

The Cowl

SINCE 1935

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NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THECOWL

Providence Remembers *PC Community Recognizes Lives Lost in 1977 Aquinas Fire*

by Sabrina Guilbeault '18
News Editor

ON CAMPUS

This Wednesday, December 13 will mark the 40th anniversary of the Aquinas Fire that took place in 1977, and like every year since the tragedy, Providence College will be holding a memorial mass that Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

The fire took the lives of 10 women living on the fourth floor of Aquinas Hall.

"There was an over-whelming sense of sadness and disbelief as to what had happened. It was so horrific," said Jacqueline MacKay, director of Parent Programs at PC, who at the time of the fire was the only student counselor on campus. "People were comforting one another and I can still remember feeling a tremendous sense of helplessness."

Although the tragedy occurred almost half a decade ago, multiple members of the PC community lived through the night like MacKay, including Father Brian Shanley, O.P., who was a student at the time.

"I remember the night vividly, and I remember the incredible sadness that just descended on the campus," said Fr. Shanley in Promise of Providence, the centennial video created last year by Mike Leonard '70 & '00 Hon. "I remember the next day they canceled classes and brought us to Alumni, and Fr. Peterson said that mass and preached, and I don't remember what he said, but I remember sitting there and thinking, 'somehow we're going to get through this.'"

Today, a memorial plaque can be found outside of the original Aquinas

Chapel that lists the names of the deceased, as well as a quote from Fr. Peterson's original sermon after the fire. The plaque reads: "In memory of those whom God called to Himself and of those whom God called to show Himself to others by the love they showed one for another."

MacKay explained a mass has been said every year on the anniversary of the fire, and 10 roses are placed inside St. Dominic Chapel—one for each life lost.

"The College community came together on so many different levels to support one another," said MacKay. "When something like this happens it is natural for people to feel a terrible sense of helplessness."

MacKay explained her role as a counselor during the aftermath of the tragedy, and as it was 40 years ago, there was not a lot of literature on grief and loss, but appreciated the support she received from the community. "I remember very fondly a group of student leaders who reached out to me in very special ways," she recalled. "They drove me to the hospital, took me to wakes, even cooked me dinner at one point. I will never forget their kindness to me."

The fire took place during the reading period before final exams. Exams were postponed to after winter break after the College was closed for a month.

According to a *New York Times* article published in 1977 and from conversations with alumni who lived through the event, Aquinas Hall was able to pass an annual fire inspection that September, even though it lacked features such as sprinklers and fire escapes because it was built under prior codes and had been upgraded since. The fire resulted



The scene outside Aquinas Hall the morning after the fire.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE.EDU

in multiple national headlines and saw many buildings across the country upgrade their fire codes.

MacKay explained that Fr. Peterson, the College's president at the time, moved into the dormitory and lived there for a year after the fire. "He provided so much love and care to the students living there," she said. "His presence in that hall was comforting to all members of the college community."

"As Catholics we believe in the communion of saints, and the souls of the departed are still in relationship with us," said Father Dominic Verner, O.P., when asked how today's Friars (who were not yet born when the fire took place) can still reflect and remember the lives who were lost. "Just as we are called to love our brothers and sisters of this Earth, we are called to love our brothers and sisters who are no longer with us," he said.

"I truly believe that our faith, our

Dominican presence, Fr. Peterson our president, and so many more are what got us through a traumatic and painful time," said MacKay. "The fire is part of the history of the College and has had a profound effect on so many lives, in so many ways."

"When we remember this tragedy we offer our prayers to those souls who we are still united with, along with their family and friends who are also united with," Fr. Verner said. "Many times throughout the years, I think about the lives we lost and as the anniversary approaches I say a special prayer for their families," MacKay said. "There are no words to describe my feelings towards a community that came together to love and to heal."

All members of the campus community are welcomed to attend the memorial mass on Wednesday, December 13 at 4:30 p.m. in St. Dominic Chapel.

Class Registration Update *Changes on Cyberfriar Make Registration Easier and Simpler for Students*

by Brian Garvey '19
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

The new registration system recently put in place by Providence College was met with resounding approval from students across campus. Many students found the new Schedule Planner to be incredibly easy to operate, as well as much simpler to work with. Peter Palumbo, director of academic advising, said, "Students by and large loved it. They really appreciated how easy it was, and how simple it was to navigate." Many students felt that this new system was much needed, as the old registration process was outdated and inconvenient. Ryan Gallahue '20 said, "I really, really liked the system. The old Cyberfriar way of having to look up all these different classes and only be able to see one at a time was very frustrating. The Schedule Planner really helped me physically see what my schedule would look like, and I was able to plan much better than I had before."

Even seniors, who are used to the old system, felt that the new system was a substantial improvement. Gina DeBernardo, assistant dean of enrollment services, said, "We were at 95 percent buy-in from the whole campus. Some of my senior workers in the office here were saying they weren't going to use it and that it was new and they wouldn't understand it, but they all loved it too." Kevin Gillooly '18 said, "I really, really wish I had this all four year. It made my life so much easier. I really liked being able to see all the different combinations of classes I could do instead of having to



LAURA CHADBOURNE '20/THECOWL

physically draw up five or six schedules."

Students were not the only ones who enjoyed the new updates. In fact, many department chairs and advisors were grateful for this new system, as it helped them to better assist their students in planning their schedules. DeBernardo said, "I received emails from different department chairs and advisors saying thank you for the new system, because it helped students build schedules as they could log in and see how students were building their schedules".

One of the few complaints from students was that it was somewhat difficult at first to figure out how to use some of the program's more complicated features, such as the Registration Cart and the Waitlist. This was partly due to the new system; even the faculty in charge

were not one hundred percent sure how each feature would act under the pressure of a thousand students using it at the same time.

DeBernardo said that, "These are all questions we didn't know the answer to until we saw it live. We can test it until we're blue in the face, but it is hard to know what it looks like on registration day. Now that we have lived through it, we know how the system reacts." To help better educate students, advisors will receive coaching sessions to better answer their questions about the system for next semester. Peter Palumbo said that, "We are looking to have multiple training sessions next semester, hopefully at least once a month, to refresh them on best practices, update them on changes we've done, and anything to help improve the experience of both students and faculty."

Not much is going to change with the program for registration next semester, due to the fact that it was so successful. The Waitlist program will still be limited in its availability, as DeBernardo stated, "There's still a couple issues with this program, and we want to make sure it is flawless before we open it up to all campus. In the next semester, we are looking to send out an FAQ about all the ins-and-outs of the program to help students better understand it."

Palumbo is also working with Student Congress to set up a freshman registration orientation, so that students not even used to the old program will be able to get a handle on de-stressing their registration. Clearly satisfied about how the program exceeded expectations, both Palumbo and DeBernardo hope that this program can continue to excel and make life easier for students of Providence College.

Featured Friar: Matt Lovecchio '18

Senior Talks About His Transformation While at PC

by Sarah Gianni '18
News Staff

FEATURED FRIAR

Sitting at a high top table in McPhails, Matt Lovecchio '18 reflected on his journey at Providence College, and how his experience has shaped him.

Lovecchio entered PC as a finance major, but realized during his sophomore year that he wanted to make a change. "I wasn't happy as a finance major, and it was probably the best decision I made to switch," he said. Now a public community service studies (PSP) major, Lovecchio said he had no idea that his field of study existed when he arrived to PC.

During his sophomore year, Lovecchio took a PSP 101 course, from which he subsequently secured an internship with City Farm in Providence. "I've taken a special interest in sustainable agriculture as a means for community development," said Lovecchio. "Participating in this internship is when I really got interested in agriculture, sustainability, addressing the food industry, public health, and trying to use the knowledge I've gained for social justice."

Lovecchio said he remembers wanting to incorporate this work in his life even when he was a kid. "I've always wanted to live off the land, but I used to think that I needed to make a lot of money first to acquire land," he said.

However, Lovecchio was able to grow and live solely off of his own food this past May to August. "Before I knew it I was learning how to



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THECOWL

Lovecchio has honed his interest in agriculture sustainability.

grow my own food for a purpose and a mission, and was really living out my childhood dream."

During the summer months, Lovecchio worked at the Camden Ave Community Garden, where he had taken on the role of manager. He worked to get local youth involved in the garden by coordinating a summer program, and said he enjoyed the overlap of youth development and agriculture.

Lovecchio also dedicated time to volunteer with YouthRAP, a program for youth and

teens in the Smith Hill community. Through this program young people can receive tutoring and participate in after school and weekend activities. He commented, "In the summer we were doing 50 hours a week but when school came around, we didn't realize how drastic the difference was between summer and after school programming."

With long hours and issues securing funding at times, Lovecchio said that non-profit work certainly is not glamorous. Yet, he reflected on the "something" that keeps him going. "I think it's the community I've made in Smith Hill," he said. "Whether it's with organizations or individual community members, it has become my community."

In addition to his work in the Smith Hill, Lovecchio is the president of the Providence College Environmental Club and serves on the executive board of PC Pals. "I believe the most valuable resource you have to give someone is your time, and I've definitely given a lot of time to these endeavors because they matter to me."

In the future, Lovecchio said that he would like to see more attention and pride placed on local communities, combined with efforts towards sustainability. "For a few months this summer I lived in an intentional home stay community called the Listening Tree Cooperative."

"The experience taught me how we can learn to live better with the land versus making it perform the way we want to." The cooperative was co-designed by PC global studies faculty member Jim Tull. "Living there was very affirming, and tied philosophies of life, community, and agriculture together which I hope to continue."

ECOPC Hosts Recycle Day

Club Promotes Environmental Awareness and Waste Management

by Catherine Brewer '20
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

"Frightening." That is what Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation's (RIRRC) Education and Outreach Facilitator Carol Bjartmarz has to say about the current state of the Central Landfill. Located 15 minutes away in Johnston, it is the only landfill in the state, and it is almost full. According to Bjartmarz, while phases one through five were filled with waste over a span of 35 years, phase six was opened in Jan. 2016 and is in need of an expansion less than two years later. The worst part? "More than 50 percent could have been composted or recycled," said Bjartmarz.

Confused about composting and recycling? Stay tuned to Providence College's club, ECOPC, a student group that advocates for environmental issues, from the local to international level. On Wednesday, November 29, the club hosted PC Recycles Day in Slavin to inform members of the community about current environmental issues and ways that individuals can work to deter the downward spiral. Mitchell Schirch '18, a club member who was helping run the booth, stated that the club's mission was to "get the PC community active and educated."

Representing ECOPC alongside Schirch was Alexandra Duryea '17, Matthew Lovecchio '18, Sydney Fontaine '18, and Samuel Frick '20. Duryea explained that while the

club "didn't have a lot" of resources in its early stages, she has faith that the dedication of the students involved will push forward despite her December graduation. Earlier in the semester, they held a screening of *Food, Inc.* The club is looking forward to increasing its reach with more events next semester.

One issue that both ECOPC and RIRRC are working on is the PC and greater RI community's misconception of recycling. According to Bjartmarz, single stream recycling was enacted five years ago by RI legislation. That means that all recyclable materials can be deposited in the same container. Besides paper products, Bjartmarz claims that containers, like your coffee cup, are some of the easiest consumer wastes to recycle. "Empty at a minimum, rinsed when possible," she stated, as the materials are all sorted by employees at the plant, which often grows extremely hot and pungent in the summer. However, beware of the materials that cannot be recycled and could potentially lead to a whole bag of recyclable materials being sent to the landfill: styrofoam and straws, among many others. A complete list can be found on RIRRC's website.

Additionally, both groups advocate for composting; however, PC does not have the systems in place to do so. In an effort to prove the benefits that it would bring to campus, Duryea and her fellow EcoReps held the Clean Plate Challenge on Tuesday, October 24. Collaborating with Michelle Lee Guiney from Waste Management,



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THECOWL

Alex Duryea '17, Mitchell Schirch '18, and Payton Morse '20 promote recycling.

the team was able to collect a shocking amount of food waste that would have otherwise been sent to the landfill. Duryea exclaims, "We had 351 clean plates and 424 plates with food waste that totaled 95.84 pounds within only two hours from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.!"

ECOPC advocates for buying locally sourced food and dining at restaurants that buy locally grown ingredients as other small ways to live more sustainably. They have compiled a list of markets and restaurants in Providence, including AS220, Flatbread Co., Venda Ravioli, and White Electric

Coffee.

Want to get involved? Students who are interested in joining the ECOPC team are welcomed to join the weekly meetings that are held every Monday night from 8-9 p.m. in Feinstein 116. If you would like to be added to the email list, Duryea says that students should direct message the PC Go Green Instagram account with their PC email. "To keep super informed on what the club is doing and to learn various ways to boost your sustainability follow the @pcgogreen on Instagram!"

Why God Is Not Like Santa Claus

Dr. Richard Barry Speaks at Christmas Themed Theology on Tap

by Daria Purdy '19
Asst. News Editor

ON CAMPUS

The last Theology on Tap event of the semester was appropriately focused on Christmas and, in particular, on Santa Claus. Dr. Richard Barry, a member of the theology department at Providence College and an expert in systematic theology, explained how the religious outlook of many teenagers can be equated with Santa Claus. The talk took place on Thursday, November 30, in McPhail's.

Barry discussed sociological studies on teenagers' views on religion. According to these studies, many American teenagers believed that religion was about making people happy, that God keeps a safe distance from their lives, and that it was important to be generally nice to people and not break any major commandments.

The teenagers in the study were also wary of being perceived as too religious. They did not want to seem like they were pushing their beliefs onto anyone else. Barry explained that the teenagers in the study did not want "to make any universal claims that might make someone anxious or uncomfortable." The teenagers were also very conventional and passive about religion, with many just taking on the religion of their parents.

Barry called the God of these teenagers a form of "moralistic therapeutic deism." Many young people believe that religion consists of being generally nice and about making oneself feel good, and that God did not directly intervene in their lives.

Barry equates the God of moralistic therapeutic



Dr. Barry discusses the faith of teens. MAGGIE BRANHAM '18/THE COWL

deism with Santa Claus. Santa Claus demands that people be "nice," and he keeps a safe distance from peoples' lives, until that certain time in December comes around.

Barry explained how the Catholic God was different than Santa Claus, and therefore "not less than the God of moralistic therapeutic deism, but at the same time so much more." The Catholic God demands much of His followers, but accordingly also gives much more. According to Barry, the God of moralistic therapeutic deism does not "challenge our minds and lift our hearts," while the Catholic God offers profound reflection on the human condition, and the greater mysteries that give life meaning.

Barry said that the Catholic God "calls for us

to give everything, but in giving everything, allows us to become free." Reflection on the Catholic God allows one to not focus on earthly and petty interests, but rather on higher purposes and mysteries.

Taylor Mulhearn '19 commented, "Dr. Barry's explanation of the difference between Santa Claus and Jesus made total sense, because with Santa it is a one-sided relationship where you only receive a gift at the end of each year. With Jesus, it is a two way relationship where Jesus is here to help you in times of trouble but it is through suffering you learn the love of Jesus, as Jesus died so we can go to heaven." Furthermore, Mulhearn said, "Theology on Tap is a great way to take a break from homework and hear an interesting topic or someone's life story."

Bridgette Clarke '18, a student minister for Campus Ministry, organizes the Theology on Tap events. She said that she invited Dr. Barry to give one of the Theology on Tap talks because he is "a fun and interesting professor," and "when you are talking about God and Santa Claus, I think that you need someone more fun." Clarke said that she felt that the talk was especially relevant, as she had been reflecting on the questions, "Why are we putting so much emphasis on Santa Claus during Christmas? What does this mean for my life?"

Although this was the last Theology on Tap event for the semester, Clarke said that there was a lot to look forward to for next semester. She hopes to be able to organize a talk from Dr. Dana Dillon, and possibly to organize a talk from an outside speaker.

PC Democrats Host Gun Law Trivia

Students Were Invited to Test Their Gun Law Knowledge

by Ernie Andreoli '18
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

The Providence College Democrats hosted a Gun Law Trivia event open to the Friar community in the Ruane Center for the Humanities on Nov. 29. As students piled into the second floor classroom, competition was in the air. After Amy Gilligan '18, vice president of the PC Democrats, ushered in pizza and refreshments, the 30 students were tasked to sign into Kahoot!, an online trivia platform, and put on their thinking caps.

The trivia game consisted of 20 questions regarding current facts and figures on gun ownership in the United States. While the game was an emotional rollercoaster at times, students performed well. "I cannot believe I am still in first," exclaimed Meghan Letendre '19, after she correctly answered the percentage of citizens who owned a gun in rural, suburban, and urban America. Following the game, Gilligan awarded the top three participants with the highest scores gift cards to Dunkin' Donuts, LaSalle Bakery, and Chipotle.

