

# The Cowl

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## 100th Commencement Address

### The Return of Historian David McCullough



PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

Author and historian David McCullough will give the Commencement Address for the Class of 2018.

by Marla Gagne '18  
Editor in Chief

ON CAMPUS

Providence College has announced that highly acclaimed author and historian David McCullough will be presenting the Commencement Address at the College's 100th Commencement exercises.

McCullough, known as "one of the great American writers," is a highly respected teacher, lecturer, and television personality. The Pittsburgh native and Yale University alumnus has received two Pulitzer prizes for his biographies, *John Adams* and *Truman*, and was also awarded two National Book Awards and the Francis Parkman Prize. Additionally, McCullough received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award possible, under President George W. Bush in 2006.

The historian is known for his unique way of retelling history, bringing new understanding

to American life, and providing insight into the individuals' accomplishments, struggles, and hardships. This spirit was captured in his most recent book, the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *The Wright Brothers*, as well as works including *The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris, 1776*, *Johnstown Flood*, *The Great Bridge*, *The Path Between the Seas*, *Mornings on Horseback*, and *Brave Companions*. In honor of his work, McCullough has been honored with the National Book Foundation Distinguished Contribution to American Letters Award, the National Humanities Medal, and the Gold Medal for Biography given by the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

McCullough first became acquainted with PC in October of 2014, when he presented the keynote address at the dedication ceremony for the Ruane Center for the Humanities. In his remarks, McCullough stressed the importance of a liberal arts education and understanding the human side of history. "I feel to the depths of my being that this emblematic new

building is not only a step in the right direction for Providence College, but for our country," said McCullough. "We need to be reminded about who we are and how we got to be who we are."

Inspired by his colorful way of retelling history, Ann Manchester-Molak '75, assistant to the president and executive vice president/treasurer and chair of the commencement committee, knew that he would make the perfect speaker. "We actually offered him the position on the spot that year," said Manchester-Molak. Personal and professional commitments would make McCullough unable to commit not only for that year, but for the following years—until this year, that is.

Each year the commencement committee, made up of faculty, current students, administrators, and alumni, reviews all community suggestions and revisits approved candidates from past years who were not able to commit. When considering candidates, committee members look

to find a gifted speaker and someone who can "bring an inspiring message to the graduate class in their last lecture."

The committee was excited to find McCullough finally available, and believed his mix of teaching, entertainment, and moral fiber would set high expectations for the event. "He makes readers and audiences... recognize and understand that which is extraordinary about ordinary men and women," said Manchester-Molak.

Along with his literary works and academic pursuits, McCullough is also known for one of his physical traits—his voice. The storyteller is often recognized for his work hosting the *The American Experience* and narration in the movie *Seabiscuit*. His voice wowed the PC audience in his original keynote address. "I don't know what God is going to sound like when we finally get there, but it's either James Earl Jones or David McCullough," Father Brian Shanley, O.P., said.

Coming off an important centennial anniversary and the upcoming celebration of PC's 100th graduating class, Manchester-Molak and the committee felt McCullough would help the College "help us recognize our historic moment" with a "powerful speech."

And for those students who are unfamiliar with McCullough, Manchester-Molak suggests keeping an open mind. As students listen to their last lecture, she says to know that "McCullough will show you the value of history, [the value of] the education you were just given, and the excitement of the future."

McCullough, who has received 55 honorary degrees and will be receiving a doctor of letters honorary degree from PC, is one of six recipients receiving an honorary degree, including: Joseph P. Brum '68, the founding father of PC's alumni relations program; Brian Maher '68, former director of the Long Island Educational Opportunity Center at Farmingdale College; Larry Rachleff, former music director of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra; Lisa M. Schenck '83, associate dean for academic affairs at the George Washington University School of Law; and Beverly Daniel Tatum, a clinical psychologist, author, and former president of Spelman College.

The Commencement Ceremony will take place Sunday, May 20 at 11:00 a.m. at the Dunkin' Donuts Center, 1 LaSalle Square, Providence.

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Jessica Looney '20 runs the Boston Marathon to raise money for cancer.

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## Featured Friar: Ryan McSweeney '18 *BOP Puts on Third Annual Mr. Providence College*

by Hannah Langley '21  
News Staff

### FEATURED FRIAR

Last Friday night, Providence College held its “Mr. PC” competition, a fun-filled event and “night of hope for all you ladies,” according to Father Dominic Verner, O.P. One male senior from each of the major clubs and organizations on campus competed in various rounds to determine who was the best of the best. Ryan McSweeney '18, BOP's representative in the event, was reluctant about competing, saying, “A lot of people did get nominated by their clubs... I did not. I was just asked to step up and do it.” Despite this, however, the odds ended up being in his favor, as he came away with the title of Mr. PC 2018.

