Friared Up For Friarcon

Providence College is hosting its first Friarcon for this year’s Alumni Weekend.

With a suspenseful hype video posted on Facebook, Providence College’s Alumni & Family Weekend Committee announced last Thursday evening that it will host its first ever Friarcon on Friday, February 9, and it will be jam-packed with food, fun, and live entertainment. “The entire AFW Committee is so excited about this event! We encourage folks to get their tickets online as soon as possible!” exclaimed Event Production Coordinator Amanda Talbot. Friarcon is set for 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., and tickets, which can also be purchased at the Slavin Information Desk with a PC ID, vary in price: alumni and parent tickets go for $15, Friars of the Last Decade (FOLD) for $10, students for $5, and children ages 12 and under have free entry. However, if you plan to attend the men’s hockey game against the University of Maine in Schneider at 7:15 p.m., your ticket will score you free entry. “The Committee had so many fun ideas we wanted to try out for [Alumni & Family] Weekend, and Friarcon became the perfect arena to mix athletics, fan celebration, food, music, and entertainment all in one place,” said Talbot. She explained that Friarcon was inspired by two well-known, local conventions that have attracted crowds of all ages: Rhode Island Comic Con and HasCon. Talbot added that the planning committee is made up of representatives from “the offices of College Events, Alumni Relations, Admission, Faculty, Student Affairs, Marketing and Communication, and student leaders, and alumni volunteers.”

The student performance showcase will take place on the Peterson stage and is set to run from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Performers include the three PC a capella groups, Believers of Word (BW), the Cheer Team, the Dance Club, the Dance Team, STEP, and Motherland Dance Group. Adam Hanna ’18 will also be there to close out the show. “I will be performing mostly an acoustic set accompanied by the drummer in my band,” said Hanna. “My job is basically to create good vibes for everybody in Peterson...I’m looking forward to doing that.”

PC Approves Environmental Biology Major

In an increasingly competitive professional environment, students’ interests are expanding and changing. In response, Providence College continues to create new majors and courses, such as the new environmental biology major.

The process of creating a new major begins with deciding what the major will be. After that is decided, Dr. Fred Drogula, professor and president of the faculty senate, shared that a proposal must be put together. This entails the predicted course requirements and a list of the courses currently available at the College that could fulfill the requirements previously specified. Drogula said, “We must think about the staffing, the funding, and if the College has the capacity for the major.” The proposal also requires an in-depth rationale, proof that this major aligns with the College’s mission statement, and a letter of support from a dean. After this proposal is completed, it is submitted to the faculty senate, and eventually to Father Brian Shanley, O.P., the president of the College. Overall, this process takes around four to five years.

“The administration,” Drogula said, “wants to know whether the proposed major is a suitable field and if it is something we should be offering.” Many factors have to be taken into consideration, including the resources the College has available and the expenditures that would be involved. For instance, Drogula said the most recently introduced majors, global studies and classics, are very different in the resources that they required to become an official major. He explained, “Global studies pulls together a lot of classes from different departments to make an interdisciplinary major,” and required, “a group of faculty with expertise in those fields,” which the College did not necessarily have prior to the creation of this major. This process prompted the College to hire specialized faculty and create completely new courses.

Classics, on the other hand, did not require many resources, for most of the courses, and faculty for the major previously existed.

Let’s Get Networking

As the second semester continues on, and the number of days until graduation decrease, upperclassmen find themselves starting to think seriously about their professional lives after Providence College. However, is it ever too early to start thinking about your professional life after college? The answer is no.

Is it ever too early to start networking and making your presence known in the professional world? Once again, the answer is no.

Over the winter break, a handful of students traveled to New York City with the Center for Career Education and Professional Development and embarked on three different career “trends”: finance, nonprofit, and communications and media.

Networking/
Shepard and Campus Ministry Host Coffeehouse

Student Groups Promote Intersectionality Through Discussion and Coffee

by Sabrina Guilbeault ’18
News Editor

ON CAMPUS

This past Monday, January 29, leaders from Campus Ministry and SHEPARD saw their hard work and dedication to intersectionality pay off as over 50 students attended a joint coffeehouse in Moore Hall.

Mel Fricchione ’19, a leader on SHEPARD, explained that she found the event very successful, and saw the most people in attendance of their events last semester.

“It was exciting to see such a large circle set up for the conversation and for everyone to be filled,” she said.

“The conversation was centered around each of us reconciling the many different aspects of our identities, for example being a woman, a daughter, a teacher, being white, or being a person of color, or being part of the LGBTQ+ community to name just a few,” said Bridgette Clarke ’18, a leader on campus ministry who helped organize the event. Clarke explained that the conversation began with understanding this notion of intersectionality, which means “understanding how each of the things you identify with is equally a part of you and how some may seem opposed to others.”

Fricchione explained that coffeehouses are open forums and spaces for anyone to share their experiences, thoughts, and feelings. “People that felt comfortable shared their thoughts on what it means to have many identities and when those identities sometimes contradict each other,” she said when asked about the event in Moore Hall. “Many intimate stories were shared and I am so happy we were able to create an environment where people felt comfortable doing so.”

“I think it is really important to begin to have these conversations, so I was very excited for this coffeehouse sponsored by both Campus Ministry and SHEPARD,” said Clarke, who explained that an event like this had been in the works between the two groups for a while.

“This event started with a conversation between the two groups, although she understands why it is assumed there may be one. “This got the conversation started which got us thinking we could work together on an event,” she said.

The initial conversation continued at SHEPARD meetings throughout the semester. “We began reflecting on what it means to have an LGBTQ+ identity but also identity with religion,” said Fricchione, who went on to explain that it is a complex and intimate issue that happens to many people within the LGBTQ+ community.

“This struggle between love and faith seems to be something a lot of people wanted to talk about,” she said.

At the coffeehouse, the conversation transitioned into a discussion on the intersectionality of identifying as gay and as Catholic and the possibility of identifying as both. “Fr. Peter Martyr was asked specifically about this question and I thought he gave a great point that these identities are not opposed to one another because no matter what you are or where you come from or anything else you identify with you can be Catholic because faith transcends this boundary,” said Clarke. “Relationship with Christ is an invitation to everyone.”

“Intersectionality is the coexisting of multiple identities,” said Fricchione. “To me intersectionality is how we come together to recognize issues within our community.”

Furthermore, she believes people are three dimensional, and that by recognizing multiple identities one personally has a way to begin to better understand the people next to you.

“Anyone who wants to be Catholic can be Catholic, it’s all about how you practice your faith (how you live out the Catholic teachings),” said Clarke, who explained that an important aspect of the coffee house was the chance to really listen to one another. “This transcends identity because no matter how you identify yourself, this goes for everyone who wants to live out the faith.”

Fricchione explained that clubs like SHEPARD and these conversations are extremely important resources to have on campus as they are offer support to students. “SHEPARD is a club that shows reckless pride and love for its members and I think that in itself is important,” she said. “I think SHEPARD is truly special because of our love and support we have for each other.”

PC Hosts Its Own “Comic-con” for Alumni & Family Weekend

Friarcon:

Continued from front page

Aside from live music, attendees will also be able to keep an eye on the score with a Friars hockey game watch.

“Everybody is working very hard for the performance since we only have two weeks to prepare, but everyone is really excited for Friarcon,” exclaimed Hieu Nguyen ’20, an international student from Vietnam who has been a member of the Dance Club since his freshman year. “I’m excited to see everyone at the event just having fun and bonding. I’m excited for the performances of other clubs as well!”

Embracing the superhero theme, the Wonder Women of PC panel and interactive meet and greet will star the leaders of the five most prominent campus organizations: Elizabeth Clarke ’18 of BHP, Marci Mai ’18 of BMSA, Marla Gagne ’18 of The Cowl, Simran Madhani ’18 of Friars Club, and Phionna-Cayola Claude ’18 of Student Congress. The girl power continues with a meet and greet with the PC women of the 1998 Olympic gold medal winning women’s ice hockey team.

“Much like an ‘artists ally’ at a typical convention, we will be having members of the PC community setting tables where they can offer fun games, giveaways, information about their club or department and more,” reveals Talbot. She explained that she is most looking forward to an interactive art exhibit by Kaelyn Maloney ’16. Attendees will have the opportunity to design a personalized, “Marvel-esque ‘Infinity cube’” and then “watch their art grow and transform.” Other activities include caricatures, face painting, and even space for the Little Friar Fanatics to hang out with current PC athletes.

