last semester—challenges derogatory, anti-immigrant discourse.

Its overarching goal is to educate the campus on current and past immigration systems and policies, while raising awareness of the injustices that impact undocumented students and their families.

Sarah Trayers '17, the president and co-founder of the coalition stated, "Since our founding in fall 2015, PIRC has been most successful in hosting campus-wide events that raise awareness of the injustices embedded in the U.S. immigration system, challenging anti-immigrant discourses both on and off campus, and demanding institutional change from the PC administration regarding its inclusion of immigrant students."

Along with fellow co-founder Vania Pereira '17, PIRC has worked in the wake of President Trump's executive orders to stand in solidarity with those affected.

"After Trump was elected, PIRC got together to draft a list of initiatives which was brought forward to administrators in late December," said Trayers.

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Alternative Facts?

by Carolyn Walsh '17
Opinion Staff

POLITICS

The Trump administration is waging war against the media. Press Secretary Sean Spicer, Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway, and Trump himself have lambasted negative coverage, have threatened to bar "unfriendly" outlets from having access to the White House, and have talked down journalists attempting to correct misinformation the administration has put forth.

Trump's election to the White House has presented a stiff challenge to contemporary political journalism, but it should serve as a wake up call that something fundamental in the American media system needs to change.

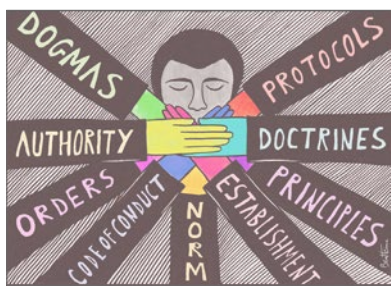


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Trump's bullying deceit and sensationalist behavior can no longer distract from and replace the real headlines of his autocratic attacks on our liberal democracy. Scores of nationwide protests in recent weeks have highlighted civilian resistance, but it is time for the news media—and professional journalists—to step up to the plate and take Trump head on.

The news media, as an independent institution, is an indispensable aspect of our democracy. Professional journalists carry the responsibility of keeping the public informed on the activities of the government and other powerful institutions. As the citizens' watchdog, the press plays a vital role in promoting transparency and holding public figures accountable.

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Aiming High

Big East Player of the Week:

Sarah Beal '17

by Eileen Flynn '20
Sports Staff

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

For Sarah Beal '17, her last, but definitely not least, year as a Friar has been a year of achieving personal and team goals. "Yeah, it's a pretty big milestone, this was something I aimed for since freshman year," said Beal as she talked about being named Big East Player of the Week.

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One Mission: PIRC Fights for Student Rights

PIRC

Continued from front page

The objectives included hiring legal counsel for undocumented students as well as students who may come from mixed-status families. Additionally, providing an online resource page for such students, the hiring of a new mental health professional trained to deal with emotions associated with these executive orders, and a statement from administration stating that no information of undocumented students is to be released. This action stems from the extensive research done by Trayers and Pereira, as they worked for months prior to the election.

Trayers and Bruno Guiop '19, the club's treasurer, released a statement, affirming, "Looking ahead, PIRC will consistently strive towards fulfilling PC's promise and mission of embracing immigrant students and their families regardless of their immigration statuses."

"Vania and Sarah have engaged in serious academic research on this, including calling administrators from numerous college campuses," said Kara Cebulko, an associate professor of sociology and the PIRC faculty advisor.

It is also imperative to note that these issues relating to immigration have existed long before President Trump's administration.

"Let's not pretend this just became an issue in November," said Kristine Goodwin, vice president of student affairs.

"The depth of this is significant, it's not just a reaction to the election," she said. In reality, issues on immigration extend back to the founding of PC. "History absolutely repeats itself," said Rafael Zapata, associate vice president of the Office of Institutional Diversity. "Providence College was founded for immigrants at a time that immigration was being restricted."

PIRC and other administrators have strived to keep PC's founding in mind, a motivating force behind their action. "This is certainly not new



PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH TRAYERS '17

The Providence Immigrant Rights Coalition (PIRC) is dedicated to enhancing campus acceptance of PC's immigrant population.

in both the college's history or the history of the U.S.," said Cebulko. "It is about how to navigate this new political landscape."

In line with most of President Trump's actions, unpredictability is almost certain. "Things are so rapidly changing everyday, so we will continue to offer legal counsel to those who are affected," said Goodwin.

Additionally, faculty members will receive training on how to advise and assist undocumented students or those who may come from mixed status families. "This time is really strange and unpredictable," said Pereira. "We want to have at least one person from offices such as study abroad, financial aid, etc. to get trained on how to manage this situation."

The goal is to provide students with as much information as possible, in order to make certain decisions and processes easier. "We want to be

able to inform students to feel empowered to make decisions for themselves," said Cebulko.

In addition, mental health support is available in the personal counseling center, with the addition of Dr. Jonathan Dater, who has a special focus in providing care to marginalized groups.

Students can also contact Dr. James Campbell, assistant vice president for student development and compliance. "The more educated people in our community become, I believe it will help to extend the group of allies," said Goodwin.

For those interested, PIRC meetings are held every Thursday at 6:45 p.m. in the Feinstein Community Room.

"There are some people keeping this issue at an arms distance due to political reasons," said Goodwin. "We, however, are rooting this in the mission of PC itself, as there is a humanity here that cannot be ignored."

Preview: Alumni & Family Weekend '17

by Gabriella Pisano '18
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

With Providence College celebrating its Centennial year, there have been many special events happening throughout the school year. There are also annual events like Alumni & Family Weekend, which celebrates the Friar Family and is full of PC Pride.

This year's Alumni & Family Weekend, taking place on Feb. 10-12, has special events planned due to it being the Centennial year. With more than 1,700 people registered, the many events are estimated to have high attendance. Giving guests the opportunity to see changes to the campus, the welcome reception for families will take place in the Arthur F. and Patricia Ryan Center for Business Studies from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

The Centennial exhibit located on the second floor of the Harkins Rotunda will be officially unveiled during Dinner with the Dominicans. At the dinner, Chaplains Rev. Peter Martyr Yungwirth, O.P., Rev. Philip Neri Reese, O.P., and other Dominicans will talk about the Peer Ministry Program and join attendees for dinner.

On Saturday at 10 a.m., President Rev. Brian J. Shanley, O.P. '80, will give the opening remarks of the weekend, offering updates on the College news and welcoming our featured speaker, Doris Burke '87. Burke is a three-time All-Big



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THECOWL

Providence College Alumni & Family will gather this weekend and celebrate the centennial.

East Basketball player at PC who went on to enter the world of television sports broadcasting. Burke will share the story of her journey in her speech "A Basketball Life."

The weekend includes diverse elements of academics, athletics, and the Arts. A number of academic based events will be held throughout the day on Saturday. From discussing the future of ObamaCare to having a mock Development of Western Civilization class about race, marginality and theologies of liberation, a wide variety of topics will be covered.

In addition to these events, there will be information sessions. Students and parents interested in Study Abroad opportunities will have the opportunity

to attend a "Know Before They Go" session. The Center for Career Education & Professional Development is also hosting a "Discern and Prepare for Who You Will Be" session to prepare graduates for success after PC.

Multiple sporting events are taking place over the course of the weekend as well. Though the Friar Men's Hockey Game is sold out, there is a game watch and pep rally to be held in '64 Hall. The Men's Basketball game against Butler is at 4p.m. on Saturday. There is a game watch for this game happening at the Rhode Island Convention Center followed by the PC 100 Bash.

During the PC 100 Bash, the PC Department of Athletics will honor a group of past PC athletes by retiring their

jerseys. Among those to be honored are Otis Thorpe '84; the late Bruce "Soup" Campbell '78; Doris Burke '87 '92G, '05Hon; Lou Lamoriello '63 '01Hon; Ron Wilson '77; and Cammi Granato '93 '12G.

The PC 100 Bash already has 800 people scheduled to attend, but those who have yet to register are still welcome and encouraged. Student buses will begin running at 2 p.m. before the game, and additional buses will loop from PC to the Dunkin' Donuts Center from 6-11:30 p.m.

Deirdre Driscoll-Lemoine, director of college events says, "Come down to the convention center, even if you haven't registered. There will be plenty of free food. It'll be on the fourth floor overlooking the beautiful city. Everyone is welcome. The theme of this whole weekend is celebrating being Forever a Friar Family."

As for the Arts, the Department of Theatre, Dance, and Film will be having performances of The Laramie Project on Friday and Saturday night at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Additionally, celebrating the 20th anniversary of A cappella at PC, the A cappella groups will perform at the PC 100 Bash at 8pm.

Alumni & Family Weekend is a highlight of the PC academic year. Driscoll-Lemoine stated, "College Events, Alumni Relations, and the Office of Institutional Advancement worked together on planning the weekend. I like to call this weekend an across campus collaboration. There are so many people involved in making all of this happen."

Friar Flashback: Looking Back With Alumni



Members of the first co-ed class at Providence College are pictured above at a class reunion.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE.EDU

by Marla Gagne '18
News Co-Editor

FRIAR FLASHBACK

Throughout the years, thousands of alumni have graduated from Providence College and witnessed the campus transform. Some of those alumni dedicated to education and the mission of PC have returned to campus to continue to guide new generations of students. As PC charges into a new era, here are some of the voices from its past.

In 1971, Providence College was a different campus. Every student was male, mass was held at Guzman Chapel, about 75 percent of students commuted, and the notorious Development of Western Civilization program was just being created.

"It was a schizophrenic class," says Dr. Raymond Sickinger '71, chairperson and professor of the history department. As he looks back on his time at PC, he recalls that it was a great time of change, both on campus and across the country.

Dr. Sickinger grew up locally and attended La Salle Academy with now Rhode Island Senator, Jack Reed. The dream of going to college was not always financially possible, but became a reality after he graduated as valedictorian, securing a full ride to PC.

The early 1970s was the "era of the coffeehouses." Dr. Sickinger played coffeehouses in Rhode Island and New York and was even roped in by Fr. Paul Philibert, O.P. '58, to play guitar during mass. Dr. Sickinger said it was a "subtle way that kept me close to the Catholic Church," carrying on the Dominican tradition of really looking out for the individual student. Dr. Sickinger also recalls sitting on the steps of Aquinas Hall as the whole school was shut down to

allow students to protest the Vietnam War.

He would later return to PC after graduating from the University of Notre Dame. Upon his return, he saw a co-ed campus and DWC coming to life, a program he had input in as a student.

Looking back, Dr. Sickinger confidently believes that if "[PC] had not gone co-ed, it probably wouldn't exist today." This "right decision at the right time" allowed women to bring a new perspective to each class, especially as historians began to recognize women's influence in history.

As for DWC, he believes DWC has "made [him] a better teacher and historian." Civ has allowed students and professors to see the overlap of different disciplines, focusing not just on history but literature, philosophy, and theology as well. Students also begin to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the Western culture. Only by "understanding our own culture" can students "understand other cultures."

Dr. Sickinger continues to watch the school transform and notes how alumni are "absolutely floored" when they return. He believes the College will continue to move in the right direction as long as they "don't lose the liberal arts foundation" that has allowed PC to be a unique and thriving college.

Before Wanda Ingram, senior associate dean of undergraduate studies and freshman class dean, came to PC, it was still all men and majority white. A self-labeled military brat, Ingram was located at a Newport base and looking at local colleges like Worcester and Brown University. But after some persuasion from a PC alum and high school guidance counselor, she attended PC.

Ingram recalls often standing out wherever she went, being part of the first class of women and a woman of color.

She recalls in that first year "there was no mixing of genders at all." Female students were located in Aquinas, also the home to DWC, and any males, including fathers, could not move past the lobby.

Racism was something that Ingram faced at the time and often just "dealt with it." With only about 12 women of color on campus, she was constantly being watched. She recalls experiences where some students, professors, and Friars would tell her she did not belong here and assumed was on scholarship.

A great source of her support and close relationship came from fellow students of color and older African American men, her so-called "older brothers." They formed a tight community and would have each others' backs through the ups and downs of school.

Looking at PC today, Ingram sees the beautiful transformation of the campus and the continued success of students and alumni. In reaction to recent protests on campus and across the country, Ingram says she is "so sad to be seeing the same things all over again," but she has great hope that everyone will continue to do the work that needs to be done with time and patience.

For Dr. John Breen '81, the chairperson and professor of the chemistry department, coming to PC was not something that happened by chance—it was in the family. His father, John J. Breen '47, taught in the business department for 46 years. With free tuition, Dr. Breen took advantage of the great deal and attended PC as a commuter student.

Dr. Breen found a home with the PC Men's Track and Cross-Country Team, finding them to be his main social circle on campus. He also experienced DWC in its original form when it was five days a

week for 50 minutes and four semesters with seminars thrown in throughout the semester.

Dr. Breen recalls, "It was hard to get an A, but with a reasonable effort B and B+ grades were achievable." He kindly remembers two of his favorite professors, Professor Delesanta and Professor Grace, but also the tough freshman exams. Over 200 students were in Harkin's auditorium where they faced a 23 page narrative with 164 fill in the blanks. People just started to give up and leave after three hours. But he believes "Civ has come a long way from that and is now a course where connections between ideas, literary works, and historical events are made and students are asked to write and re-write papers demonstrating that they recognize the importance of these connections."

After working in Indiana for 10 years, Dr. Breen's wife was tired of living out west and wanted to move back to New England. After some job searching, he discovered PC had a spot for a chemist open. "I can say I am very happy we made the move and I have never looked back."

Every new academic year, Dr. Breen is excited to be back at PC to see a new class of students. "I like the 'spring like' feel I get every fall when the campus comes alive again with students and the new freshman class arrives." He also is excited to continue to "learn new things about chemistry, matter, etc. and I get to do that as I continually change my upper level courses."

As Dr. Breen thinks back on his own experience and PC today, he wants the College to be a "safe and supportive environment" and a place that everyone can "look fondly back on their time at PC as being central to their growth into adulthood."

Remembering Rev. Adrian G. Dabash, O.P.

by Patrick Healey '17
News Staff

IN MEMORIAM

These past two weeks on campus have been veiled with sadness for many students and faculty as Rev. Adrian G. Dabash, O.P., passed away at the age of 85 on Friday, January 27.

George James Dabash was born in Brooklyn, New York, on February 22, 1931 to Greek Melkite Catholic parents who were originally from Lebanon. Fr. Dabash attended the University of Virginia for one year before his five-year period of service in the U.S. Navy, where he specialized in aviation maintenance, from 1950 to 1955.

After spending two years studying at Fordham University and working in the Bronx, Fr. Dabash came to Providence College. He believed that PC would prove to be a special place for him, and he was certainly special to the College.

From 1957 to 1959, Fr. Dabash attended PC as a pre-ecclesiastic student. In 1960, Fr. Dabash entered the Novitiate of the Dominican Friars in Ohio, where he also received his religious name, Adrian.

In the early 1960s, after moving from Ohio, Fr. Dabash studied in Massachusetts at St. Stephen's Priory, where he earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy and art and a master's degree in philosophy. He then received a Pontifical

bachelor's degree in theology in Washington, D.C., and was then assigned to begin his teaching career at PC in 1966, where he became a professor of art.

In 1971, Fr. Dabash was officially ordained as a priest at St. Pius V Church, which is right across the street from the College. He then left PC briefly to receive a master's in theology and liturgy at St. John's University in Minnesota, as well as a master's in art, painting, and fine arts at the University of Dallas.

In 1974, Fr. Dabash came back to PC, having received many degrees through many different institutions, and proceeded to teach art and art history for over 30 years. He was specifically known for his design and sculpture classes, and was described as a gentle soul by people who knew him.

Fr. Dabash also served as assistant chaplain and chaplain in his years at PC, as well as being involved in and moderating various student clubs across campus. While he was extremely active and generous on campus, he also took his extensive knowledge and love for art to other places in Rhode Island, such as mental health facilities.