McSweeney is a marketing major who, along with being one of the leaders of BOP, is known as “DJ Chicken Parm” on PC's WDOM radio station. “My friends and I started our show sophomore year, and we wanted to think of the lamest DJ name,” McSweeney said, “so I suggested DJ Chicken Parm, and it stuck.” McSweeney began the competition strong, walking in to the song “Can't Tell Me Nothing” by Kanye West, dressed in a turtleneck, overalls, and gold chains. When asked why he chose the song, he answered, “It's like the biggest narcissist song, and I'm just like the most average human being of all time, so I thought it would be funny to come out and be like ‘I'm the man.’” The whole crowd began laughing and cheering as McSweeney entered.

The competition then proceeded with the talent portion, in which McSweeney used his creativity and ingenuity to come up with his talent, a PowerPoint presentation of “really good ideas.” When McSweeney was asked what he was going to do as his talent for Mr. PC, he figured he would do something different. “A lot of people do like singing and dancing and stuff,” he was saying, “but I'm just gonna make it a complete joke and have fun with it.” He explained how he has been keeping an idea journal since the beginning of freshman year, saying, “Basically, any time I thought of something funny or random, I wrote it down... you know like hypotheticals and stuff.” For his talent, McSweeney compiled some of his ideas, such as “SMOT, the opposite



McSweeney is crowned Mr. PC 2018. MAGGIE BRANHAM'18/THECOWL

charity of TOMS, playgrounds for adults, and KONY 2018, into a PowerPoint presentation that brought the entire audience to tears from laughter. He knew the presentation would be risky, but he figured, “If the crowd's into it and everyone's into it... the only one I'll really be disappointing is Fr. Dom.” Overall, the judges found the presentation to be a great success.

While McSweeney seemed confident and calm on stage, he was actually extremely nervous. “I genuinely thought there was a chance I would pass out or throw up on stage,” he said, “but like you can't win if you're in the ER.” Although he was nervous and anxious, he explained how he calmed himself down, saying, “I honestly thought I had no shot at winning, but I was

like, ‘This is just stupid, and I can have fun with it.’ That's why I was just having fun on stage.” He also mentioned how his friends were really excited when they found out he was participating in the competition. “My friends all came, and I knew they'd get a kick out of it,” he was saying, “They know I get nervous, so they were just hyping me up all day.” His friends continued to cheer and give him standing ovations all throughout the competition.

After the talent portion, the candidates were asked to come back on stage to answer one question each. McSweeney was asked which one word he would choose to describe himself best. “I said goofy, which is probably the goofiest answer I could have chosen,” McSweeney was saying. When asked why he chose that word, he said, “I don't know, it's just a funny word that describes something funny.” After the competition, though, McSweeney mentioned how he was between the words goofy and sweaty. “I went from wearing overalls and a long sleeve to a turtleneck to a tight tux, and I was so nervous, so I was just drenched,” he was saying, “but I just felt like I needed to give a genuine answer after that nonsensical PowerPoint.” Even though McSweeney was not thrilled with his answer, the judges seemed impressed with his overall performance, and (literally) crowned him with the title of Mr. PC.

Afterwards, McSweeney emphasized how he and all the other candidates just had fun with the whole competition. Being a senior, he talked about how he is going to really miss fun experiences like this and fun times with his friends. When asked what one of his favorite parts of the whole Mr. PC competition was, he talked about how he and Ben Capuano '18, his friend and fellow Mr. PC candidate, were having fun setting up beforehand. “He started playing piano and I was singing poorly,” he recounted, “I just had fun that half hour before, like messing around.” When asked what he's going to miss most after graduating, he replied, “I think it's gonna be living with my friends.” He then went on to say, “I lived in Aquinas, and doors were open all the time. Even now I live in a house with all my best friends. It's going to be weird not being with my friends all the time.” Above all else, McSweeney is grateful for the experience he has had being a member of BOP at PC and the amazing friends he has made these past four years.

## PC Raises \$1, 157,334 During Friars Give *Over 700 Current Students Donated to the College*

by Matthew Mazzella '20  
News Staff

### ON CAMPUS

On Thursday, April 5, Providence College held its second annual Friars Give fundraising event. The school's goal was to have all 3,989 students contribute, as well as parents and alumni, to help raise money for the Providence College experience.

Sarah Osowa, director of annual giving at PC, defined the meaning of the event by saying “this is PC's second annual day of giving. It is an opportunity to invite internal and external people of the Providence College community to make a collective impact by making a contribution of any size to support the future of PC. The hope is to get 3,989 student donations to unlock generous gifts from the board of trustees, a grand total of \$250,000. These funds would be used to support the student experience at Providence College.”