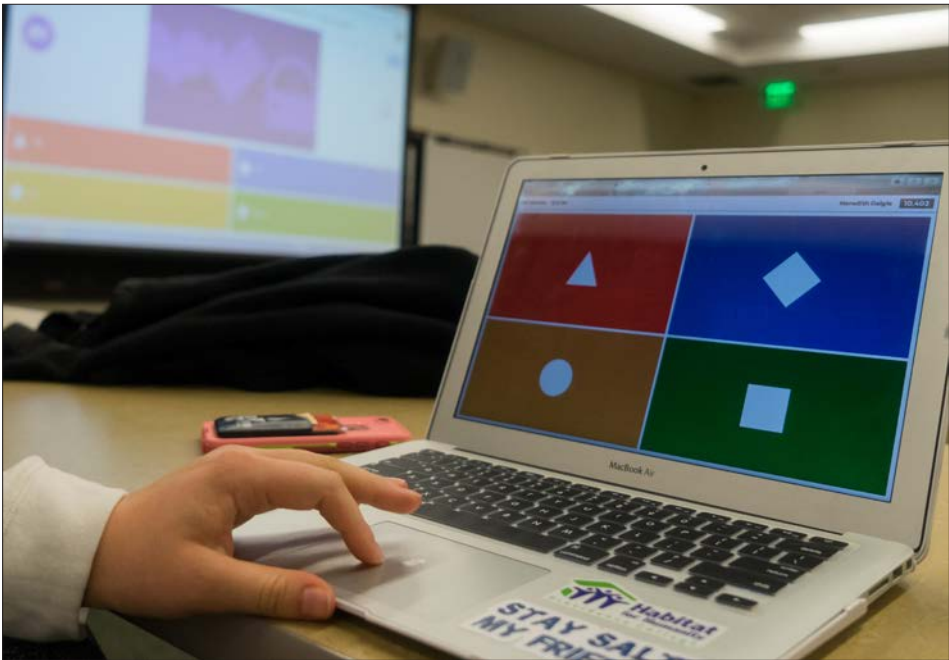
"This was both fun and informative," noted Kristen Rezuze '18, the third place recipient. As final exams near, the PC Democrats are looking forward to holding more events like this next semester. "Our focus in meetings is to build a community with one another,"

stated Gilligan. By presenting students with facts, such as Vermont is the only state to allow individuals to carry a concealed gun without a permit, the PC Democrats encourage students to form their own opinions on various current issues.

Matt Skowronek '20, treasurer of the club, appreciated the fact that an intellectually diverse group of students participated in the trivia event. Participants included members of a number of campus organizations, such as SHEPARD, Student Congress, and Science Fiction Club, as well as students in Dr. Charlotte O'Kelly's sociology course, "The Power of Whiteness."

"Trivia is fun and competitive, and it is also a way to communicate important facts across ideological spectrums," noted Skowronek. Hannah Bone '20, the public relations officer for the PC Democrats, echoed her fellow executive board members' appreciation of the success of the trivia game, and commented on the trajectory of the club's mission. "Tonight's trivia game was a great example of our goal to continue to grow as a club, and attract more members of the PC community through informative events," noted Bone.

On behalf of the club's executive board, Bone explained that the PC Democrats are primarily interested in encouraging students to have a clear understanding of current events during this political climate, and be comfortable expressing their views among peers. While Rory



Students could answer trivia questions right from their computers. NICHOLAS CRENSHAW'20/THE COWL

O'Brien '19, secretary of the PC Democrats, is looking forward to studying abroad next semester, he, like his fellow officers, is excited to see how the club grows over the coming years. According to O'Brien, the PC Democrats have attracted a number of new members this semester, especially freshmen, because of the club's educative meetings and didactic events.

This semester alone, the PC Democrats hosted a lecture by Dr. Adam Myers, assistant professor of political science, on the current political contentions over immigrations laws, as a well as a lecture by Dr. Abigail Brooks, assistant professor of sociology and

the director of the women's studies program, on women in politics. Because the club's members have placed an emphasis on hosting lecturers, and creating an informal environment for students to learn and discuss political matters, O'Brien believes that student involvement is of utmost importance.

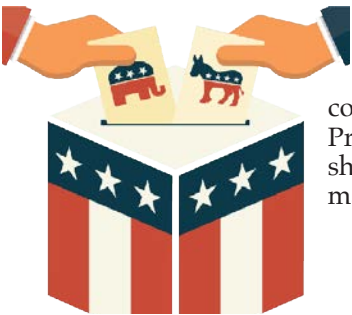
While the club focuses on addressing current political issues, it is not tailored toward political science students. "I am an English major, but I have a passion for learning about political niceties," stated O'Brien.

Year in Review

Looking Back at the World News of 2017

by Hannah Langley '20
News Staff

WORLD NEWS



One of the first major events of the year was Donald Trump’s inauguration as the 45th President of the United States on Jan. 20. Since then, Trump has instated some controversial laws, such as the travel bans for certain countries, the repeal of Obamacare, the ordered missile strike on Syria, and the ban on transgender people joining the military. Trump also fired many of his cabinet and party members, such as Jeff Sessions and Sean Spicer, and was moved to be impeached by the Democrats of Congress. Overall, the first year of Trump’s presidency was very eventful, and only time will tell what is to come in the next several years.

Trump’s election created a whirlwind of controversy and division in America, as well as an empowerment movement by women. Only one day after Trump’s inauguration, people from across the world joined together in the Women’s March in D.C., promoting equality, tolerance, and respect for not only women, but for all people. This nonviolent march totaled over five million people from across the globe, making it the largest coordinated march in U.S. history, and inspired millions of people to take a stand against prejudice and inequality, as well.

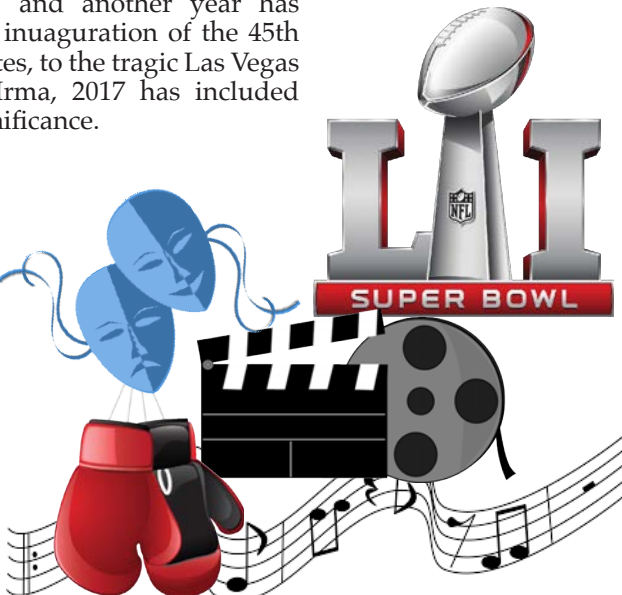


Unfortunately, the world saw many instances of terror and violence during this past year. In Charlottesville, a “Unite the Right” rally was organized by hundreds of white nationalists and led to the death and injury of several people. Around the world, nations in the Middle East experienced terrorist violence, from suicide bombings to mass shootings, leading to the death of millions of people. There were several shootings and bombings in Europe and the United States as well. At an Ariana Grande concert in England, a suicide bomber outside the arena killed 22 people and injured over 50. There was also a bomb in St. Petersburg, Russia, a mass shooting in Chicago that wounded over 100 people, another bombing incident in London, and a terrorist attack in Barcelona. Most recently, however, was the shooting at the Mandalay Bay Casino in Las Vegas on Oct. 1, in which Stephen Paddock killed 58 people and injured nearly 600, making it the worst mass shooting in American history.

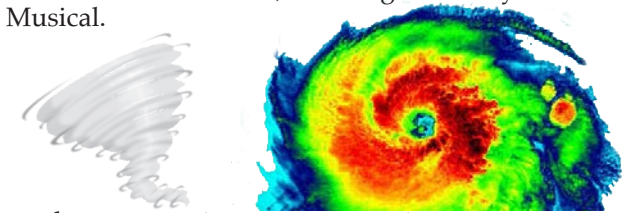


In early October, film producer Harvey Weinstein was exposed for harassing and abusing women, resulting in a large scandal. This resulted in his release from his own company and his wife leaving him. It also resulted in a movement known as “#MeToo,” in which millions of women were empowered to come out about their own personal experiences of abuse and harassment. “The Silence Breakers,” those who spoke up about experiences of sexual assault and harassment, were named as Time Magazine's Person of the Year.

The world experienced a lot of hardships, turmoil, tears of joy and sadness, and excitement this year. Here’s to hoping for a good end to 2017, and an even better new year!



On a happier note, it was also a big year in sports, movies, and entertainment. The excitement and suspense of Super Bowl LI crazed everyone in New England, as the Patriots made the biggest comeback in Super Bowl history in the second half of the game, beating the Atlanta Falcons 34-28. This summer, thousands of people watched the fight between Floyd Mayweather and Conor McGregor, two great fighters of this generation. There were also many great movies produced this year, including *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Fate of the Furious*, *Wonder Woman*, and *Dunkirk*, all of which exceeded previous box office records. Harry Styles released his first solo album, and Ed Sheeran and Taylor Swift came out with their new albums for the first time in several years. Hit singles of the year included “That’s What I Like,” “Despacito,” “Body Like a Back Road,” “Bad and Boujee,” and “Congratulations,” to name a few. The Broadway musical *Dear Evan Hansen*, an inspirational and tear-jerking story about a boy who copes with social anxiety disorder, triumphed in the musical theater world, winning the Tony for Best Musical.



There were also many natural disasters around the world in 2017. September seemed to take the hardest toll on many countries, as there were several catastrophic hurricanes and earthquakes. In early September, Hurricane Irma devastated Houston and the southern Atlantic, most specifically Southwest Florida and South Carolina, causing millions of people to evacuate these areas. Hurricane Maria, a Category 4 storm, also destroyed much of Puerto Rico, killing and injuring hundreds of people. Since the occurrence of the hurricane in late September, continuous relief funds and rebuilding have been taking place throughout the country. Along with these hurricanes, there was also a 7.1 magnitude earthquake in Mexico City, killing over 120 people and destroying many buildings and homes.



In more recent news, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle’s engagement was announced on Nov. 27, and the wedding is planned for spring 2018. While their relationship and engagement may have been seen as controversial in the past, as Meghan is a biracial American divorcee, the royal family has warmly embraced her and is looking forward to their marriage.

Congress Updates

by Connor Nolan '19
Student Congress Publicity

CONGRESS

Student Congress’s Executive Board would like to thank all of its members for a great semester and wishes good luck to all those leaving to study abroad.

The first piece of old business presented before the congress in this past Tuesday’s meeting regarded the formation of a Pre-Law Society on campus. The club was passed unanimously by the members in attendance. Congratulations to all who worked on it.

Another piece of old business also regarded the formation of a club on campus, Campus Cursive, also known as More Love Letters. The presenters of the piece reiterated some of the reasons the club came to be that were discussed in the previous week’s meeting. They urged all students to look into moreloveletters.com as well. There was no discussion to follow, and the club was passed unanimously by those in attendance. Congratulations to the members of the club and congress who worked on it.

The third piece of old business to be voted upon at this week’s meeting regarded the usage of a candidate information form by all those running for positions on congress. The presenter spoke to the piece’s merits, saying that this is a good step to getting students to know more about the people who they are voting for, especially for freshmen. Members of congress attested to this being a good idea and even spoke about how it could lead to greater voter turnout on campus. The piece was passed and will be implemented next election cycle.

An important piece of old business regarded the formation of an environmental biology major here at Providence College. The presenters emphasized that many other colleges have an environmental biology major, as well as the support from PC science professors for the establishment of this major. They also declared that the deadline to declare the major would be the end of the fall semester junior year for current biology majors and spring semester sophomore year for non-science majors. The major was passed in a vote by all members of congress. Congratulations to all who worked hard for this as well as the academics committee.

The next piece of old business regarded the possible veto of mandatory events determined by the executive board of congress. The presenter of the piece, following heated discussion last week, decided to table the piece definitely.

Another piece of old business regarded the revote on an old piece of congress legislation that had fallen out of practice years ago. It spoke of the internal approval of committee appointments which are chosen by the executive board. Multiple questions followed including why this is necessary, why the speaker said it would be detrimental if it was not passed, how the process would exactly work, and why so much of why it was necessary was theoretically based. Following these questions and confusion, the presenter moved to have the piece tabled definitely as well.

The last piece of old business presented at the meeting included the formation of the SCITE committee to support change and inclusiveness on campus. This ad hoc committee (possibly instated on a temporary basis) would be a part of congress just as any other committee currently is. The presenters spoke at length about the need for this, including Congress’s need to be “bigger and more impactful in the community.” This “team” would also follow through on passed legislation to help implement it on campus. They made changes that were heavily debated last week, including removal of the phrases “protest” and “teach” from the legislation. Some clubs supported the idea of having a sort of “liaison” from congress, but others were less receptive. They were also questioned on whether they had reached out to the diversity and inclusion committee already on campus, and some wished they had done more to work with them instead of through congress. Some members of the congress also believed that this may lead to less active fighting for diversity and involvement in congress, as members could just claim the committee was doing it. All seemed to agree the congress should do more, but many seemed to think this was not the best way. Some race-based conversations followed, with all members of congress remaining cordial. and calm, leading to vital and necessary discussion. The presenters reiterated that this committee was not made to do away with or hurt other clubs, it was instead to address a problem seen both within congress and on campus. A vote was called, but the piece did not pass.

Amtrak System is Failing Its Customers

by Nicholas Moran '19
Opinion Staff

TRANSPORTATION

Sprinting down the concrete steps of Providence's Amtrak station, I glanced nervously at my wristwatch. 12:02, two minutes after my train to Newark, NJ was scheduled to leave. Quickly, I burst through the steel doors, only to be greeted by empty tracks. As always, the train was late, leaving hundreds of holiday travelers shivering in the cavernous wind tunnel that is Providence Station.

Once the train arrived forty minutes later, the frustration only intensified. Our train crawled through Southern Rhode Island and Eastern Connecticut, frequently stopping in the wilderness due to delays. To make matters worse, the train's Wifi took ages to load webpages like ESPN, let alone stream Netflix, intensifying the mind-numbing boredom.

Frustrated, I looked out the window at I-95's holiday traffic jam, watching cars, barely cracking 35 mph, seemingly fly past our stalled train. Surprisingly, I envied them; at least they were moving!

As Providence College students pack for the long trip home for Christmas break, America's failing Amtrak train service only makes the dreaded holiday commute worse. Aging trains and battered tracks are left in abject disrepair, as the *New York Times* notes that Amtrak is facing a whopping "\$28 billion backlog of repairs needed to modernize" technology that has been rotting away since the Nixon Administration.

These aging tracks were responsible for 41% of Amtrak's 178 derailments from 2010-2016, leaving dozens of Americans killed in avoidable accidents. As America's train system lays in ruin, the federal government refused to meet Amtrak's request for \$1.8 billion in 2016 funding, only providing \$1.4 billion. None of this is acceptable, as the Federal Government must dramatically increase funding

to launch Amtrak into the 21st century. Once the nation that invented the continental railroad, Americans should not have to meekly accept one of the worst train systems in the developed world.

Especially frustrating, America's "high speed" Acela Express service would not even be considered a high-speed rail by most European governments. According to the *Boston Globe*, the American Acela can reach only 100 mph and averages 68.89 mph, and in some curved parts of the track can only reach a measly 25 mph.

Across the Atlantic, France's ultra-high speed TGV to Geneva, Switzerland averages 164.21 mph. In fact, the Italian, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, and Dutch high-speed trains all travel significantly faster than their American counterpart, proving that American citizens do not have to timidly accept this status quo.

Even ridden Spain, embroiled in sectionalist infighting, provides a better train service than the world's largest economic power. As Politico describes, European Union nations collectively spent 36 billion Euros on trains in 2014, dwarfing American funding.

Unfortunately, the sheer magnitude of Amtrak's problems makes real improvement exceedingly difficult. Even an ambitious \$2.45 billion project to modernize the Acela service by 2021 barely scratches the surface, and Amtrak's Executive Vice President for Business Development, Stephen Gardner, admitted this to *Business Insider*.

When asked if the roughly \$2 billion would put an end to the constant delays, Gardner replied "No," as it will only be enough for aesthetic changes, minor enhancem[ents] to the ride quality," improved WiFi, and it will "permit a little more capacity."