Friarcon will also showcase two locally owned food trucks with bites for sale: Gastro’s Food Truck, which specializes in sausages and hot dogs, and Binge BBQ, a Newport-based restaurant with all of your backyard favorites. Tricycle Ice Cream, owned and operated by David Cass ’04, will have free mini ice cream sandwiches up for grabs. A cash bar will be open for 21+, and there will also be hot chocolate and popcorn bars.

“Students and parents should also come dressed in their best Friar gear for special surprises throughout the night,” advises Talbot.
Featured Friar:
Fr. Michael Weibley Making a Mark at PC
by Sarah Gianni ’18
News Staff

Fr. Michael handles a diverse range of responsibilities, from his duties as a priest to work as the Campus Ministry Director. “I am very involved with Peer Ministry on campus, and am excited to know that this program has grown in the past few years,” said Fr. Michael. “It is a great program where students can engage one another with questions about life, as well as the themes that are discussed in their faith life.”

Fr. Michael also helps to serve as the chaplain of both Friars Club and the Providence College Men and Womans Track and Cross Country Teams. In the future, Fr. Michael said that he and Fr. Dominic Veneri, O.P., will be starting up a grief support group for the Friars Club, an organization Fr. Michael described as one that he “was a part of in my Jesuit formation.”

“Fr. Michael’s door is always open. ‘Day in and day out as an encounter student, whether in a crisis or good situation, and I am constantly struck by the fact that they know that we are available and here for them.’”

Fr. Michael said it did not take long to notice the pride and love students have for PC. “There is such great love for the College, and I like to believe that the reason students have such a strong foundational organization that is as diverse and inclusive as possible. A member of the congress also suggested that the College should do more to make students aware that they have the power to effect change on this campus. Many students are apathetic, and if the School focused more on building connections more people would recognize their voice as their power.”

From there, the conversation turned to the necessity of students to be more the in the College. According to Peterson, she noticed that the diversity requirement, the Congregation of Passionate might not be directly expressed in our mission statement, one of the most important things on a campus is to have a strong foundational organization that is as diverse and inclusive as possible. A member of the congress also suggested that the College should do more to make students aware that they have the power to effect change on this campus. Many students are apathetic, and the school was not sure how to have this dialogue that’s a place to start educating students. With that, Peterson thanked the congress for giving the time and promised to look into many of these issues as well as challenging the congress to effect change. The Student Congress thanked Peterson for taking the time to have a dialogue.

The Excel Club was scheduled to be voted on first, and Comber shared that the course will most likely be offered next year. The Excel Club was approved by the department of behavioral science in the College’s Social Work department. Comber said that she shared a public training in Rhode Island, I was shocked.” Inspired to help others who desire to study environmental biology, Peterson responded by stating that although it may not be directly expressed in our mission statement, one of the most important things on a campus is to have a strong foundational organization that is as diverse and inclusive as possible. A member of the congress also suggested that the College should do more to make students aware that they have the power to effect change on this campus. Many students are apathetic, and if the school focused more on building connections more people would recognize their voice as their power.

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Big Campus Clubs Share Their Election Processes
A How-To Guide on Interviewing for Club Membership

With so many clubs and organizations on campus, it can be hard to choose which ones are best suited for each of us. Some of the most popular and involved clubs on campus include Friars Club, Board of Programmers, Board of Multicultural Student Affairs, Student Congress, and Campus Ministry, all of which invest time into making the Providence College experience the best it can be. Each of these clubs has a unique interview and selection process, and while the chances of becoming a member of one of these clubs may seem difficult, it is not nearly as intimidating as some might think.

Interviews for Friars Club have already ended for freshmen and sophomores, but interviews for juniors will be held on Feb. 20 and 22. Applications for BOP will be made available from mid-February until spring break. Those looking to apply for BMSA should look out for Red Polo Day, which is similar to the Coffeehouse events held by Friars Club and BOP; later this semester. Applications for Student Congress will be available, most likely, in April. Campus Ministry began accepting applications on Jan. 30.

Campus Ministry Leadership includes many social, service, and spiritual activities that students can get involved with at PC and in the surrounding community. There are a total of 62 students involved in Campus Ministry this year–a president, vice president, 22 members on the council, and 38 peer ministers. To become a part of Campus Ministry, freshmen, sophomores, and juniors can fill out an application that includes a series of reflection questions. Applicants are then interviewed by members of Campus Ministry, and finally selected by the members of the club. Following this, students can become involved in various service opportunities, such as Special Olympics and Habitat for Humanity. They can also become peer ministers and FaithWorks leaders. Shannon Grady ’18, vice president of Campus Ministry, became a member of Campus Ministry Leadership during her sophomore year. She talked about her own personal experience of being a part of Campus Ministry, saying, “I’ve made my best friends…formed deep connections, and grown in faith.”

Student Congress also holds an important responsibility at PC, as they address campus needs and issues raised by students. Currently, there are around 100 students involved with Student Congress, including an executive board, nine elected members from each class year, and students assigned to various committees. For freshmen, sophomores, and juniors running for election, the process involves attending an Ethics Review Meeting, obtaining 50 signatures from students, and campaigning. To become a committee member, students only need to fill out an application and are then interviewed. Brett Cianzano ’21 became a member of a Student Congress committee last semester and already loves it. “I really like spending time in the office and talking with people I never would have met outside of it, such as people in other grades. Congress has given me so many new friends, and I’m so happy for that,” he said. Devon Guanci ’19 said, “I enjoy working with my peers to make positive changes on our campus, as well as having frequent opportunities to meet with members of the administration and students from other clubs.” Conor Glendon ’18 also mentioned how his favorite part of Student Congress is all of the people he has met. He said, “As a freshman it gave me a chance to meet seniors I would otherwise have never crossed paths with and likewise as a senior with freshmen I would have never met.”
A Look at How Clubs are Created on Campus
What Students Do To Bring Their Club Dreams to Life

by Brian Garvey '20
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

Last week, Student Congress approved two brand-new clubs to be introduced on campus. The first club introduced will be the Excel Club, which wants to provide an engaging experience that some students feel that the Computer Applications in Business class (CAB) does not provide. Connor Ayers '18, chair of the committee on clubs and organizations, stated during the hearing for the club’s approval that the club was “super organized,” and had “excellent plans to work with others.”

Originally founded on the feeling that the one-hour-per-week CAB class did not do enough, a group of students decided to create the club to attract more members and expand their scope.

One idea proposed was to expand the help available to students majoring in non-business disciplines; for example, tutoring sessions for students in the biology department. They felt that CAB was not necessarily available to the biology students and that they needed to be exposed to this vital skill in any sort of professional environment.

Arianna Arroyo '20 said, “I definitely feel that there will be a lot of interest in this club, especially from the sciences. I feel like I don’t have a lot of Excel experience, and I would definitely love to really develop that skill.” Excel Club would also like to expand to help other organizations, like the Athletic Department and Student Council.

The second club, while vastly different, is just as promising as Excel Club: Music Production Club. Founded by Mark Healy '20, Ayers stated during the club’s hearing that there was a strong interest generated and that “they had been meeting extensively on their own.” Healy founded the club out of his own love for music, specifically rap. He writes and produces his own songs out of his dorm room, with several popular songs on SoundCloud.

Healy said, “Rapping, to me, is an outlet to perform that both makes me happy and relases me, and I want to be able to bring that to other people.” Healy went on to talk about how he wants to teach people the skills to produce their own music and hopefully give them an avenue towards the same satisfaction he gets out of making music.

One of his ideas was to meet at an off-campus studio so that club members can experience what it is like to be in a real studio and hear what their music sounds like through professional equipment. Healy added, “My end goal is to have a studio on campus. I feel like it is something the campus is missing, and I feel that it could be a huge benefit to the culture of the school.”

Healy also felt that his club could provide an outlet for all types of musicians. For example, many students on campus played an instrument in high school, yet cannot find the time to fit a lengthy instrumental class into their schedule. This club has a massive potential for success with this type of student, as it could be an outlet for their own musical ambition.

Tom McMahon '20 said, “Being an accounting major, I find it tough to find time to play my saxophone. Maybe now that this club is available, I can bring it back from home and start to play again.” Be on the lookout for the Music Production Club; they could be performing at Providence College events soon!