Between parents, alumni, and students, there was a total of 4,682 donors, and a grand total of \$1,157,334 raised. Specifically, there were 718 student donors, totaling \$19,500, and 655 parent donors, totaling \$164,000. The bulk of the donations came from



Students smile wide after donating during Friars Give.

NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THECOWL

alumni, as the classes of 1983 and 1988 totaled \$97,800 in donations over the course of the day.

When asked about the planning that took place to make this event possible, Osowa said, “For the past six months, a group of campus partners have worked to build awareness, help build activities, and promote the event externally to

parents and alumni who are a part of the Providence College community.” Osowa and the Friars Give team are trying to create a brand for this event by making this a day to give not only for the people on campus, but for parents and alumni to look forward to each year.

Thomas McMahon '20 said, “I chose

to give back to Providence College because of my love for the school. PC is my home away from home, so I felt it would only be right if I gave back to the school I love so much. I think every student should give some form of a donation. It doesn't have to be much, but a little donation can go a long way, and can truly make a difference for the future of this school.”

When Brendan Cooney '20 was asked why he chose not to donate, he responded, “I did not donate because I owe the government money for student loans because of the high tuition at this school. When I graduate and have a PC degree, I will gladly give back for future generations. But right now, I see my tuition as a donation in itself.”

Regardless of the amount of student donations, the day was a huge success. With over a million dollars raised, these funds will be going towards the student experience. The Friars Give event looks to build off this successful day of giving and look to make improvements to increase donations even more for next year. With the Friar community being so generous, PC looks to put this money to good use in the coming years to make sure every student embraces the true student experience of Providence College.



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## CAP AND GOWN DAY 2018

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Attendance is mandatory and a photo ID is required. Please notify the Office of College Events via e-mail at colevent@providence.edu or by phone at 401.865.2344 in advance if you are unable to attend.



# Senior Events: Cap & Gown Day

by Sarah Gianni '18  
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

As May quickly approaches, seniors at Providence College are preparing for the events and emotions encapsulated in senior week. The celebration spans from Monday, May 14 to Thursday, May 17, during which seniors will participate in a variety of activities leading up to commencement weekend.

Monday will consist of “Field Day,” a brand new event that has been added to the week by the Senior Week Core. Tuesday is “Special Events Night,” an opportunity for seniors to travel to a secret locale and enjoy a semi-formal dance. Wednesday consists of the “Day Event,” and Thursday is “Formal Night,” a formal dinner and dance held at Foxwoods Resort Casino.

“I’m most excited for the Special Events Night, because it is in a beautiful location and I think the two committee chairs have done a great job with making it their own,” said Samantha Keating ’18, marketing chair of the Senior Week Core.

Keating said she is also excited to reveal details of Field Day. “I can’t give any important information away, but I can tell you the Committee is working very hard to make the event fun and exciting,” she said.

Another significant senior event that precedes senior week is Cap and Gown Day on Wednesday, April 18. “Cap and Gown Day is a huge marriage of several different offices,” said Event Production Coordinator in the Office of College Events Amanda Talbot. “We have College Events for the planning and execution, the Dean’s and Enrollment Services offices for the data and support, and Financial Aid and Bursars for the nitty-gritty.”

In addition, there is the collaboration of Sodexo, Academic Media Services, Athletics, the campus bookstore, Career Education, Alumni Relations, and Annual Giving offices for support during the event itself.

The event will be held in ‘64 Hall from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Seniors will pick up their pre-ordered caps and gowns and honors cords, as well as additional commencement tickets and schedule cards.

“Students should put aside 10 to 20 minutes of their day to swing by and pick up their commencement materials,” said Talbot. “They can also expect a fun atmosphere with plenty of free food, music, goodies and a perfect place to walk around with friends.” Seniors who are education majors and student teach during the day, may come to room 412 in Harkins Hall the following week. All attire and materials will be available for those students between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

There are a few resources seniors have access to in order to stay up to date on senior week and commencement events. “As Marketing Chair, I am in charge of all of the marketing materials and social media accounts for Senior Week,” said Keating. “Students are encouraged to follow our Instagram page (@pcseniorweek) in order receive details and quick updates on all events.”

Additionally, seniors and their families can refer to the Student’s Guide to Commencement that was mailed home to all 2018 graduates. This packet is also available to access online at any time. “This year, we are also launching the use of our Event App through Guidebook,” said Talbot. “Students can search for “Providence College Events:” in their phone’s app store, download our app, and stay up to date on all Commencement 2018 specifics, updates, and resources.”

# PC Proud: The Importance of Being an Ally

by Sabrina Guilbeault '18  
News Editor

ON CAMPUS

As part of the "PC's Proud" Week put on by the Board of Programmers and SHEPARD, Paige Clausius-Parks '03, one of the student leaders who brought SHEPARD into fruition on campus, spoke on Monday night regarding the importance of being an ally for members of the LGBTQ+ community.