Worst of all, Amtrak will not be able to speed up America's relatively sluggish trains, as our rusting tracks are simply too outdated to support true high speed trains. Amtrak would need to "straighten out" unnecessary curves that force trains to slow down, and "create enough track capacity to be



Amtrak 321 at Providence. PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA

able to go considerably faster than what we do today." Unfortunately, Gardner lamented that this would be a "multi-billion dollar, decades long" commitment, something the Federal Government's meager funding cannot come close to satisfying.

Lagging behind European and Asian powers, America's Amtrak system is failing its 31 million annual customers. Far from the ornate glass ceilings and marbled walls of the original New York Penn Station, America's train stations have devolved into subterranean, concrete jungles. Now travelers sit on graffitied benches, listening to the monotone PA speaker announce delay after delay.

The Pitfalls of the Fitness Craze

by Kelsey Dass '18
Opinion Staff

FITNESS

Richard Simmons said, "No one is perfect.... absolutely no one. But why focus on that? Focus on what you like about yourself, and that will bring you happiness and peace."

Prior to the explosion of social media, especially Instagram, fitness was defined by movement. It was as simple as that; the expectation was realistic and attainable.

With modern day Instagram fitness models, we have altered what it looks like to be "fit." Social media has made the gap between expectation and reality far too wide.

One of the most vivid memories every 90s kid has is of their parents, rocking in front of the television and "Sweatin' to the Oldies." Crazy-haired Richard Simmons with his short shorts and sweatbands defined "fitness" for over 20 years.

The guru made fitness fun. From his studio opening in L.A. to the famous fitness show debut in the 80s, almost everyone was hooked on the movement.

There are a lot of different factors that contribute to the success of this older approach to fitness. Simmons was not merely standing in front of the television flexing and flaunting his toned stomach.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA

He was physically moving with his audience for the entire workout. At times he was joined by other males and females who also endured the workout alongside their audience. He practiced what he preached.

Simmons was not the only one. Jane Fonda was another fitness icon of the 80s. From her "Abs, Buns, and Thighs" to "Low Impact Aerobics" DVDs, Fonda worked alongside her audience. However, she was not half nude and her audience did not see every outline of her body. Her entire world was not these workouts; she was a female actress as well. When people have the ability to feel more connected to the person their working out with, they are more inclined to do so.

Simmons and Fonda presented themselves as down to earth, cheerful partners to workout with. Their approach was far from

intimidating and made people truly want to turn on their DVDs to workout.

Nowadays, men and women go onto their Instagram feed and are bombarded with images of girls standing alone, extremely close to the mirror and flexing their six pack abs. Or men, such as Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson with arms and veins protruding out of their necks.

There is nothing wrong with these Instagram fitness models. This is their "job;" they are paid anywhere from \$5,000 to \$25,000 for every post they upload. But that is just it, it is their job.

However, what the young girls who scroll through Instagram on the bus to school do not understand is, those girls spend all day every day to look like that. They go to the gym several times a day and follow a very specific diet in order to have

steel cut abs, tiny waists, and large yet toned bottoms.

The problem that lies here is the unrealistic expectation. Other men and women, girls and boys of society have other ways in which they spend their days. Many people spend their time working a nine to five in business, teaching children, practicing law enforcement, and for the younger generation, attending school.

How are these people supposed to attain this "perfect body?" They can not; the gap is too wide. The expectation presented to us by social media and the unattainable nature of this version of fitness do more harm than good.

What many respected about Simmons were his realism and positive encouragement. He exemplified an attainable, healthy body type that did not intimidate or shame an audience.

The lack of self-esteem in young adults is an epidemic. We are raising children in a world where they are conditioned to believe "fit" means one thing. That being—what they see on Instagram. I hear girls are constantly questioning themselves and asking, "why can't I look like that?"

They need to know that they do not look like that because they desire something more out of their daily life than just fitness, and that is OK.

New York Times Article Normalizes Nazism

by Andrea Traietti '21
Opinion Staff

POLITICS

On Saturday, November 25, the *New York Times* published a piece titled “A Voice of Hate in America’s Heartland.” If there is anything that should be called “fake news,” it should be this article—even though the article was, on all accounts, factually accurate.

What makes this piece worthy of the “fake news” categorization is the way that it normalizes Neo-Nazism in our society. In America, in 2017, even one of the most reliable and reputable media outlets has shown a frightening failure to condemn Nazism for what it truly is: discriminatory, racist, and entirely un-American.

The piece by the *Times* is a feature on the life of Tony Hovater, a white nationalist living in New Carlisle, Ohio. The author details aspects of Hovater’s life in an eerily normal way, describing his fairly standard American characteristics: his registry for his upcoming wedding, what kinds of tattoos he has, where he goes out to eat, the fact that he is a big *Seinfeld* fan.

The pictures in the piece show Hovater in front of his home and in his local grocery store. In every way, the piece makes Hovater look like the average, everyday American. Except this man is anything but normal. This man is a Nazi.

It is absolutely crucial that we recognize that there are Nazis living in our communities. And yes, they do look completely normal. If we are going to truly recognize the racism seeping into our society and the parts of our culture and political atmosphere that have given rise to it, we have to acknowledge how standardized this racist sentiment is



Tony Hovater appears like an average American in a local grocery store.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE ETHEREDGE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

becoming. On one level, this article brought this normalization to light. However, under no condition can we portray this normalization in a positive manner.

Under no condition should we fail to recognize this as a problem, something that simply must be condemned. While this article did succeed in showing us the ugly parts of our society—the things that desperately need to be fixed—it failed on all accounts to condemn Nazism, or even to portray it as a problem. That is why this article should be labeled “fake news.” Nazism is not okay. Let us stop pretending it is.

Free speech is one of the most, if not the most, important tool in protecting our democracy. Now more than ever, we need to uphold this right. However, we also must uphold its integrity. We should be exposing growing Nazism in America. But

we have to expose it in a way that shows just how discriminatory and un-American it is. To do so would be quality, investigative journalism, which was missing from this article. Arguably, it goes so far as to promote the agenda of Hovater’s alt-right group, the “Traditionalist Worker Party.” According to the article, the group is looking for what they call “normies,” or simply ‘normal’ people within their group so that they can bolster their appearance as an accessible, everyday political association. If the article displays the normality of people like Hovater and groups like the “Traditionalist Worker Party,” does it not then simply promote the goals of Nazi groups?

Right now, we are at a time where we need to redefine what it means to be American. 16.1 million Americans served in World War II, fighting Nazism. We need to remember

the sacrifice that so many people made to protect our freedom and our ideals, and to stand up against injustice. Approximately six million Jewish people were murdered in the Holocaust, by people who embraced Nazism, the evil ideology now growing in our country. In America, we pride ourselves on the ideal of equality—equality for those of all races and all religions.

If that is the case, if America truly does embody this ideal, it is time to reject Nazism and racism in all their ugly forms. The first step to the rejection of this ideology is exposing it and those who believe in it.

But we cannot in any way show this ideology to be positive or acceptable. We have to show that it exists, but also that it has to stop. We have to condemn this entirely un-American racism growing in our country. Nazism has no place in America.

Yemen’s Forgotten War is Left Out of The Spotlight *U.S. Media Fails to Cover Humanitarian Crisis*

by Lela Biggus '18
Opinion Staff

INTERNATIONAL

There is a war going on in Yemen and it has barely received any media coverage, especially here in the United States. By not sufficiently or accurately covering the conflict, American media is doing a disservice to its own people and an injustice to Yemeni civilians caught in the crosshairs of this civil war turned humanitarian crisis.

The current conflict in Yemen is complex in its origins and its perpetuation, but the situation on the ground today looks something like this: Houthis—Iran-backed Shia rebels from the north of the country—fighting a Saudi-led multi-country coalition for control of the capital Sana’a, al Qaeda and ISIL militants carrying out attacks, the world’s worst cholera outbreak, and millions of Yemenis displaced, malnourished, or dead.

Children are the most vulnerable group bearing the brunt of the crisis. Two million children in Yemen today are severely malnourished. Millions more face imminent famine without sufficient aid for lack of both physical access and international humanitarian response. The United Nations World Food Program reports that \$335 million is still needed to combat food insecurity and famine for nine million Yemenis into 2018.

60 Minutes aired a 13-minute segment on

the crisis in Yemen in late November. Scott Pelley introduced the segment, noting that footage and news from Yemen is difficult to obtain because “the Saudis prevent reporters from reaching the warzone.” This is true. Saudi Arabia imposed a naval and air blockade effectively restricting access for humanitarian groups and the media after a Nov. 4 Houthi ballistic missile attack on Saudi Arabia’s capital, Riyadh.

Pelley then warns viewers that scenes to follow are those that “the Saudi government does not want you to see.” This is not the whole truth.

More than likely, what 60 Minutes and much of the media we consume in the United States does not want us to see is that the crimes and human rights abuses carried out knowingly by the Saudi coalition are backed and funded by the U.S. government.

Lackluster media coverage on Yemen is less reflective of the blockade and the interests of the Saudi government and more about the U.S. keeping its skeletons securely in the closet.

Saudi Arabia has long been a key regional ally of the United States, not to mention a major oil and arms trade partner, and the U.S. has supported the Saudi intervention in Yemen for over two years with a steady supply of fuel, intelligence, and bombs.

Dr. Ruth Ben-Artzi of the political science department points out two major issues with U.S. involvement in Yemen, stating, “While

the Saudis are U.S. allies, being involved in this violent conflict is not in U.S. foreign policy and national security interests.”

She commented, “Inserting itself into a conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran, the U.S. is further complicating its relationship with Teheran at a time where finessing diplomatic efforts and upholding the P5+1 Iran Nuclear Deal would be in America’s best interest.”

The future of U.S. engagement in Yemen’s bloody conflict is uncertain, but one thing remains clear: the media is not painting viewers an accurate picture of the situation. As a result, international outcry and subsequent aid to Yemen remains weak.

We, the international community, should become as educated and as enraged about the children starving in Yemen as we are about the war in Syria. If we allow ourselves to remain in the dark about who is responsible for the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, then we cannot collectively call out those who are to blame. The conflict is complicated, but there are clear actors ignoring, and therefore perpetuating, human rights abuses that should make us all shudder.

If you would like to give to the humanitarian effort in Yemen, the UNWFP is a good place to start. You can find out more about the program’s impact and how to give at: <http://www1.wfp.org/emergencies/yemen-emergency>.

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Productivity is Key

Managing Your Time During the Holiday Season

by **Paige Calabrese '18**
Associate Editor-in-Chief

EDITOR'S COLUMN

It is that time of year again: finals. Before we can return home to relax and celebrate the holiday season with our families, we have to make the last push to finish papers, exams, and projects. On top of the never-ending bombardment of assignments, there is the added stress of finding gifts for family, friends, and significant others. Some may also experience some anxiety about spending time with family and the friction that only our relatives can occasionally create. With all these thoughts and more swirling in a terrifying storm around our heads, it may seem almost impossible to tune it out and

focus on the things immediately in front of us. For the remainder of this week and all of next week, productivity is key: managing time efficiently and plowing through assignments is necessary in order to complete all the work that stands between us and four weeks of home-cooked meals, shameless TV binges, and—for the extra-lucky people—snuggles with pets. Throughout the week, check in with yourself to make sure you are not on the brink of a finals-induced meltdown and think ahead to the month-long vacation that awaits! Finals can be intimidating, but it is possible to reign in the feeling of helplessness by creating a schedule, sticking to it, and taking care of yourself. Enjoy the well-earned time off, and good luck to all these last couple weeks!



TANGENTS & TIRADES

Take a Break:
Watch A Capella

Royal Engagement
Shows Progress

Muslims Are Not
the Problem

By the end of the semester, stress levels and workloads are especially high for students, professors, and faculty alike. Remembering to take a moment to relax and enjoy the holiday season is often difficult, but one end-of-the-semester event always seems to make it easier: Providence College's very own A cappella show. Not only did PC's three A cappella groups deliver high-energy musical performances that could get any PC student singing and clapping along, but their diverse and unexpected set list really took the audience by storm. First and foremost, PC's all-male group, Special Guest, completely turned heads with their closing song. I do not think anyone in the crowd was expecting to hear a song from *Moana* that night, let alone a funky mash-up of "How Far I'll Go" and "You're Welcome," and other songs performed with the spunk and passion that only a Disney soundtrack can evoke. Strictly Speaking also came in hot with an attention-grabbing cover of one of Elton John's classics, "Bennie and the Jets," and no one could ignore the energy and pure clapping power of Anaclastic's version of "Thunder" by Imagine Dragons. Although the end-of-semester chaos has fallen upon PC, our A cappella groups' performances remind us to always take a step back from the stress this time of year, sit down, unwind, and enjoy the talent our students have to offer through their unique and passionate performances.

-Sarah Kelley '18



-Gabrielle Bianco '21

When the leader of the country spreads messages about hate, what hope is there for everyone else? President Trump's inflammatory retweets of anti-Muslim videos only enable those who harbor the same hatred for anyone who might be considered an outsider and wait for an opportunity to express it. Throughout his campaign and presidency, Trump has proven to be particularly concerned with national security and the threat of terrorism. However, there is a definitive line between making border protection a high priority and condemning an entire group of people simply because they do not reside within those borders. Instead of isolating terrorists as the real perpetrators, Trump suggests that a whole religion is at fault. By retweeting videos of a Muslim boy being violent against a boy with crutches, he endorses the views of a far-right and radical nationalist group. Categorizing all Muslims together is unfair because it suggests that over one billion people worldwide are villainous solely because of their religion. Yet the same logic does not seem to apply nearly as much with perpetrators of any other religion. Religion should not have to be the primary determinant of an individual's character, nor should it be grounds for incriminating a consolidated group of people. Muslims are more than their religion, and the ones who pose a threat are in the minority.

-Hannah Paxton '19

PHOTO COURTESY OF JEREMY SELWYN - WPA POOL/GETTY IMAGES

What Trump’s Decision Means For Palestine

by **Nicholas Ogrinc ’19**
Guest Writer

INTERNATIONAL

In several days, President Donald Trump will announce his intentions to move the Israeli embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, an action that will severely impact Palestinians and the Palestinian government.

This move comes shortly after the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, which was propagated in 1917 and was used as approval for the creation of a Jewish State. Unfortunately, there is no clear solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as by this point both peoples have reasonable claims to the land. Thus, it is more important than ever to understand the multiple perspectives on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and to hear the voices of those that it has affected.

I spent the fall semester of 2017 studying in Amman, Jordan, a country centrally located in the Middle East, making it a gathering point for refugees. Jordan has a population of nine million people, and of those a large proportion are refugees from Syria, Iraq, and Palestine. The most numerous refugee population are Palestinian refugees. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) says that there are approximately 2.1 million Palestinian refugees residing in Jordan, almost all of whom have been granted citizenship.

Upon arriving in Jordan, I was



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEBASTIAN SCHEINER/AP

Israeli and Palestinian flags waved in celebration of Jerusalem Day on May 8, 2013

unabashedly pro-Israel. I grew up in a politically conservative household, and this was the default stance on the issue. This continued at Providence College because the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not often discussed nor does it have many vocal participants. It was my view that the Jewish people deserved a homeland based on the atrocities committed during the Holocaust. Additionally, they are one of our strongest allies in the Middle East, representing a bastion of stability in an often politically tumultuous region, with Israel’s military serving as one of our most useful assets in the Global War on Terror. Thus, I was quite surprised by the resentment that Jordan had towards Israel.

One of my first prolonged conversations with a local Jordanian was with the sister of a family friend, whose name I shall keep anonymous, and we mostly discussed Israel and Palestine. Her attitude can be

summarized best as “bitter.” At some point in the past her parents were ejected from Palestine by Israel, and they fled to Saudi Arabia, and are now settled in Jordan. During our conversation, she attacked Israeli culture, claiming that their food was essentially stolen and appropriated from Arab food and traditions. Her most intense claim was that 9/11 was a joint conspiracy by the U.S. and Israeli governments to justify an invasion of Iraq and to protect Israel from any possible threats by Saddam Hussein. This was an extreme position, and nobody else expressed this view.

It is impossible to travel around Jordan without meeting Palestinian refugees or descendants of refugees, so naturally I heard more about the issue. That first woman’s views were the most extreme, but almost all Jordanians shared this same bitterness and resentment towards Israel. Some

people, like two middle-aged men who I drank coffee with one day in a market in downtown Amman, were angry with Israel simply because it had flooded their country with people who were taking jobs from Jordanians. When I offered to pay for my coffee, they insisted that they pay because they were “Jordanian-Jordanians,” not poor “Palestinian-Jordanians.” This was a distinction that I have heard several times, and highlights some of the social tensions that the large influx of refugees has caused in Jordan.