Fr. Dabash had been retired from his positions at PC for the last seven years, and his presence will be sorely missed. Fr. Dabash spent so much of his life making this campus a better place through his preaching and sharing of his passion for art with students and faculty alike. He was a beloved and long-standing member of the PC community and is remembered for his service to his country. While his

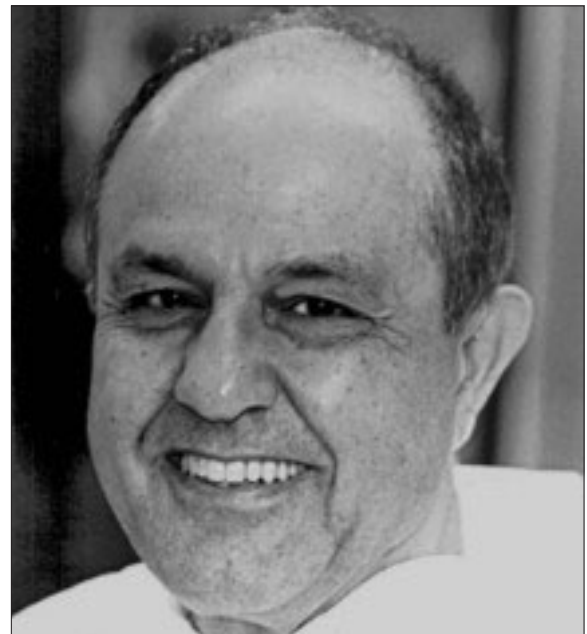


PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE.EDU

Fr. Adrian Dabash, O.P., taught at the College for over 30 years.

passing surely saddens the campus, students and faculty might find solace in celebrating a life well lived and a spirit that will live on forever here at PC.

Off-Campus Beat: Judges & Judicial Review

by Tait Becker '19
News Staff

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

On Tuesday, January 31, Neil Gorsuch, a federal appellate court judge, was nominated by President Trump to fill Justice Antonin Scalia's seat on the Supreme Court. This nomination cements the possibility of a conservative majority within the Court.

The selection of a Supreme Court justice was among one of the most highly debated topics during the presidential election, as well as a very important issue to the voters. Many believe that President Trump selected Gorsuch as a testament to the conservative and evangelical populations that supported him during his campaign.

Having attended Oxford, Columbia, and Harvard, Gorsuch was among a group of highly qualified nominees for this position. His expertise in legal philosophy can be noted in several of his decisions, specifically those having to do with the separation of powers, concluding that the administrative agencies under the Obama administration had been granted too much deference.

Also evident in his decisions are his strong conservative beliefs, many paralleling those of Justice Scalia. There's many Republicans therefore believe him to be a suitable candidate to fill the vacant seat. Although his nomination was met with great favor by Republicans, there was large disapproval by the Democratic party leaders,

claiming Gorsuch was a "radical."

The Senate Judiciary Committee plans to hold a hearing confirming his nomination in March. His nomination will then go to the full Senate for a vote. Since Republicans only hold 52 seats and Gorsuch would need 60 votes in order to force an up-or-down vote on his confirmation, he must gain the support of eight Democratic or Independent Senators. However, if there are not 60 votes, Republicans, holding majority within the Senate and the House, could potentially propose an amendment that would lower the amount of votes for an up-or-down vote to 51 votes instead of 60.

Early last week, President Trump enacted a clause in the United States code that enabled him to restrict immigration if the immigration of these persons is "detrimental" to the country. The countries affected are predominantly Muslim including Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen.

The ban suspends the immigration of refugees from these countries for 120 days and immigration from Syria indefinitely. The ban also included a temporary revoking of approximately 100,000 visas. This ban has been met

with harsh criticism and pushback by a large majority of the political community, as well as many different social and political groups within the U.S.

This ban affects many people who are already in the U.S. on visas from these countries but will not be able to return home, as they will most likely not regain entry into the United States.

Earlier this week the judicial branch began investigating the legal validity and extent of this executive order. On the night of Tuesday, February 7, a three-judge federal appeals panel heard arguments in opposition to the implementation of this indefinite ban, with many challenging the limits of presidential power in this case of national security. After a long night of arguments, this panel released a statement expressing skepticism about the arguments that came from President Trump's defense.

While many federal judges throughout the country have ruled to keep the ban, some have imposed blocks on the travel bans in their cities. President Trump spoke in this meeting of judges on the morning of Wednesday, February 8, saying that he was disappointed with the political motivation evident within the judicial system, a branch of government cherished for its unbiased approach to politically charged issues.

He defended his actions by explaining that, based on the information that was supplied to him, he acted on behalf of national security, specifically about an increasing threat of terrorism within the United States.

The Appeals court panel has still not reached a ruling on the soundness of this executive order, but stated that they would have a decision as soon as possible.



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Providence College Student Congress



Updates

by Tim Sullivan '17
Student Congress
Publicity Chair

CONGRESS

Speaker

Student Congress welcomed Jim Campbell and Courtney Miner to their meeting and discussed the Day One advocacy program and Miner's recent appointment as Victim Advocacy, Support & Education (V.A.S.E.) coordinator. As V.A.S.E. coordinator, Miner will act as the liaison between Providence College and the Day One program.

Day One is the only sexual assault victim's support agency in Rhode Island, working in four key departments: advocacy, education, clinical, and human trafficking. Providence College is the first campus in Rhode Island to work with the non-profit organization, which currently works with all police stations in the state.

Miner stressed that her pledge as coordinator is to work closely with Campbell and the College's revamped Title IX policies, and to make sure that "no call goes unanswered." When asked what the student body can do to spread the news of these services, Miner stressed the importance of awareness and communication.

To contact Miner (a confidential resource), her direct line is (401)-280-

0564. You can also reach her through the Title IX/Day One program at (800)-494-8100.

Announcements

The Sustainable Development group passed the introductory stages of being recognized as an official club and will present to the Congress next Tuesday. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Nick Hunsaker at nhunsake@friars.providence.edu.

New Business

New business was also introduced by Publicity member, Sabrina Guilbeault '18, regarding a coupon book for freshmen. The booklet will allow freshmen to attend free events on campus such as theatre shows or enjoy a free smoothie from Alumni Hall Food Court. This booklet will immerse PC freshmen in Friartown culture and was well received by the Congress.

Next Week

Next week, Fr. Peter Martyr, O.P., will be attending the meeting to continue discussions from his visit last semester. All students are welcome to attend at 5:30 p.m. in Ruane LL05.

Club Spotlight: IAB



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE DECHIRICO '17

by Daria Purdy '19
News Staff

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

The Intramural Athletic Board (IAB) is an organization that allows students to get involved with running the intramural sports program. There are 18 current members of the board, and four who hold executive positions: Kaitlin Koste '17, president; Joe DeChirico '17, vice president of operations; Robert Taranto '17, vice president of administration; and Kaitlyn Dempsey '17, vice president of marketing.

DeChirico says the task of the IAB "is to make sure the intramural program runs as smoothly as possible and to make sure that students have a great overall experience." The executive board meets with the Assistant Director of Intramurals, Nick Sweatt, to run day-to-day operations and to discuss big-picture goals.

The board members supervise the sporting events, and many of them are also officials. The IAB also completes administrative tasks, such as putting together equipment, creating scoresheets, and inputting statistics.

Along with supervising the 23 sports offered, the board runs some late night programming events, such as the basketball tournament that is held after Late Night Madness. The entire board meets together once a week.

DeChirico says "IAB is one of the smallest clubs on campus, so we always consider ourselves family." The members of the board, along with running intramural sports, also participate in many of these sports.

DeChirico says, that since becoming a member of the board, he has participated in almost all the 23 intramural sports offered. The members of the IAB also get paid for their work. The application for new members will be sent out shortly before spring break. Information about the IAB can be found on their Instagram, via @pc_iab.

Morning Mail is Introduced to Lessen Email Load

by Sabrina Guilbeault '18
Assistant News Editor

ON CAMPUS

At the start of the new spring semester, students were greeted with an email that changed the way emails work on campus. Since the notification, all class mailing list emails have been compiled into one daily email: Morning Mail.

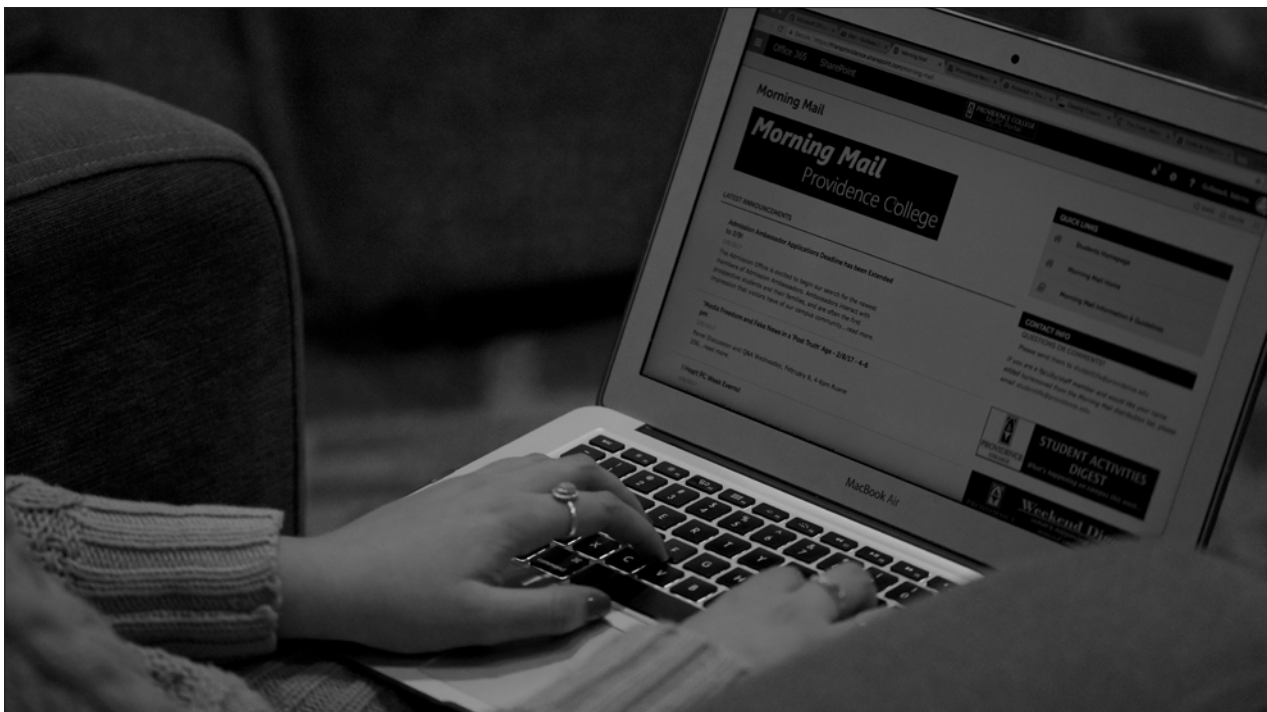
The decision to move from multiple emails to one email a day was prompted by student input. "Last year, many of our staff members mentioned that the topic of 'too much email' was coming up a lot in conversations with students," said Student Affairs Communications and Assessment Specialist Alison Sjovall. "We decided to dig a little deeper and, over the summer, IT helped us to analyze the actual number of emails that went out to the student lists."

According to Sjovall, her department learned that there was a double-digit percentage increase in the number of emails that went out through the student lists in the 2015-2016 school year versus the 2014-2015 school year. "We saw a similar trend for the prior year, so we thought it was time to think about how we approach email differently," she said. "A lot of schools use a daily, submission-based email newsletter, so we wanted to see how that could work here."

"I would say overall the feedback has been positive," said Director of Student Activities Sharon Hay, who moderated emails sent to class mailing lists last year. She explained the input was gathered by both formal and informal feedback from individual students as well as by gathering input at student meetings. "Several times, students indicated that friends at other campuses received one email each morning," she said.

Last semester, the idea and design of Morning Mail was presented to both Student Congress and BMSA, and student interviews were conducted to solicit input and feedback.

"We are only in the first few weeks, and while it is going really well, there are some technical glitches we're working through," said Sjovall. She explained a way to better format the email, format the portal pages, or the links individual announcements on Morning Mail leads to are all still being worked out. "We hope that it's here



Students will receive Morning Mail through their email on weekday mornings.

NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THECOWL

to stay, but we'll be gathering feedback over the course of the semester to make sure that it's meeting student needs, and then take it from there," she said.

For students looking to send emails regarding announcements for approved events or activities to class email lists, they may send the email just as they usually would to the respective class emails: Pc-2017@lists.providence.edu; Pc-2018@lists.providence.edu; Pc-2019@lists.providence.edu; Pc-2020@lists.providence.edu. An announcement needs to be submitted by 4 p.m. the day before it is to go into the Morning Mail.

Sjovall explained that once an email is submitted to the student lists, it will then be approved by the moderator. "Once the moderator approves the message, it is forwarded to our Morning Mail account," she said. "Each morning, we gather all the approved emails and create an announcement page for each submission on the Morning Mail page of the MyPC Portal."

MyPC Portal is PC's new email system via Microsoft's Office 365 Platform. The system allows students and

faculty to work online, make and share documents, and to easily collaborate with others. MyPC Portal also includes other student links such as Human Resources, the Strategic Plan for PC 2020, and Transportation Services.

Although many students like the idea of receiving less emails, other responses have been mixed. "I know everything is compiled so people could have easier access to things, but I barely look at it because there is just too much to look for," said Theodore Kiritsy '17.

"I am definitely not accustomed to the layout of the emails just yet," said Caitlin Costello '18. "The low compatibility with using it on our phones make it even harder to quickly glance over the announcements."

Students with suggestions on how to improve the new system are encouraged to give their feedback. "We're treating this semester as a pilot, so we're collecting feedback and will continue to look for ways to improve," said Sjovall. All feedback can be sent to studentlife@providence.edu.

A Culture of Consent on College Campuses?

by Meaghan Dodson '17
News Co-Editor

LECTURE

Dr. Donna Freitas has spent the past 11 years researching campus hookup culture. She conducted a national study of Catholic, private secular, public, and evangelical colleges, and gathered data via online surveys, one-on-one interviews, and online student journals. In all her research, she found that across three types of colleges—Catholic, private-secular, and public—"hooking up" has become the normal sexual experience for students who believe they are supposed to take a casual approach to sex in college.

On Thursday, February 2, Freitas shared her research with the Providence College community as she discussed "Creating a Culture of Consent: A Deeper Look at the Campus Sexual Assault Crisis." The event was co-sponsored by PC Anscombe Society, Women Empowered, Women Will, Student Affairs, and the theology, women's studies, and philosophy departments.

In her lecture, Freitas discussed how many students are dissatisfied with this campus hookup culture. Students are afraid to admit that they care about sex and relationships because they have the mentality that "everyone else is casual about it."

Freitas talked about how the point of a hookup is for it to be quick, "efficient,"

and emotionless. She also introduced the idea that there is a gender component to hooking up, with the word "hookup" often being intentionally vague so that men can imply that they did more than they actually did, while women can imply that they did less.

The majority of college students, Freitas claims, are "whateverists." These people feel that hookups are just "fine," but they engage in them anyway because they believe that is what is expected of them. To hookup is to "care less," to care less than your partner, and to be careless about sex.

Given the context of this campus hookup culture, consent often becomes murky. Many colleges talk about consent, Freitas states, but what needs to be talked about is how to create a culture of consent.

After analyzing her research, Freitas believes that the norms fostered by the hookup culture are incompatible with the norms that should exist within a culture of consent. Ideally, this culture should reflect who students are as ethical and social justice-oriented human beings, and the conversation surrounding it has to focus on reframing what is "right" for students and what will make them feel empowered.

Katie Shields '18 stated, "I thought the most important part of her lecture was talking about consent as respecting each other rather than 'no means no.' I think that if more colleges take that approach, more students will be inclined to listen."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANSCOMBE.PRINCETON.EDU

A March In The Wrong Direction?