PC’s Proud, a series of events promoting visibility, normality, and appreciation of the student body at Providence College, also included a workshop on being an ally yesterday in McPhail’s. They will sponsor the event “Tell Your Story,” where students will be able to share their experiences in an open mic setting, and will be encouraged to engage and discuss love, sexual diversity, and gender identity.

Clausius-Parks kicked off the event by explaining that she is no expert in being an ally. “I just work really hard, think about it, and write about it,” she said. She encouraged the students at the event to listen and ask questions such as, “What does it mean to be brave?,” “Why do we stand up for others?,” and "How do we get that courage?"

She insisted that she did not want to receive all the credit for bringing SHEPARD to campus back in 2003, and stated it was the allies who allowed her and her peers to move forward. She talked about the different types of allies she encountered, such as the 200 “passive allies” who signed the petition saying they believe SHEPARD should be a club

on campus. The “silent allies,” such as the friar who told her to keep up the good work as she walked by him on campus, and the “allies of influence” such as the president of her class in Student Congress, who told his peers at a meeting that SHEPARD needed to be on campus.

As a public and community service major while at PC, Clausius-Parks explained that she was estatic that she was able to take what she was passionate about and turn it into a career. “I learned a lot about courage,” she said. “It’s belief in something larger than ourselves and finding comfort in the discomfort.” Clausius-Parks currently works at Books are Wings, a literacy non-profit organization in Rhode Island that provides books to children across the state.

At the end of her story, she welcomed questions from the audience and even asked questions of the students present. She explained that one of the biggest aspects of being an ally is promising to do better next time. She believes there is no such thing as a missed opportunity, and going back to a conversation after accidentally saying the wrong thing is extremely powerful.

“Plug into what is happening,” she said. “Keep reflecting and get into your own groove. Not everyone has the same experience as you do.”

When asked if she ever felt like giving up during her mission to get SHEPARD onto campus, she admitted that there times that were very difficult, and she was so thankful for her roommates who supported her, but she never wanted to quit. “Giving up just makes it so much harder for the next person,” she said.

# A Comprehensive Look at What The Heath Center Offers *What Students Can Get Out of a Trip to the Health Center*

by Hannah Langley '21  
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

The Health and Counseling Centers, located in Lower Bedford Hall, are provided by the school and students can rely on them for various incidents and services. These services are all included in the cost of tuition, meaning general appointments, whether for medical reasons or counseling, are at no additional cost to the student. Because these appointments are cost effective and easily accessible to students, Catherine Kelleher, RN, Director of Health Services and Dr. Rosemary Mugan PsyD, Director of Personal Counseling Center, have explained and expanded upon information students should know so they can remain healthy and happy during their time at PC.

Why do more students seem to not take advantage of the health staff at PC? While talking to some students, a recurring idea that the health center is ineffective and unhelpful kept coming up. To address this, Kelleher answered, “College students’ schedules are crazy. It can be hard to keep up with both the schoolwork and staying healthy.” She explained how getting sick, especially during freshman year, is extremely common and expected.

She also explained why it is sometimes hard to diagnose certain illnesses, saying, “The average cold is 12 days, and the average cough is three weeks. A high percentage of students will also get mono by the time they leave. If we can help it, it’s better not to treat with antibiotics if the symptoms initially look like something that will get better in time.”

Another frequent comment among students was that they were not sure exactly how the Health Center handles laboratory tests and other tests, such as X-rays and STD screenings. “If a student has a lab order from a primary care physician, they can come to Health Services,” Kelleher explained. However, Kelleher expands, “Should a student need lab work, off-campus

X-rays, ER visits, or a referral to a Specialist their medical insurance will be charged.” Despite this extra fee, though, the Health Center does work in partnership with a Providence taxi service and will provide a voucher for any off-campus treatment needed, such as for physical therapy appointments or X-rays.

For students concerned about STD screening and testing, Kelleher assured that such tests are done confidentially. She also mentioned that testing and screening for STDs can even be kept confidential with the front desk when making an appointment and be disclosed during the appointment to the health care provider.

In cases of sexual assault, Kelleher said, “I think if someone comes here first, it’s easier to facilitate the incident.” In the case of female sexual assault, Kelleher highly recommends going to Women and Infants (WAI), which can be found in the same complex as Rhode Island Hospital, and recommends males go to Rhode Island Hospital. “We have to fill out a report in cases of sexual assault or any violent act,” Kelleher explained, “but a name is never given under the Clery Act and Title IX.”

“Ultimately, who the student goes to first is up to the them,” Kelleher said. “They can go to the dean or counseling first, but I recommend an STD screening for any student sexually assaulted.”