I was even questioned by one taxi driver why the U.S. has supported Israel and allowed Israel to force so many people out of their homes. Unfortunately, this taxi driver was sort of right: even though the U.S. has not given Israel direct military support, our financial backing for Israel has been astronomical. According to the FY2016 U.S. Senate Budget proposal, the U.S. has provided \$282 billion to the Middle East, specifically Israel, since 1946, which is more money than we have given to any other country in the world.

Many Americans will never be able to travel to the Middle East and discuss the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with the people who live there. That is why, on the eve of a significant U.S. foreign policy decision, I have decided to share some of my interactions with Jordanians to highlight how the conflict has effected the Palestinian people and the communities that have received them, and to show that the U.S. needs to consider whether it is using its immense power and financial resources ethically.

Beginning of a Solution: Rhode Island Promise Program

by **Emily Miga**
Guest Writer: Bentley Univeristy ’21

EDUCATION

We are in the same position we were a century ago. At the turn of the 20th century, high school education was becoming increasingly valuable in order to secure a reasonable standard of living. Many resisted this transition, not wanting to pay exorbitant amounts of money for an education that had previously been optional, and lawmakers responded, reframing school systems to include this education for all American students.

Now, it is university education that is becoming increasingly valuable but supportive legislation is lacking. In 2017, Rhode Island Governor, Gina Raimondo, proposed the Rhode Island Promise program as an effort to make college education a realistic option for all Rhode Island students. If students meet a number of eligibility requirements, including residing in Rhode Island, enrolling as a full-time student directly after high school, filling out the FAFSA and maintaining a 2.0 GPA while in college, the state pays their tuition and mandatory fees. This would allow students to receive their Associate’s Degree from Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) or their Bachelor’s Degree from Rhode Island College (RIC) or University of Rhode Island (URI) (with only junior and senior year tuition covered by the program).

Throughout the past year, lawmakers have vetted Raimondo’s proposal and the result is a much leaner program that is, frankly, inadequate. Now the program is restricted to the two tuition-free years at CCRI. While this version will still aid some, it will not have nearly the same effect on students as the initial plan would have.

When the Promise program was first discussed, a major benefit that many saw was the ability to get a Bachelor’s Degree from RIC or URI. Students who would have attended only CCRI to receive their associate’s degree,

now would have the option to receive their bachelor’s degree by attending RIC or URI during their freshman and sophomore year and then have their junior and senior year paid for by the program. Their other option would be to attend CCRI for two years and transfer to URI or RIC for their bachelor’s at a much lower cost. With the new version of the program, these options are taken away from students entirely. Raimondo’s vision was not to make one school cheaper, it was to make higher education more accessible. Being able to receive a Bachelor’s Degree at a significantly lower cost was a major step in the right direction, but now that has been taken away.

Restricting the program to just CCRI also helps much fewer students than it seems. A primary eligibility requirement of the program was that students submit the FAFSA in order to secure any possible federal scholarships, thus reducing the money the state would have to pay. This seems reasonable, but when paired with the fact that 70 percent of CCRI students meet the requirements for the federal Pell Grant, which covers the cost of tuition there, it is illogical.

Most of the remaining 30 percent still receive some federal aid. The new Promise program will close the gap for the 30 percent of students who do not meet the Pell Grant requirements, but destroys opportunities for many of the remaining 70 percent who aspire to receive their Bachelor’s Degree.

The Promise program created opportunities for these students who could use the program’s scholarship to close the gap after federal scholarships. Now, students no longer have that option. The new heavily-truncated version of the program limits students’ ability to earn a four-year degree, when the two-year degree availability was not a major issue in the first

place. Why bother enacting such a restricted version if it leaves the vast majority of students exactly where they were before?

Raimondo’s proposal was the beginning of a solution to a problem we have faced before. The initial Rhode Island Promise program held real opportunities for students and could have been the beginning of a larger movement. Instead, students’ futures will continue to be limited and their bank accounts, stifled with debt. Rather than making college a feasible option for more students and allowing many to pursue education farther than they would have without it, Rhode Island lawmakers have simply pushed the situation to the side yet again.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RIOPC.EDU

PHOTOGRAPHY

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December 7, 2017



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL

LEFT: Hieu Nguyen '20, Jennifer Wilson '20, and Dylan Black '20 try their hands at crafting their own maki rolls at “Maki Your Own Sushi,” an annual hands-on cultural food event sponsored by the Asian American Club on Nov. 30. Students received professional instruction as they crafted sushi using ingredients of their choice.

BELOW: Garrett Gamez '19 speaks on the Providence College Podcast. During the interview, which was streamed live on Facebook, Gamez told the story of his hockey career from being a sought-after recruit to retiring from the sport for medical reasons. Gamez now serves as a student assistant coach for the PC Men's Ice Hockey Team.



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL

BELOW RIGHT: Kincaid McLaren '20 performs a poem at “Let It Go,” an open mic event sponsored by Believers of Word. Students were given the opportunity to present the spoken word in a safe space at the event, which also featured performances by guest poet Rudy Rudacious.

BELOW: Sandra-Kelly Atkinson '18 and Steve Lawrence '21 decorate stockings at Christmas Karaoke, Cookies & Crafts, an event sponsored by Student Activities & Cultural Programming on Dec. 1.



BRIANNA COLLETTI '21/THE COWL



KRISTINA HO '18/THE COWL

*Well kids,
I certainly
hope you've been
good this year...*



The Grinch

by Madison Stevens '19
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

There is blood everywhere. That’s all I am aware of at this point—wet, metallic-smelling blood. On the operating room floor, on gauze packs, on me. I survived my twelfth day at Saint Mary’s Hospital in Austin. A Christmas miracle, to say the least. I had done my first year residency in Dallas but moved to train under the best after I decided on my specialty in cardiothoracic surgery. As the harsh florescent lights of the O.R. stare me in the face, I am very much regretting my decision.

I live for the rush of the hospital, for the unsanitary in the midst of complete sterilization. Blood hitting the bleached floors of the O.R., a completely diseased organ in the safety of my latex glove-covered hand, a placenta sliding into a medical waste bag as a mother swaddles her newborn baby girl. I live for it. The hospital welcomes life and strives to delay death. I live for the first cut, taking the scalpel and initiating my workspace with a drag of the blade across an abdomen, chest, leg, or scalp. *These are the things that surgeons think about*, I think to myself so I don’t feel as crazy as I tie the waistband on my scrubs. I retrieve three charts from the nurses’ station, all post-ops, and look it over. “December 25” is displayed on the sticky calendar on the desk. It couldn’t be more perfect that today was Christmas, for today I am getting the best possible gift I can imagine: the meat and potatoes specialties—cardiothoracic wing working under Dr. Gerald Hallen.

“Dr. Penelope Kannery?” I hear my name in a deep voice from behind me. I turn around and look up; my 5’9 frame suddenly feels tiny in the presence of Dr. Hallen. He has to be mid- to late-40s, though there are no traces of laugh lines around his eyes; just frown lines framing his chin.

“Yes Dr. Hallen, that’s me. I was on my way down to the cardio wing.” I say with a smile. His face remains neutral.

“You’re here earlier than your call. That’s good. Follow me and keep up.” And he’s off down the hall. I hear two nurses mumble “the Grinch” under their breath as we pass by. He comes to an abrupt stop in front of a room, turns around, and shoves a binder with all of the patient information at my waist, saying, “30 seconds to review. Do not speak to the patient.”

Yeah, he’s the Grinch all right. Okay, Henry Sidler, 72, he needs a coronary artery bypass graft surgery, the most common of heart surgeries—one that I studied endlessly in med school and scrubbed in on four times back in Dallas. I walk in behind him and wait

as he explains to Henry what would happen during his surgery.

“And as I have said before, it is the most common heart surgery preformed, though that doesn’t mean things cannot go wrong. I have—” Dr. Hallen was beginning another sentence as Henry cut him off, causing the world-renowned doctor to have a look on his face as if somebody kicked his puppy.

“Yeah, yeah, Doc, you’ve told me all of this before, can I get back to my game of solitaire? My granddaughter gave me these cards for Christmas,” Henry says with a nervous laugh, gesturing at his playing cards displayed on the makeshift table on his lap.

“As. I. Was. Saying. I have an extremely high success rate, and there have only been good things said about

number two or succeed. I want you to make the initial incision,” he says as he hands me a scalpel. I do it with ease and fluidity.

“Okay Dr. Penelope Kannery, ever cut a breastbone?” My eyes light up at his words; I’ve never done it before on a live person, just cadavers.

“No, Dr. Hallen. It would be my honor to,” I say. He hands me the electric saw and I feel it again, the rush of the hospital. This is what I live for. I start my cut at the top of the sternum, avoiding the ribs.

“Now be sure to cut through the middle slowly. He’s old so his bones aren’t as healthy and you risk the chance of a rib cracking into the—” the BEEP of the breathing monitor interrupts him and I watch as the respiratory levels start to plunge.

“Get out of the way, Dr. Penelope Kannery. You not only just splintered a rib into his lung causing it to collapse, you just hit strike two. Get the hell out of my O.R.!” Dr. Hallen yells.

I stand at the small circular window of the scrub room as I watch him finish up Henry’s surgery with ease. Six hours later, both lung and heart are stable and he’s being wheeled out to the ICU for post-op monitoring as Hallen walks out.

“Two strikes, Dr. Penelope Kannery. You will now have to answer the consequences. So, what is your decision Dr. Penelope Kannery? Do you accept the consequence?” He asks as he scrubs out, and then opens another package of soap to scrub back in.

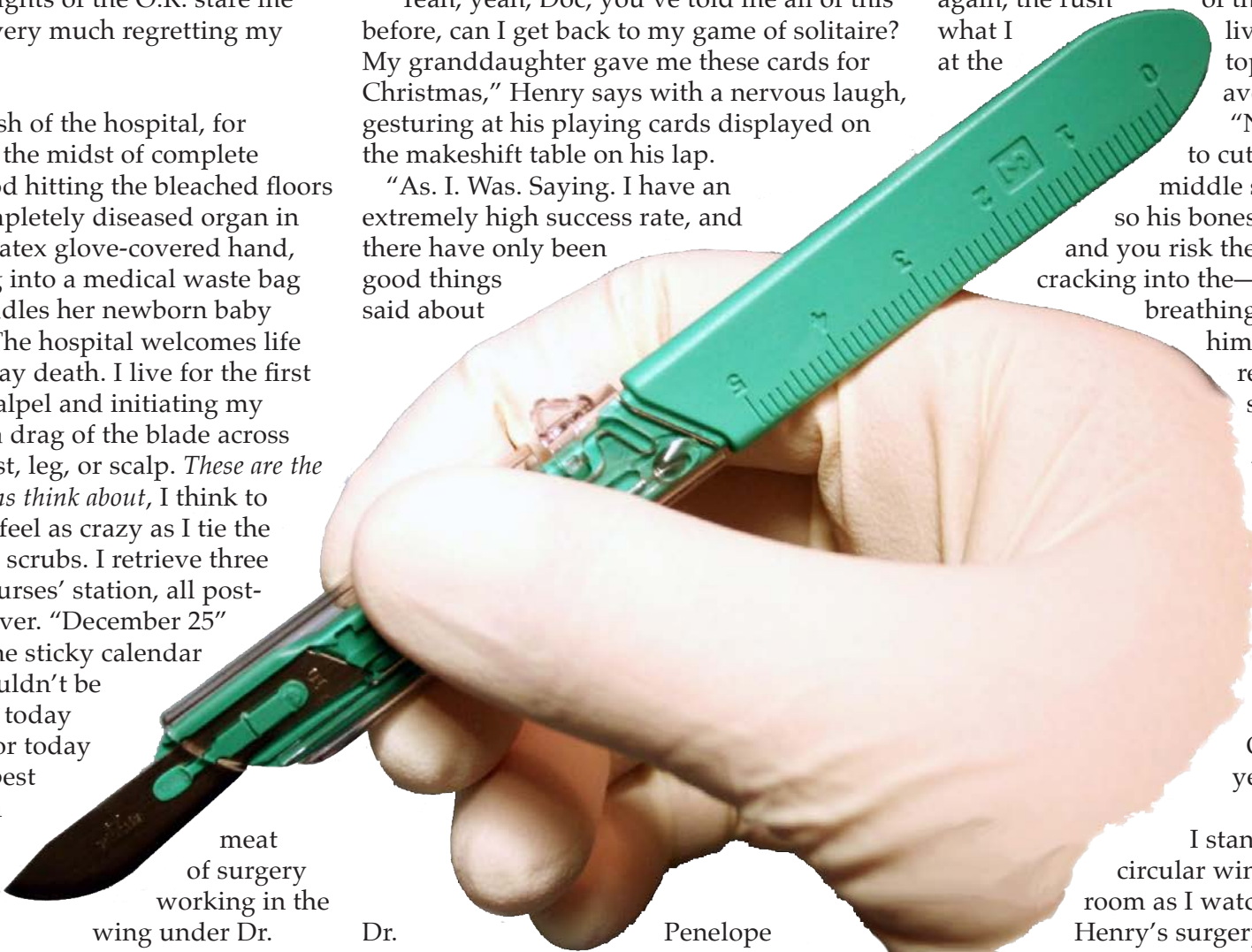
“Yes,” I reply. The next thing I know, I’m lying on the very same table where Henry had just been. Dr. Hallen administers an epidural and lifts my scrubs to reveal my abdomen.


“I do not stand for mundane, avoidable stress in my surgeries, Dr. Penelope Kannery. Precision avoids stress. After this you will be as precise as you would be if you were operating on yourself—because you are.” He hands me a scalpel. I feel no rush, no “living for” feeling—rather a feeling of needing to survive. It was suddenly becoming a very dark Christmas.

“Remove your appendix, Dr. Penelope Kannery. Be precise.”

I walk into the O.R. with my arms bent at the elbows take my place next to Dr. Hallen.

“Let’s see if you’re going to cash in on strike



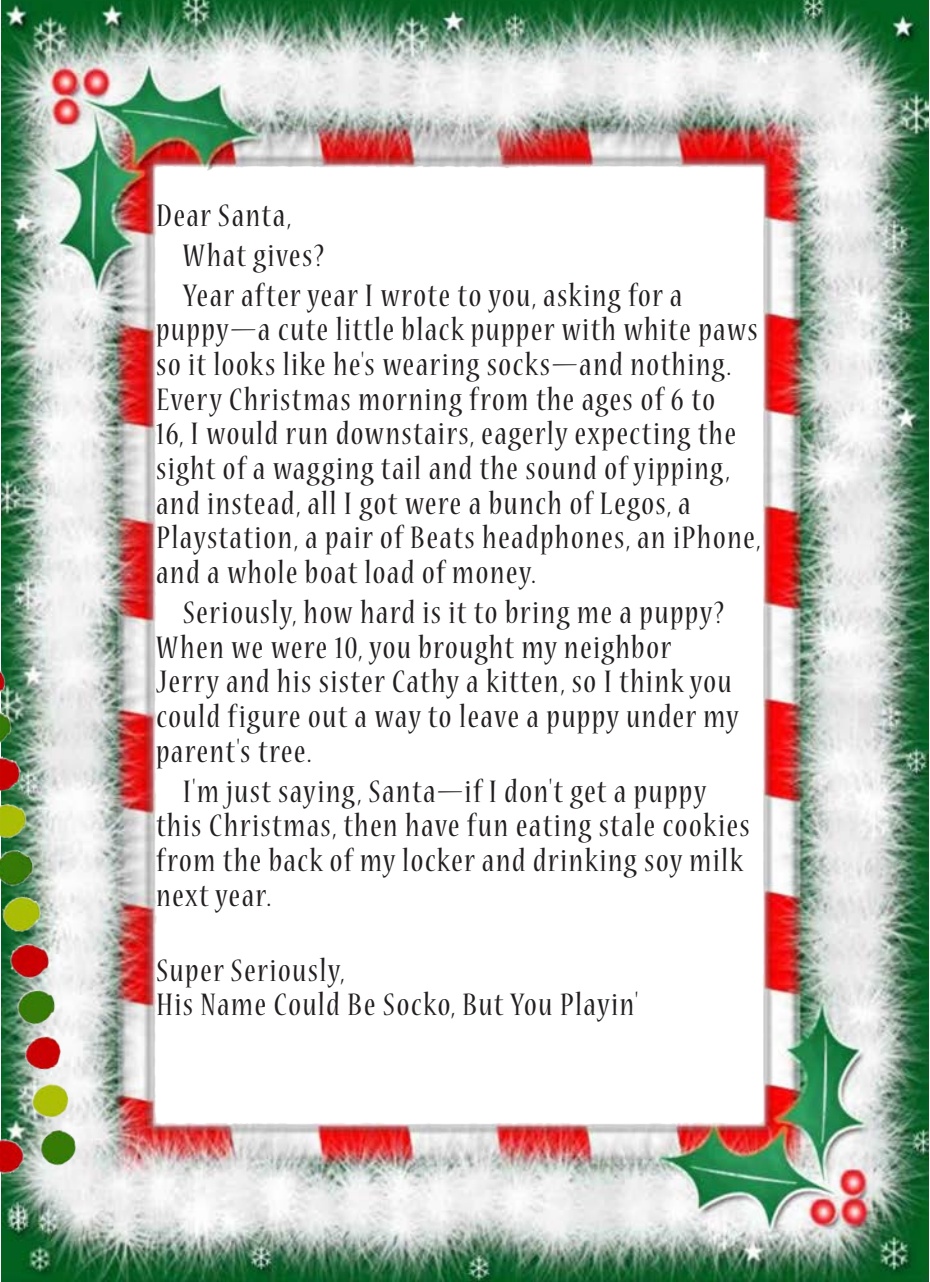


Dear Santa,

How is Rudolph doing? I hope good. Is it cold? It's cold here, but I have a blanket and sweater. My Grammy made it for me. Does Rudolph have a Grammy? Who makes him hugs and kisses? The cookies? And gives him sloppy kind my doggie good kisses. Not the sloppy kind my doggie gives me. Do you have any pets, Santa? Oh yeah, the reindeer. Silly me. I made you cookies. The goosey kind. And milk! But my brother ate them. Stupid brother! And my kitty drank the milk. Stupid kitty! My daddy says to not say "stupid." Don't tell him, ok? Can you say that word? How old are you? I think three billion! Why don't you have any kids?