The Dangers of Politicizing Science

by Brianna Abbott
Opinion Co-Editor

SCIENCE

Feet are growing weary and arms are growing tired. People are running out of clever ideas for signs; but the wave of marchers protesting different aspects of the new Trump administration refuses to ebb. The newest group to join the protests: scientists.

On Earth Day, April 22, there will be a March for Science in Washington, D.C., and over 100 other cities in the United States. And although science and empirical evidence should be championed by all, a march with clear political implications might hurt the scientists more than it helps.

Science has always been eclipsed by politics. The Church didn't burn Galileo at the stake because his data wasn't peer reviewed properly. The Scopes Trial didn't occur due to a lapse in the scientific method.

However, science itself should be completely objective and devoid of bias, and this generation has grown up believing in objective data and has had the privilege of seeing the rise of a belief in science in our technological age. Students who are taught that the mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell before they are taught how to file taxes naturally view science as objective fact more than any generation before.

That is why the actions of the Trump administration have come with shockwaves of disbelief and anger. Scientists and citizens alike were flabbergasted when pages regarding climate change and environmental conservation were taken down from government websites. Trump appointed former Texas governor Rick Perry as the head of the Department of Energy, a position usually given to a qualified physicist.

The scientific community and

social media also panicked when a gag order was placed on federal scientists and federal research grants were frozen, most of which has largely been retracted due to backlash.

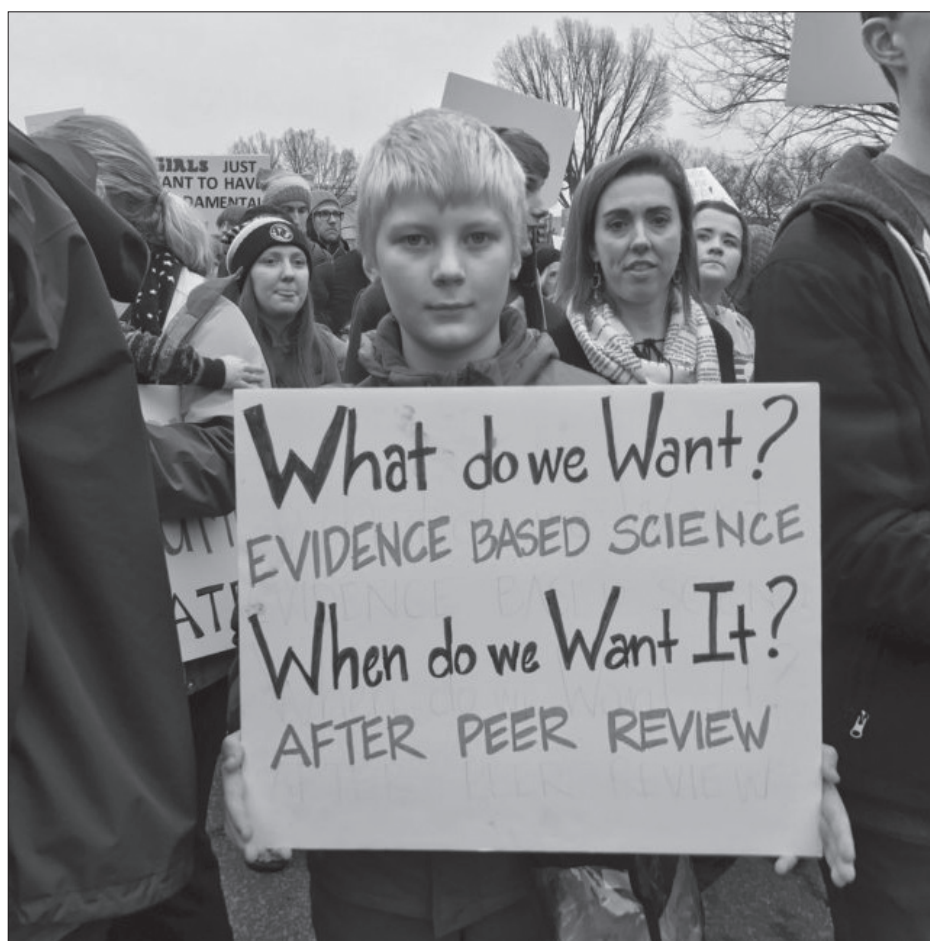
These actions have caused scientists to take up arms, believing that the integrity and process of science needs defenders. And when President Trump's pick for the head of the EPA, Scott Pruitt, has ties to the oil industry and has actually sued the EPA more than once as Oklahoma attorney general, science certainly does need defenders. However, a march is not always the best defense.

Yes, the demonstrations against the Muslim ban have seen pressure and pushback from the administration, and that gives hope that a March for Science will alert the government that scientists are here for the fight and will induce change.

However, there is also a chance that openly politicizing science rather than keeping it objective will be a danger to science in the years to come, especially with a country so divided down party lines.

Although the recent marches have produced some results, a large portion of the country is also growing weary of seeing people taking the streets. They refer to protesters as "sore losers" or "snowflakes," and the cause of the protestors seems less and less valuable the more that they march. Now, I have no problem with someone calling me a "snowflake" if it means that an immigrant with a legal travel visa is released from an airport; however, it becomes a completely different situation when science is involved.

Science is supposed to be objective and about discovery of the natural world, and can lead to advancement if actions are taken in accordance with scientific principles. However, much like when Galileo burned for his "sin," science does not get you



A PROTEST SIGN FROM THE WOMEN'S MARCH ON WASHINGTON ON JAN. 30.

PHOTO COURTESY OF 5 STATTATNEWS.ORG

very far if no one believes your data, even if it is fact.

In this divided country, the more science becomes associated with the left, the more the far right will dismiss it as fake news and agenda-driven, and the less people will trust the scientific community.

That doesn't mean, however, that the scientific community shouldn't fight with everything it's got to make sure that science is respected and heeded in this country. It just means that a march isn't the most productive way to get attention.

The way to fight for science is to advocate for it objectively on both sides. It is to raise hell when our grants are taken away through petition or social media in order to

get them back. It's advocating for scientific issues and voting scientists into office from both political sides. It is about making science more factual and less political so that any argument against it cannot stand. It is going into scientific fields, advocating for science in school, and making sure that scientific issues see the light of day instead of getting buried underneath politics.

The way to fight fiction is with objective, nonpolitical fact. Shouting only works if the person you're trying to convince is willing to listen. The way to fight for science is the same way you do proper science—to support the data and make sure that your unbiased, factual voice is heard in the crowd.

MARCH FOR SCIENCE

EARTH DAY

APRIL 22, 2017

A Country Of Care

by Hannah Paxton '19
Opinion Staff

SOCIETY

In a time of so much political controversy and antagonism, it is no surprise that a vast amount of protests are taking place all across the country for a variety of causes. Whether it be for women, immigrants, or refugees, people nationwide find reason for disappointment, and put that adversity into action.

However, even with a large portion of the country in protest, there are many people who seem to believe these demonstrations come from a place of immaturity and oversensitivity. They fail to acknowledge the purpose of such a public manner of objection, when truthfully it isn't too difficult to understand.

When it comes down to it, protest is really about the love of your country, or more specifically, love of the people in your country. On the surface, it's easy to think that people who are marching in the streets with signs and flags are filled with hate — and that may be the case for some — but the fact is, at its very root, protest comes from a place of love.

And that love is manifested in taking action against something one might think is unjust, in the hopes of bringing about some sort of change. People are so quick to



PHOTO COURTESY OF MULTIFILES.PRESSSHERALD.COM

PROTESTERS IN PORTLAND, MAINE MARCH IN ANTI-TRUMP DEMONSTRATION.

judge those who walk in solidarity, many of whom are young adults that get labeled as hypersensitive and childish, as though they are children throwing a fit for not getting their way. But the truth is that young

people are probably the most important when it comes to standing up against an unjustified cause.

We are the future. The power to make change is in the hands of our generation. No matter what anyone

else says, we are the ones who are most capable of making visible and significant progress.

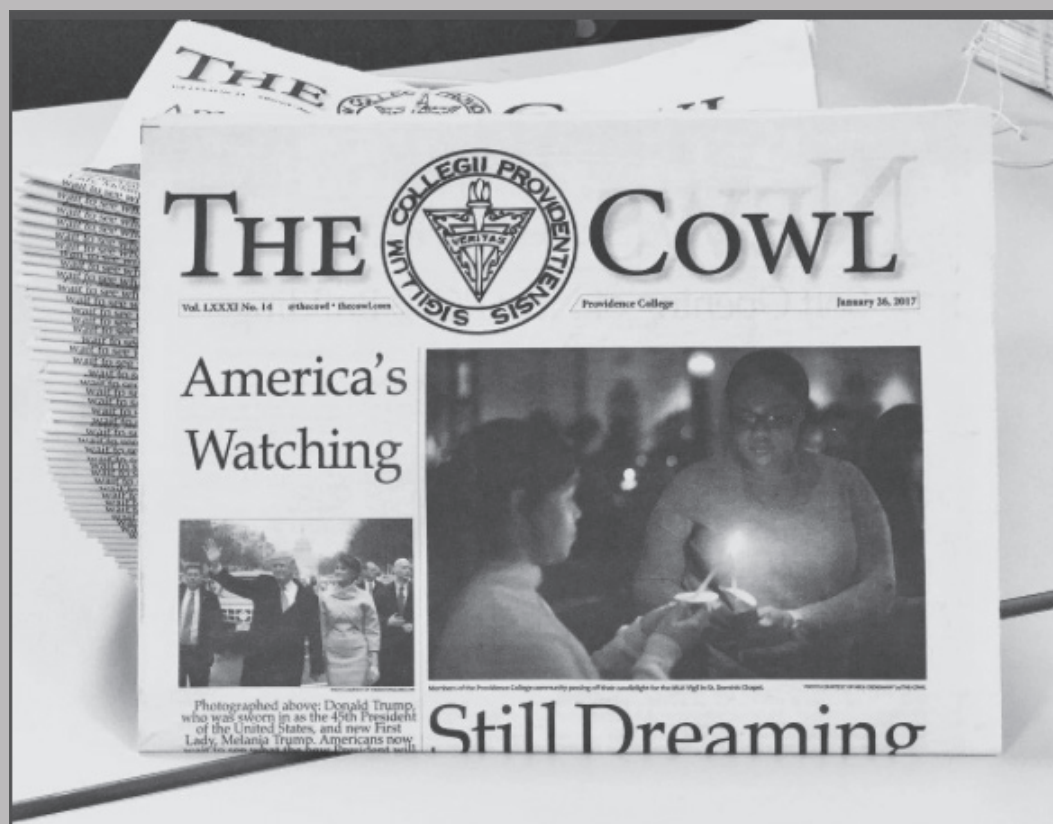
Too often when people are upset about political events, they will do no more than complain to anyone around them about injustice, and declare that a change needs to be made, but ultimately do nothing about it.

They will sit in discontent, but it isn't enough to mobilize their anger. Call us immature and petulant, but our generation knows what it is doing when we recognize inequality and publicly fight against it. It might take a lot of time and effort, but we know that nothing in the world is ever going to change if we don't take that first step to change it ourselves.

People of all ages, backgrounds, and ethnicities join together to protest, and that is what makes it so meaningful. In this one action, people from all different walks of life are standing together in unity to stand up for justice and equality, and if that isn't showing awareness and maturity, then nothing else is.

So, while from the sides of the street, or on the couch in front of the TV, it may seem inconsequential or a waste of time, these are people who care enough about our country and the people who live in it to express their frustration in a way that is not only peaceful, but also adequate for making change happen.

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The Cowl is committed to accuracy and carefully checks every article that goes into print to ensure that the facts are presented clearly and truthfully. If you find an error in any article, please email the Editor-in-Chief at editor@thecowl.com. Corrections will be printed as necessary.

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Corrections

Last week's front page for the article "United We Stand" misidentified the woman photographed. The photograph's caption should have read: Dr. Monica Simal, a faculty member of the foreign language department, stands in solidarity with fellow immigrants during Providence College's on-campus Solidarity March.



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Every Voice Deserves To Be Heard

by **Jacquelyn Kelley '17**
Associate Editor-in-Chief

EDITOR'S COLUMN

"She persisted," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) of Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)—and she had every right to persist.

On Feb. 7, Warren took the Senate floor to contest Senator Jeff Sessions' nomination for Attorney General, citing a letter written by Coretta Scott King in 1986. King's letter was critical



of Sessions, ultimately deeming him unfit to serve as a federal judge, the position he was nominated for at the time. Warren, therefore, found the letter relevant for current consideration as Sessions seeks a new office.

Warren read King's words, "Mr. Sessions has used the awesome power of his office to chill the free exercise of the vote by black citizens in the district he now seeks to serve as a federal judge," but McConnell swiftly prevented her from reading any more.

McConnell accused Warren of violating Senate Rule 19, which prevents senators from challenging the reputations of fellow senators while debating on the floor. However, this outdated rule is seldom enforced, raising questions as to why it was invoked when Warren presented a historical document to further inform the ongoing debate about Sessions' nomination.

McConnell defends his decision. "Senator Warren was giving a lengthy speech. She had appeared to violate the rule. She was warned. She was given an explanation. Nevertheless, she persisted," he said. Now, she is banned from contributing further to the debate.

To put it simply, she has been shushed.

There is perhaps nothing more frustrating, especially at this moment in our country's history, than having our voices go unheard. No matter our political affiliations, it is deeply disappointing when people refuse to listen to us. Ignoring the thoughts and opinions presented by others is detrimental to the health of our society and democracy.

Conflicts cannot be mediated successfully unless both parties involved feel as if they have been heard. If one refuses to listen to the other, there will be no progress toward a resolution. It is therefore incredibly important when engaging in any kind of dispute, but especially when participating in political debates, to actively listen to the opposition.

That is exactly what American citizens must do in their own daily lives if they are ever going to overcome the divisions among their family members, friends, and co-workers who have opposing political views. We must listen to one another. No matter how much we may disagree with one another, we must hear each other out. We each have a right to be heard, just as Warren does.

TANGENTS & TIRADES

The Holy Trinity: NFL Edition

The spectacular comeback of the New England Patriots against the Atlanta Falcons this past Super Bowl Sunday was a moving, if not religious, experience in the sense that what the Patriots accomplished—in overcoming a 25—point deficit and achieving the biggest comeback in Super Bowl history—was something only the most loyal and faithful Patriots fan would believe possible.

But that very faith is what makes Patriots Nation such a devout group of fans and is what makes being a true Patriots fan seem almost like its own sort of religion.

The more I thought about the parallels between other religions and the faith of the common Patriots fan, the more I could not help but see similarities between Catholicism and the faith of Patriots Nation.

If we compare Catholicism to the faith of Patriots Nation, we'll find the Holy Spirit in both. In Catholicism there is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—for Patriots fans, there is Bill Belichick, Tom Brady, and Robert Kraft. Similarly, Catholics believe in Jesus' wrongful persecution and crucifixion as Patriots fans share the belief in Tom Brady's wrongful persecution within Deflategate (and arguably his metaphorical crucifixion in his four game suspension earlier this season).

Just as Jesus was believed to have resurrected on the third day after his death, so too did Tom Brady rise again during the third quarter of this Super Bowl game to save the day. And just as Catholics believe Jesus will bring salvation to his faithful believers, Tom Brady most definitely brought salvation to those faithful Patriots fans last Sunday.

While this may all be a bit far-fetched, I think almost any true Patriots fan can at least agree on the existence of the devil, and while he may not be known as Lucifer, most will recognize him under the title of Roger Goodell.

-Sarah Kelley '18

Morning Mail: Student Approved

Morning Mail, the new email system implemented by Alison Sjoval, student affairs communications specialist, has streamlined student emails and made learning about events on campus much less stressful. Morning Mail is a significant development in the way students receive information and should be here to stay for a long time.

The efficient way in which Morning Mail organizes the messages that go out to students saves them ample amounts of time. The old email system included various graduate assistants, professors, and department secretaries sending out their promotions at random times throughout the day.