These two clubs, while vastly different in their premise, have great potential to bring a new aspect of diverse learning experiences to PC. Interested students are highly encouraged to join, and beginners are more than welcome to test the waters. Undoubtedly, these two clubs will leave a great impact on its members and this campus.

Bursting the PC Bubble
What’s Going On In the White House?
Trump Reveals Desire to Fire Special Councilman Mueller

by Ernie Andrelli '18
News Staff

WORLD NEWS

President Donald Trump reportedly ordered the firing of Robert S. Mueller III, the special counsel investigating him while he was administering the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election, last June, according to four individuals familiar with the matter. However, President Trump revoked his decision after White House counsel, Donald F. McGahn II, refused to ask the Justice Department to dismiss Mueller, and threatened to resign.

On Jan. 25, The New York Times published an exclusive article which revealed that President Trump tried to fire the special counsel amid a potential obstruction of justice case. According to the Times’ sources, Mueller became aware of this confrontation after investigators assigned to the Russia probe questioned current and former senior White House officials. Beginning in mid-June, the special counsel widened the investigation to determine whether or not President Trump attempted to obstruct justice by interfering with the judicial system. Prior to this development, the special counsel’s investigation focused primarily on whether or not the Trump campaign collaborated with the Kremlin.

According to the Times, the president insisted that Mueller had to be dismissed due to three conflicts of interest. First, Trump argued that Mueller, who was a member of his golf course in Sterling, New Jersey, could be biased because he previously served as a partner at WilmerHale, a law firm that used to represent Jared Kushner, the president’s son-in-law. Third, the president argued that Mueller was interviewed to return to the FBI just days before he was assigned to oversee the Russia investigation. According to the Times’ anonymous sources, McGahn, after becoming aware of the president’s intentions, believed that firing Mueller would undoubtedly be interpreted by investigators as an attempt to obstruct the investigation. According to these revelations, Mr. Trump pulled back after McGahn said he would quit.

As the top lawyer for the Trump campaign, McGahn has worked hand in hand with the president on strategic, administrative, and legal matters. His role included advising Mr. Trump, the director of the FBI, on May 9. “When you are dealing with an obstruction of justice case,” stated Dr. Paul Herron, a political science professor at Providence College, “the issue is intent.” Herron acknowledged that while President Trump had the legal authority to fire Comey, the question at stake is whether or not he dismissed him in order to impede the Russia investigation.

Herron noted that in the obstruction of justice case with President Bill Clinton and President Richard Nixon, clandestine documents were destroyed and witnesses were told to lie under oath. While it remains unknown by the public whether or not the Trump administration performed either one of these schemes, “President Trump is afraid of something,” stated Herron.

When reporters asked President Trump to comment on these disclosures while attending the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, the president called the Times’ revelations “fake news.” The president added that the exclusive was “a typical fake story.” After Ty Cobb, a well-known trial lawyer in Washington D.C., joined the Trump administration’s legal team in July, the president has retreated from criticizing Mueller’s impartiality. According to the Times’ sources, Cobb’s arrival has led to a turning point in strategy—cooperation, not antagonism.

Over the last two weeks, the president’s attorneys have acknowledged that they are currently deliberating with the special counsel’s office to work out an in-person interview with President Trump. There has been no confirmation as to when this inquiry will take place. “We are heading into a political crisis situation,” asserted Herron. By undermining a federal institution like the FBI and validating conspiracy theories such as the belief that the special counsel’s probe is a Democratic-led attempt to sabotage the Trump administration, President Trump’s endeavors “seem a lot like obstruction of justice,” concluded Herron.
It’s Time to Put the Phone Down

by Andrea Traietti ’21
Opinion Staff

Not Just Your Grandfather’s Problem: Get the Flu Shot!

by Nicholas Moran ’19
Opinion Staff

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES IN THE PAST DECADE ALONE HAVE CHANGED OUR LIVES IN NEARLY EVERY WAY YOU CAN IMAGINE. FOR THE MOST PART, THESE CHANGES SEEM TO BE POSITIVE. WE CAN EASILY TAKE A PICTURE OF OUR FAMILY OR FRIENDS IN TOUCH WITH FRIENDS EVEN IF THEY ARE HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD, AND WE HAVE LIMITLESS INFORMATION LITERALLY AT OUR FINGERTIPS. BUT FOR STUDENTS, THE SMALL DEVICE WE STORE IN OUR BACK POCKETS MAY BE CREATING MORE Hurdles THAN KNOWING THEM DOWN.

Scientific research, according to Psychology Today, is now proving that cell phone and app usage is linked to higher rates of anxiety, and even clinical addiction problems. It is critical to evaluate the role of technology in our lives and control our intake of addictive apps, as well as overall usage in order to give our technology a more positive and useful role in our lives. Many college students, struggling to maintain boundaries when it comes to smartphone usage. However, countless studies have proven that the brains of young adults are more impressionable and prone to obsessive tendencies. Thus, high school and college aged students struggle all the more to control their phone and app access.

This desire to keep checking our phones presents a focus problem, especially when it comes to completing tasks and using effective time management skills. “I think it interferes with my focus because sometimes when I'm not doing interesting homework I check my phone to take a break and spending 15 or 20 minutes browsing Facebook,” said Kara Berlin-Gallo ’21.

However, this compulsive need to check our phones becomes evident the more texts, “likes,” emails, and comments that we receive, the more we want. We cannot break this dopamine-induced loop because our gratification only comes when we receive our next texts and constantly check our phones.

Marketing agencies and social media companies easily take advantage of this dopamine cycle, thus adding to its overall effects. Websites like “breakfast” on Snapchat, for example, companies try to hook users into a repetitive and constant loop of use.

In her article in Psychology Today, Weinschenk concludes that the only way to break our addiction is to break the dopamine loop because our gratification only comes when we receive our next texts and constantly check our phones.

First and foremost, these apps track and can shut off access to apps at certain times of day. For example, companies try to hook users into a repetitive and constant loop of use.

However, to suddenly try to limit or shut off social media and smartphone usage is an extremely difficult task. The best way to go about gaining control of usage is ironically with different apps. Apps like Moment and Onward can help anyone trying to redefine the role of technology in their life, whether they are looking for better focus skills or trying to shut off a developing addiction. Regardless of the intended goal, these apps are important for self-evaluation and students need to take advantage of them.

For instance, Ohio State University is struggling to contain a H3N2 outbreak that has infected 23 students, and outbreaks are forcing high schools in Texas and Florida to cancel school days. As America reels from this historic flu season, there are ways to protect yourself. A simple flu shot reduces your risk by 40 percent according to the CDC, and frequent hand washing can help stymie the spread of this horrific outbreak.

Above all, if you feel sick, stay in your room. Take an absence from class, stay away from Raymond Dining Hall, relax and watch Netflix. All it takes is one encounter to spark an outbreak. A sick student touches a doorknob and leaves germs, dozens of others touch it, they eat, get sick, and suddenly H3N2 has reared its ugly head at PC. Get the shot, and protect yourself, your friends, and PC.

February 1, 2018
It's Never Too Early to Think About Post-College Plans

Networking:

Students were warmly welcomed to the offices of well-known companies, including LinkedIn and Nasdaq, where they toured the offices and learned about particular careers in those companies. The day ended with a PC alumni and student networking night filled with an informative alumni panel, general networking, and an assortment of snacks and refreshments.

While many of the students who attended were part of the junior and senior classes, all years were represented, proving that it is never too early to start networking or thinking about life after PC.

While students are always told that connections with others in their field are encouraged, why is networking so important?

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, networking can be defined as “the exchange of information or service among individuals, groups, or institutions; specifically: the cultivation of productive relationships for employment or business.” In other words, networking is all about creating and maintaining solid, meaningful relationships.

While some students may find this appealing, others can find it simply terrifying. Because of this, students oftentimes misunderstand what networking truly is.

Tess Povar, assistant director and career coach for the Providence College School of Business, sat down with me to debunk these outdated networking fallacies.

“I think that the common misconception [about networking] is that it’s intimidating and awkward, but it doesn’t have to be. It’s really about having a conversation and getting to know someone on a professional level. However, it takes effort and a resourceful student to plan and prep in advance, as it is a skill that doesn’t come easy to everyone.”