The Personal Counseling Center is also a helpful, yet underutilized, option for students. Mugan mentioned some of the most common reasons students come to the Counseling Center, which include adjustment issues, depression, anxiety, eating disorders, and grief. Generally, students can get an appointment within a week or so after calling, or can be sooner in urgent cases. “Counseling sessions are typically between 45-50 minutes,” Mugan explained, “and are confidential within the limits of the law and professional ethics, [which] includes what is said... [and] even attendance.” Mugan mentioned that students typically attend six to seven sessions, however, these are “based on each individual student's needs.”

Mugan also talked about how the Counseling Center



NORA JOHNSON'20/THECOWL

The health center offers a variety of resources.

works throughout the campus community, saying, “We do quite a bit of prevention and outreach programming with other organizations on campus.” Mugan addressed the issue with students not wanting to come into the Counseling Center, saying, “Sometimes students will say that they don’t want to come in because they wonder if their concerns are not ‘bad enough’ compared to their peers.” Mugan highly recommends making an appointment before the situation becomes too stressful, though, saying, “We encourage students to make an appointment at any point of their college career... even before something turns into a crisis in hopes that we can help maximize self-care and coping skills.”

In regards to both the Health and Personal Counseling Center students can easily make appointments by either calling or walking in, and appointments are available from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday with no additional charge for students. In cases of emergency, the school provides after hour services Monday through Friday and 24 hour EMT availability on the weekends. Students can contact the Health Center by calling (401)-865-2422 and the Personal Counseling Center by calling (401)-865-2343.



# Diversity and Inclusion Committee Puts on Second Teach-In *The College Discusses Ways to Become a Beloved Community*

by **Darren Squillace '19**  
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

Students at Providence College, whether freshmen or seniors, were all once faced with the difficult and imposing decision during high school of choosing a school at which they would spend their next four years. Many students, while excited to have made the decision to become future Friars, were still nervous about if they had made the right decision or not, how they would adapt to living in a totally new and different college atmosphere, and how they would integrate ourselves into the PC community. The theme at the Teach-In that was held on Monday is that here at PC, students are more than just parts of a larger community, they are truly part of one big “Friar Family.”

The teach-in was the second of such events PC has hosted this year, as the one held prior to Monday had been highly productive. The event is part of a broader initiative set forth by Rev. Dr. Bernice A. King at the College's convocation for her father, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., which called for a “beloved community.” In what turned out to be a larger crowd than the previous event, the teach-in hosted a variety of not only student's, but faculty and administration as well. Students sat with a mix of both student and administrators.

The goal of this event was to address possible shortcomings that our PC community has faced in trying to foster both a diverse and inclusive



**Fr. Nowell and Devon Guanci '19 listen to members at their table discuss what a beloved community entails.**

NORA JOHNSON '20/THE COWL

community. There were a variety of different issues brought up by each table. One of the most notable issues was the fact that many felt that as students entering the College as freshmen perhaps there could have been more programs or activities to help get students engaged with this message of inclusion. There were countless examples, including Moore Hall which had been discussed at length at one table, where there has potentially been a lapse in communication between students and as to what these resources

signify within the PC community.

The lack of understanding that these programs and resources are actually meant to foster more inclusion among members of our community was surprising to the administrators that students interacted with. While there was obviously significant progress made towards reaching the goal of a beloved community set by Bernice King, it was also evident that there is still much work to be done by all members and groups on campus to reach a complete state of unity.

## What Have We Missed? Content Covered During The Cowl’s Hiatus

### *Bulliten Board Updates*

by **Sabrina Guilbeault '18 & Marla Gagne '18**  
News Editor & EIC

ON CAMPUS

In the weeks following the display of the bulletin board in St. Joseph Hall at Providence College on March 2, the controversy has sparked great backlash from students, faculty, alumni, and local media and received both criticism and praise.

The board was displayed by Resident Assistant Michael Smalanskas '18, and represented the Catholic Church's vision of marriage as a sacrament performed by one man and woman, and contained the statement, “Marriage, the way God intended it.”

Due to the controversy following this board, Jana Valentine, director of residence life, made a joint decision with her staff to suspend the use of bulletin boards for communication until a task force can more properly define a function and purpose for the boards.

Smalanskas explained that his intention was to proudly display Catholic teaching on a Catholic campus and to expose the double standard he finds at the College that does not protect conservative views in the same way as others. “A good example of this is the pro-same sex ‘marriage’ bulletin board on display in McVinney in February,” wrote Smalanskas in an email responding to The Cowl's questions. “I have been accused of abusing my power and promoting hatred by displaying pro-traditional marriage views, but this other resident assistant was not.”