The steady stream of information would disrupt even the most prepared of student schedules; there always existed the necessity for students to continually check their email from morning until night. However, Morning Mail, arrives consistently between 9-10 a.m. every day, cutting down significantly on the time students will need to spend on reading through emails later in the day.

Another huge time saver for students is the appearance of the mail. Each item sent by a department receives an introductory sentence with a link labeled "More" that allows a reader to view the entire original email. Students now have choices to read the messages that are a priority to them and do not have to spend time clicking through the emails that they have no need to read.

The Morning Mail, with its increased system of efficiency, has greatly improved the way students receive e-mails and should continue in the foreseeable future.

-Kevin Copp '18

Don't Mute the Commercials

Super Bowl LI will go down in history. It will be hard to forget one of the greatest comebacks in NFL history, and the look on Tom Brady's face when he became the first quarterback to ever win five Super Bowls. However, there is more to remember than the game itself.

Throughout the game there are the notorious Super Bowl commercials. These commercials range from silly and lighthearted to deep and influential.

Skittles aired a goofy commercial about a boy throwing skittles through his crush's window while everyone in the girl's family enjoyed pieces of this late night snack.

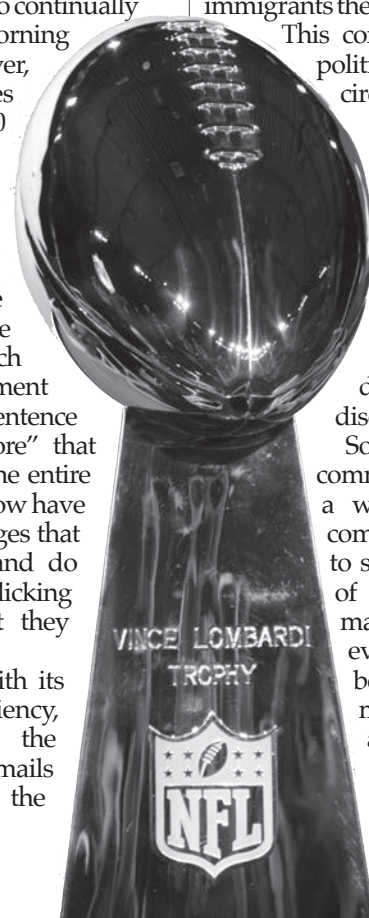
Budweiser aired a commercial which reminded its viewers that one of its founders emigrated from Germany to the United States. Hence, without immigrants there would be no Budweiser.

This commercial hit on a major political topic that is currently circulating our nation.

Hitting on another political topic, Audi aired a commercial that stated, "Audi of America is committed to equal pay for equal work." With the Women's March that occurred recently, women's equality has definitely been a major discussion.

Some people find commercials annoying and a waste of time. However, commercials can have a lot to say in such a short period of time. Commercials can make you laugh, smile, or even cry. Commercials can be so powerful and very memorable, if you simply allow them to be heard and do not hit the mute button.

-Allison LaBelle '20



It's Time For the Media to Take On Trump

Media

Continued from front page

The news media, as an independent institution, is an indispensable aspect of our democracy. Professional journalists carry the responsibility of keeping the public informed on the activities of the government and other powerful institutions. As the citizens' watchdog, the press plays a vital role in promoting transparency and holding public figures accountable.

Throughout the campaign season, the mainstream news media's coverage of Trump conjured numerous failures. Seeing profits in Trump's celebrity status and his unpredictable outbursts, news media outlets more or less excused Trump's glaring flaws and incompetence.

His campaign rally speeches were broadcasted live like rock concerts, and even as Trump disparaged women, Muslims, immigrants, veterans, the disabled, and even the media itself, major networks and publications continued to play it safe with Trump, giving him the excessive coverage he craved, and avoided tough questions on policy and conduct. The media's passive complicity with his crude antics and manipulation helped Trump win the election. In 2017, we cannot afford passive complicity anymore.

The Trump administration, although still in its infancy, has peddled out lies and invoked damage on our country's democratic institutions and standard principles. To list all of the disturbing things the new administration has



PHOTO COURTESY OF SLATE.COM

done in the past few weeks would be exhaustive, but here are a few. Trump has still refused to sever his personal business ties, violating Article 1, Section 9, Clause 8 of the U.S. Constitution, and has yet to release his tax returns.

He issued an (most likely unconstitutional) executive order banning immigration from seven majority Muslim nations, which caused deliberate confusion and chaos, and then challenged the legitimate authority of federal judges who blocked the ban. He appointed notorious white supremacist and certified fascist, Steve Bannon to a key seat on the National Security Council.

He, again, praised the autocratic Vladimir Putin in bizarre fashion, and he has tweeted numerous crazy, inflammatory statements because, you

know, what else should he be doing?

Citizens, as organized and loud as we can be, cannot demand answers and change completely on our own. We need the news media to proclaim its role as a safeguard of democracy and put a powerful and unrelenting check on Trump. Mainstream news reporters need to start immediately and repetitively calling out Trump and his team for their blatant lies as soon as they happen.

Truth is not and cannot become a partisan issue. Every provocative tweet Trump sends out needs to be ignored. Instead, the news media should only focus its coverage on issues of policy and governance—and it should not become distracted by a clownish sideshow.

Trump and his allies seem to believe they are above transparency and

accountability—but this could not be more false. Even as the administration refuses to answer important questions and attempts to paint anyone who does not agree with them as the "enemy," reporters must continue asking the important questions and demanding transparency.

Media resistance to Trump will require cooperation and solidarity between individual reporters and major outlets. It will require the acknowledgement that being the eyes and ears of democracy—informing citizens of the truth and upholding the fundamental principles of our society—is more important than chasing ratings or getting on a bully's good side.

It is time for the news media to take its kid gloves off and take Trump on.

Free Speech Is Not A Free Platform



MILO YIANNPOULOS

PHOTO COURTESY OF LYTIMG.COM

by Taylor Godfrey '19
Asst. Opinion Editor

FREE SPEECH

In a world of fake news and "alternative facts," it can sometimes be difficult to decide where to draw the line between free speech and hate speech. But under a president who has no problem ignoring his people's calls for change and tweeting that "any negative polls are fake news," it is a problem we must address. Much of the tension surrounding this issue came to a head at the University of California Berkeley campus on the night of Feb. 1.

Right-wing writer and blogger Milo Yiannopoulos was booked by the University of California, Berkeley College Republicans to speak on campus. This announcement was followed by 100 faculty members signing letters of protest, as well as people arriving at the event to protest in person. As the night went on, however, the peaceful protest devolved into a riot that resulted in the cancellation of the event.

After that night, many are calling the students' protest an affront to the freedom of speech guaranteed in the Bill of Rights. Leaving aside the riots that endangered

students' safety, however, the calls for cancellation of the event did not violate freedom of speech.

The protesters at Berkeley did not infringe on Yiannopoulos's right to free speech. They did not shut down his website. They did not forbid him from speaking at other places. They did not put him in prison for saying things they disagreed with. The students and faculty at Berkeley did not silence Yiannopoulos, they simply refused to give him a megaphone, and that is really the big difference.

According to the *New York Times*, the faculty letters calling for the cancellation of the event cited a speech that Yiannopoulos gave to the University of Wisconsin in which he harassed a transgender student by name. He has also been banned from Twitter for inciting attacks on celebrity Leslie Jones.

Despite what he might have said at this appearance at Berkeley, his past actions indicate that he is not opposed to being highly offensive and even stooping to the level of hate speech. It is clear why students would not want such a person to speak at their school.

It is a good thing to listen to opposing views and expose yourself to people who you do not agree with.

However, opening a discourse to debate and discuss political ideas, especially about sensitive subjects, should be done with respect from both sides. From what Yiannopoulos has said and done in the past, a discourse with him would be anything but respectful or even civil.

It is important, especially now, to understand and protect freedom of speech. Students and faculty did not want Yiannopoulos to speak at their school, not because of his right-wing ideas, but because of the way he often delivers them interspersed with hateful speech. They simply did not want his often hate-filled ideals to be associated with themselves and their school.

But this is about more than one protest and riot on one college campus. This is an issue which has been at the forefront of the political scene since the early days of Trump's campaign.

Trump often lashes out at programs and people that speak negatively about him. He has called news stations like CNN "fake news" when they report things he does not like. These practices could easily devolve into something much worse. We need to be watchful that these do not become something that really does violate the tenets of the freedom of speech.



A MASKED AGITATOR SETS FIRE AT UC BERKELEY PROTEST ON FEB. 1.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CDN.ABCLOCAL.GO.COM

PHOTOGRAPHY



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/ THE COWL

ABOVE: Ryan Cox '18 and Alyssa Valerio '18 perform at acoustic night, part of the Friday music series, sponsored by McPhail's.

RIGHT: Students smile as they play a card game at Casino Night, sponsored by Student Activities and Cultural Programming.

BELOW: A student shoots dice while playing craps with her friends at Casino Night, sponsored by Student Activities and Cultural Programming.



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/ THE COWL



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/ THE COWL



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/ THE COWL



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/ THE COWL



KIMBERLY LEZAMA '18/ THE COWL

ABOVE: Students and faculty alike enjoy conversation and hors d'oeuvres after a lecture on John Calvin, sponsored by the Humanities Forum. Dr. Esther Chung-Kim, the guest speaker, is a professor of religious studies at Claremont McKenna College.

LEFT: Students watch the big game on screens in McPhail's during the Super Bowl LI watch party, sponsored by Student Activities and Cultural Programming.

BELOW: The lacrosse team raises their helmets towards the flag after the national anthem at their first game of the year against Boston University.



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/ THE COWL

ROVING PHOTOGRAPHY

What is your idea of a perfect date?



"Going on a boat cruise."
Clare Minnerath '20



"Watching the sunset at the beach over dinner."
Kary Gutierrez '18 and Meaghan Callahan '17



"Being with someone I care about and hanging out."
Rachel Lynch '20 and David Delea '20



"Going to a nice restaurant and making my girl a salad at Ray."
Doug Caliendo '20 and Padriac Connors '20



"Walking on the beach or walking during a sunset."
Madison Sansone '18, Kathleen McHugh '20,
Tilly Burzynski '19, and Christina Putigina '20



"Going sky diving, hiking, and going to a drive-in movie."
Jillian Sweeney '19, Taylor deBoer '19,
Michelle Feely '18, and Tunde Johnson '18



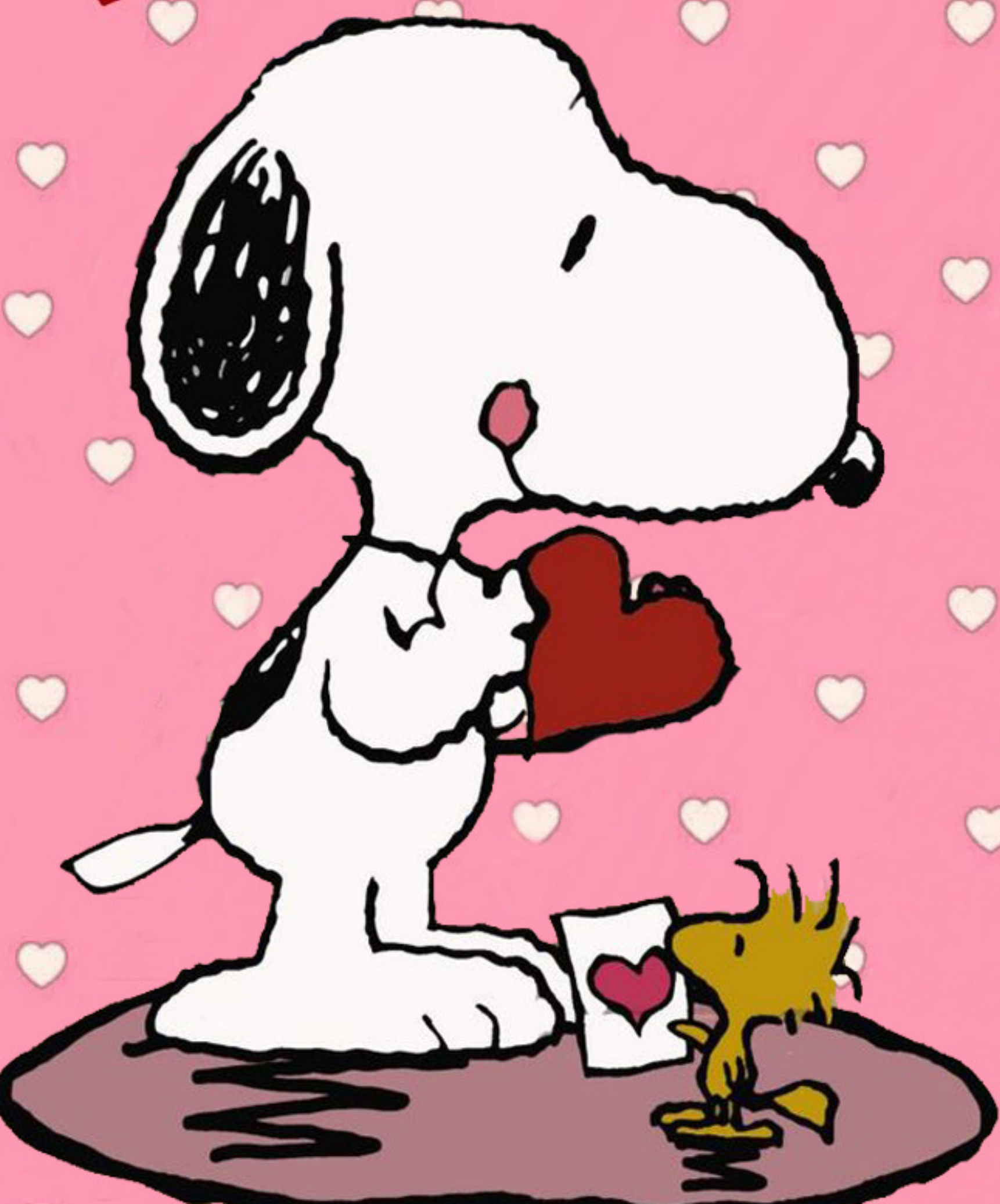
"A romantic dinner at Ray."

-Dot

PHOTO COURTESY OF NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL

Photos Taken by Kimberly Lezama '18, Assistant Photo Editor

HAVE A HAPPY
VALENTINE'S DAY!





For a Dream...

by Jonathan Coppe '18
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

"Thou art fair and comely,
And thou art lovely, my love,
Thou art lovely—"

I might today have begun such a poem,
putting to my lips some ancient tongue
from another mouth within my own
so pierced is my soul by the sight of you
so fixed on your loveliness and grace
that this language — so vulgar — that we speak these days
seems too hobbled, too blind to do justice
to this image of you in me, to this wound,
for the soul should bleed beauty, not blood.

A wound? A wonderful wound to the heart
by which you entered, not easily to leave.
Are not the pangs of love, at once like bites
and gentle caresses, the sensation of the heart
as it is entered, moving to make room?

And should I wish you to go?
Some people talk of the key to the heart, which
enchantresses and femme fatales can find,
but I think no such thing. There is no key,
no door in which to place it, for the heart
is sealed and dense like clay and has no door.
You bore your way in, so that if you leave,
there is a hole where your space occupied.

So I am full of you. Should I not be?
When into your eyes I've looked
and seen the secret places of your soul,
where once you were alone without a hand
to lead you on a path, with nothing but yourself
to find a road in darkness? And sure you could have,
but who fears not the dark that clouds the eyes
not of the body but the mind,
and makes us feel we cannot live or think
without the risk of blindly tumbling down
some precipice we could not hope to see?

Sure I wish I were a Wordsworth.
Then I could make your hair a willow tree.
Or if instead I were the Bard,
then I could make your face the glowing sun,
or call you nymph and make your touches lace.
But would you believe me? You, my love, are sad.
What can I do to cheer you?
What words from my poor mouth will lift your face?
Alas, I cannot tell you that I love you,
so I'll find some words to cheer you in their place.