Povar went on to explain the Center for Career Education and Professional Development’s extensive list of student resources. Their resources include daily Slavin 108 and PCSB drop-in hours, weekly mock-interviews conducted by guest professionals in different industries, the upcoming Career Expo, and their “Weekend Update” emails sent out every Sunday.

From day one of freshman year, it is clear that PC wants its students to utilize all the resources they possibly can. It’s hard to go a day without seeing someone wearing the notorious “Don’t Wait… Slavin 108” shirt, but what happens if you do wait?

“I don’t think it’s ever too late,” said Povar, “because there are so many opportunities on a daily basis, but it becomes more difficult as time goes on. It’s all about relationships, and relationships take time and effort. Therefore, the earlier you start, the more connections you will have so that they can advocate and mentor you throughout your college career.”

The professional world today is truly all about who you know and the connections you have made. That being said, you never know exactly where your connections will take you. They may lead you to other people, or they may lead to your dream job.

Now, this is not a call for all students of all grades to drop everything and start sprinting to the Career Center. Just know that it is truly never too early to start networking and thinking about your professional life after college.

To reiterate what Povar said, networking is all about relationships, and relationships take time and effort. The earlier you make a connection and form a professional relationship, the more valuable and meaningful the relationship will become.

Although networking may seem intimidating and awkward at first, it truly is one of the most important parts of your professional career. So, don’t wait… Slavin 108.

Do You Have an Opinion?

Write a Letter to the Editor and send it to thecowl.commentary@thecowl.com
Fighting Toxic Masculinity

by Kelsey Dass ’18
Opinion Staff

PHOTO COURTESY OF STACIE MCCHESNEY / TED

Actor Justin Baldoni discusses male stereotypes in a TED talk.

Tide Pods Are Friends, Not Food

by Sara Kelley ’18
Opinion Co-Editor

PHOTO COURTESY OF STACIE MCCHESNEY / TED

As individuals and as a society, the Tide Pod Challenge reminds us of the difficult but necessary issues that must be addressed in response to such an abnormally stupid and unashamedly harmful trend.
For the last few months, I have been patiently awaiting the premiere of a movie that has three favorite things: Meryl Streep, Tom Hanks, and journalism. Last Friday, a small group of Cowl editors and writers ventured to the mall to finally see The Post, a retelling of journalism at its finest.

The movie is everything you want it to be—writers riddled around conference tables, smoking cigarettes and using typewriters. Inspiring speeches by Post editor Ben Bradlee saying the only way to assert the right to publish is to publish. And the evolution of a woman in a man’s world as publisher Katharine Graham risks her paper, reputation, and fortune to publish the truth—the uh-uh mission delivered by the newspaper.

We may not be going against the White House or defying court orders to find our own truth, but today’s world finding the truth is not the easiest task. Facebook fills your newsfeed with something truly worrying: in President Donald Trump’s eyes, the media is the enemy. We are the enemy. Isn’t that propaganda? We do not print previously published articles. The Cowl is committed to accuracy and carefully checks every article that goes into print to ensure that the facts are present clearly and truthfully. If you find an error in any article, please email the editor-in-chief at edith@thecowl.com. Corrections will be printed as necessary.

President Trump is simply incompetent, stumbling from one hiccup to the next. And while misleading is forgivable, failing to correct oneself after this kind of mistake is not. This reveals something truly worrying: in President Trump’s eyes, he really is a “very stable genius” who can make no mistakes, no matter how obvious they may be.

"-Lela Biggus ’18

February 1, 2018 The Cowl 9

OPINION

Finding Truth in a World of “Fake News”

by Marla Gagne ’18

Editor-in-Chief

EDITOR’S COLUMN

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The Cowl welcomes guest opinions and letters to the editor from members of the Providence College community and outside contributors. All submissions must include the name of the author, a daytime phone number, and an email address where he or she can be reached. Letters must be no longer than 250 words in length and will be printed as space permits. Guest submissions about political topics must be no more than 300 words in length, and only one will be published per week. The Cowl reserves the right to edit articles for length and clarity. Submission of letters to The Cowl office no later than 5 p.m. on the Sunday before publication. We do not print previously published letters. Email responses to commentary@thecowl.com, and remember a guest submission is only an email away.

Accuracy Watch

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

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The Cowl is a proud member of the Associated Collegiate Press.
PC Debate Society Forum
Featuring: Prof. Adam Myers and Dr. Colin King
February 9 @3:00pm
Aquinas Lounge
Refreshments will be offered!

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Got SOMETHING TO SAY?
Send LETTERS TO THE EDITOR TO
COMMENTARY@THECOWL.COM

American Studies @ PC

COMING UP NEXT SEMESTER:

Hamlet
by William Shakespeare
January 26-28 & February 8-11

Falling
by Deanna Jent
February 16-18

Creative Writers Festival
March 23 & 24

The Moors
by Jen Silverman
April 13-15 & 20-22

Spring Dance Concert
April 27 & 28

Student Film Festival
May 3

Questions? CONTACT:
Dr. Jeff Johnson, Director
Email: jjohnson@providence.edu
Office: Buane 117 Ext. 1784
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/AMSatPC
Twitter: @PC_AMS
ABOVE: Chanell Williams ’21 dribbles the ball during the Providence College women’s basketball game. The Friars beat the St. John’s University Red Storm 70-68 on Sunday, January 28. Williams scored six field goals and one free throw.

ABOVE RIGHT: Students adorned with glowsticks participate in Glow Yoga, sponsored by BOP.

RIGHT: Bob Clark ’80, president of Technology Staffing Services and Robert Half Legal, and Trustee of Providence College, speaks to students at the Robert Half Takeover Day. Clark’s staffing service had representatives onsite for students to network with and learn about staffing opportunities in the Providence area. Students also received promotional items such as the pen displayed to the right.

ABOVE: Talia Barreira ’21 and Susan Caracciolo ’21 smile as they collect their winnings during a dice game at Casino Night, sponsored by Student Activities and Cultural Programming.

RIGHT: Amie Mbye ’18, Alberto Nin ’21, and Kevin Flaherty ’21 react to the dealer’s cards in a game of blackjack at Casino Night.
If you could choose a celebrity professor, who would it be?

“Eric Thomas and Hugh Jackman.”
Jacquie Kelley ’20 and
Antoinette Aaliyah Muhammad ’18

“Mark Wahlberg.”
Kevin Kramer ’20

“Kendrick Lamar.”
Stachel Roberts ’18

“Chance The Rapper.”
Gabriel Alvarez ’20

“Khalid.”
Emily Mastroianni ’21

“Johnny Depp.”
Lily Conover ’20

“Cesar Millan,
a.k.a. The Dog Whisperer.”

-Huxley

Photos by Nora Johnson ’20, Staff Photographer
When was the last time you went to a play? In a world dominated by cinema and other digital distractions, the beauty and complexity of live performance has taken a backseat to its digital competitors. Yet, in the John Bowab Studio Theatre in the Smith Center for the Arts at Providence College, the Department of Theatre, Dance, and Film played its part in preserving live production's legacy by putting on an experimental version of William Shakespeare's Hamlet.

Whether one has read the play or not, the skill and tact of the actors eased the complexity of Shakespeare with genuine displays of emotion, guiding new Hamlet spectators through major plot points.

According to the department's box office website, the play begins when, "A king is murdered, and a son is left to avenge his father and find his mother newly married to his uncle."

A ghost challenges the boy to avenge the crime that destroyed a family and stained a nation. The world’s greatest playwright weaves a stunning story of intrigue and passion in which young Hamlet must determine whether his uncle as the one “born to set it right.”

At the foundation, the theatre itself is a constant component of the play’s success. With a small, circular stage in the center, the Bowab Studio Theatre holds no more than 80 or so patrons at a time, guaranteeing a feeling of intimacy for each and every viewer, no matter where he or she is positioned.

Jillian Eddy, a member of Assistant Technical Director Trevor Groves' crew, brought characters and events to life in chalk on the four black walls enveloping the audience. However, these depictions did not just serve a passive role. Throughout the play, actors would reference certain objects on the wall; Hamlet (Timothy Brown ’20) forced his troubled mother Queen Gertrude (Mirayra Lopez ’19) to look upon the handsome face of his deceased father King Hamlet on the right wall and the villainous smile of his uncle, Claudius (Daniel Carroll ’18) on the left. Similarly, Claudius prayed to a cross drawn on the wall’s right corner.