A summary of the initial events that occurred within the first week of the board's installation, including a Board of Multicultural Student

Affairs (BMSA) meeting in which Kristine Goodwin, vice president of student affairs, addressed student concerns, was reported by The Cowl and can be found here: <https://www.thecowl.com/featured/bulletin-board-controversy>.

Since the publication of the initial article, the controversy has continued to gain attention from outside media, and the College has made additional statements regarding the incident. A recent report from the National Catholic Register cited Smalanskas as stating that a Title IX investigation is underway to investigate a cartoon depicting Smalanskas being sodomized, which was found in his dorm bathroom of St. Joseph Hall in the following days since the bulletin board was put up.

A majority of the articles published regarding the controversy can be found on the Facebook page, “Make PC Catholic Again,” which was created and run by Smalanskas to “provide the most recent news about the developing situation at PC.” In the description of the page, it is stated that “Make PC Catholic Again” is not meant to be an open forum on the topic.

“It is meant to be a place where all news coverage of the situation can be found in one place,” said Smalanskas. Some students who have left comments to the page have voiced concerns that their voices are “silenced” when their comments are deleted. “All comments, whether they are supportive of me or adamantly opposed to what I’ve done, are deleted,” said Smalanskas in response...

*Full article available online at <https://www.thecowl.com/featured/bulletin-board-update>.*

### *PC Marches Against Transphobia and Homophobia*

by **Sabrina Guilbeault '18**  
News Editor

ON CAMPUS

At approximately 6:00 p.m. on Friday, March 23, close to 200 students gathered outside the front doors of the Slavin Center for a March Against Transphobia and Homophobia at Providence College.

The march was organized by SHEPARD, a student organization and support group for members of the LGBTQ+ community. SHEPARD's overall mission is to build a safe, welcoming environment within the club and larger PC community. The executive board of the club invited panelists to speak at the end of the march in the Ruane Center for the Humanities, which included Kristine Goodwin, vice president of student affairs, Tiffany Gaffney '03, assistant dean of students, and Dr. Christopher Arroyo, associate professor of philosophy.

The PC community was invited to the march via an informational email sent by Mallari Bosque '18, SHEPARD president. “Please stand with Shepard in solidarity with love and respect,” the email stated. “The purpose of this march is to affirm LGBTQ+ members of the Providence College community and to recognize their experiences of homophobia and transphobia as valid.”

Many assumed that the march was a reaction to the recent bulletin board that was hung in St. Joseph Hall that said, “Marriage, the Way God Intended It,” promoting the Catholic Church's doctrine on marriage as being between one man and one woman. For more on that story, please refer to the following

link: <https://www.thecowl.com/featured/bulletin-board-controversy>.

Michael Smalanskas '18, the resident assistant who put the bulletin board up on his floor, stated that he too thought the march was organized in reaction to that said board. “Many have considered my bulletin board homophobic and an act of hate speech,” he said, explaining that to support traditional marriage is in no way to be homophobic. “People are free to protest, but there should be a basic understanding from students and faculty at this college that Catholic beliefs are not hate speech.”

In an email to student leaders including members of the Board Multicultural Student Affairs, Student Congress, and Residence Life, Goodwin acknowledged the bulletin board controversy and said, “I believe we need to treat each other with respect at all times.” She went on to explain that she hopes the community would join her in being open to dialogue so that it can be informed and effective “allies and educators,” and said a way to do that was to walk in solidarity with SHEPARD “promoting unity, affirmation, and inclusion even amidst controversy.”

As participants gathered, students distributed rainbow stickers that said, “Hate is Not a PC Value.” Others held signs with messages such as “Love is Love,” “If God Hates Gays Why'd He Make Us So Cute,” “Jesus Had Two Dads and He Turned Out Fine,” and “Ignorance is Often Disguised as Tradition.”

*Full article available online at <https://www.thecowl.com/featured/pc-community-marches-against-transphobia-and-homophobia>.*





by Connor Nolan '19  
Student Congress Publicity

CONGRESS

This week the Congress welcomed Fr. Kenneth Sicard, O.P., executive vice president treasurer of Providence College, to speak during its general meeting on Tuesday, April 11. He spoke on a variety of topics to kick off the meeting including the recent external review performed regarding the Development of Western Civilization curriculum. Fr. Sicard said that there have been small changes as a result of the review, and he hopes they continue to include some neglected cultures and ideas. In addition, he spoke briefly about the changes to the elementary and special education department under Dr. Vance Morgan. He then shifted the topic towards the diversity panel on campus in which students and faculty members work together in order to increase the College’s cultural agility.

Fr. Sicard stated that he is very happy with the College's work to hire a new vice president of institutional diversity, a search that is still ongoing. He went into depth about some of the recent hires and other ongoing interview processes as well. Fr. Sicard wanted more students on campus to be involved in the open interviews where students are asked to be an important part of the decision-making process.