My daddy says I need to write what I want. Ok. I want a pink pony with purple eyelashes and a blue tail. It needs to sing and fly and bake me cookies. Oh, my daddy says I can't ask for that. Ok. I want a castle with servants and a pool full of jelly. And I want a house made out of candy. And I want a pony, but this time a normal one, but a real one! Please? Oh, my daddy says I need to ask for something you can actually get me so I won't be disappointed. But, why can't you give me all of this stuff? You are the greatest man alive! You have powers and a big belly and a jolly laugh and, um, stuff! Yeah. So, I want a rocket so I can go to the moon and eat moon cheese. I like cheese. Do you? What do you like to eat? Oh, my daddy says I need to stop because I'm running out of paper. I love you Santa and Rudolph and Dancer and Prancer and the other reindeer I don't know the names of. Kisses. Oh, and sorry about the milk and cookies. Please still come. I have been good, I promise.

Love and hugs,
Sally



Dear Santa,

What gives?

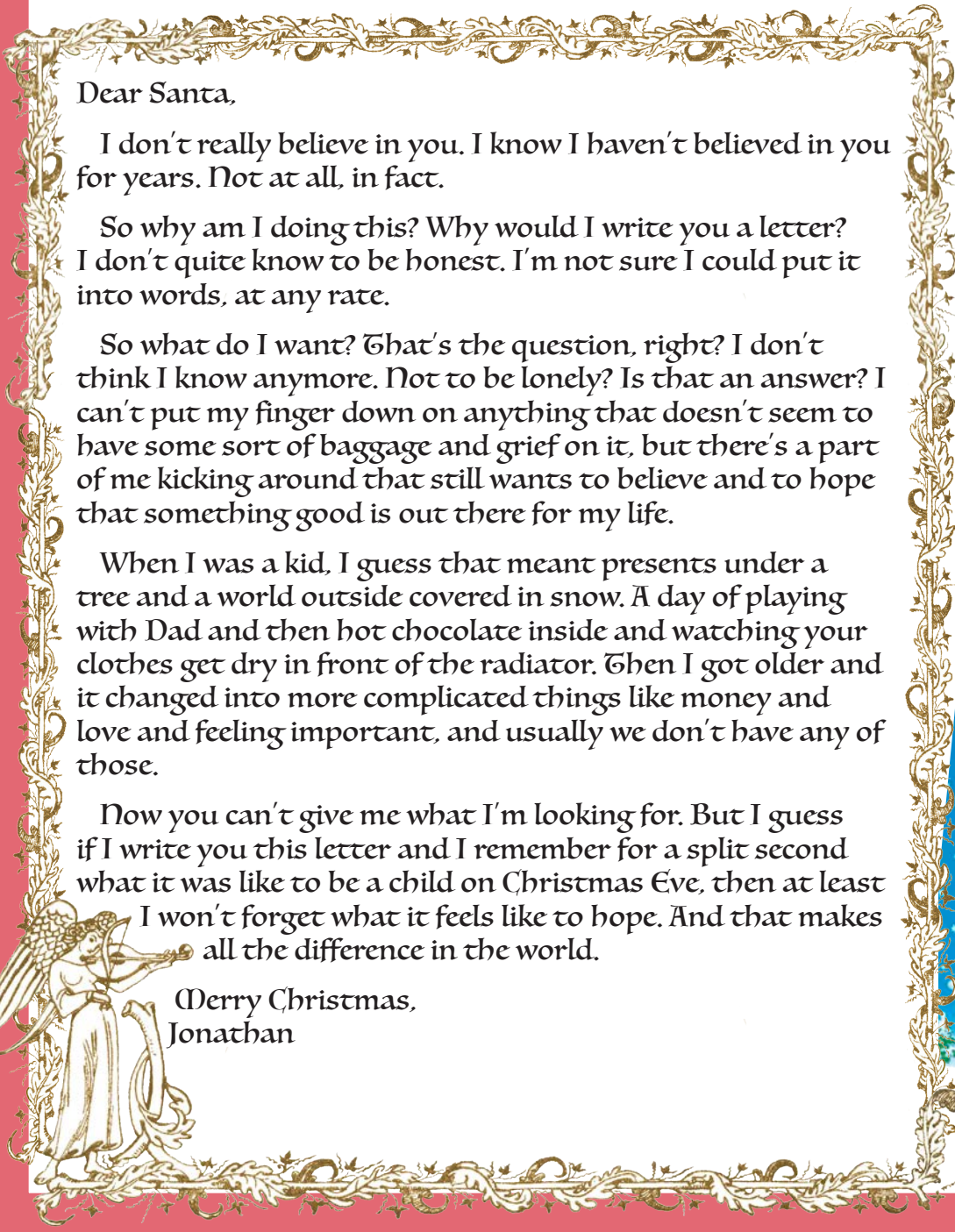
Year after year I wrote to you, asking for a puppy—a cute little black pupper with white paws so it looks like he's wearing socks—and nothing. Every Christmas morning from the ages of 6 to 16, I would run downstairs, eagerly expecting the sight of a wagging tail and the sound of yipping, and instead, all I got were a bunch of Legos, a Playstation, a pair of Beats headphones, an iPhone, and a whole boat load of money.

Seriously, how hard is it to bring me a puppy? When we were 10, you brought my neighbor Jerry and his sister Cathy a kitten, so I think you could figure out a way to leave a puppy under my parent's tree.

I'm just saying, Santa—if I don't get a puppy this Christmas, then have fun eating stale cookies from the back of my locker and drinking soy milk next year.

Super Seriously,
His Name Could Be Socko, But You Playin'

LETTERS TO SANTA



Dear Santa,

I don't really believe in you. I know I haven't believed in you for years. Not at all, in fact.

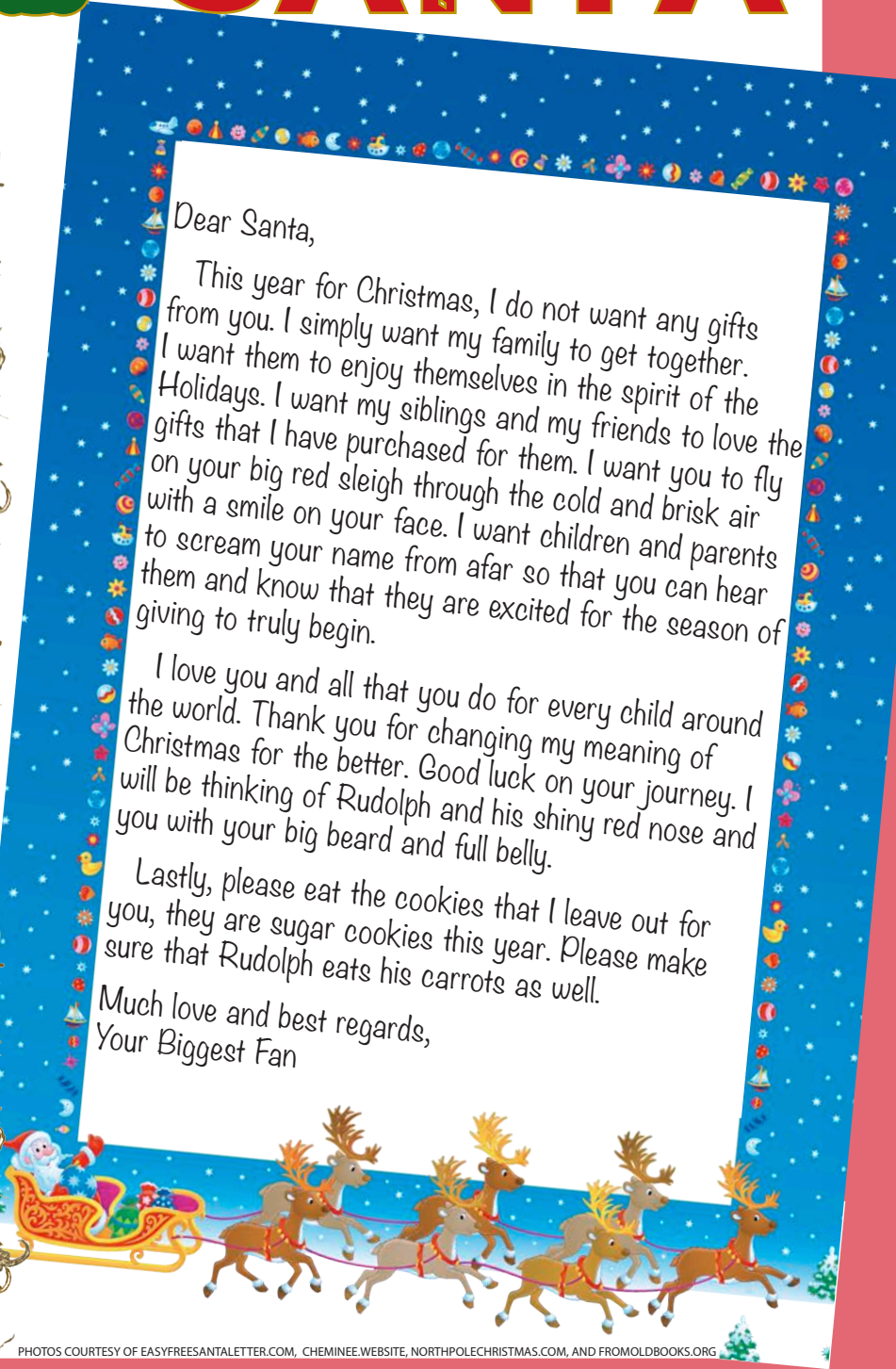
So why am I doing this? Why would I write you a letter? I don't quite know to be honest. I'm not sure I could put it into words, at any rate.

So what do I want? That's the question, right? I don't think I know anymore. Not to be lonely? Is that an answer? I can't put my finger down on anything that doesn't seem to have some sort of baggage and grief on it, but there's a part of me kicking around that still wants to believe and to hope that something good is out there for my life.

When I was a kid, I guess that meant presents under a tree and a world outside covered in snow. A day of playing with Dad and then hot chocolate inside and watching your clothes get dry in front of the radiator. When I got older and it changed into more complicated things like money and love and feeling important, and usually we don't have any of those.

Now you can't give me what I'm looking for. But I guess if I write you this letter and I remember for a split second what it was like to be a child on Christmas Eve, then at least I won't forget what it feels like to hope. And that makes all the difference in the world.

Merry Christmas,
Jonathan




Dear Santa,

This year for Christmas, I do not want any gifts from you. I simply want my family to get together. I want them to enjoy themselves in the spirit of the Holidays. I want my siblings and my friends to love the gifts that I have purchased for them. I want you to fly on your big red sleigh through the cold and brisk air with a smile on your face. I want children and parents to scream your name from afar so that you can hear them and know that they are excited for the season of giving to truly begin.

I love you and all that you do for every child around the world. Thank you for changing my meaning of Christmas for the better. Good luck on your journey. I will be thinking of Rudolph and his shiny red nose and you with your big beard and full belly.

Lastly, please eat the cookies that I leave out for you, they are sugar cookies this year. Please make sure that Rudolph eats his carrots as well.

Much love and best regards,
Your Biggest Fan



by Marisa DelFarno '18
Portfolio Staff

DRAMA

This Christmas was shaping up to be the best one ever! Actually, no. That’s a lie.

This Christmas marks another year where Natalie and her sister, Sara, have to endure dinner table discussion with their Aunt Claudia, who incessantly brags about her daughter, Jane.

Natalie and Sara huddle together at one end of the table while their mom and Aunt Claudia are seated at the opposite end. Porcelain dishes housing ham, mashed potatoes, and glazed carrots lay scattered on the table, obstructing the girls’ view of their aunt’s Raggedy Ann-red dyed hair with matching red lipstick, staining both her lips and teeth. Her powdery makeup is caked on, creasing into her wrinkles. The sisters attempt to avoid conversation by hovering their heads over their plates and stuffing their mouths with food. However, Aunt Claudia always finds a way to bring up Jane and her lengthy list of accomplishments...

Sara: (puts down her fork and rubs her stomach) All this food is giving me agita. I might go up-stairs and lay down for a bit.

Natalie: (pushes her plate away from her) Oh my God, me too!

The girls rise from their seats and

make a beeline for the stairs.
Mom: Wait, come back! Let's all sit and talk. *(nudges her head)* We haven't seen Aunt Claudia since last Christmas.

Sara: *(takes a deep breath)* Okay, fine.

Natalie and Sara drag their feet back to the dinner table as if they were made of cinder blocks and sit.

Aunt Claudia: *(smiles)* So, Natalie, do you have a boyfriend?

Natalie: Uh...no.

Aunt Claudia: *(turns to Sara)* Sara, what about you?

Sara: *(without looking up from her phone)* Nope!

Aunt Claudia: Oh, well, Jane and her boyfriend Henry are still going strong. Five years already! They just got themselves an apartment in Palo Alto. It is so beautiful over there in California. *(spits as she talks)* BIG bucks they are making now!

Natalie: Oh, good for them. I heard tha—

Aunt Claudia: They went to Japan together this summer, too! Do you want to see a picture of them in Kyoto? *(whips out her phone from her pocket and scrolls through it before passing it around the table)*

Sara & Natalie: *(voices infected with indifference)* Aww.

Aunt Claudia: Isn't she

gorgeous? So classy and natural-looking! I always tell her she should model! *(points to her phone)* Doesn't she look exactly like Prince Harry's fiancée? Oh what's her name...Meghan Markle!

Mom: *(leans in for a closer look)* Why yes, she does. It's uncanny!

Sara & Natalie: Uh-huh. Yeah.

Aunt Claudia: Anyways, Natalie, do you have any plans for after graduation?

Natalie: Um...hopefully grad school. I've been checking out a few creative writing programs and—

Aunt Claudia: Oh, Jane is into creative writing, too! But she only keeps *that* as a hobby.

(laughs) She used to write prose, but now she writes code! *(laughs at her own joke until silence fills the room)*

Mom: You know, there aren't a lot of women in STEM fields. I think it's great—

Aunt Claudia: You all don't know how proud I am that Jane is a software developer! She's only 23 and look, she's working in Silicon Valley!

Sara: Yeah, we know.

Aunt Claudia: Anyways, Natalie, what were you saying again? I forgot.

Natalie: Oh, well, I might take a gap year. Save up, travel, maybe

take a GRE review course, and then apply to a couple of programs *(half-smiles and shrugs shoulders)*.

Aunt Claudia: Oh...*(takes a long pause)* And, ah, Sara, how are things at school?

Sara: *(apathetically)* Fine, I guess.