From the setting established by these four black walls, the brilliance of actors, sound, and visuals shone through. In moments of intense soliloquy, sound designer Paul Perry set the mood with subtly emotional music. In other moments, the Providence College alum based in Chicago made the ghostly visage of King Hamlet (Daniel Carroll ’18) boom with a terrifying madness on center stage. Gunshots, thunder, and drums elevated the sensations of doom and death to a level of tangibility.

Furthermore, the innocent advice of murdered Polonius (Johnathan Krisel ’18) and the passionate love between Ophelia (Jennifer Dorn ’18) and young Hamlet encouraged the audience to form strong attachments. In doing so, all of the actors convinced the audience that the weight of guilt, the pain of love, and the grief of death were truly heavy in their hearts.

Watching young Hamlet’s melancholy descent into the abyss of madness, his grief over losing Ophelia, his vengeance in killing Claudius, his friendship with Horatio (Teddity Kitissy ’18), the audience found themselves lost in the realm between story and reality. The final scene of the play was a sword fight between Ophelia’s brother, Laertes (AJ Roskm ’18), and young Hamlet choreographed by Jim Beauregard, associate professor of theatre and dance at Dean College. By far, it was the most interactive part of the performance. There are still four chances to see Hamlet, with performances Feb. 8 through 11. Due to the small size of the theater, tickets are limited and can be purchased at the Box Office in the Smith Center, online, or by phone (401-865-2218).
Celebrating 130 Years of The National Geographic

by Ryan Cox ‘18
A&E Staff

LIFESTYLE

The National Geographic Society began in 1888 as a club for elite academicians to discuss—you guessed it—geography. On Jan. 27, they celebrated the 130th anniversary of their incorporation, marking almost a century and a half of scientific education and natural preservation. From 33 founding members in Washington, D.C., the Society has become one of the largest nonprofit scientific and educational institutions in the world.

Gardiner Greene Hubbard was the Society’s first president. His son-in-law and successor was Alexander Graham Bell, who later suggested the telephone. Bell’s son-in-law, Gilbert Hovey Grosvenor, was the first editor of the National Geographic magazine. Bell remained such an avid supporter of the National Geographic Society that the Society now awards a medal in his name to significant contributors to geographic research.

In 2004, the National Geographic Society’s headquarters became the first existing building to receive a “green” certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, showing that the Society existed after the society was founded. It was originally established in 1888, just nine months after the society was founded. It was originally created to be distributed as a reward for being a member of the Society. Its now-signature yellow border was not adopted until 1910.

In its monthly issues, National Geographic includes articles on geography, popular science, and world history. It is best known for its photography. Bell first advocated for the use of illustrations in the magazine and National Geographic has since established a trademark high standard for its photographs. Since 2006, the Society has hosted an international photography competition.

In film, the National Geographic Society has sponsored a handful of films on wildlife and environmental protection, most notably March of the Penguins, the critically acclaimed 2005 documentary which won an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature in 2006.

The National Geographic Society also launched a television channel in 2001 under a partnership with Fox Cable Networks, which highlights the work of leading scientists in wildlife and geography, such as Jane Goodall and Louis Leakey. These features have propelled Goodall, Leakey, and other scientists to international fame. Prior to their TV channel, the Society aired specials on PBS and other major networks.

In an age where scientific thought is often questioned, it seems as though the National Geographic Society is recognizing their position as a cultural force and using it to combat doubt. Their media outlets and events like the National Geographic Bee help to keep the public aware of the world around them, and informed about the way in which it is changing.

Movies to Start off 2018

The Greatest Showman Proves Itself to be a Successfull New Movie

by Catherine Goldberg ’20
A&E Staff

On the coldest winter days, hitting up your local movie theater to see latest movies is the best way to make use of extra time. One of the markets latest and most successful films is The Greatest Showman.

The Greatest Showman is a captivating and light-hearted family film. It takes you back to the birth of show business, while also entangling modern music and costume and appealing to viewers ranging from old school critics to new school kids. The movie is inspired by the true story of P.T. Barnum’s (Hugh Jackman) creation of the Barnum & Bailey Circus, and ties together the original songs from Justin Paul and Benj Pasek.

The Greatest Showman, B.T. Barnum played by Hugh Jackman creates the unfortgettable world or color and talent in the Circus. Barnum walked, and were drawn into his mesmerizing world. The popular dance shows, and all the intriguing attractions in between; the fascination for the old-school circus is somewhat lost. However, director Michael Gracey does a great job of drawing on these retro roots and connecting it to modern contemporaries.

Kristin Smith of Plugged In says, The Greatest Showman is a perfect fit of the metaphorical tightrope P.T. Barnum walked, and were drawn into his mesmerizing world. The popular dance shows, and all the intriguing attractions in between; the fascination for the old-school circus is somewhat lost. However, director Michael Gracey does a great job of drawing on these retro roots and connecting it to modern contemporaries.

The Greatest Showman, B.T. Barnum played by Hugh Jackman create the unforgetable world of color and formality in the Circus. The show is a captivating and light-hearted family film. It takes you back to the birth of show business, while also entangling modern music and costume and appealing to viewers ranging from old school critics to new school kids. The movie is inspired by the true story of P.T. Barnum’s (Hugh Jackman) creation of the Barnum & Bailey Circus, and ties together the original songs from Justin Paul and Benj Pasek. The film’s charming leads and circus scenes make it a fun pick for families. It is historical, musical, and brings audiences back to the magic of the circus.
Last Week’s Answers

Across:
3. McDermott and Meagher
9. Ruane
11. Peterson
12. Feinstein
13. Martin
15. Club Phil
16. Accinno
17. Slavin

Down:
1. Fennell
2. McVinney
4. Calabria Plaza
5. Moore
6. Ryan
7. Guzman
8. Harkins
10. Smith
14. Aquinas

Winter Olympics: Sports & Athletes

Across:
1. 1 person rides atop a tiny sled while lying face-down; became permanent Winter Olympic sport in 2002
2. Descending a slope while standing atop a board
3. Event with one- or two-person flat sleds that can reach speeds of up to 95 mph; steering done with sled’s runners
4. Miracle on Ice; men’s and women’s teams, games are action-packed

Down:
1. Competed and won multiple medals in snowboarding events for US; has killer hair
2. Stereotypically a sport for the elderly; sliding stones on a sheet of ice
3. Event with a sled and teams of 2 or 4 people; Switzerland had to outlaw this activity on public highways to protect pedestrians
4. Alpine ski racer and member of the US ski team; first American woman to win gold in downhill skiing
5. First winter sport included in the Winter Olympics; involves performing routines choreographed to music

PHOTO COURTESY OF PUZZLE-MAKER.COM
“I needed this,” Don sighed, placing the pipe on the coffee table. The burnt-out bowl stared up at me from themahogany—trees on trees. It smiled at me, an eccentric smoke signal coming from its glass lips. “Set me aflame,” it said. “Set me on fire so that I can reveal to you your past, present, and future,” it exclaimed. “Take that nondescript flame and pierce your dreams with my pungent sword,” it yelped.

“Yo, take one last hit Brain, you staring at that shit like it’s a badass shorty or somethin’,” Don said laughing.

“You don’t gotta tell me twice,” I chuckled and grabbed the bowl by its slender body and followed its demands.

“Y’all ever wish to make it out the hood and shit?” Lil Charlie asked from where he was laying on the floor with a shirt over his face.

“No shit, I’m sure we all do,” Don said.

“But nah, for real though. Like, have y’all ever thought about what we could do with the world?”

Like, if we applied ourselves up in school and shit.” He was sitting up then, looking at us with actual hope in his eyes.

Of course, Lil Charlie wasn’t spouting any thoughts that hadn’t ever crossed my mind. They didn’t call me Brain for no reason. The only issue was that, back then, we didn’t live in suburbia, or anywhere near what white people would call civilized. We lived in the slums, a couple streets away from where white people would call civilized.

The schools we were allowed to attend weren’t trained to get us out of the system, they were specifically geared to earmark us as outcasts in America’s chapters. We were pariahs and treated as such, if not worse, and Lil Charlie and I were just freshmen in high school.

“Be careful wishing for the world when you’ve never felt like you’ve fit into it,” I said.