He then spoke about how his goal is for the diversity panel to shift more towards being proactive rather than always reacting to problems that arise. This had become a goal for him after a lot of the issues they have had to react to this year and seeing how many

# Congress Updates

## Notes from Tuesday, April 10, 2018

members of the community still feel hurt by the words or actions of others. He talked about the development of a new strategic plan for the College, adding, “Despite progress we think we made we still have a long way to go.” Fr. Sicard also talked shortly about Rev. Father Brian J. Shanley’s, O.P., sabbatical, and how he will be taking over Fr. Shanley's role as president of the College during that time.

He then fielded questions from the Congress. One question regarded Moore Hall and some of the issues that have arisen since its opening. Fr. Sicard and Dean Sears alluded to the fact that a hiring has taken place for a director of programming and any other issues and promised to look into some of the structural issues raised about the building. Another question regarded the accessibility for students with disabilities on campus. He answered that he assumed that work was done on this during construction and renovations that have taken place.

The conversation then shifted to questions regarding tuition and financial aid at PC. He stated that they have had people come in and suggest that keeping competitive pricing with our “competitors” is very important and that a high percentage of tuition raises are put into financial aid. One student pointed out that this leads to an almost endless cycle of increases to the price of the school, a price that has increased 60 percent in almost 10 years. He also admitted that he was not the best person to speak to about this and suggested students speak to John Sweeney, chief financial officer, regarding these issues. Fr. Sicard also said an important aspect of increasing financial aid is to increase

the endowment, something that is very important to the College.

The Congress also welcomed Dr. Nick Longo, a professor from the public and community service department to speak shortly following Fr. Sicard about his support for a piece of legislation that was presented later. The piece regarded the shifting of the allocation of the funds received from the Dunkin' Donuts on campus.

During announcements, the class of 2019 advertised that they will be hosting a junior night on April 27 in McPhail’s, be on the lookout for times.

Student Life will be meeting with the head of Raymond Hall on Friday and are open to suggestions via email.

The Academics Committee spoke to the recent attempts to create a Global Studies minor on campus. Those presenting the idea to the College are looking for feedback before they present to the department on April 25.

The Board of Programmers will be hosting *Chopped: Dorm Room Edition* this coming Saturday at 8:30 p.m. in McPhail’s.

Legislation was presented to help streamline the process for presenting legislation and avoid subjects that have already been covered in the past. Rather than asking if and how it will be implemented after a vote is passed, it will streamline and improve the process by going through the necessary channels. It will allow the committees of Congress whose work it pertains to offer help and guidance in their area of expertise. The vote was passed.

The first piece of new business regarded the aforementioned reallocation of funds the school collects from Dunkin' Donuts to be applied to a class

offered at the College which invests money in programs to improve local communities. The class gives a grant to an organization and does thorough work to choose to whom the money will be given. For instance, this year the class used their money to help people in local communities meet their basic needs.

The second piece of legislation regarded the offering of a first aid and health course here at Providence College. The presenters wished for support from the student body due to members of the administration pushing back against the idea due to liability issues. They foresaw this class as a one credit course that teaches basic first aid to have going forward in life with possible certifications possibly being offered as well.

Another piece regarded the allowance for graduate students to utilize the Health Center and Personal Counseling Center on campus. The Committee of Health Policy and Dr. James Campbell have been looking into this, and the piece was presented to show student support. Its passing would allow these issues to be further explored and discussed.

The final piece of new legislation regarded internal elections policies for the Congress. It would not allow a member of the elections committee to work on the election and its outcomes if they have formally endorsed a candidate who is running. This led to some questions as to logistics, but the presenters reiterated that this piece was not necessary due to anything that has happened recently, but it is to avoid Congress ever being tarnished or made to look bad in the future.

# PC Students Reflect on March for Our Lives

## Student Activists Travel to D.C. For March Against Gun Violence

by Catherine Brewer '20  
News Staff

OFF CAMPUS

On Saturday, March 24, students took charge of the fight for tighter gun control by leading the March For Our Lives, both in Washington, D.C., which drew a crowd of over two million, and at sister marches worldwide, including one at the Rhode Island Statehouse in Providence. Beginning at 12 p.m. in Washington and 1 p.m. in Providence, the marches featured youth speakers from a variety of different backgrounds who advocated for an end to gun violence and mourned the loss of victims. The march came just five weeks after the mass shooting that took the lives of 17 students and staff at Marjory Stoneman Douglas (MSD) High School in Parkland, Florida on Feb. 14.

Several Providence youth organizations worked together to bring local youth to the march, including the Providence Student Union, Providence Youth Student Movement and the Providence Chapter of the NAACP Youth and College Division. As a member of the executive board of Providence College’s NAACP, Stachel Roberts ’18 had the opportunity to spend the day in Washington.