Indeed, I cannot tell you that I love you.
To do so would be harm for you and me.
For I'm the wood that fell in love with fire,
and not the bird who fell in love with sky.
By choice I'll let my love go unrequited
that I might give you all you need of me.
And as you need of me, so take of me,
for I am everything and nothing,
I am whatsoever you need me to be,
my love in every case making me so.
I am happy to be this for you,
though I am sad I can be nothing more,
when I think about your laugh and wit
and the many nights that I've stayed up
drawing pictures of your flawless face,
liquor in my blood.

Perhaps I'll dream a dream where I am with you,
where in my arms you rest secure, unharmed,
where I shall say, "My love, you are a beauty,"
and I shall dance for all your grace and charm.
Then I shall crown your head with fragrant flowers
and on your belly gently lay sweet spice
until once more I open up my eyes,
and you are gone.



A Familiar Bench

by Matt Farrell '17
Portfolio Staff

SHORT STORY

I hate Valentine's Day. It's the worst day of the year. From the flowers to the dinners to the love. Ugh, the love. I can't deal with the love. I hate this hellish day. It reminds me of what I have and have lost. Another night at the bar and watching stupid YouTube videos until I fall asleep. Goodnight my fellow loners.

James smacked the ENTER key on his keyboard with authority. As the blog post entered, James leaned back in his chair, hands over his face, and took a long breath. Spinning out of his chair, James stood up and walked to the door, drooping into his shoes with each step. He put on his coat, and shuffled out the door.

Wow, James thought to himself, some of these people look so moronic. To James, it seemed that on every street the lamps illuminated love. Only couples walked by, some holding hands, some arm in arm, laughing and kissing. It was as if a divine force was attempting to create envy in James' soul. It was working.

James slowly walked into The Wilting Rose, or as he liked to call it "Loner's Paradise," and immediately was greeted by the smell of smoke along with the sound of misery. The dimly lit bar hid shadows of patrons wallowing in whatever their poison was. James strutted to the bar and hopped onto a bar stool, then slouched over the counter.

"My usual," James whispered to the bartender. "Add a lil' something to help me get over this day." The bartender nodded and James took out his wallet to grab some cash, when a photograph fell out of his pocket. James was then tapped on his shoulder and a soft, "Excuse me," fluttered through his ears. He turned around to see a woman holding the photograph. Within a moment, James snatched the

photograph from her hands and whimpered, "Thanks."

"Well, that's a little rude," the woman's voice spoke, now shriller than before. "Did your mom ever teach you manners?" James ignored her in hope that he once again could feel in isolation. "Don't you want to have a Valentine this year? I could help you out," the voice spoke softly once again.

"I'll help you out," James responded. "I recommend heading home. This isn't a place to find love." James got up and started walking towards the door, but the woman grabbed his arm, and he could feel the persistence in her grip.

"Would you want to head home with me?"

"No, thank you. I would like to leave now. Please let go."

"Fine," the woman's voice escalated. "Your loss pal, you couldn't handle this anyway. If you don't want any of this then I don't know what kind of man you are. Go back to your boyfriend, twinkle toes." James' fist tightened, but a deep breath persuaded him to head for the exit. All eyes fixated on him, questions all around.

James walked to a park, with the air starting to send chills up his spine in the Los Angeles night. He sat on a familiar bench, as tears succumbed to gravity and fell from his face. He reached into his pocket and took out the photograph, and examined his past happiness. James continued to cry, burying his face in his hands.

"Who is in the photograph?" James, sniffing, looked up with eyes filled with resentment for every human to see a young man.

"Get out of here, kid," James responded. "What can you possibly be doing out at this time?"

The grin that was on the

school tomorrow."

James sat straight up quickly and offered a spot on the bench for the kid. "I'm sorry to hear that. Where's your mom right now?"

"She's out working for the night. She says a lot of men get lonely tonight, so she will make a lot of money for us."

"Why would she leave you alone? Do you have a dad?"

"I never met my pops."

"Well I'm sorry to hear that," James responded, completely flabbergasted. "I can stay with you a bit while your mom is out."

"Thanks mister, but you don't have to. It's not my first time being alone, plus Mama said not to talk to strangers."

"Your mother seems like a smart lady, but you do know you're breaking her rule?"

"When you see a person alone crying, what are you gonna do? I can't leave someone who is sad alone."

"Well I appreciate your concern, but you don't have to worry about me. I've handled my feelings this long, I can keep on going."

"But what is the photograph of? I bet it's a person, since you wouldn't be crying over a picture of a building or something. So who is it?"

James sighed and handed the picture to the boy. The boy examined the picture closely, and could see it was James and another man, arm in arm. The two men were in a photo booth making goofy faces. "So is this like your best friend or something?"

"Turn the picture over." The boy turned the picture over and there were words on the paper. The boy read the words on the back.

James, I love you and I'm sorry to do this to you. You were my best friend and companion. You are my rock, but I am weak. I cannot keep going through life with everyone around me hating us. I know this will hurt, and I will owe you a million apologies. I hope you can move on. Love, Eric.

"Who was he?"

"Eric was my boyfriend of five years. We met at a bar and moved in together three years ago. We were going to get married."

"What happened?"

"He worked in construction, and a lot of the other guys did not approve of his life choices, i.e. me. After awhile of constant slurs and awful words, he decided to quit his job. But, on his last day he was followed home by some coworkers and beat close to death. He barely made it to our apartment and he fell into my arms, bloody and bruised. I called the

police and he was rushed to the hospital. Eric wouldn't say who it was, and he fell into depression. After a year of rehabilitation and fighting his illness, he passed away last November. This was in his hands when I found him."

Shocked, the boy's face resembled fear and confusion. The boy put his arm around James as he was holding back tears. "That's not fair," the boy cried. "How can someone do that to you? To him?"

James nodded and shrugged. "It happens."

"But some people don't understand the effects they have on some people."

"Well a 13 year-old has a better understanding than grown men."

"I'm 12, and that means those men are stupid monkeys."

"Lots of energy in you, eh?"

The boy nodded. "I just don't get it. Like, God put us on Earth for a reason, and we are all in his image, that's what Father George tells me. I want to do good in the world. I just want there to be love for one another. Like Valentine's Day, but every day."

"I mean I'm not much of a religious person, but I can agree with you on that one. How do you have so much hope for everyone?"

"I see the good in everyone. There is always an opportunity to do good, no matter what your beliefs are. You shouldn't treat someone badly no matter what. If, like, for one day we didn't do anything bad to anyone we would be so much happier."

"That is so true," James nodded in agreement. "Maybe you should run for president."

"No, that's not me. I want to be in the NBA. My mama says I shoot like Michael Jordan, but I say I'm Steph Curry."

"Well," James sighed. "Don't let anyone get in the way of your dreams."

"It's no dream, it's gonna happen."

James laughed. "I like the confidence."

"Thanks mister. Well I should probably go to bed now, it's late."

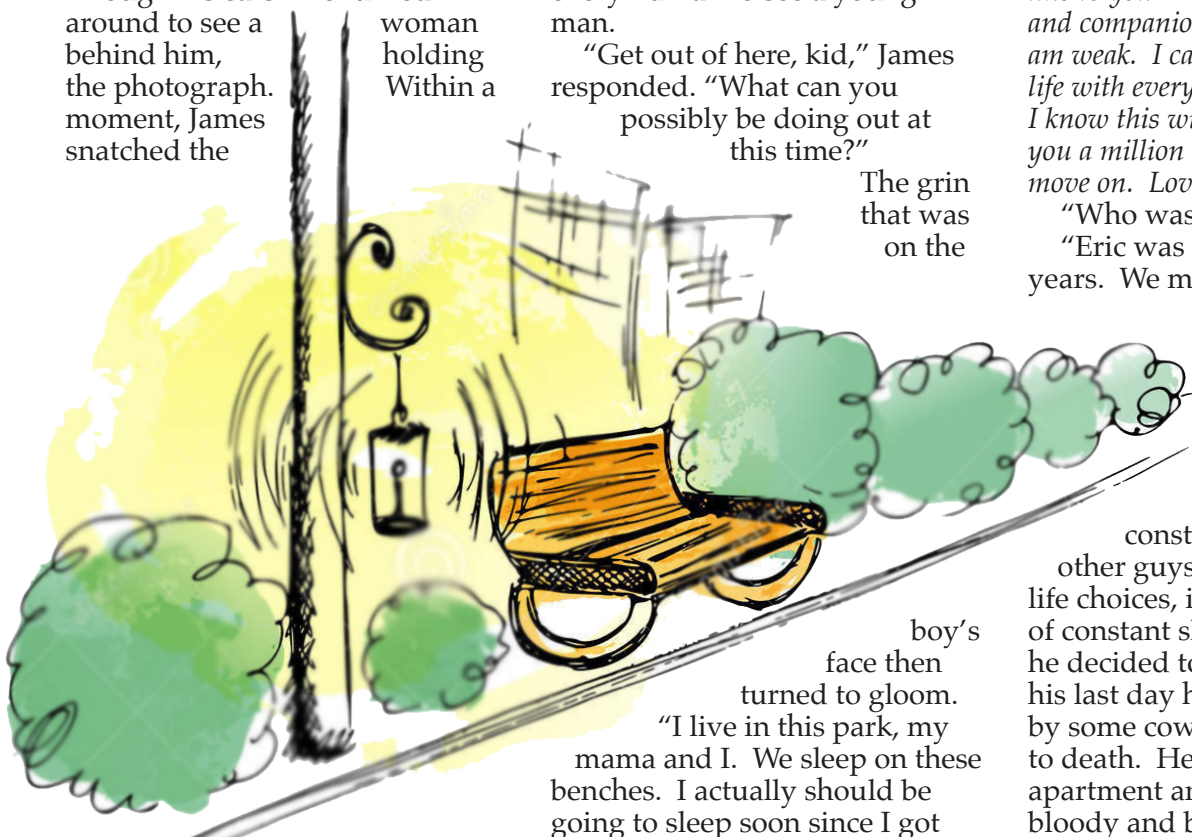
"Do you want to come sleep at my place? It has a bed."

"I have to wait for my mama, but thanks."

"Ok kid, I hope to see you soon."

"See ya later mister. Remember to do good." On that note James left, a smile still on his face.

After exiting the park, he turned around to see the darkness of it. He reached into his pocket, only to find his wallet. Eyes widened in shock, his breathing soon relaxed. He turned around and smiled, walking through the street lamps home.



boy's face then turned to gloom.

"I live in this park, my mama and I. We sleep on these benches. I actually should be going to sleep soon since I got



Two Writers Walk Into a Blind Date



TWO WRITERS FEATURE

"I had finally mustered up enough courage to go on one of these dates. Extremely nervous to meet the real person attached to the dating account, I made my way into the restaurant where we decided to meet..."

by Connor Zimmerman '20
Portfolio Staff

I had finally mustered up enough courage to go on one of these dates. Extremely nervous to meet the real person attached to the dating account, I made my way into the restaurant where we decided to meet.

It was just like any other diner, with the malt milkshakes and crispy fries, but it would be the day that my life changed forever. I got there before her so that I could scout out the perfect booth.

As I sat down on the vinyl covering and waited for her to arrive, my hands became so sweaty that I couldn't even grip my water. I ran to the bathroom and knocked over a waitress on rollerblades. As I heaved up my breakfast in a stall, thoughts began to race across my mind. What if she doesn't look like her profile picture? What if she doesn't like the way I look? What if she isn't a "she" but one of those creepy 40-year-old catfish guys? I walked over to the mirror and splashed

some cold water on my face. I stared at myself and saw a mask of perspiration on my face, more crinkles on my forehead than a Ruffles chip, and eyes redder than blood. I slapped myself in the face and said, "Pull it together, Wazowski. You can do this. It's just a date. You've been on like three before, this is nothing new." Oh man, I was never so wrong before.

As I walked out of the bathroom with a newfound swagger, I looked towards my booth and saw her sitting there. I never believed in love at first sight until I saw her. "Anna," I whispered as I looked at what could only be described as an angel. She was perfect, with soulful green eyes, wavy chestnut hair, and a smooth black leather jacket. "This girl is way out of my league," I said, and the cop at the counter next to me looks at Anna and then me and snorted, "You have no idea, guy." I willed myself to walk over and go to sit down in the booth. She looked up at me from her menu, I went to say something, but my mouth suddenly became

dry. She smiled and said, "Hi, I'm Anna, you're Mike right?" I went to drink my water and then I finally said, "Yeah, I'm Mike. Sorry I'm late. I was just in the bathroom." She nodded her head with some concern, "The waitress told me, are you okay? I heard you ran right through her." I gave a nervous laugh, "Oh yeah, I just had to really go the bathroom." She laughed and then the rest of the date was like out of a movie. We shared malt milkshakes, talked about our deepest wishes for the future, and laughed at each other's jokes. I wished I could have frozen time and enjoyed that date forever. I never wanted it to end.

The truth is, though, I never saw her again after that date. I wished it had never ended, but the way it did was anything except for perfect. As we finished the date and received the check, we stood up from our seats. I said, "This went really well, maybe we could do this again." I pulled out my wallet from my back pocket, and then in a fluid motion, she darted for the knife from the table

and shanked me. She grabbed my wallet as I fell to the ground and ran. The cop from the counter chased after her, and I closed my eyes.

When I became conscious again, I was in the hospital in a bed with the cop from the diner next to me. He said, "Man, you are one unlucky guy. I have never seen that happen before." I replied in a daze, "What happened? I was on a date and then...she stabbed me." The cop says, "Yeah, that's Anna for you, always the schemer." I said, "I'm never using that dating website again. Women Behind Bars is for nutcases." The cop laughed, "Anna was up for parole in a month. Don't know what got into her, but we'll find her." I asked, "Hey I never found out what was she doing time for?" The cop replied, "Oh, she was a petty thief who assaulted some strangers for cash." From that day forward I vowed never to date a convict again, but I could never get Anna out of my head. Anna Connda was forever the one that got away.

by Marisa Gonzalez '18
Portfolio Staff

I had finally mustered up enough courage to go on one of these dates. Extremely nervous to meet the real person attached to the dating account, I made my way into the restaurant where we decided to meet.

I have never liked the idea of online dating. One could never know if they were talking to a robot, a real man, someone who enjoys crushing people's hearts, or someone who used a fake account because he or she was insecure. I had seen enough *Catfish* to know of the possible dangers. I really hoped I wasn't going to be "catfished," because that would totally suck.

I had just left my job at the Hickey Funeral Home, so I was really hoping for a lively night. I was lucky enough to already be wearing a nice dress. It was dark blue and long and really brought out my eyes. My mom always taught me to look my best, so I do, even when my clients are dead. But, anyway, already wearing a

dress made it easier to actually make the date. If I hadn't been wearing something nice, I would have gone home, sat on my couch, eaten some cookies, and watched *Grey's Anatomy*. The whole time, while I sat there on the couch, I would tell myself that I was simply preparing for the date. No way I was avoiding the mysterious person who could possibly kill me or break my heart. No way!

So here I am. In the restaurant. The lovely Olive Garden. He picked it, I didn't. I would have chosen something more exotic so we could talk about the weird lighting or something. Anything to make the night go fast and leave my life out of the conversation. But, no. The Olive Garden. So, I'm waiting. Boy, am I waiting. "Geez. Where is this guy? He made the reservation and hasn't even shown up?," I wonder. I had to pee. "Come on, dude!"

Smash! "Oh please don't be him. Please, please," I begged. I looked towards the noise and saw a lanky guy, glasses askew, messy brown hair, and green eyes. My heart stopped. The lanky

guy picked himself up from the ground, collected the pieces of broken plates and then faced me. I died a second time. He seemed embarrassed. His face was flushed, and he had a silly smile. I died a third time. He cleared his throat and walked towards me. There goes my soul. Ok, so hanging around dead people has really taken a toll on me. Anyway, cute guy was coming closer and closer and closer and then he went to the next table, apologized for the mess and filled the peoples' water. Drat! He's a waiter! Not mystery guy.