“I know that, man. We been buried underneath the rubble of history on some bullshit since they laid down the groundwork for this shit. But we can rise up, we can beat them at their own game and sneak our way into the book if we play it right.”

He always got like this when we smoked. He was the most optimistic kid I had ever seen.

“If that’s the price of being one of them uppity folk with legit cash uptown, I rather stick to this game right here,” he finished as he nodded towards the outside where the corners reigned, and where the neighborhood slingers were stationed.

The room went silent for awhile after that. I listened to the wind pounding on the window, my paranoia making me believe that even optimism, but in that moment his face was richly melancholy, numbed indifference crowning his lips with death’s lilies. It seemed to me then that he was understanding, realizing, the heartache of being born where we are born, coming to terms with the million unnatural shocks that our black bodies were heir to. Our world was one where cold winters turned into summer when hot bullets grazed the air we breathed, not one where hope can typically thrive.

“But yeah y’all, that’s why the war on drugs is deadass a war on black people,” Don finished. “Y’all tryna hit the roof to chill real quick, though?”

“Yeah, for sure, c’mon Charlie.” And with that we left the apartment through the fire escape without any other words exchanged.

Don was seventeen then and had his own place from slinging. His God-fearing mother didn’t want anything to do with his drug money, or him for that matter, if he didn’t stop. Needless to say, he never did, he was too deep then, too connected, the game was in his blood and no amount of social dialysis could syphon it out of him.

On the roof, the blackened sky stretched ahead of us farther than any of us could see. High as I was I felt like I was at sea with the raindrops that pelted us, the drizzle becoming a small storm inside my head. Before that school year was over I dealt that rock for the first time. Don would die the winter that followed. And Lil Charlie, well, Charlie Williams, would be gone by the grace of God. But, in that moment, with cloud filled lungs, rain filled sky, and water gilded ground, we were drowning in air, coughing up silence.
LIVING ON THE CLOCK

by Connor Zimmerman '20
Portfolio Staff

Staring at the ceiling, with a common feeling.
Trying to leave my bed and overcome this dread.
I steel my nerves, cause I’m living on the reserves.
My alarm won’t stop, I slam the button on top.

Punching in, punching out,
I’m living on the clock.

Looking at the board, it’s pretty clear that I’m bored.
The professor moans on, I respond with a yawn.
My eyes begin to close, and it feels like time slows.
The bell rings, with a sigh I gather all my things.

Punching in, punching out,
I’m living on the clock.

Sitting in a chair, with a feeling of despair.
The homework is not done, and it feels like a ton.
With no motivation, I sit in frustration.
Hearing that sound, everything fades to the background.

Punching in, punching out,
I’m living on the clock.

Day does turn to night, but that does not help my blight.
Limping to my dorm, inside rage brews like a storm.
I can’t unlock my door, feeling mentally sore.
Finally, in bed bracing for the day ahead.

Punching in, punching out,
I’m living on the clock.

I was much further out than
a lost star’s way.
I was trotting along
a route obscure.
Boundless and
bare. Bathe myself
in strangeness,
under the surge of
the blue veritable
ocean. Marvels of form
and gravity. The moving
waters, the enormous
avenues, going on and
on—sinkin’ deeper,
deeper. Taken root like
a stone. There, in
a black-blue vault, I
could no longer
voyage—closed and
done. And if I
become once more
the old traveler—I
learn by going, I
no longer felt myself
guided by a crumb
of the wrong
winds.
I'm Not Sorry Anymore

by Sam Pellman ’20
Portfolio Staff

I said sorry when you broke my heart
I waited for an apology but gave you over a hundred
I let you hurt me and I blamed myself

But I'm not sorry anymore
I'm not sorry you walked away when I thought I needed you the most
I'm not sorry you told me you’d never leave but one day were gone

I'm not sorry I fell so hard for you; it's taught me everything
I'm not sorry I centered my world around you because I know now you are not the sun; I am
I'm not sorry I wasn’t enough for you, because I know I was too much for you to handle

I'm not sorry I spent nights crying, shedding over a thousand tears; each one had a purpose
I'm not sorry I deleted your number; it's of no use for me now
I'm not sorry I hid all your letters, at one point they meant the world, now they are just words on a page

But most importantly, I’m not sorry that I’m happy without you
I’m finally alive

I don’t wish you the best, but I don’t wish you the worst; I simply wish you what you deserve

Auntie

by Jay Willett ’20
Portfolio Staff

The crimson tablecloth sprang up with the cold fall breeze,
My great uncle had opened the window for a smoke,
But the wind rejected it, spiraling it in our full faces.
We were all there, hadn’t happened for a while.
We all lived across the country, some in others.

But this holiday was different,
My heart hung on the edge of my seat,
We weren’t brought together by celebration
Or new life
Or change
It took time, nostalgia, and misfortune.
We laughed, at each other, with each other,
Smiling because the wind outside was finally outside for a moment.

When the meal was finished, the kids cheered on for dessert,
While the men hollered for more beer,
The women grinned and sipped more of their wine,
And I sat still waiting for auntie to bring back the most delicious apple pie
I was lucky that I got to live near her all these years,
She lived close, unlike the rest.
Her apple pie would be the star of dinner
Its slices would glisten like wet autumn leaves outside
She smiled as she placed the platter
I took my eyes off the dessert for a second,
Her eyes were locked on the wind outside and sighed,
"A shame we can’t do this again next year."
**Listomania**

**People We Wish Performed at the Super Bowl**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DJ Diesel</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oprah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Six Gents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garry “Jerry” / “Larry” / “Lenny” Gergich</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kim Kardashian and Kanye West</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beethoven</td>
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<td>Vanilla Ice</td>
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<td>Psy</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Pants on the Ground” Guy</td>
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<td>Sophia Grace and Rosie</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Apparently” Boy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Willow Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phineas and Ferb</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Precribed**

by Erin Lucey ’20

**Fiction**

Buzz Buzz. My eyes snap open to begin another day. I am hopelessly exhausted, though I rarely take more than eight or nine steps a day at this point. The balloons tied to the foot of my depressing hospital bed rustle and sway as I try to sit up. Over the past five months, my condition has been quickly worsening. By now I am prescribed nothing but a cocktail of painkillers, all intended to maximize my comfort as I sit here and slowly die. They say my condition is rare, and that the “treatment I have chosen” seems best for my life situation overall. Because I am a minor I am fully out of the loop, left out of the meetings that discuss my fate and trapped here like a dog in a cage.

While I know that there is not much that can be done for my illness, I sometimes feel that these doctors aren’t even trying. Like, isn’t it their job to think of something to do even when there’s nothing? Allowing a previously normal and healthy 16-year-old to sit here and die must fill them with at least disappointment, maybe even guilt? I’ve been trying to get some sort of explanation from my parents of the reasons, options, or rights that I have, but they have this fierce desire to “protect” me from the truth, trying not to scare me by always changing the subject. Today, however, I know that my parents won’t be visiting until after 4 p.m., so I am allowing my curiosity and stubbornness to take over while I still have the energy to feel them.

The nurses accidentally left the binder of my file on the desk in the corner of my room last night, so today’s steps are dedicated to getting to the binder, reading all the med lingo about myself as a patient, and getting back to my bed. It’s now or never. After four long deep breaths, I sluggishly swing my legs to the side of my bed, and grabbing onto the railings and side table, I am standing. As I trudge my aching body over to the desk, I am filled with a wave of motivation, a hint of thrill for what I am about to see. When I finally make it to the desk, I feel like I could collapse right there, but I reject the fatigue and grip onto the table for support. I just need to know what exactly exempts me from any experimental treatments for this disease. I was so healthy five months ago!

Opening the binder fills me with excitement and anxiety, though the first page I see is enough to stop me from flipping any further. The sheet that sits at the top of my file is a waiver, signed boldly and clearly by both of my parents, distinctly restricting the doctors from providing me with any of the known, previously successful treatments for my condition.

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**Tiffany & Earl**

Making PC an emotionally stable place one letter at a time

Dear Tiff and Earl,

I’ve been invited to two Super Bowl parties this year, one by some friends who are Patriots fans, and another by some friends who are Eagles fans. Which one should I go to, and how do I avoid offending my friends from the other team after I decide? FYI, I don’t really care who wins. I’m more of a fan of curling than anything else.