Mom: *(turns to Aunt Claudia)* Sara has been doing great in school! She got all A's this quarter! If she keeps this up, she's going to graduate with honors! *(smiles at Sara, whose face is reddened with embarrassment)*

Aunt Claudia: Oh that's good, dear. You know, Jane graduated with honors in high school and later summa cum laude in college!

There’s an awkward silence. Sara’s eyes dart down to her phone and she fumbles with it underneath the table. Natalie’s phone buzzes. A text from Sara reads “kill me now.” The sisters exchange looks and a smirk.

Mom: *(notices Aunt Claudia’s empty plate)* Hey, we've got desserts. Do you want some Christmas cookies?

Aunt Claudia: Oh, yes please!

Mom: I'll be right back. *(disappears into the kitchen)*

Aunt Claudia: Hmm, I've been talking so much about Jane. Let's switch up the conversation. *(grins like the Cheshire cat)* Let's talk politics!

Two Writers, One Line

"This Christmas was shaping up to be the best one ever..."

by Erin Lucey '20
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

This Christmas was shaping up to be the best one ever—or at least the best one my kids would see so far—when it all abruptly collapsed. Just as we felt that everything was falling into place, we blinked and it had all fallen apart. The tree stood lonely in the corner of the living room, lights unplugged and lively ornaments populating just the top portion of its left side. The children’s gifts lay tucked away in the attic closet, unwrapped and unseen. The house was empty.

The world saw its first broken Christmas 12 years ago, two months before the birth of my first child. For roughly a month and a half before the big day, new rumors kept surfacing that shocked the world and began to abolish the magic of the

season. For the very first time in history, journalists had made their way to the very top of the Earth, to report on the subject we all wondered about, but wouldn’t dare question—Santa’s toy factory in the North Pole.

What they discovered astounded everyone who believed. Photos of the horrifying working and living conditions that his helpless elves experienced quickly circulated, and the world’s jolly image of Santa quickly flipped to the vision of a monster.

On the night of Christmas Eve of 2005, on his annual mission to deliver gifts to the nicest children around the world, he was assassinated as he flew over North America. The traditional celebration of Christmas was banned, and everyone promised to never mention the evil man or his Christmas practices ever again. These rules became stricter and stricter over the

years, quickly making the celebration of Christmas with a decorated pine tree and “Santa’s presents” a hefty criminal offense.

I’ve always been particularly fond of the loving magic that engulfs the Christmas season, and couldn’t stomach the thought of my children never experiencing it as I did. As they grew up, I’ve slowly and subtly introduced the wonders of the holiday little by little. Starting with Christmas carols when they were babies, I’ve waited until they were old enough to keep the secret from their teachers and friends to decorate a tree, and allow “Santa” to bring them presents as a reward for their good behavior. This was supposed to be the first year of us doing it all.

As I wait here, surrounded by bleak cement walls and anchored with defeat, I wonder how it is that such a harmless and wholesome concept could become so

irreparably damaged. Will Christmas ever regain its magic?

Left with nothing but my own inner holiday zeal, I walk up to the metal bars that enclose me and begin to gently tap with the side of my shoe, creating a calm and steady beat. Inhaling slowly, I quietly whisper just loud enough that it can be heard over my music:

“You better watch out...”

And immediately a faint voice has joined me. “You better not cry...”

Two more voices have added to the harmony. “You better not pout...”

At least eight mouths are chanting now. “I’m telling you why...”

A door opens and guards come flooding in, but everyone in the prison is singing at this point.

“Santa Claus is coming...”

And at this very moment, I am sure that my family and I will always believe in the



December Magic

by Sam Pellman '20
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

One day it was August and the next it was December
This magical month seems to come when everyone needs it most.

December is truly magical, anything can happen.
It can be warm one day and snowing a white wonderland the next.

It's the month that starts out stressful, but quickly brings peace.
The family all finally has an excuse to reunite and relax together, even just for a little.

Not only does December contain the excitement of Christmas
It gives us a time to reflect.

To reminisce on the good and bad times of the year;
It's true when they say the best is saved for last

The close of December brings the close of the year
A whole chapter in life is ending, but ending in magic and never anything tragic.

December is full of surprises
Who says the end of the year can't be the start of your new beginning?

Just as it snuck its way into our lives, it'll be over just as quickly
So make sure you grab hold of December and let it sprinkle a little magic into your life before it's too late.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PINIMG.COM

THE FESTIVUS AIRING OF GRIEVANCES

- The Torch
- The Stolen Cows
- When Huxley Gate Shows Up as Eaton Street on Uber
- "So, what are YOU doing after graduation?"
- Food Poisoning
- FAFSA
- Derek Shepherd's Unnecessary Death
- Arbitrary Due Dates
- A Decided Lack of Barack Obama & Joe Biden
- When Your Nail Polish Chips
- The Wicked Long Walk into AlMag/Hickey/SOWA
- Chronic Hair Loss
- The Lies of the Harkins Loop
- The Absolutely Ridiculous Nature Photography in Lower-Level Ruane
- The War for the Harkins Cowl Stand
- Still No Windows for the Cowl Office
- When Netflix removed One Tree Hill
- The Room Across the Hall That's Always Mad Extra with the Volume

PHOTO COURTESY OF PINIMG.COM

The Cowl's Holiday Bucket List

- Get a tan
- Eat more than I did on Thanksgiving
- Get my "merry" on
- Pass finals
- Play (and probably lose) a drinking game with my aunt
- Get drunk off of virgin eggnog
- Actually enjoy my family
- To not talk politics at the dinner table
- Avoid the physical labor of outdoor decorating
- Read Joe Biden's book
- Make one last snowman before #GlobalWarming
- Watch every Hallmark Christmas movie ever
- Memorize all the lines from Elf
- Eat a roll of Toll House cookie dough as fast as I possibly can
- Snuggle with some cats
- Get my sister/mother a gift she'll actually like
- Get Trump off Twitter
- Have money in my account after all this is over

PHOTO COURTESY OF WERMEMORYKEEPERS.FILE.WORDPRESS.COM

The Gift

by Connor Zimmerman '20
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

It must be perfect,
It cannot be any ordinary object.
It must make her smile, laugh, and cry.
It should be the apple of her eye.
Browsing through the stores,
The clock is ticking, and doors are closing.
Sweat begins to run down my face,
It feels like I'm running in a race.

Her friends tell me it should be chic.
I'm actually starting to freak.
My friends tell me it should be legendary.
I might as well be buried.
Google tells me it should be from the heart.
Maybe I'm just not that smart.

I don't know why I can't think of anything,
Maybe it's because this just isn't any fling.
I really care about what she thinks of me,
And I was hoping this gift would fill her with glee.
Then an idea strikes me, and I know this is the one,
This is no hit, it's a homerun.

I give her the gift, and as she unwraps it,
I start to worry and think maybe it's time to split.
She gasps and then hugs me tight.
I take a deep breath knowing it's going to be all right.
She opens the scrapbook of our memories with much effect
She closes it up and says it's perfect.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DEVIANTART.NET

A FRIARTOWN CHRISTMAS STORY

by Jay Willett '20
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

You don't have to attend Providence College to know the spirit and energy that comes with every winter season. Frigid winds tear apart my lips, and make me cough and sputter on my own breath. No matter how much thick clothing I have my mom send me in the mail, I always end up shaking in the cold. That changes when I stroll between the dorms, as Christmas carols and pop songs echo across Aquinas Lawn. The freezing winds still have me, but I only feel warmth as I sing along to "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," and a tingling wave of goosebumps and excitement runs up my limbs.

Then I hear some kids in McDermott playing Cardi B and I laugh because they clearly didn't get the memo. Banners and tinsel line the windows, and people decorate for the holidays like it's their job. At this point on my trip to Slavin I'm goofily skipping to the jingle of "All I Want for Christmas is You."

Then I recall last year's holiday concert when Mariah Carey had that awful performance due to technical difficulties and her inflated ego, so I stuff my hands in my pockets out of embarrassment and memorial. The wind slows for a brief moment and I look up to see the massive metal structure in front of me, glowing a dull green.

I shift my gaze to the corner of the Slavin Lawn to see the dimly lit Christmas tree in the distance. Small as it is, I always stop and take a quick moment to be reminded of home and smile at the thought of how close I am to being with my family again.

But seriously though, I think, why isn't the tree

bigger? Or located at the center of the lawn? Questions for another day I decide, as I struggle to open the heavy Slavin doors. Inside I take a moment to hope and pray that the Dunkin' line isn't as bad as it was yesterday. Campus record was next to Santander, and it was pretty close.



Much to my dismay, the line ends at the bookstore, and I silently cry to myself as I slump to the back of the line. I don't know what comes over me, but I cut the line unintentionally, as I look to see that the line had exceeded past the Friars Club office. Oh no, I think to myself, my hands pressed against my cheeks like in *Home Alone*.

"Oh yes," someone says behind me.

I jump and turn around to see an old man with

a broomstick in his hand. At first, I think for sure he's going to murder me, but considering the two essays and one project I have due the next day, I decide it wouldn't be the worst thing to have happen.

"Can I help you?" I ask the man.

"You must learn of your actions Jay, and realize the true spirit of PC Christmas!" The fact that he knows my name could only mean one thing.

"I knew it! Santa *is* real!" I immediately take my phone out to take a selfie with him like everyone did with Phill Lewis from *Suite Life* when he was on campus not long ago.

"No! I'm not Santa! I'm the janitor, but you cut the line so now I have to show you your Christmas past to make you feel bad and stuff!" He chants with his hands waving in the air.

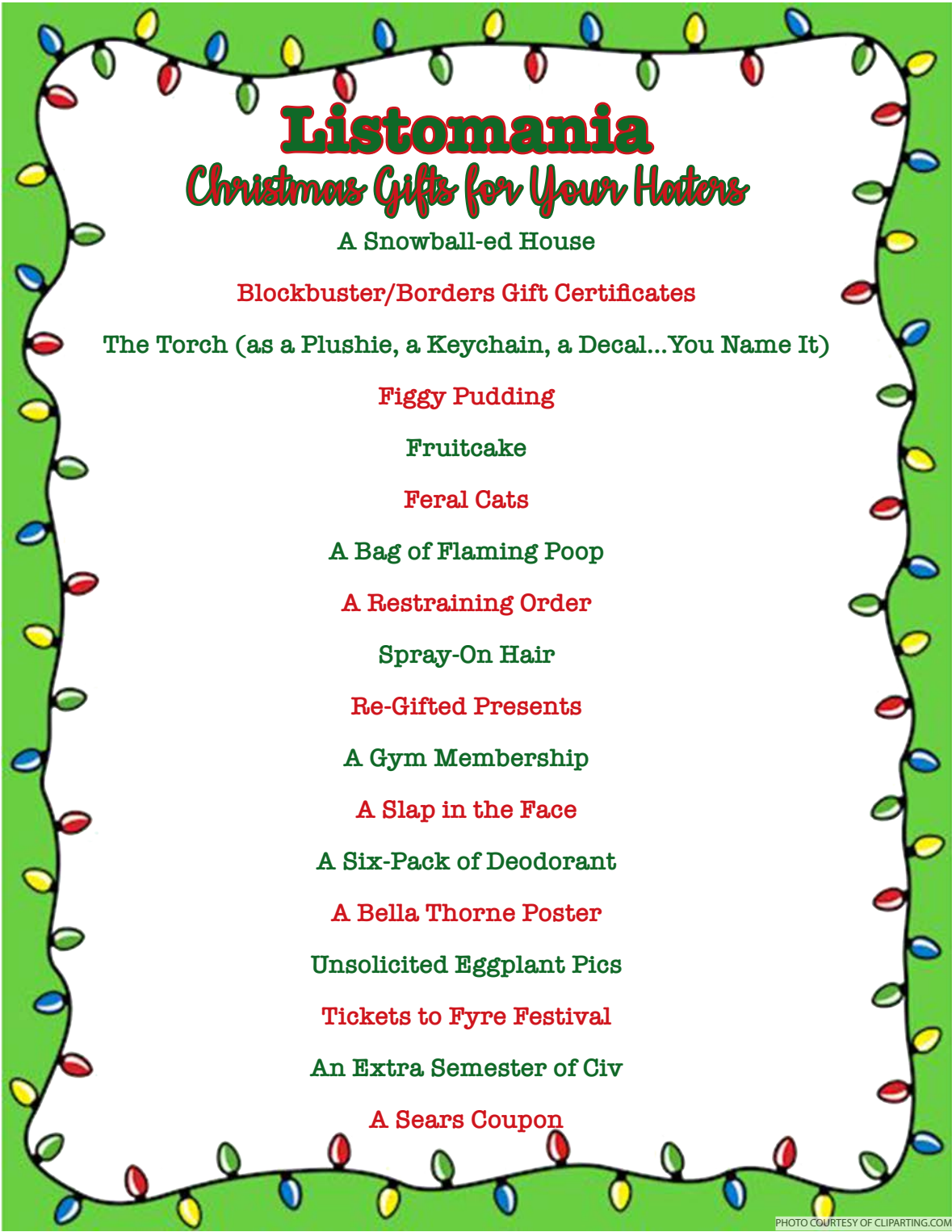
"Or I could just get to the end of line?" I ask with a shrug.

"Oh, yeah, I guess you could do that," he pouts with a sigh like we had just skipped a whole plotline. Suddenly the man is enveloped in a blinding light and disappears faster than my Friar Bucks.

"Wow!" I stammer, my eyes gleaming with Christmas joy.

"Hey, what do you want, I don't have all day," Kevin calls from behind the Dunkin' counter. I look around me to see that the line has completely vanished, my one and only Christmas wish made true.

"I'll have a medium caramel swirl iced regular please," I wink and toss him a grin. He makes a disgusted face and slowly types in my order. Truly it is a Christmas miracle.



TIFF

AND EARL

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

Dear Tiff and Earl,

How do I survive the *Hunger Games*-style battle for study spaces this finals week?

Sincerely,
The Tribute of District McVinney


Dear Tribute,

Ha ha ha. Sorry, I just remember the days when I was in your position—so concerned about finals and grades and GPAs. My dear, here's how I survive it: just throw in the towel.

You could go the library early and reserve a space by throwing your coat there to indicate someone's there, but it just takes soooo much effort. I've decided to just float on by when it comes to finals. So you won't be finding me in the business school, library, or Slavin getting my work done.

Interestingly though, I've noticed the new Moore Hall tends to have a lot of room for students to study there. Funny how students and administration went on and on about how we could use the building for events and studying, but it is pretty empty! Good thing we put our money to good use for those renovations, am I right?

It's likely that isn't actually factual, because I spend most days sleeping off my hangover from the night before, but hey, just thought I'd let ya know.




Good luck with finals,

Tiffany

Dear Tributary,

Study spaces? Is that when people put two spaces in between sentences, like some kind of twentieth century grammatical barbarian? Anyway, you'll find everything you need in the cornucopia, A.K.A. the torch. That's where the College has invested all of its money to help students! What better to get you through chilly nights of studying than an enormous fake campfire in the middle of the Slavin wind tunnel? Ask and you shall receive, as long as you are a wealthy alumnus of the College.



EARL

**Tiff & Earl are fictitious & satirical characters. Their answers do not reflect the views of Providence College or The Cowl.*

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WECLIPART.COM, MOZIRU.COM, AND STATIC.GRAINGER.COM

Down the chimney?

You want me to take

The Cowl down the

chimney into a

strange house

in my *underwear*?



ROVING PHOTOGRAPHY

Page 11

December 7, 2017

What is the best gift you have ever given?



"My affection, a hand-knitted scarf to my mother, and a giant uno card to my best friend."

Makayla Brady '20, Casey Estey '19, Katie Day '19, and Kayla Steeves '19



"Friendship and love."

Elaina Conway '21, Victoria Gorman '21, Caitlin Sullivan '21, and Hannah Gaumer '21



"My love."

Hailee Duserick '19



"My stuffed animals to the local shelter and hugs."

Kimberly Lezama '18



"Giving my neighbor a Minecraft gift card and giving toy gifts to my nieces and nephews."

Yahaira Rodriguez '20 and Ricardo Guzman '20



"Picking out a dog for my cousins with my aunt."

John Conroy '18



"Spreading Christmas cheer by singing loud for all to hear."

-Buddy the Elf

PHOTO COURTESY OF NEW LINE CINEMA

Photos by Kristina Ho '18, Co-Photo Editor

Live From Providence College, It's Saturday Night Live *Board of Programmers Hosts PC's Very First SNL Night*

by Cathering Goldberg '20
A&E Staff

ON- CAMPUS

The first ever "Saturday Night Live" at Providence College was hosted by The Board of Programmers in McPhail's this past Saturday, December 2. The event was filled with laughs, food, and fun as Father Dominic Verner, O.P., the host for the night, kept the students entertained.