I slumped in my chair. Well, this is just perfect! I must look so stupid! I then smashed my head against the table. Stupid idea. Like, really stupid because my head began to hurt and I could feel a bruise beginning to form. Then my knee hit the table and I could feel another bruise begin to form. In frustration, I slammed my hand against the table causing water to spill onto my dress. It was cold water, so I jumped and the chair moved and I landed on the floor. My butt hurt! I snapped my heel. People turned and looked at me. I

buried my head into my chest and sat there in water looking stupid.

I thought my life was over. I thought I was going to have to live with dead people for the rest of my life. I thought that I was never, ever going to use the computer again. Then a hand fell onto my shoulder. I looked up, and my eyes grew wide. I probably looked like one of those wide-eyed plush toys. Probably the fish since I was wet. But even though I looked like a wide-eyed fish, the face attached to the hand did not laugh. He smiled and held out his hand. I grabbed it and he pulled me up. I was then able to fully see my rescuer. I saw brown hair, glasses, and green eyes. It was the waiter. Still holding my hand he cleared his throat and said, "Hey, I'm Ben. So I guess you're as clumsy as I am. That's good to know. I thought I was alone. So, um, my shift is almost over. Do you think two clumsy people can eat together without making a mess?"

I stared at him for a very long time. Then smiled and said "Yes."



Mi Amor, My Love

by Kiley McMahon '20
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

A tick and a tock,
A ringing of the clock,
The beating of a heart,
The syncing of the other.

The sound of his voice,
Summoning her to him,
And vice versa.

They had all the time in the world,
For their love would not stop growing,
But continue to flourish,
As time progressed and as age continued to creep.

A tick and a tock,
A ringing of the clock,
The beating of a heart,
The syncing of the other,
Her last luring breath,
His hand holding hers,
Telling her to hold on.

They had made it to 50 years,
But her time had come,
She could no longer suffer the pains of life.

His heart in two,
One on earth
And one with the lingering soul,
That had previously entered the pearly white gates.

On Valentine's Day that year,
He ate her favorite kind of chocolate,
Reminiscing about the kisses he used to receive after her last
bite.

The next Valentine's Day,
He joined her and her soul,
Behind the pearly white gates,
Where the amounts of chocolate were abundant.

Mi amor, my love,
We have all of the time in the world.





How To Love

by Kate Mechem '17
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

The curled metal fence is rusted and frail.
Black paint, chipped away over the years,
Pockets the color of stale autumn leaves revealed.
Vines wrap their way gingerly to the top,
Each bud snipped promptly at its first appearance,
As if someone thought the weight of a flower might crack the fragile strips,
Sending what's left of the barrier to the ground.
You push the gate open, it won't swing like it used to.
Its corroded hinges provide little resistance,
You don't need to push too hard.
Weeds weave through the cobblestone path,
Remnants of denial and negligence, a mosaic of delicate scars.

The daunting abode hovers above.
Ivy continuing its way up the chilling stone façade,
Moss-laden gothic arches seated atop each frostbitten window.
You catch sight of the upper right window—
A room basking in the flickering low of a fireplace.
You notice that you've been holding your breath, and
Exhale, drawn to the glowing room.
You realize you've pushed the front door wide open,
Revealing a spiraling stairwell: grand but forgotten.

Each stair as fragile as the gate's finials,
A tentative step echoes a creak through the vaulted ceilings of the foyer.
The reverberations forcing you upward ignoring your reservations.
The creaks diminish to background noise as you ascend.
A chandelier hangs from the intersection of the ribbing,
Dust settled in each crevice, collecting in the bobèches meant for candles,
The gold sheen attempts to seep through the dull sediment to no avail.
A glimpse of light illuminates the far side of the fixture,
Unnoticeable to anyone not looking for it.

You follow the warmth radiating from the door down the hall,
Swallowed by an ethereal light.
Compelled by it, you find your feet plodding their way toward it.
When you open the door a chair awaits you, donning lightly worn red leather,
A well-trodden oriental rug leads up to dusty book-lined shelves.
Your eyes trail up the subtle curves of a Victorian coffee table,
At once inviting and intimidating.
A book lies atop the table, its yellowed pages fray at the edge,
The faint ring of a coffee mug creating an ominous halo on the versa page.
Words once written grace the top of the left page, a bold line redacting them.
A story begun, but not yet finished.



Listomania

How To Spend Valentine's Day if You're Single

Practicing spells

Sleeping

Writing questions to Tiff and Earl, i.e. "Why am I single?"

Camping out at CVS for half-priced candy on Feb. 15

Creating the next Y2K hoax

Reminding yourself how much money you're saving

Blasting All American Rejects in your headphones

Eating watermelon

Watching *Game of Thrones*

Definitely *DO NOT* ask someone on a date. Nope. Unthinkable. How dare you.

Tiffany & Earl

Making PC an emotionally stable place one letter at a time

Dear Tiffany and Earl,

What do you look for in a significant other?

Sincerely,

Interested?

First and foremost, I am looking for a person—preferably a man, but I'm willing to keep my options open. Secondly, this person should have a body and all facial features that go along with that—a mouth, nose, lips, eyes, etc. I like blue eyes.

This person must be able to talk and walk and do normal human things. This person must be able to carry a conversation or at least listen to what I have to say, meaning that it's probably a good idea for them to have a personality. Personality would be nice. Put that on the list.

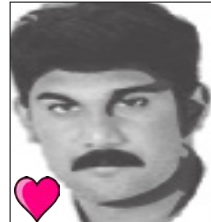
Finally, this person must have all five limbs intact and functional. Like I said, this person must be able to walk. And I know it might seem shallow, but my ideal significant other's five appendages should be long with the right amount of thickness.

Did I say five? Sorry, I meant five.



Tiffany

Flexible.



EARL

WORST DATE IN 25 WORDS



He planned for a date; I missed the cue. Unwittingly, I invited two friends along. No second date followed. Bad karma has cursed me since.

-Maris Delfarno '18



IT WAS A BLIND DATE AND WE WENT CAMPING, BUT NOBODY KNEW HOW TO SET UP THE TENT. I LEFT THAT WEEKEND SINGLE...AND WITH A NEWFOUND HATRED OF NATURE.

-Christie Smith '17

In the car he played "First Date" by Blink-182, and later he rented "Wolf of Wall Street." Next time, I'm dating an English Major.

-Abby Johnston '17



**BUT DON'T
GET YOUR
HOPES UP**



Friars Take the Stage at KCACTF

by Patrick Lovett '17
A&E Co-Editor

THEATRE

Located in the Smith Center for the Arts, on the periphery of campus and the scope of its community, Providence College's theatre program is working to find center stage.

From Jan. 31 to Feb. 4, six students from PC participated in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) in Danbury, Connecticut. The festival, more than just a contest in the performing arts, gave the students the opportunity to learn, practice, and compete in their craft. Both PC's students and the Theatre, Dance, & Film department gained exposure and experience through the event—two necessities for success in the arts.

Along with about 200 others, PC students competed in the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship, a portion of the festival that offers winners the reward of acting at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Although no students from PC won, all still left Danbury with

valued intangibles: practice, knowledge, and confidence moving forward.

The PC students were invited according to the discretion of evaluators who had attended their performances at Angell Blackfriars Theatre. After being chosen to attend the festival, the participants were asked to prepare a monologue and two generically contrasting scenes. They executed these pieces over three rounds, after which the evaluators chose one performer to attend the national competition in D.C.

According to Professor James Calitri, the managing director of PC's theatre program, just participating in the festival is a sign of development in the college's theatre program. "Before, the department was so small that it couldn't function if people were to leave for a week," said Calitri, "Even in the three years that I've been here it's grown significantly, both in the number of students majoring and in attendance."

However, the festival's true value, according to Calitri, is its ability to not only symbolize progress, but promote it as well. "This is not really a competition," he said, "it's a chance

to perform and grow." Veronica Murphy '17, a participant in this year's festival, reiterated this sentiment. "As a graduating senior, this is the stuff I want to do and it was really good practice. I had the chance to go to a lot of workshops and performances and just see some phenomenal stuff," she said.

Calitri expects to participate in the festival for years to come and continue

"getting PC's name out there." As for Murphy and fellow participants, they plan to each personally build on their experience at the festival. "Our talent pool is really big [at PC]," she said, "and although wemaybesmall, weworkhard."

For both Calitri and Murphy, KCACTF is only part of a much greater effort, one to get more people in seats, people on stage, and to make the next show the best one.



Performance of "Passing Strange" at KCACTF.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KCACTF.ORG

Pa(i)ges from Abroad: The Cathedral of Seville

by Paige Calabrese '18
A&E Co-Editor

ARCHITECTURE



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAIGE CALABRESE

On January 30, 2017, I had the privilege of touring the Cathedral of Seville and the Giralda in Seville, Spain, where I am studying this semester. The architecture of the Cathedral is absolutely breathtaking, as it is a combination of Islamic and Gothic design, and at one point was a mosque.

The outside of the Cathedral is, to say the least, massive, with towering columns and pillars displaying intricately detailed arches and gargoyles. Upon stepping inside the Cathedral, I was entirely overwhelmed by the height of the ceilings as well as by the ostentatious designs of gold on the walls depicting scenes from the Bible. In addition to the building itself, there are works of art on display inside, such as paintings and sculptures depicting various Biblical scenes, portraits of rulers and ruling families, and the tomb containing the remains of Christopher Columbus.

The Giralda is a tower adjoining the Cathedral, with a wind vein at the very top in the form of a saint, representing the importance of faith. After climbing all 340 steps, I arrived at the top of the Giralda and was awestruck by the view: the entire city of Seville was sitting before me.

Gaga Shines, Soars at Halftime

by Ryan Cox '18
A&E Staff

MUSIC

For many Patriots fans, until the fourth quarter, the only good thing about Super Bowl LI was the halftime show featuring Lady Gaga. For 12 minutes, the 30-year-old, Grammy award-winning pop icon rocked NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas, singing a medley of her greatest hits. The performance felt like a concert; Gaga's set was mostly high-energy hits, but also featured a couple intimate moments with her fans in the audience.

Gaga opened her show with a patriotic medley of "God Bless America," "This Land is your Land," and the final lines of the Pledge of Allegiance, set atop NRG Stadium, with the Houston skyline in the background. Three hundred drones helped to set the backdrop by lighting up the night, mimicking a starry sky. From there, Gaga descended to the stage from her perch on the stadium roof and went into a medley of her hits, opening with a short piece of "Edge of Glory" and transitioning into "Poker Face." The performance also included bits from "Just Dance," "Bad Romance," and "Born This Way."

Throughout the set, Gaga presented her typical powerhouse vocals, instrumental talent, and the theatrical element that have all become staples of her style. One particular highlight was an

intimate moment during her latest single, "Million Reasons," where she gave a shoutout to her parents before hugging a fan in the front row. Gaga closed the performance with a mic drop before catching a football (arguably better than some of the players' attempts that night) and diving out of the camera frame, an explosive end to an energetic show.

Many critics anticipated the pop superstar to incorporate some political stance into her performance, given Gaga's philanthropic efforts and support of the LGBT community. The only part of the performance that was considered political was the opening patriotic medley, which could be twisted as a patriotic call for unity in the face of the polarizing division across the country. Besides that, nothing of Gaga's performance appeared to be blatantly political, at least not as much as some were expecting.

It is clear that, in the face of political division, Gaga wanted to capitalize on music's power to unite the masses. In a press conference last Thursday, she noted that she wanted the performance to reflect the statements that have always grounded her image. "I believe in a passion for inclusion," she said in that conference. "I believe in the spirit of equality, and that the spirit of this country is one of love and compassion and kindness. That kid that couldn't get a set at the cool kids' table, and that kid that was kicked out of the house because his mom and dad didn't accept him for who he was? That kid is going to have the stage for thirteen minutes. And I'm excited to give it to them." Evidenced by the rave reviews following the performance, Gaga achieved her desired outcome.



Lady Gaga performing during the Superbowl LI Halftime Show.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ABCNEWS.COM

The Lumineers Bring the Folk to MSG

by Brigid Walshe '19
A&E Staff

MUSIC

The Lumineers just finished a two-night gig at Madison Square Garden in New York City and they did not disappoint. The indie folk rock band sold out the Garden both on Feb. 2 and Feb. 3, a feat in itself, and rocked the arena both nights.

For many artists, performing at Madison Square Garden means you have made it big—selling out the Garden though, is a whole other caliber of achievement. For members of the band, Wesley Schultz and Jeremiah Fraites, this was also a homecoming—both members originally come from New Jersey—and they told the crowd how incredible it was to be there throughout the show.

The band played a good mix of songs from both an older album, and their newest one, *Cleopatra*, which was released in April of 2016. In an age where digital music is really taking off, The Lumineers have stuck to their traditional roots in folk rock music. That being said, it was nice to see a band consisting of an acoustic

guitar, piano, and cello on stage, that's how simple the set-up was.

The band was on stage for about two hours, and performed nonstop for most of it, except for stopping in between songs to tell fans about the stories behind their hits. For example, one of their hits from their debut album, *The Lumineers*, "Charlie Boy" was based on Schultz's uncle who volunteered to serve in the Vietnam War. Despite the crowd size, The Lumineers were able to make Madison Square Garden into an intimate setting, where you feel as if you weren't in an arena, but a much smaller venue.

Schultz and Fraites formed the Lumineers after Fraites' brother died from a drug overdose at the age of 19. Both men turned to music for solace, and so, way back in 2005, The Lumineers was formed. They got the idea to name their band "The Lumineers" after they were announced as the Lumineers, which was actually the name of another band scheduled to perform at the same club the week after them, and they just stuck with it.

After limited success in New York and on the East Coast, they went out west to Denver, Colorado. There, Schultz and Fraites met Neyla Pekarek, a classically trained cellist,



The Lumineers performing at Madison Square Garden.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THEHOUSELIST.COM

who responded to their Craigslist request for a cellist. The three of them became The Lumineers and they haven't looked back. The Lumineers gained recognition after their single "Ho Hey" from their first album *The Lumineers*.

The band announced their *Cleopatra* World Tour in January 2016 and has

toured throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe this past year. The *Cleopatra* tour will end in the next couple of months, but the band will also be the opening act of the Irish band U2 this summer as they kick off their stadium tour, so if you want to see them, there is still a chance.

Netflix and the Perils of Mass Production

by Blaine Payer '18
A&E Staff

TELEVISION

Netflix is the current titan of the online streaming industry, and for good reason, boasting a docket of original material such as *Stranger Things*, *House of Cards*, *The Crown*, *Orange Is the New Black*, and *Master of None*, to name just a few. *Entertainment Weekly* reported that America's favorite streaming service is dishing out a whopping \$6 billion on over 600 hours of original content for 2017, including two new series as well as continuations of some old favorites. Although Netflix's stock has risen by six percent in the most recent quarter and subscriptions are at an all-time high, many wonder if Netflix is drifting into the "quantity over quality" and over-hyped star power trends that have plagued television for the past decade.

Now that television award season is over, with both the Emmys and Golden Globes behind us, and people have finally gotten used to writing "2017" in the date sections of documents, it is time for premium streaming services to showcase their big plans for the year. The rivalry between Amazon Prime and Netflix has shown the two companies dueling over awards and subscribers alike for half a decade. However, Amazon has received more awards for their original series' than Netflix, and they spend, and plan on spending, less than half the money that Netflix does per year on new content.

Netflix's 2017 budget of \$6 billion marks the most money a single company has ever spent annually on content, topping even its own budget of \$5 billion from 2016. While Netflix is no stranger to producing hits, it is also growing increasingly familiar with producing flops, such as last year's highly anticipated talk-show series *Chelsea*, hosted by the beloved-or-

hated Chelsea Handler. User reviews on Netflix gave the show an average rating of one star, even though it was the featured content for two months.