Sincerely,

Stuck on the Line of Scrimmage

---

**Prescribed**

by Erin Lucey ’20

**Portfolio Staff**

**Fiction**

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Dear Fence Rider,

Let’s be clear. The Super Bowl isn’t about football. It’s about eating yourself silly and indulging in commercials that represent the worst of the American zeitgeist. So, it all comes down to one thing: who will have the better feast? Those darn New Englanders will probably cheap out on food so they can afford to burn their furniture in the street later. Go with your Philly friends—even without a decent cheesesteak they’ll have to have food good enough to offset their inevitable loss. Plus, they’ll need your emotional support later.

Hungry,

Rock on,

---

This is a satirical column that does not reflect the views of Providence College or The Cowl.
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Ever wonder what Portfolio’s Tiff & Earl would have to say?

Submit your own questions to portfolio@thecowl.com for some advice from The Cowl’s Tiff & Earl!
Nassar stands on trial in court.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PAUL SANCENI/USA TODAY

“I Forever Lost My Childhood Due to His Abuse”
Larry Nassar Found Guilty of Sexually Abusing over 200 Gymnasts

by Meaghan Cahill ’20
Sports Co-Editor

It was a trial that was almost 25 years in the making and has become the most sensational abuse scandal in sports history. According to a 2016 lawsuit, in 1994 an unidentified gymnast, who would later go on to medal at the Olympics, stated that Larry Nassar had sexually abused her for six years. She would be the first of over 250 women who would come forward over the years claiming Nassar sexually assaulted them when he was supposed to be acting as their trainer.

Nassar’s career began in 1978 when he became a student athletic trainer at North Farmington High School, outside of Detroit. A graduate of the University of Michigan, he began working with the football and track and field teams at the university. That same year, he retired as MSU’s national team.

His career only went up from this point. He received an osteopathic medical degree from Michigan State University in 1993, was appointed national medical coordinator for USA Gymnastics in 1996, became a team physician and assistant professor at MSU in 1997, and during all of this time, he began attending the Olympic Games as a member of the gymnastics team’s staff. He had the picture perfect career, yet underneath it all, it was anything but perfect.

According to a lawsuit filed in 2017, a concern about Nassar was brought to John Geddert of John Geddert’s Twisters gymnastics club for his behavior in 1997. The claim was overlooked and never brought to police attention. A year later in 1998, according to court records, Nassar began sexually abusing the six-year-old daughter of a family friend, and he acted inappropriately with her “every other week for five years.” That same year, a student-athlete at MSU reported Nassar to the other trainers and coaches, but no action was taken by the university following the claims. The lack of action on behalf of USA Gymnastics and MSU did not stop the accusations against Nassar. In 2000, a second MSU student-athlete came forward with claims that Nassar was acting inappropriately, as well as gymnast Rachel Denhollander, who stated she was sexually abused by Nassar when she was fifteen while he was treating her for lower back pain.

Flash forward to 2014 and all accusations against Nassar while he was at MSU were cleared by the university. That same year, he retired as USA Gymnastics’ medical coordinator, but stated he would remain as the team doctor for the artistic gymnasts.

It was not until 2016 that an official investigation was opened regarding how USA Gymnastics handled the sexual abuse cases, including those with Nassar. Once again, Denhollander came forward with the same claims that he assaulted her when she was 15 and filed a sexual complaint against Nassar.

Later that year, MSU fired Nassar from all clinical and patient duties. And then, the floodgates opened and Nassar’s career crashed down around him. After he was fired, complaint after complaint came through against him. Denhollander was one of the main accusers on every case and collaborated with others who had worked with Nassar.

On Tuesday, November 22, 2016, Nassar was officially charged in Ingham County with three counts of first degree criminal sexual conduct with a person under the age of 13. In a press conference, it was revealed that over 50 victims had come forward with complaints against Nassar. Less than a month later, Nassar was indicted on federal child pornography charges. On January 10, 2017, 18 more gymnasts filed a federal law suit against Nassar, MSL, USA Gymnastics, and John Geddert’s Twisters gymnastics club alleging sexual assault, battery, molestation, and harassment between 1996 and 2016.

There was never a cease in accusations against Nassar, and they all led up to his 2018 sentencing, where most of his victims took to the stand and testified against him face to face. Some of his more well-known victims include Simone Biles, McKayla Maroney, and Aly Raisman.

The statements were powerful. Each victim took the stand and detailed just how much Nassar impacted their lives—and not in a positive way.

“You used my body for six years for your own sexual gratification. That is unforgivable,” Kyle Stephens stated. “I developed an intense fear of male hands, like a PTSD response... This fear changed the way I grew up and how I related to boys...I couldn’t just be a normal girl anymore, and I have forever lost a big piece of my childhood due to his abuse,” Jessica Thomsow reflected while on the stand.

One mother even came forward and blamed Nassar’s abuse for her daughter’s suicide, “For my daughter it became a serious, serious bout of depression. So in 2009 she took her own life because she couldn’t deal with the pain anymore,” Donna Markham’s daughter Chelsea claimed Nassar “hurt [her]” after he wrongfully touched her without medical gloves on.

As an Olympic gold medalist Aly Raisman stated in her witness statement, “It’s easy to put out statements talking about how athlete care is the highest priority. But [USA Gymnastics] has been saying that for years, and all the while, this nightmare was happening.”

Joan Ryan, author of Little Girls in Pretty Boxers, a book about the physical and psychological toll gymnastics take on girls and young women, states, “There is no other sport in which this could have happened...These girls are growing up from an incredibly young age to deny their own experience.”

“Gymnastics and the U.S. Olympic Committee didn’t want to scare off sponsors and they didn’t want to risk the piles of Olympic medals. So they covered it up,” 1984 Olympic Champion Jennifer Sey stated.

In a letter written by Champion Women, an advocacy group for girls and women in sports charged by former Olympic medalist Nancy Hopkins-Makar, demanded that laws should be passed to protect young athletes from people like Nassar. The letter asserted, “Research shows that the more elite the athlete, the more likely they are to be sexually abused by someone within their own entourage.”

So, what is the solution? According to Ryan, “We need change to come from the lawmakers, the organizations. There needs to be government oversight with hard and fast rules, because these girls are growing up, and if they win fewer medals, so be it.”

In wake of the trial, the remaining members of the USA Gymnastics board of directors have all resigned due to the pressure from the United States Olympic Committee. According to USA Today, “The United States Olympic Committee threatened to decertify the organization if it didn’t take more strident steps towards change.”

In a statement issued amid the scandal and remaining board members stepping down, USA Gymnastics claimed that they support “an independent investigation that may shine light on how abuse of the proportion described so courageously by the survivors of Larry Nassar could have gone undetected for so long and brings about necessary and appropriate changes. USA Gymnastics and USOC have the same goal-making the sport of gymnastics, and others, as safe as possible for athletes to follow their dreams in a safe, positive, and empowered environment.”

While words are being exchanged on making the sport safer and better for our country’s gymnasts, it is still up in the air if there will be any concrete changes made in the future of gymnastics.
The Pacific Wins NHL All-Star Game

by Jeremy Perrigo ’18

The Pacific Division won with a resounding score of 5-2 with highlight reel goals from the Vancouver Canucks’ rookie Brock Boeser. The Pacific Division entered the weekend and sat at second in the All-Star voting with 392, 379, and 337 votes from the writers.

Since its inception in 1947, the National Hockey League All-Star Game has pitted the league’s best players against each other in an attempt to display hockey’s prime talent on a national stage.

The Pacific Division would feature the defending Stanley Cup champions against a team of All-Stars from other teams in a winner-take-all format. Since those early years, there have been various changes to the way the game is played. The event has expanded as well, developing from simply an All-Star Game into a more extensive All-Star Weekend.

The new changes also included the idea to schedule the All-Star Game on the weekend. Under the modern format, the game is played on a Sunday with a skills competition taking place the Saturday before. Since 2015, the league has expanded the number of All-Star teams from two to four, with one team representing each of the four divisions. Keeping with its more recent tradition of pitting the Eastern Conference against the West, the league has the two division rivals (Pacific vs. Central / Metropolitan vs. Atlantic) play first, before the winners of action played each other after.

This All-Star Weekend, which took place on Jan. 27-28 in Tampa, Florida, the Central Division won on the Pacific in a 20 minute game of three-on-three hockey separated into two 10-minute halves. The Pacific Division won by a resounding score of 5-2 with highlight reel goals from the Vancouver Canucks’ rookie Brock Boeser. Los Angeles Kings’ defensemen Drew Doughty, and Vegas Golden Knights’ sniper James Neal.