As Saturday Night Live always begins, the host, Fr. Dom, gave a witty monologue to set the stage. Fr. Dom opened up with references to Lil Uzi's performance in October, leaving the audience cracking up at his interpretations of Uzi's lyrics. He then proceeded to introduce Six Gents, PC's very own on campus sketch comedy group.

With sketches written, directed, and performed by the members themselves, Six Gents took the stage. Members packed McPhail's with laughter as they performed. Many of their sketches were Christmas-themed, while others portrayed cringe worthy dates. Their performances tended towards comedic profanity and controversial topics, but nonetheless, left the audience smiling.

Following their performance, Believers of Word, PC's slam poetry club took the stage. The poets took the stage to bring the power of the spoken word to the event and



Phionna Cayola Claude '18 (left), Kingsley Metelus '21 (middle), and Sara Jean-Francois '19 preform their poem on stage.

the community. Members strive to bring together those who have an appreciation for poetry to collaborate, listen, and express themselves through poetry. Their passion was obvious as they exuberantly recited poetry.

Their compelling performance led into the next act. One of Providence's favorite singing groups, Anaclastics, took center spotlight. Singing Ben E. King's classic hit from the 60s, the group performed "Stand By Me," inspiring the audience to dance and sing along. They also sang a newer tune featured in the popular Netflix Series *13 Reasons Why* called "The Night We Met" by

Lord Huron. The sounds of all the voices harmonized beautifully, making it hard to tell there were no instraments. The group truly encompasses the meaning of Friar Family, as their voices beautifully bounce off of one another. The crowd could not get enough of their passion, talent, and enthusiasm.

To close the live performances, Adam Hanna '18 reflected well-deserved success in his music career with a solo performance. The senior has been a rock star at PC and on Saturday, students were thrilled to see him rock the stage with confidence and natural talent.

At the end of the night, the McPhail's



Kristina Ho '18/The Cowl
A CAPELLA GROUP, ANACLASTIC (TOP), AND ADAM HANNA '18
(BOTTOM) PREFORM THEIR SONGS AT SNL NIGHT.

community watched NBC's own Saturday Night Live skits. The BOP coordinator of the event, Amanda Gaccione '20, was thrilled with how the event went. Gaccione stated, "We had a lot of people come together and share lots of laughs. The event was overall very fun." She personally was "very happy with it, and was extremely grateful to all the performers who came out."

The audience loved the event and wants to thank BOP for the efforts to make the night so fun. Fr. Dom, Six Gents, BOW, Anaclastics, and Hanna rocked the show, and hopefully there will be another SNL event next year.

A Little Taste of Providence

by Joe Clancy '18
A&E Staff

ON-CAMPUS

It is often said that the best things in life are free, especially if you are a college student. Last Thursday, BOP brought a little bit of joy to campus by featuring an array of free food samples from staples of Providence's food scene.

The event provided a nice break from the stress of classes winding down and finals starting to set in. Some of the samples included more well known places among Providence College students such as Anthony's Deli, LaSalle Bakery, Caserta's Pizzeria, and even samples from restaurants that PC students may not have been aware like: East Side Pockets, The Malted Barley, Knead Doughnuts, and Rebelle Artisan Bagels.

The event started at 5:30 p.m. and the excitement and anticipation for the event among the students was overwhelming seeing how fast the food went. An unfamiliar bagel place, Rebelle Artisan Bagels recieved positive feedback on their bagels. Students who attended the event claimed the bagels were warm, freshly made, and tasty...as much as a bagel can be.

Caitlin Scuderi '18 expressed enthusiasm when asked about the event saying, "I was really happy when I heard that there was free food. I love eating, you may say I live to eat, so it was a nice break from all the studying to do what I do best. Personally, I loved the free Caserta's Pizzeria, "I am what you



PC students enjoyed a variety of foods from across the Providence area, including LaSalle Bakery and Caserta's Pizzeria.

BRIANNA COLLETTI '21/THE COWL

call a pizza junkie. It was my first time having Caserta's Pizza since I usually get someone to buy me cheap pizza, so it was a really nice change of pace to try something new."

The BOP members that were

involved in planning the event were thrilled with the outcome. Alana Dermody '18 recalled that it was a fun time for all those involved and for her as well as the rest of the BOP members. Emily Borrello '19 also

commented on the event stating that she was "pleasantly surprised at how fast the food went." All in all, BOP helped take the minds of worried students off school for a while with some much needed free food.

Love Your Melon, PC Style

The Cancer Foundation That Warms a Heart and a Head

by Patrick Fuller '20
A&E Staff

ON- CAMPUS

In the United States, over 15,000 children are diagnosed with cancer each year, and it is one of the worst diseases a child can face. According to the National Cancer Insititute, the number of new cases each year is 454.8 per 100,000 men and women based on cases from 2008-2012. Meanwhile, the cancer mortality rate is 171.2 per 100,000 men and women per year.

When looking at such an overwhelming, destructive medical phenomenon, the global community is eager to help the victims and families battling childhood cancer. In 2012, Brian Keller and Zachary Quinn, began the mission at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota to “put a hat on every child battling cancer in America,” founding one of Americas top pediatric cancer foundations, Love Your Melon.

According to the business’s website, the original goal of 45,000 hats was reached very quickly, providing every single child battling cancer in America with a warm knitted hat. Next, the group decided to set a new goal of giving \$1 million pecifically for immediate support to children and their families.

A unique part of the Love Your Melon brand is the Campus Crew Program. In communities across the country, groups strive to raise awareness of childhood cancer and represent the name through coordinating, planning, and running beanie donation events all year

long. Similarly, the Love Your Melon CampusCrew members are able to take children and their family members on helicopter rides and other outings pertaining to the child’s favorite activities and interests. Apparently, these therapeutic excursions have been proven to increase treatment success. Overall, the Campus Crew

Program has grown to include over 13,500 crew members nationwide at 840 different institutions.

In fact, Love Your Melon operates a Campus Crew at Providence College. The President of the Love Your Melon Campus Crew, Mary Kate Morrissey '18, reported that the group now has 26 members and over 100 volunteers.

According to Morrissey, “Our job as a crew is to spread awareness about Love Your Melon and pediatric cancer research on social media and through events on campus.”

Such events this year have included the “Be the Match Swab Drive,” which provided students with an opportunity to add themselves to the bone marrow registry. Furthermore, the team visited Hasbro Children’s Hospital on Oct. 18 to deliver hats and spend the day with children suffering from cancer. While the group does not sell products on campus, it regularly conducts raffles at promotional events to give hats away.

As promised by the fundraiser’s website, 50 percent of profit from the sale of all Love Your Melon products is given to Love Your Melon’s nonprofit partners who work in the fields of pediatric oncology, fund cancer research initiatives and provide immediate support for families of children battling cancer. Some of the major associates listed on the brand’s website include St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, the Make A Wish Foundation, and CureSearch. To date, the company has given over \$2.8 million and over 120,000 hats to those in need.

Most recently The Love Your Melon Crew at Providence College hosted an event on Dec. 4 in Slavin Center where students could decorate cards for children battling cancer. With the cold, New England winter bearing down on the community, nothing can be more fitting than covering up with a hat from Love Your Melon. In doing so, warmth can also come to those children fighting against cancer.



Member of PC's Love Your Melon Crew visit local hospitals in support of pediatric cancer. PHOTO COURTESY OF MARY KATE MORRISSEY '18

New Year’s Hit, *Lady Bird*, Receives Postive Reviews at Premiere Showing

by Elizabeth Jancsy '18
A&E Staff

MOVIES

There is no better time than winter break to finally get to the movies to see this year’s blockbuster hits before the ball drops at midnight. *Lady Bird* crept on the movie scene, as it was released in select theaters on Nov. 3, but is now playing everywhere and is the talk of Hollywood.

A highly trained and regarded cast makes a big impact on the screen, as viewers cannot seem to get enough of this raw and truthful telling of a modern American family. This newcomer to the list of 2017 hits comes from female director, Greta Gerwig, and follows the life of one young woman and her struggles to adulthood alongside her stubborn, loving, and passionate mother.

“What Greta Gerwig has done—and it’s by no means a small accomplishment—is to infuse one of the most convention-bound, rose-colored genres in America cinema with freshness and surprise,” said the *New York Times*.

The movie follows Marion McPherson, an overworked mother, and her relationship with her teenage daughter, who is equally as quick witted and strong willed as she is. Laurie Metcalf plays the role of Marion, while Saoirse Ronan plays the role of her daughter Christine, who calls herself “Lady Bird.”

One of the break out stars in the movie, a rookie compared to her brother, Jonah Hill, is Beanie Feldstein. Feldstein pays the role of Julie Christine’s funny, theatrical, and sassy classmate of Christine.

Feldstein told *Vanity Fair*, “*Lady Bird* is the best, which everyone’s noticing, which is making

me really happy. Sometimes when something is so warm and strange and small like that, you’re worried that people are not going to get how special it is. But everyone’s getting it. It’s amazing.”

Before shooting began, Gerwig took the cast back to her old hometown, giving them her journals and high school year book. The reason behind this, Gerwig told *Vanity Fair*, is she wanted the movie to act “like a memory.”

This could be the reason viewers everywhere are running to the theaters to see it. It’s a heartwarming tale, but one that is familiar and close to us. If one does not identity with is not *Lady Bird*, they find themselves in another character that was so beautifully portrayed on the screen. It is refreshing to see the relationships everyone holds in their lives portrayed in such an entertaining and moving way. *Lady Bird* is a must see this winter break.



Saoirse Ronan stars as Christine in the new hit film *Lady Bird* from director Greta Gerwig. PHOTO COURTESY OF MERIE WALLACE/A24

Marvel Productions: The New Powerhouse of Cinema

by Julia Vaccarella '20
A&E Staff

FILM

The Marvel Cinematic Universe, a franchise now owned by The Walt Disney Company, has successfully captivated a widespread audience. As we close out the 2017 year, it is evident that the media powerhouse will continue to generate new content. With unique characters and overlapping storylines, the fanbase has spread immensely. The Nov. 17 release of *The Punisher* on Netflix has further contributed to this upward trend.

The Punisher follows ex-Marine Frank Castle, played by Jon Bernthal, who decides to take matters into his own hands after his wife and children are killed. Castle becomes a vigilante with the intent to kill anyone connected to the death of his family.

The Netflix series has also adopted its own plot which follows the aftermath of Castle's actions. Bernthal's character had been introduced as the antagonist in season two of Marvel's *Daredevil*, which underscores the franchise's effective ability to blur the lines between good and evil, and challenges viewers to sympathize with Castle despite the violence that his character creates.

Like many other movies and television shows, *The Punisher* reinforces the idea that the characters within Marvel productions are all connected. This enables producers to create deeper characters and work from many different perspectives. Most notably in this adaptation of *The Punisher* is the presence of *Daredevil's*



Jon Bernthal stars as Frank Castle in the latest Netflix/Marvel series, *The Punisher*. PHOTO COURTESY OF NETFLIX

Karen Page. *The Defenders*, which was also released on Netflix earlier this year, utilizes this technique as well, blending together *Daredevil*, *Jessica Jones*, *Iron Fist*, and *Luke Cage*.

In addition to the inclusion of Page's character in the series, fans have also been receptive to the fact that *The Punisher* is very different from other Marvel productions. One subplot within the show includes the struggle that war veterans face in attempting to return to their daily lives after being in battle. Castle's story in the show also extends far beyond what is portrayed in typical

Marvel comics and strays away from the typical notion of a superhero. With Disney's acquisition of Marvel, the media outlet for the franchise may likely change. The *Wall Street Journal* states that Disney is in the process of creating its own streaming service, where subscribers would gain access to Marvel films and other content. It is unclear whether this would extend to shows currently running on Netflix, such as *The Punisher*, or if it will be specifically geared towards movies like *The Avengers*.

Despite the possibility of Marvel

being pulled from Netflix, Disney is not expected to enact this change before its streaming service which is expected to debut in 2019. In the coming year, Marvel is projected to release additional content.

Season two of *Jessica Jones* and *Iron Fist* as well as season three of *Daredevil* are tentatively scheduled to air in 2018. *Black Panther* and *Avengers: Infinity War* are set for release in theaters Feb. 2018 and May 2018, respectively.

Although the mechanics behind the accessibility of Marvel productions may be changing soon, it is clear that fans will still be eager to watch.

Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road? To Get the New Animal Crossing App

Nintendo Releases Animal Crossing: Pocket Camp

by Ryan Cox '18
A&E Staff

ENTERTAINMENT

The *Animal Crossing* series has been a mainstay of the Nintendo franchise since its inception in 2001 for the Nintendo 64. Since then, four iterations of the series have been developed and released for several of Nintendo's hallmark home and handheld consoles. *Animal Crossing: Pocket Camp* is the first of the series to be released on mobile devices.

The series looks and feels almost like a standard *Animal Crossing* game. You create your character and are put into a village inhabited by anthropomorphic animals. Unlike the main games where some of the animals are already members of your village, you arrive at an empty campsite. Your general goal is to visit other animals' campsites and invite them to visit your own, done by performing certain favors for the animals.

You can buy furniture and upgrade your campsite by collecting materials such as wood and fabric and exchanging it for various furniture. This system gives *Pocket Camp* a much more tedious, farming-based feel, rather than the commercial aspect of the main games. To my knowledge, there is no sell-for-profit mechanic in *Pocket Camp*, unlike the main games where fish and other items can be sold for Bells (the in-game currency), which can in turn be used to purchase tools or furniture.

Animal Crossing: Pocket Camp is, at best, a good introduction to the *Animal Crossing* series,

and a good way to pass the time. It lacks the depth and freedom of the main games. The favors that the animals ask for turn the game more mission-based than open-world. Longtime fans of the series will especially notice this lack of depth, and may be left hoping for more.

Model Chrissy Teigen nailed this sentiment on Twitter, writing "pocket animal crossing might be okay for you [*Animal Crossing*] newbies but for us tom nook loyalists...it lacks the heart [of the real *Animal Crossing*]. The soul. It's a sandwich without meat. A car with no tires."

Every aspect of the game's aesthetic—the graphics, the characters, the soundtrack and

sound effects—feels like a real, authentic, *Animal Crossing* title. Because of the mobile nature of the game, however, *Pocket Camp* feels like a shell of the real thing. It misses the open-world, exploratory nature of the *Animal Crossing* series because it is so watered down.

For those looking to try out the *Animal Crossing* series: *Pocket Camp* is a great introduction into the franchise. It is certainly a great way to pass the time. Series purists, however, may be turned off by the superficial nature of the mobile version, as backed by Metacritic's 76 percent rating. It is a good, entertaining installation of the series, but it is overshadowed by its console predecessors.



Mixed reviews about *Animal Crossing: Pocket Camp* are sure to have fans debating whether or not the app is worth it. PHOTO COURTESY OF NINTENDO

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98

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December 7, 2017

Friars Fall in Ocean State Tip-Off Tournament

by Eileen Flynn '20
Sports Staff

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Providence College welcomed the top four women's basketball teams of Rhode Island to Mullaney Gym Saturday, December 2. The second annual Ocean State Tip-Off Tournament allows for Brown University, Bryant University, the University of Rhode Island, and Providence College to compete in a special kind of rivalry.

Providence College matched up against Brown while Bryant faced URI in the first round of the tournament. The Friars entered the weekend with a 5-2 record and a four-game win streak, recently beating Savannah State University, Wright State University, Stetson University, and Yale University. Brown, the reigning Ocean State Tip-Off Champions, held a strong record of 5-1.

At 12 p.m., the ball was thrown into play for the two teams. Brown took off a little bit quicker than the Friars did, forcing PC to play catch-up for most of the game. The Bears jumped ahead in the first quarter after a 12-2 run, making the score 15-6. The Friars fought back and worked to reduce the deficit. At the end of half, the score left on the scoreboard read 26-24, Brown just two points ahead of PC. Maddie Jolin '19 contributed 10 points to the Friars' 24, labeling her as the lead scorer of the first half. For Brown,

Justine Gaziano led her team in the opening 20 minutes with 12 points.