One of the problematic trends that Netflix is adopting is buying big name stars to fill otherwise empty shows. Netflix, and their partner Discovery Canada, began advertising their new show *Frontier* late last year, showing off a menacing looking Jason Momoa dressed in furs while wielding a tomahawk on promotional posters. The show chronicles the fur trade wars of the 17th century between the English, French, and Native Americans in the Northern territories of America. After finding success as Khal Drogo in HBO's *Game of Thrones*, Momoa is becoming an easily-promotable star, and his involvement in the project is the source of most of the hype. Unfortunately, the show has been panned by critics, including Rotten Tomatoes, who praise Momoa himself, but criticize the lack of any other interesting characters or any semblance of a coherent storyline. Without Momoa, the show would be quickly forgotten, if ever even noticed at all.

The star-power trend is mainly the result of the success of shows like *House of Cards*, which boasts the powerhouse cast of Kevin Spacey, Robin Wright, and Michael Kelly. However, what sets *House of Cards* apart is its strong production and narrative that support its big stars, allowing it the freedom of not having to rely too heavily on star power to attract viewers.

Shows such as *Stranger Things* are exemplary for having relatively unknown casts, excluding Winona Ryder and David Harbour, but exceptional production and narrative quality. While in the initial promotions, Netflix relied on Ryder to grab people's attention, the show proved to have legs beyond Ryder, which catapulted it into being Netflix's most popular, and inexpensive, show of the year.

With such an inflated budget and promise of 600 hours of new material, one must wonder about the future of Netflix's quality control. It seems like they are more bent on producing more shows than their competitors, instead of producing the best shows. *Frontier* was an expensive bust, added to the list of other hyped-up flops like *Fuller House*, which paints a discouraging picture for the future of Netflix original series. Perhaps instead of spending \$6 billion on 600 hours of new shows, which could range from 10-15 new series, they should focus on making their already existing good shows great, and their new shows more than an A-list stars running around in circles while wearing funny costumes.



Scene from the Netflix original series *Frontier*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF POPSUGAR.COM

Leonardo DiCaprio, Master of Nonfiction

by Kerry Torpey '19
A&E Staff

FILM

Coming off of his 2015 Oscar win, Leonardo DiCaprio has signed on to star in a biopic about former NYPD detective and "Italian Sherlock Holmes," Joseph Petrosino. Based on the *New York Times* Bestseller *The Black Hand* by Stephen Talty, DiCaprio continues down a path of taking roles based on real life people.

Petrosino was an Italian immigrant who moved to the United States and settled in New York City in 1874. In 1883, he joined the NYPD where he would work as a detective until his assassination in 1909.

One of Petrosino's most infamous missions involved his manhunt for a group of Italian immigrants who kidnapped people in order to coerce their families into giving them money. Considered a precursor to the Mafia, their calling card was a black hand.

An Italian himself, Petrosino made it his mission to arrest as many of these gang members as possible in order to protect the image of Italian immigrants in the United States. While on a mission in Palermo, Sicily, Petrosino received a phone call from an "informant" who turned out to be his assassin.

Following his Oscar win for Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role as Hugh Glass in



Leonardo DiCaprio in *J. Edgar Hoover*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THEVOID.CO.UK

The Revenant, DiCaprio starred in *Before the Flood*, a Fisher Stevens documentary about climate change. As of now, *The Black Hand* is one of the star's first feature film roles since 2015.

Since the inception of his acting career, DiCaprio has starred in several

movies in which he takes on the character of a real life figure. Some of his roles include: Jim Carroll in *The Basketball Diaries* (1995), Frank Abagnale Jr. in *Catch Me If You Can* (2002), Howard Hughes in *The Aviator* (2004), J. Edgar in *J. Edgar Hoover* (2011), and Jordan

Belfort in *The Wolf of Wall Street* (2013).

Of the almost 10 films in which DiCaprio takes on the persona of nonfictional characters, he has received three Oscar nominations with one win, five Golden Globe nominations with three wins, three Screen Actors Guild Awards nominations with one win, and many more.

With the vast amount of nominations for these particular roles, DiCaprio could very well go on to receive more if he continues selecting roles that organizations such as the Academy of Arts and Sciences, Hollywood Foreign Press, and Screen Actors Guild tend to gravitate towards.

Director Agnieszka Holland, who worked with DiCaprio in the 1995 film *Total Eclipse*, once said, "Talking to Leonardo I realized he has an incredibly deep emotional imagination. In performance he becomes a kind of medium—the soul of the character he's playing is entering his body." Then, the challenge becomes capturing the soul of a real human being, not a fictional character.

In an interview with *Short List*, DiCaprio said, "I don't think an audience always wants you to do the same thing or try aggressively to prove anything."

With a diversity of roles on his long list of acting credits, DiCaprio continues to succeed as one of Hollywood's biggest stars. Audiences can see if his momentum keeps going when *The Black Hand* is released in 2018.

Affleck Out as *The Batman* Director

by Michael Welch '17
A&E Staff

FILM

Ben Affleck is no longer directing the Batman solo film that fans hope will save DC Comics from itself. This leaves Affleck with credits as the lead actor, producer, and co-writer of the film, meaning he is still heavily invested in the project. The concern that he was spreading his talents too broadly was always present, but the news was a surprise nonetheless.

Affleck's violent but thoughtful portrayal of the iconic Batman was the highlight of DC's profitable flop, *Batman vs. Superman*. His decision not to direct the upcoming film has worried fans who place their faith in Affleck to get the DC cinematic universe back on track. Solo Batman films have proven both profitable and popular in the past, although following Christopher Nolan's *Dark Knight* trilogy is no simple task.

If *Wonder Woman* and *Justice League*, which will both hit theaters before *The Batman*, cannot win over both critics and audiences then the whole DC cinematic universe may hinge on *The Batman*.

Affleck has shown that he respects what Batman means to fans across the globe and is concerned that spreading himself too thin on set would hurt the quality of the film.

When asked to comment on choosing not to direct, Affleck responded, "Performing this role demands focus, passion, and the very best performance I can give. It has become clear that I cannot do both jobs to the level they require. Together with the studio, I have decided to find a partner in a director who will collaborate with me on this massive film. I am still in this, and we are making it, but we are currently looking for a director. I remain extremely committed to this project, and look forward to bringing this to life for fans around the world."

His statement helps ease the nervousness of unsure DC fans who have dealt with overhyped underwhelming DC films before. A positive spin on this unsettling news is that



Ben Affleck in *Batman vs. Superman*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DIGITALSPY.COM

Affleck is making the best decision in regards to giving fans the best Batman film possible.

The Batman was written by Affleck and Geoff Johns, the DC Comics poster-boy who has written countless stories that fans cherish. Johns' involvement alone is enough to assuage even the most sensitive DC fans.

This news also followed the underwhelming reviews of Affleck's film, *Live by Night*, which he both directed and starred in. Sources say Affleck refusing to direct *The Batman* had nothing to do

with this unfortunate coincidence. However, it does speak to what Affleck was talking about when he expressed concern about spreading himself too thin. A new director has not yet been announced, but Affleck is helping compile the shortlist. The only director known to be on the shortlist for now is Matt Reeves, who directed the hit *War for the Planet of the Apes*. DC fans can be confident that Batman will be in good hands as Affleck has proven he will not let anyone, including himself, harm the quality of his solo Batman film.

'Apple Stream': Better Late than Never?

by Joe Clancy '18
A&E Staff

TELEVISION

When you think of having a night in and streaming a movie, you probably think of Netflix or Hulu. What about Apple? It seems strange that one of the country's largest electronics producers is not in the market for online streaming. That, however, may be changing soon.

The Wall Street Journal recently reported that Apple plans to begin their own streaming service, supplemented with multiple original series. Although there is no official launch in sight, executives at Apple have said they wish to start offering content by the end of 2017.

Apple's decision seems to be a no-brainer, rather late if anything. The online streaming industry is both lucrative and growing. According to MarketsandMarkets the industry is projected to be worth 70 billion dollars by 2021.

Apple is one of the biggest companies in the world and has had massive success when it comes to creating technology to view media like music, video, books, and launching innovative products such as the iPod and iPhone. However, 2017 is seeing Apple's sales fall for the first time since 2001, which has mostly been blamed on the iPhone 7's stagnant sales. Due to its recently sluggish sales, the 234 billion dollar company looks to extend its production into the online streaming and producing industry.

This industry, however competitive it may be, will offer a large market of subscribers

Apple can tap into and boost revenue for their company, especially as more and more channels and providers start streaming their content online. Almost every channel now offers the option of streaming. Even the NFL has started live streaming games through their outlets and have even streamed content on Twitter.

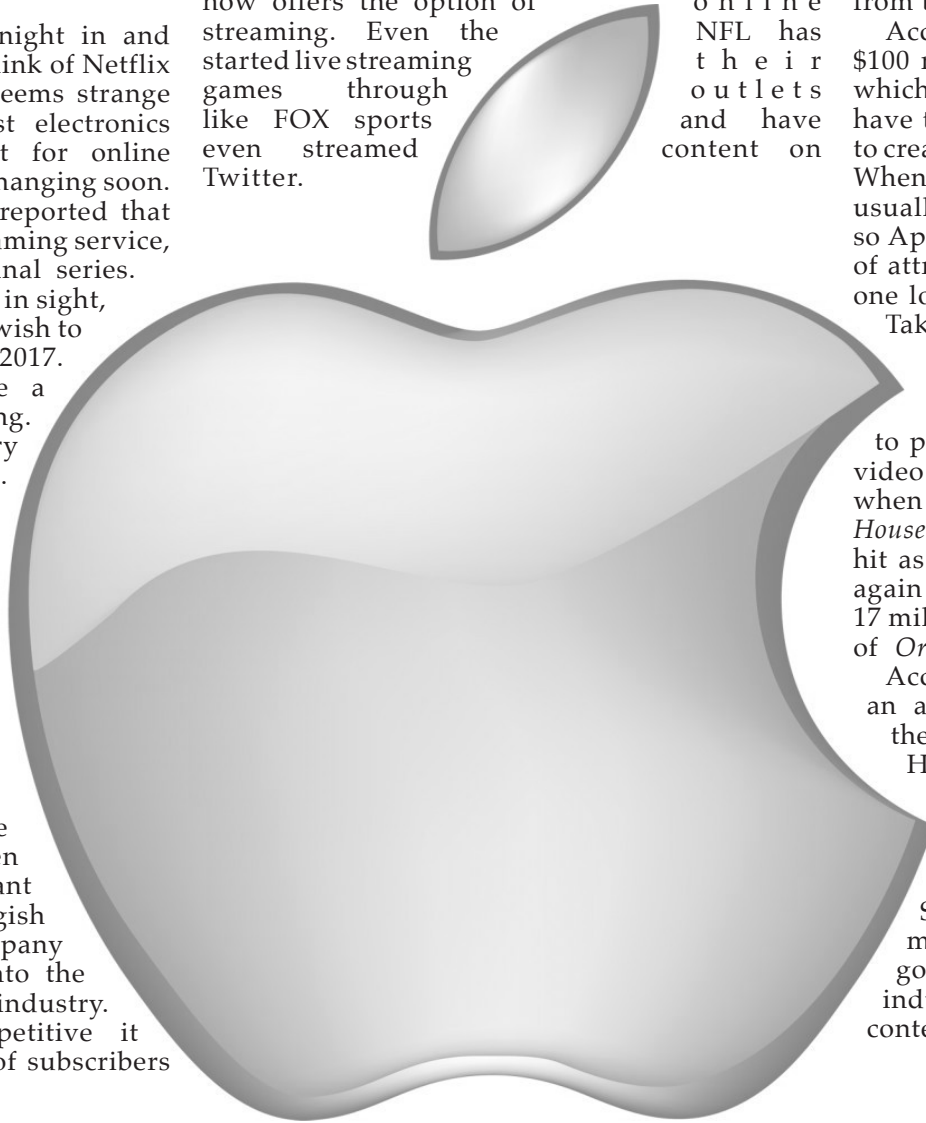
Apple, a company that prides itself on being innovative, will have to really step up their game and offer a new and unique show. When it comes to producing online content, it is hard to break away from the competition and attract viewers.

According to NPR, Netflix after all spent nearly \$100 million to produce *House of Cards* in 2013, which is no petty investment. Apple will also have to find actors and directors that are bound to create a massive hit and not accept any failures. When it comes to producing new content, there is usually a learning curve that companies will face, so Apple will have to do their best work in hope of attracting distracted viewers especially when one looks at the standings of the industry now.

Take Netflix, for instance, which was established in 1998 as an alternative to traditional movie stores like Blockbuster and offered shipping DVDs to people's homes to avoid the car ride to the video store. However, in 2013 that all changed when Netflix released its streaming original *House of Cards*, which proved to be a breakout hit as it has gone on to win six emmys. Netflix again reached massive success in 2016, as nearly 17 million people streamed their original content of *Orange is the New Black* and *Fuller House*.

According to NPR, Netflix was able to receive an additional 7 million subscribers alone in the most recent business quarter of 2016.

Hulu originally started off as a third party streaming service that offered viewers the ability to watch shows that they had missed the night before. Hulu eventually started producing programming like Stephen King's *11/22/63* and has seen a massive spike in subscribers. If Apple is going to be able to break through in this industry, they will definitely have to produce content that will captivate their audience.

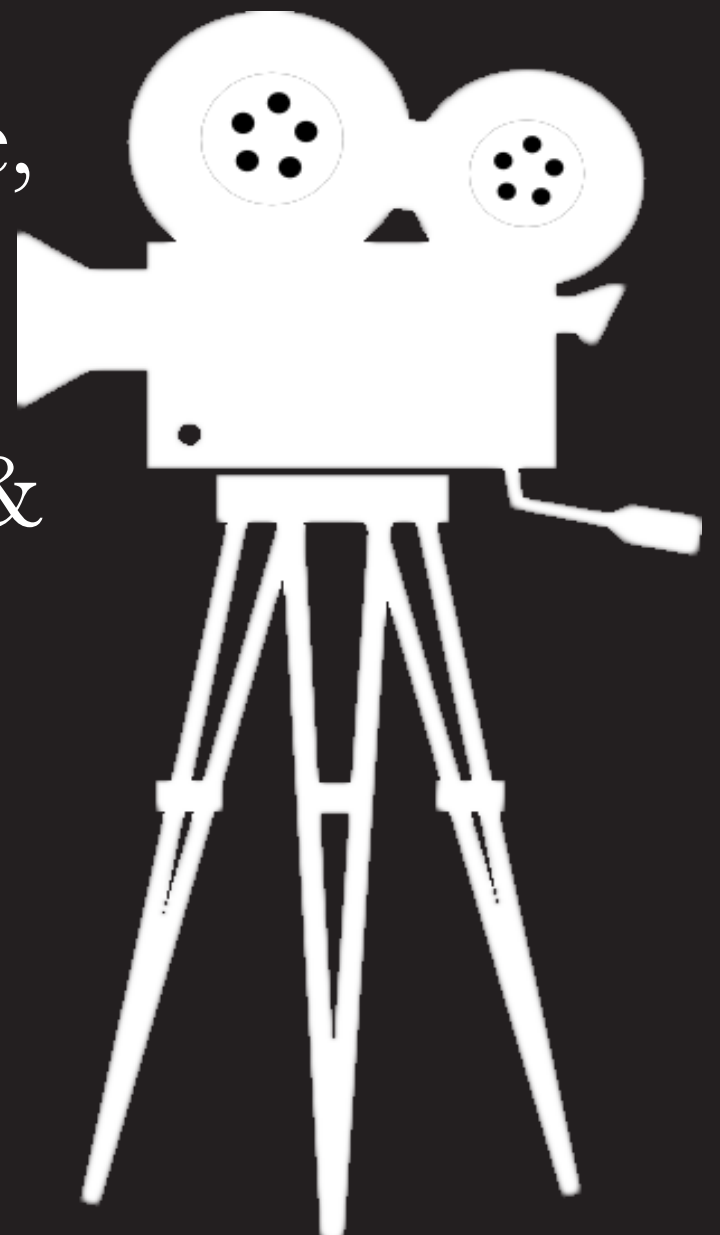


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SPORTS

Historic Comeback brings New England Fifth Ring



Edelman's miraculous fourth quarter catch.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

by Kevin Skirvin '18
Assistant Sports Editor

COLUMN

For over a decade, the legacy that is Tom Brady and the New England Patriots has been at times scrutinized, applauded, and subject to debate. But that debate has come to a close.