Boeser has been absolutely sensational for the Canucks in his first pro season. He led Vancouver with 47 points (24G, 23A) in 46 games going into the weekend and sat at second in the rookie scoring overall behind only the New York Islanders’ Mathew Barzal who has accrued 51 points in 50 games. Boeser ended up being named MVP of the All-Star Game for his outstanding performance. He also won the Accuracy Shooting Competition the night before, hitting five targets in 11.136 seconds.

The Atlantic Division defeated the star-studded Metropolitan by a definitive score of 7-4. At one point the Metro Division team of Sidney Crosby, Alex Ovechkin, and John Tavares had a 3-1 lead on the Atlantic before the Boston Bruins’ Brad Marchand tallied a goal and an assist, helping his team advance to the championship game. Marchand, who was handed a five-game suspension earlier in the week for an elbow to New Jersey Devils’ winger Marcus Johansson, was still eligible for All-Star festivities despite having served only one game of the five-suspension into the weekend. Boosing could be heard just about every time Marchand touched the puck, which made for an interesting scenario when he finally scored a goal. Despite the fans’ apparent disdain for the Boston winger, he was in fact playing for the home team in Tampa. Marchand was skating alongside four Tampa Bay Lightning players and Lightning Head Coach Jon Cooper was in charge of the Atlantic Division team. So when the so-called “Little Ball of Hate” found the back of the net, you could hear the boos transform into cheers inside Amalie Arena.

The Pacific Division would go on to defeat the Atlantic in the championship game by a score of 5-2 in the battle of East Coast vs. West Coast. Despite this loss coming as somewhat of a disappointment to the Tampa fans, the displays of pure talent that were showcased over all three games were something any hockey fan could appreciate.

The NHL All-Star Game has been acknowledged before as the most entertaining contest of its type in professional sports, and Sunday’s action did nothing to change that claim into question. From tic-tac-toe plays, to incredible shots, and supreme goalkeeping, this All-Star Game was thrilling and downright entertaining.

Hall of Fame Introduces Four New Members

by Sullivan Burgess ’20

On Sunday, July 29, 2018, Cooperstown, New York will welcome four new inductees into the major league ball Hall of Fame. This marks the fourth time in history four players were voted into Cooperstown, compared to last year’s three players.

This year’s new members include third baseman Chipper Jones, rightfielder Vladimir Guerrero, designated hitter Jim Thome, and relief pitcher Trevor Hoffman.

To be entered into the Hall of Fame, a player must have first played in the MLB beginning 15 years before and ending 5 years prior to election. Second, the players must pass through a screening committee after five years of being retired. To be voted in, a player must take in 75 percent of the elector’s vote, which is 317 votes from the voters.

Jones lead this year’s ballot with 97.2 percent of the writers’ votes from the Baseball Writers’ Association of America, which is around 410 votes of the 422 ballots. Guerrero, Thome, and Hoffman respectively finished behind Jones with 392, 379, and 337 votes from the writers.

Jones told ESPN, “It was much as anyone over time, it makes me smile to think that all that hard work and those swings in the batting cage, is now paying off for him.”

Guerrero, a nine time All-Star, is a generational hitter who was only one of 13 players to have numbers over .315/.550. He is still in shock about his election, as he is the first player from the Dominican Republic to make the Hall of Fame, and loves to represent his country in the best way possible.

Lastly, Trevor Hoffman, a seven-time All-Star relief pitcher who marked 1,133 career strikeouts and 351 saves, is second in saves behind Mariano Rivera. The Yankee relief pitcher who highlighted his first year of eligibility next year, was elected as well.

Fans of the game have said nothing but positive remarks for the players elected, yet as the reports went out for the rest of the voted players from the vague winger years not respected, the media and fans took note.

The two most notable players this year that remain on the ballot are Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens. Their careers are both filled with historic moments and controversy involving the drug steroid use that has caused a divide amongst voters. Fans of these players remain optimistic about their future as they seem to rise each year in balloting votes and hope new votes in the future will finally bring them to Cooperstown.
Winter vs. Summer Olympics

Summer Olympics

by Chris McCormack ‘18
Sports Staff

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

With the Winter Olympics right around the corner, there is always some debate on which Games are better: Summer or Winter? With that in mind it is necessary to understand the basics of the two. The Summer Olympics have been around for over a century, starting in 1896 in Athens, Greece. The Winter Olympics have not been around for as long, dating back to the 1924 Games in Chamonix, France. The summer games also host more countries, 206 countries participated in 2016 compared to the 91 that are participating in this year’s games. With just history and the number of participants in mind, it is hard to see why one would prefer the winter games.

While Americans, however, we tend to like the winter games because of sports like ice hockey and games like the one in 1980, in which the U.S. defeated the Soviet Union. However, athletes like Michael Phelps, Simone Biles and Usain Bolt have increased the popularity of the Summer Olympics with their incredible athleticism.

Another reason the summer games are more entertaining than the winter games is because of Team USA Basketball. With the NHL no longer allowing their athletes to participate in the games, USA Basketball is really our country’s only chance to see the best basketball players combine forces in super team fashion and compete.

For reasons that include history, inclusivity, and the inclusion of big name professional athletes, the Summer Olympics are more enjoyable than the Winter Olympics. Regardless of how you feel, however, it is always nice to see the increased patriotism around the times of the games and for that reason, it is hard to dislike either one.

Winter Olympics

by Ethan Ticehurst ‘18
Sports Staff

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

The Winter Olympics are the best kind of games simply because of the most significant example is hockey, a sport in which some sort of competitive balance still exists. As compared to basketball or gymnastics in the summer, both of which have been dominated by Americans in recent years, hockey is the most well-known and most competitive sport in the Olympics. Teams from all across the Northern Hemisphere have a chance to win at hockey, including powerhouse Canada, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States.

In addition to a better competitive balance, the Winter Olympics are also more viewer-friendly because they last for about a month just like the Summer Games, but they have much fewer events, which means that events can be scheduled at times that are best for the most viewers. Being a dedicated fan of the Summer Olympics requires watching almost 20 hours of footage a day, due to the non-stop nature of the schedule. The Winter Olympics have a much more relaxed pace, giving viewers the ability to spend less time watching the television.

Finally, the Winter Olympics are also better because they are usually held in lesser-known cities around the world. The Summer Olympics are held in large, congested, and well-known cities in very industrialized nations. The Winter Olympics are more often held in smaller cities, which are given the opportunity to grow and rise to the occasion.

For those of us who enjoy seeing smaller cities around the world, and for the avid hockey fans, the Winter Olympics are the best games to watch.

World-class athletes surround one another on the ice. PHOTO COURTESY OF THOMAS NAULT/USA TODAY SPORTS

Why the Celtics Will Make It to the Finals

by Jack Belanger ‘21
Sports Co-Editor

PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL

Despite having multiple players suffer injuries and a tough stretch where they lost five out of six games, the Boston Celtics are where many expected them to be: first place in the Eastern Conference.

Even without star forward Gordon Hayward, Boston has dominated throughout this season with the help of a 16-game winning streak earlier in the year. This could be the year the Celtics finally climb over the wall that is the Cleveland Cavaliers, and make their first NBA finals appearance since 2010.

The Celtics’ defense has vastly improved from last year, which puts less pressure on them to score at a higher rate. Last year, Boston gave up 105.4 points per game, which was 15th best in the league, while this year they are giving up 98.8 point per game, the second best.

Last year, the gap between the Celtics and the top teams was much wider than this year. Last year Boston went 3-7 against teams with the top four records in the league, while this year they are currently 4-2.

And while the Celtics finished ahead of Cleveland last year in the Eastern conference, the Cavaliers dominated Boston, winning three out of four games during the season and outscoring them by an average of 7.8 points. This year, Boston has gone 1-1 against Cleveland, scoring an average of 100.5 points, while Cleveland has averaged 95 points.

While the Celtics themselves have improved this season, a big part of why they have a good chance to make it to the finals is that Cleveland has gotten worse. The Cavs have become the favorite to reach the finals because their best in Irving and potentially the second best in Kyrie Irving.

This year, Boston has the second best player on the court in Lebron James and the second best games and for that reason, it is hard to dislike either one.