A fast start from the Bears of Brown in the second half gave the team a cushion for the remaining minutes of the match-up. After Shayna Mehta hit a three for Brown, the Friars found themselves down nine points. The home court helped PC stay in the game. The third quarter ended with Brown in the lead by just four points. The final quarter followed a similar pattern of the first three. The Bears increased a lead, and then the Friars worked hard to minimize it. Brown won the game with a final

score of 64-59. Top scorers from Providence for the Friars were Jolin with 16 points, Ny-Asia Franklin '19 with 16 points and Jovanna Nogic '19 with 13 points.

URI lost their first-round match-up against Bryant, joining the Friars in the consolation game on Sunday, December 3, still on Providence College's territory. PC handed URI their second loss of the weekend with a final score of 65-41. It was a team effort from the Friars, as several teammates contributed over ten points to the overall score. The first quarter ended with the Friars in the

lead, 17-11. The second quarter was even more productive for the Friars. They increased their lead to double digits, leaving URI 13 points behind after two quarters of play under way. The Friars took control of the second half, the team out-scored the Rams 30-19 in the time remaining. Nine of the 11 Providence College players who stepped on the court for the Friars contributed to the 65-41 final score.

Brown and Bryant were the top two teams that met in the championship game on Sunday. Brown out-scored Bryant 72-60 to be named back-to-back Ocean State Tip-Off Tournament Champions. Sydney Holloway and Naomi Ashley from Bryant and Taylor Will from Brown were selected for the Ocean State Tip-Off All-Tournament team. Brown's Justine Gaziano was named Tournament MVP.

The Friars will be on the road for their next two games against Quinnipiac and Sacred Heart. While most of PC students body heads off for break, the Lady Friars will face Boston College as well as Big East rivals Georgetown, and Villanova.



Ny'Dajah '20 dribbles the ball during a game.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS



Men's Basketball Shows Mid-Season Promise

by Sullivan Burgess '20
Sports Staff

MEN'S BASKETBALL

We have come to that special time of the year, the Christmas lights turn on, the weather becomes colder, and most importantly Providence College Men's Basketball Big East Conference play begins.

While their first conference game against St. John's University in Queens does not commence until Dec. 28, the Friars look to bounce back from their 75-68 loss to the University of Rhode Island last Saturday, when they take on their remaining non-conference games beginning, with a home game at the Dunkin' Donuts Center against Brown University. Providence Head Coach Ed Cooley called this year's annual URI game "one of the worse offensive games of the year" because of the Friar's 21 turnovers and 47.6 percent from the free throw line. Cooley looks to remain motivated as he continues the positive mindset he ensues on the school and his team.

So far, the season has provided students and fans with plenty of optimism and hope as the Friar's look to expand their 6-2 record. The student body on campus this season moved forward from the two losses of the season, as they bring a strong



Kalif Young '20 dunks the ball.

NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL

amount of energy to every home game. Sadly, the roster will not be fully completed this season as the sudden news that power forward/center Emmitt Holt '18 will remain to be out for the remainder of the

year due to an abdominal injury, placing him on a medical redshirt that will give him the opportunity to continue playing next season.

The sudden loss of Holt has given players such as Nate Watson '21

and Kalif Young '20 the opportunity for developing their skills as big men to a whole new level as they both look to provide a big presence in the paint versus any opponent. On top of Watson, freshman guard Makai Ashton-Langford '21 has developed his skills as backup guard into ultimately the team's sixth man. Averaging seven points, 2.1 rebounds, 1.9 assists, and slowly increasing the number of minutes per game, Ashton-Langford remains to be a dominant presence on the court as well a threat to any team.

Returning starters Kyrion Cartwright '18, Jalen Lindsey '18, Rodney Bullock '18, and Alpha Diallo '20. While Cartwright provides the playmaking abilities as one of the best Big East guards this season leading the conference in assists by averaging 6.6 per game, Lindsey and Bullock provide the scoring efforts including Bullock leading the team with 14.4 points per game and Lindsey shooting 63 percent from the three, making it a challenge for the Big East teams to be able to guard.

Diallo has slowly risen to be one of the most improved players in the conference as he averages 11.5 points per game including his 17 point game against URI

Hockey Mid-Season Review

by **Jeremy Perrigo '18**
Sports Staff

ICE HOCKEY

The Providence College Men's Ice Hockey Team has played 16 games thus far in the 2017-18 season, posting an overall record of 9-6-1. The Friars are 6-4-1 against conference opponents, good for third place in the Hockey East behind only Boston College (9-2-0) and Northeastern University (7-3-0).

Nationally, the team is ranked ninth overall by USCHO.com. At the top of the list are the University of Denver, St. Cloud State University, and Clarkson University. The Friars dropped both decisions against Clarkson this season, 4-0 back on Oct. 21, and 4-2 on Nov. 25 in Belfast, Northern Ireland, as part of the 2017 Friendship Four.

This past weekend, the team faced off against the University of New Hampshire Wildcats, first at home on Friday, December 1 and then again Saturday night at the Whittemore Center in Durham, New Hampshire. Providence split the two games with UNH, taking a 5-2 victory at home before being shut out 1-0 on the road by the No. 13 ranked Wildcats, according to USCHO.com.

There was a lot to like about the Friars' effort at home on Friday. They saw goal scoring from three different players. Erik Foley '19 had two for the night including one goal on a nice shot from the right circle. Kasper Bjorkqvist '20 opened the scoring just 1:01 into the game, streaking down the left wall before charging to the front of the net to beat UNH goaltender Danny Tirone with a shot up high.

Foley is a 2015 draft pick of the Winnipeg Jets (78th overall), and he leads the team in scoring with nine goals and 18 points in 14 games on the season. Bjorkqvist, a 2016 draft selection of the Pittsburgh Penguins (61st overall), is fifth on the team in scoring with six goals and eight points.

Tied with Bjorkqvist in points on the season is Vimal Sukumaran '20, one of the Friars' undrafted players who has been stepping up for the team in a big way, scoring two goals Friday night in convincing fashion. Sukumaran would score the game-winning goal on the night, along with the Friars' fifth goal to solidify the win after a late push by the Wildcats to cut the lead to two points.

Looking ahead at the men's hockey schedule, there are still many important games to be played. On Jan. 13 the Friars travel to Agganis Arena to take on the Boston University Terriers, who are currently in fourth place with a record of 5-5-1. In late January the Friars will participate in a home-and-home with the Northeastern Huskies, who sit directly above them in the standings. The Friars will take on the University of Massachusetts-Lowell River Hawks in mid February, toward the end of the regular season. The River Hawks are currently fifth in the Hockey East with a record of 5-5-0 in the conference.

With still a significant stretch of games ahead, leadership and perseverance will be key. Garrett Gamez '19 now plays the role of student assistant coach role with



Scott Conway '19 battles UMass player for the puck.

NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL



Maddie Myers '19 defends PC's net.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

the team after abruptly retiring from hockey following an incident on March 11 where he collapsed on the bench during the first period of the second game of the Hockey East Quarterfinals against the University of Notre Dame. When asked about how he feels the team has played in the first two months of the year, Gamez referenced the ability of the younger players to step into key roles as part of the team's success thus far.

He also mentioned the role of leadership on the team as an important factor saying, "You always look up to the guys that are playing before you or ahead of you. Guys like Brian Pinho, who is our captain now." Gamez went on to say more about Brian Pinho '18 commenting, "I've always looked to guys like him who know the situations, and as time goes on you

grow a close bond with those guys and they are able to lead you and help you regardless of if it is on the ice or in school."

The team has raised the expectations of fans after taking home the National Championship in 2015. While they have returned to the tournament in both years since, they have failed to make it past the first round. Currently the Friars are on track for another appearance in College Hockey's championship contest, as they attempt to repeat their success from the past three years previous.

The Providence College Women's Hockey Team has seen success this season as well, with a record of 10-5-4 overall. The team boasts a record of 7-1-2 in the Hockey East, good for second in the conference, behind the 7-0-3 Boston College Eagles.

With 15 games left in the regular

season, the Friars still have two games to play against UNH on Jan. 19 and 20, who sit at third in the conference with a record of 5-3-3. The following weekend of Jan. 26 and 27 the women's team faces the first place Eagles for a home-and-home. The Friars lost their only game against Boston College thus far back on Nov. 3 in a 7-4 decision.

This season's early results already bring hope for a Friars team that put up an overall record of 17-17-3 in the 2016-17 campaign, finishing fourth in Hockey East with a record of 11-10-3.

This year Christina Putigna '19 and Cassidy MacPherson '19 lead the team in scoring with 17 points each. Maureen Murphy '21 leads the team in goals with 12. Look for these three to continue their point-producing ways as the team enters the back-half of the season.

Friars Go 6-2 Mid- Season Men's Basketball:

Continued from Page 16

and developing an on and off ball rhythm allowing him to be deadly when on the court.

Now taking a look at this year's NCAA men's basketball season as a whole, Duke remains to be the country's top team as they increase their undefeated record to 10-0, especially with the rise of freshman Marvin Bagley III averaging 22.025 points and 11.5 rebounds, ultimately making him the number one prospect for the NBA.

In the Big East, Villanova remains undefeated and fourth-ranked in the country as they lead with an overall record of 9-0, despite the loss of Josh Hart to the NBA. Georgetown also remains undefeated with an overall record of 6-0, as they continue the season with new head coach, a former player for the New York Knicks, Patrick Ewing, Providence stands tied for fourth place alongside Butler University. They are leading over the 25th ranked in the country Creighton, following their loss of freshman Justin Patton to the NBA, as well as Marquette, who currently contains the top two scorers in the Big East Conference with senior Andrew Rowsey and sophomore Markus Howard averaging 22.6 and 21 points, respectively.

PC is now faced with the difficult task of picking themselves back up after URI and looking to resurrect their hot streak of winning as Big East Conference games begin, which could provide the team with another March Madness appearance.



PHOTO COURSEST OF PC ATHLETICS
Kyron Cartwright '18 gets in position for a basket/

Should College Athletes Have to Stay More Than One Year? No

by Meaghan Cahill '20
Sports Co-editor
COLLEGE SPORTS

Athletes leaving their respective colleges to go pro before graduating is not a rare occurrence in college sports today. Players such as Boston University's Jack Eichel and Charlie McAvoy and Providence College's own Noel Acciari and Ben Bentil, have all left their respective teams to pursue a professional career before they were supposed to graduate and rightfully so. Each of these players have moved on from their college

programs and are currently very successful players in both the NHL and NBA.

While it can be argued that college athletes should remain all four years with their college sports team, it is not right to expect them to stay. Becoming a professional athlete is a goal that not many athletes have success in achieving. So, when the opportunity presents itself, the players should be allowed to have a chance to take it with nothing holding them back. If a player is expected to wait around until they graduate college, they risk the chance of injury, which would

end whatever chance they had at a professional career all together.

There are many perks towards college players leaving their school programs early as well. For starters, they get a head start at actually having a career and making a living. In the case of McAvoy, who is now a top defenseman for the Boston Bruins, at just nineteen-years-old, is earning \$925,000 a year with his entry level contract. With this kind of money, athletes are then able to provide for their families and create their own financial stability. Another reason that leaving college to become a professional athlete can be beneficial is that they can always go back to their studies when their professional career is over. If it was the other way around, the chance for a player to go back to their athletic career might not be possible. Also, much like Dallas Stars player and former Bruins player Tyler Seguin did, professional athletes are also able to take classes in between their sports season.

College athletes should not be expected to stay in college for all four years should they get the opportunity to go pro. The opportunity itself is one that is very hard to come by and may not come around again. First and foremost, especially at a high collegiate level, athletes are athletes and at the end of the day, they need to base their decisions off of their sports career, not their college degree.



Former Boston University player Jack Eichel, who now plays for the Buffalo Sabres. PHOTO COURTESY OF TIMOTHY T. LUDWIG/USA TODAY

by Max Anderson '18
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COLLEGE SPORTS

I believe that athletes, when faced with the decision to enroll at a college or university, or turn pro, should be given a choice: either enter professional sports right out of high school, or complete a minimum of two years at college. I believe this rule change makes the most sense for

athletes.

One of the biggest issues facing sports today is whether professional sports leagues are holding athletes back by forcing them to attend college. Many high school athletes, whether they play basketball, baseball, football, hockey, soccer, or any other sport, come from tough backgrounds, and want to make money as quickly as possible to help their families.

Others feel that college simply will

not benefit them in any way, and feel that they are ready to take the next step now rather than later. If a high school athlete falls into either of these categories, who are we to restrict them from turning professional now?

However, if a high school student feels that they would like to attend college and receive an education, they should be required to complete a minimum of two years at the collegiate level. This way, the student can receive four semesters (or quarters depending on where they attend) worth of education, which can at least benefit them if their professional sports career does not work out.

The main reason that leagues such as the NFL and MLB requires athletes to stay a minimum of three years in college before turning pro is so that these students can receive three years' worth of education to help them later in life. However, that third year may be holding athletes back, as many may be ready to turn professional after two years, but are unable to do so thanks to these rules and limitations. With this new rule, I believe athletes can not only receive a proper education, but also turn professional if they feel they are ready.



Former Providence College basketball player Ben Bentil. PHOTO COURTESY OF YUSSIF UTHMAN/SPORTSWORLDDGHANA

Olympic Committe says “No More Russia”

IOC Bans Russia for Doping Scandal

by Jack Belanger '21
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OYLMPICS

On Tuesday, December 5, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) voted to ban Russia from competing in the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea for state-wide doping, which Russian officials were believed to cover up. Over 25 Russians from the 2014 Sochi games have been disqualified and banned from the games.

This decision marks the full-fledged ban of Russia from any Olympic Games after reports came out of a Russian state-sponsored doping cover-up after the 2014 games in Sochi. It was determined that Russia’s sport ministry tampered with over 100 urine samples to conceal steroid use by many top athletes. The Russian track and field team was banned from the 2016 games in Rio de Janeiro, but Russian athletes were allowed as the IOC decided to allow committee from

individual sports to determine banning Russian athletes.

IOC President Thomas Bach concluded, “This was an unprecedented attack on the integrity of the Olympic Games and sport. The IOC EB, after following due process, has issued proportional sanctions for this systemic manipulation while protecting the clean athletes. This should draw a line under this damaging episode and serve as a catalyst for a more effective anti-doping system led by WADA.”

Olympic officials have left the door open for some Russian athletes to compete in the games as a neutral athlete under the Olympic flag. Athletes who have shown they have gone through rigorous drug testing will be able to petition to be allowed to compete. Regardless of how many athletes do this, Russia’s athlete count will be nowhere close to past competitions.

It is also certainly possible Russia has its athletes who could be allowed to compete boycott



Sergey Shubenkov celebrates his victory in the 110-meter hurdles in Beijing. PHOTO COURTESY OF RACHAEL ALLEN/FOOTWEARNEWS



Ekaterina Poistogova and Mariya Savinova were two runners accused of cheating during the London Olympics. PHOTO COURTESY OF RICK STERLING/THE DURAN

the Olympics all together. From an ABC news article, Russia’s current sports minister Pavel Kolobov said having its athletes under a neutral flag would be “unacceptable” but the final decision would be made by President Vladimir Putin, who has denied any state involvement in the scandal.

Rumors of cheating began to surface in 2014, when German network ARD reported a documentary that there was systematic doping in Russia. This caused the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) to launch its own investigation.

It released their findings in November 2015, in which they found out that “state-sponsored” doping occurred. WADA also suspended the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA), and recommended Russia be banned from the 2016 Rio games.

In May of 2016, Russian official were dealt a huge blow, when the former head of Russia’s anti-doping labatory, Grigory Rodchenkov, who fled from Russia to the U.S., revealed to the *New York Times* detail of Russia’s organized doping. He described the involvement of the Sports Ministry and the Federal Security Service (FSB) in Russia and said at least 15 medalists from Sochi were involved.

On July 18, 2016 Professor Richard

McClaren, who previously looked into Rodchenkov’s allegations, released a report for the WADA that outlined Russia’s state-sponsored doping at the Sochi games. He reported that it was likely that Russia’s Sports Ministry and FSB were involved in covering-up the athletes. WADA responded by declaring RUSADA non-compliant and recommended Russia be banned from the Rio games.

278 athletes were cleared to participate in the Rio games while 111 were banned. After the games, McLaren released a second part to his reports and found that over 1,000 competitors were involved in concealing positive drug tests from 2011-2015.

The IOC has since banned and disqualified over 20 athletes from the Sochi games, which dropped Russia’s medal count from 33 to 22.

Anti-Doping agencies from around the world called for Russia to be banned from the games, which led to the IOC’s decision. In order for Russia to avoid further punishment, its anti-doping agency must become compliant again.

According to CNN, WADA laid out a plan for RUSADA to become compliant again, but it failed to meet two of the conditions before the IOC made its decision.