With a final score of 34-28, New England captured their fifth Lombardi trophy in the Brady and Belichick era. The duo now holds the most Super Bowl rings of all time, along with nearly every post-season record you could imagine. The two have epitomized the meaning of the word dynasty, and sustained success in a league that is built to prevent it.

The game itself will go down as one of the greatest Super Bowls of all time, if

not the greatest. For starters, Super Bowl LI was the first overtime championship game ever, stemming from the largest and greatest, comeback of all time in the Patriot's 25-point rally. Tied at 28, running back James White punched in the final score of the season on New England's opening drive in overtime, leaving the world in disbelief as to what they had all witnessed.

The score read 28-3 in favor of the Falcons at halftime. New England's offense gifted Atlanta with 14 points off turnovers, which was the ultimate difference in the first half. Both turnovers came within 30 yards of the Atlanta end zone, which makes fans wonder what the score could have been had running back Legarrette Blount not fumbled, and Brady not thrown the unfathomable pick-6. The Pats had dug themselves a hole, the likes

of which nobody had ever recovered from. But you know where this is going.

When people talk about who they think the best quarterback in the league is, some say Aaron Rodgers, others say Matt Ryan, and the rest Brady. After Sunday night, it's just Brady. The man finished with 466 yards passing (SB record) with two TDs, after just managing 176 yards and a pick-6 at half. After Atlanta had punted within the final minutes of the fourth quarter being up by only one score, the world knew what was coming. You could feel it wherever you were. It was like history was repeating itself as Brady found himself in an all too familiar position, one that he rarely squanders. What had the Patriots nation nervous was not whether the Pats could drive the length of the field, it was the two-point

conversion to follow. The very same situation was the reason the Patriots had gotten bounced just a year ago in Denver. Once WR Danny Amendola muscled his way across the goal line to tie it, the game seemed all but lost for Atlanta.

Overtime was quick, as most people probably guessed once the Patriots won the coin toss, ending with a smooth drive down field. Momentum, and more importantly Brady, had carried the team back from a 25-point deficit, and fate wouldn't mess this one up. Raising the Lombardi for the fifth time all but confirmed the title of GOAT to Mr. Brady, and Mr. Belichick for that matter. So as Patriots nation celebrates this one, let's hope this spring when Brady throws out the first pitch at Fenway Park he's updated his wardrobe to a shirt that simply reads "6."

Men's Lacrosse: A Tale of Two Halfs



Nick Hatzipetrakos '19 and the lacrosse team celebrates a goal.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NICHOLAS CHRENSHAW'20

by Jake Scarbo '17
Sports Staff

LACROSSE

In double overtime, Boston University midfielder Brendan Homire scored the game-winning goal on the man-up to secure the victory for the Terriers. It was a devastating loss for the Friars, who were leading for most of the game and played well enough to come away with a win in front of a rowdy home crowd. The tripping penalty assessed to the Friars in double overtime was a questionable call and ultimately doomed

the squad.

Boston University enters the season ranked 24th in the country according to *Inside Lacrosse Magazine* and with the Friars not far behind. This Men's Lacrosse Team is the best they have fielded in the last four years, with Jarrod Neumann '17 and Tate Boyce '19 being chosen to the preseason All-Big East team. This game lived up to the hype and was competitive until the last whistle.

The Friars defense was the story of the first quarter and they jumped out to an early 1-0 lead on a goal by midfielder Ryan Nawrocki '20. The Terriers matched the Friars' opening tally with one of their own in the eighth minute but a forced

turnover by Tim Hinrichs '20 led to the second Friars goal by Nick Hatzipetrakos '19. The Friars defense was swarming in this quarter and the offense controlled the possession by winning face-offs early and often. The Terriers controlled the second quarter where they outscored the Friars 2-1, taking the game to 3-3 at halftime. The Friars were still in control of the game by having a 14-7 edge in groundballs and they received stellar play from goalie Boyce who had five first half saves.

The second half started out rough for the Friars when they quickly got two penalties and were two men down. Again, the defense was stout, and killed off these penalties with ease, and got the Friars bench pumped up.

The defense was the story of this game, showing the Friars could be a force in the Big East this season. They limited the Terriers' one-on-one play and gave nothing up easy when BU did get shots on goal. With Boyce seeing the ball so well, the defense was on fire for much of this game. Boyce ended the game with 11 saves total and was surely the best player in this opening game. The offense caught fire in the third quarter, scoring four goals total, with two goals in 11 seconds from attackman Brendan Kearns '19. Kearns ended the game with three goals and two assists and was a force on offense for much of the afternoon.

Unfortunately, the offense stalled in the fourth quarter and the Terriers scored three unanswered goals to bring the score to 7-7. Even with this heartbreaking loss, the Friars have many positives from this game. The young players on the team really stepped up to compliment the upperclassmen and should only complement as the year goes on. The men's lacrosse team is still poised for an incredibly successful season. The Friars play next at Holy Cross on Saturday, February 11.

Best Spring Intramural Sport?



PHOTO COURTESY OF FILIP WILK '17

by Jeff Williams '17
Sports Staff

OP-ED

Ultimate Frisbee

Most intramural sports require some skill and prior experience in order to succeed. Ice hockey, soccer, basketball, flag football, water polo, and other sports are widely played in high schools and YMCAs across the country. Chances are, if you come to a Division I school like Providence College, there are going to be a ton of great athletes in the student body, and the average Joe or Sally Shmoe who's never picked up a ball in his or her life will have no chance against high school varsity athletes.

Ultimate Frisbee is different. This is a sport that is not necessarily played

at every high school or recreational club. For most the first time they ever played the game was in college. Almost everyone is learning how to play when they first join. If you're worried about being overmatched physically, your athletic skills certainly do not need to be on par with Usain Bolt to succeed. As opposed to basketball and other sports where one great player can dominate the game, Ultimate Frisbee is strictly a team game.

When freshmen arrive on campus and look for good intramural sports to play, they can never go wrong with Ultimate Frisbee. It doesn't require exceptional athletic ability like basketball and soccer. It doesn't require prior experience to excel like ice hockey and water polo. If you want a pure team game that is fair for beginners and veterans alike, you cannot go wrong by signing up for Ultimate Frisbee intramurals.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GRETTA SCHULTZ '17

by Lauren Altmeyer '17
Sports Staff

OP-ED

Inner Tube Water Polo

Providence College intramural sports are ranked the best in the country according to the Princeton Review, who voted the program #1 overall. With spring semester upon us, that means there is a whole new season of intramurals to choose from. Students can play badminton, table tennis, wiffleball, kickball, lacrosse, Ultimate Frisbee, soccer, basketball, volleyball, softball, or inner tube water polo, among other sports.

However, the greatest intramural sport to play during the spring is definitely inner tube water polo.

Students have the opportunity to jump in the pool and compete in a unique take on traditional water polo. Floating in the inner tubes allows players to save their energy and increase their competitive nature. One of the great things about intramurals is that even if you've never played before, you can try something new, so why not take advantage? People of every skill level are encouraged to play, so gather some friends and create an inner tube water polo team. You can always play a game of pick-up basketball or soccer, but when else will you be able to play a game of inner tube water polo besides right now?

Who knows, maybe this could be the beginning of your Olympic water polo career. So instead of playing a boring, regular sport like softball or Ultimate Frisbee, try something different this spring and play inner tube water polo.

Men's Hockey Continuing to Improve

by Sam Scanlon '19
Sports Staff

HOCKEY

The 15th ranked Friars returned home to Schneider Arena this past weekend for a series of Hockey East matchups against the University of Maine Black Bears. Riding a five-game winning streak, the Friars were looking to use the momentum and generate yet another sweep. In front of another large crowd at home, the Friars improved their streak to seven wins with a pair of big victories. Offense from the blue line was the story of the weekend, starting with a strike from Jake Walman '18 with under two minutes left to play in game one that lifted the Friars to a 3-2 victory. Josh Wilkins '20 provided a tally of his own to keep his name on the score sheet as the first Friar to reach 10 goals this season. Erik Foley '19 displayed his goal scoring prowess on a slick individual effort that resulted in him muscling the puck across the goal line to spark the Friars with the game's first goal late in the second period. The boys are starting to find their stroke as the true offensive weapons are continuously finding the back of the net. With everyone fitting into their respective roles, and with the goal scorers finally starting to step up offensively, this second-half streak is sure to carry over into the postseason and make this Friars team a hard one to beat.

However, one could argue that Friday's best goal came off of the stick of a Friar student as he netted a half-ice shot through the puck slot to win the "Shoot for Books" contest and bring home a \$10,000 prize to be redeemed at the bookstore.

Saturday night was a good one in Friartown, as the crowd gathered at Schneider Arena dressed in pink for the annual "Skating Strides Against Breast Cancer" game. Apparel and raffle options were offered to fans in order to raise funds for the Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Research Foundation (GGBCRF). Prizes included a Friars hockey "Skating Strides" jersey, and all fans were given the opportunity to purchase the



Anthony Florentino '17 celebrates after scoring his third goal in a game against UMaine.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SAM SCANLON '19

"Pink Out Friartown" long sleeve T-shirt. On behalf of the entire Providence College community, we say thank you to everyone who attended and participated in an effort to benefit the GGBCRF. In case you missed the T-shirt sale at the game, fans are encouraged to attend the rest of the spring semester "Pink Out Friartown" games to pick one up or purchase one on campus.

As for the game itself, it was more of the same for the Friars as the defense made their presence known on the score sheet yet again. Anthony Florentino '17 had the goal scoring touch as he came out firing and buried three goals on four shots to register his first career hat trick. The defenseman rifled home

all three goals from above the top of the circles and emphatically pumped his fist in an effort to generate energy from the Friar Fanatics.

Brandon Duhaime '20 netted a one-timer in the slot and Foley put the nail in the coffin as he slid the puck in the empty net to seal the 5-3 victory. The Friars are rolling as of late and found themselves in the middle of a seven game winning streak. The remainder of the contests will be against Hockey East opponents, and will prove to be huge given the tight conference race in the standings. This momentum could not have come at a better time as the Friars will ride their streak in the hopes of a strong playoff run.

Still Hope for Friars NCAA Bid



Kyron Cartwright '18 lays the ball up against Villanova.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN FLUHARTY/USA TODAY

by Meaghan Cahill '20
Sports Staff

BASKETBALL

With seven games left in their schedule, the Providence College Men's Basketball Team will have to pull off some pretty big wins if they would like to move up in the Big East rankings. This means they will have to fight for a higher seed in the upcoming Big East tournament.

Currently ranked number eight in the Big East, PC so far has a record of 4-7 in Big East match-ups and an overall record of 14-10, which is the main reason they are ranked one spot ahead of Georgetown, who also has a 4-7 conference record but an overall record of 13-11.

This time last year, Georgetown was ranked in the eighth position, only making it as far as the quarterfinals before they were knocked out by Villanova. Villanova, who knocked PC out of the tournament last year in the semifinals, is the number one ranked team in the Big East and has a conference record of 9-2 and an overall record of 22-2. Villanova is expected, once again, to make it to the finals.

If the brackets for the tournament were to come out today, Villanova would be the number one seed, and would get a bye week and then face the winner of No. 8 Providence College versus No. 9 Georgetown. Butler University and Marquette University would also get a bye week and the winner of that match-up would face the winner of whoever wins Villanova's bracket.

Further down in the standings, No. 10 DePaul would play No. 7 Seton Hall in the first round and the winner of that game would go on to face No. 2 Xavier, who, like Villanova, Butler, and Marquette, also get a bye week. PC, if they would like to alter the current standings, would need to do so by snatching as many wins as they can coming down the final stretch of their regular season.

With six of their last seven games being played against teams ranked higher than they are, PC has their work cut out for them. They first play Seton Hall (conference 4-6, overall 14-8), a game which could very easily result in a win for the Friars. After their matchup against Seton Hall, the Friars come back to Friartown on Feb. 11 to face No. 4 Butler. This win might be harder to achieve, but it is possible if PC can really press down on their offense and keep the Bulldogs from scoring.

A short four-day break later, PC plays No. 2 Xavier. While the Friars are not expected to win this game. It would be a huge upset if they did. If they manage three wins in a row it would definitely help them out in the standings by placing them even just a seed higher.

When they match up against No. 3 Creighton on Feb. 22, another win against them would be ideal, but is not expected. PC then continues to go down the line in Big East rankings as they tip-off against No. 5 Marquette back in Providence in their second to last home game.

Beating Marquette is much more feasible than beating Xavier and Creighton, and it would also help out PC in reaching that higher ranking. PC ends the month against No. 10 DePaul, which realistically and ideally, should end in a win for the Friars in their last home game of the season. In their last regular season game, they face No. 6 St. John's, and hopefully they can rally and beat them after the tough loss to them earlier in the season.

With six games left for St. John's and Seton Hall, it is highly possible that if PC can pull off some big wins they can pull ahead in the rankings, not only end their regular season on a better note, but also go into the tournament with a higher bracket placing.

Athlete of the Week: Sarah Beal '17

Basketball

Continued from front page

She has been previously named to the Big East Honor Roll eight times, yet this marks the first time in her career that she earns the league's Player of the Week. Earlier in the season, Beal also reached another goal when she joined the 1,000-point club. Her favorite gym to travel to, the Al McGuire Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is where she scored 24 points, surpassing the 1,000-point milestone.

Beal is a great competitor and always comes to play. In the recent battle against Georgetown, she brought her team to overtime with the consistency of her free-throws. "I practice them (free throws) a lot, before practice and games I always warm-up with form shooting. In the evenings, I usually come back to the gym and practice more free-throws."

The Providence College Women's Basketball team has several rematches against Big East rivals that, if won, would improve their record and standings. "We just need to finish better. We've been in all of the games and we can beat them [Villanova, Creighton and St. Johns] if we stop going basket for basket with our opponent."



Sarah Beal '17 heads to the basket during a game.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SARA BEAL '17

The answer to Beal's impressive season cannot be found in superstitious pre-game routines. Beal does not have a set meal she eats before games and her go-to pump up playlist varies. Laughing, she admits the locker room usually plays whatever song is popular at the time. "I try to stay upbeat, leading up

to game time." Since Beal is one of two seniors on the team, she tries to "lead by example and stay lively and positive."

Beal's biggest inspiration in life and on the court has been her mother. "My mother and I have been through a lot, losing my father, she is very strong minded and I try to emulate

her qualities." Beal and her mother are from Matthews, North Carolina, but Beal's mother travels to watch her daughter play in the black and white uniform for one last year.

Speaking before Super Bowl Sunday, Beal said she would watch the Super Bowl saying, "My favorite team is the Carolina Panthers, so I don't really care which team ends up winning."

Beal is very excited about the new Chick-fil-A that was added to Warwick Rhode Island's restaurant list. "Chick-fil-A is my favorite place to eat, and I love driving there to get something to eat."

When asked what her favorite memory of PC is, Beal says "Basketball has to be my favorite memory, being around my teammates all the time, traveling to all these different cities has just been amazing." Her favorite city she got to travel to was Chicago, mainly because of how pretty it was.

It will be hard for Beal to leave Providence College in the spring. When asked what she will miss most about Friartown, Beal says, "I'm going to miss the people I've met, the faculty members, my classmates, my teammates and all of the people on the athletic staff." Providence has been her "home away from home" for the past four years and she will be sad to say good-bye. Friartown will certainly be just as sad to see her go.