“Although I am confident in the efforts, I fear that the cycle we have been in as a country when these shootings happen has the possibility occur if interest is lost. This movement like others is just seen like a cool thing to be apart of for some, but this is truly a movement for our lives and with the youth that are involved and continue to be empowered by this movement change can happen.”

In the wake of the shooting, MSD students responded quickly to organize a campaign and events to advocate for tighter gun control. The March For Our Lives was announced on Feb. 18. On Feb. 21, student representatives questioned Florida Senator Marco Rubio and National Rifle

Association spokeswoman Dana Loesch about their positions on gun control and the relationship between politicians and the NRA at a *CNN* town hall.

On March 14, MSD students partnered with Women’s March Youth to organize the #Enough National School Walkout, during which students around the country walked out of their institutions for 17 minutes at 10 a.m. in memory of the MSD shooting and to call for politicians to pass stricter gun laws. According to the #Enough website, the specific demands called for a ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines, the expansion of background checks to all gun sales, a new gun violence restraining order law, and to put an end to the militarization of law enforcement. These demands were reinforced by the March.

To gather funds to finance the march in Washington, MSD student Cameron Kasky created a GoFundMe page that amassed over \$3.5 million in one month. The fundraiser attracted celebrity donors such as Oprah Winfrey and Steven Spielberg. New England Patriots CEO Robert Kraft also sponsored MSD students by allowing them to fly with their families on one of his planes to the march.

At marches worldwide, powerful speakers, many of them not yet teenagers, took the podium to lift up the masses and call for inclusion in the fight against gun violence. “I was truly excited to go to this march because I was excited to see the youth that would be present,” said Roberts. “This is a movement of young people and they have done an amazing job in recognizing that they are following up the work of BLM and other POC movements that are comprised of young people. The diversity of speakers from Chicago to the suburbs of Florida were represented.”

Along with MSD student Emma Gonzalez, Roberts applauded 9-year-old Yolanda Renee King, the granddaughter of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. “Her presence alone and her chant was such a

full circle experience,” explained Roberts. “And to see a young black girl so empowered and motivated to make a difference really struck me.”

In Providence, the march featured speeches from Rhode Island politicians, including Governor Gina Raimondo and Rhode Island Senator, Sheldon Whitehouse, as well as students, such as Halima Ibrahim, a sophomore at the Islamic School of Rhode Island. Her poem “Wake Up” created an uproar of cheers from the crowd. “You are leaving the country in our hands. Soon it’s going to be us calling the shots. And there will be no more shots,” concluded Ibrahim.

Gabriella Lunati ’21 felt uplifted by the enthusiasm and rally signs at the Providence march. She explained how she met two elementary school art teachers bearing signs that read, "Paint brushes not bullets" and "Draw pictures not guns, no fear in my classroom." “I was especially touched by these two women as their input was so powerful and simplistic,” said Lunati. “Teachers and students are the most involved in these recurring issues of school shootings and it is necessary that their needs and demands are considered first and foremost.”

Reflecting on their experiences at the marches, Roberts and Lunati both advocated for the continued involvement of supporters in the movement, especially students. “The youth stressed the need to vote and to pressure Congress, who would be on recess after the march, to finally make a change,” expressed Roberts.

The next major demonstration organized by the March for Our Lives committee is the National School Walkout, which will be held across the country at 10 a.m. on April 20. Lunati encourages all to attend and show solidarity. “Our representation is crucial in forming or starting to spark any sort of change,” stated Lunati. “Together, our voices are made stronger and in our own spirits we become positive and exposed to the many other stories that should not go unheard.”



# Inside Mental Illness Event Calls to Reduce Stigma

## Students Gather to Hear Stories of Hope and Support

by Alexandra Huzyk '20  
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

What initially started in 1979 as a support group for mothers with children who had been diagnosed with schizophrenia, has become what is known as the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). This organization now offers various programs and services, including support groups and classes, for people who have been diagnosed with various forms of mental illness as well as their family members.

On Wednesday, April 4, an event was held by Active Minds, the psychology department, and the Personal Counseling Center. Members of the Rhode Island Chapter of NAMI came to Providence College to educate students about the stigma surrounding around mental illness and provide testimonies of hope. Three speakers shared their respective experiences with bipolar disorder, anxiety, and schizophrenia.

"Mental illnesses are biological, and often hereditary, so it's not as if you're making a conscious decision to become sick," said one of the presenters. Oftentimes, traumatic situations can trigger the symptoms of mental illnesses. Onset symptoms usually occur in people who are between the ages of 18 and 25.

The first speaker, Seth Akers-Campbell, is a current graduate student at Brown University who has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder. He said that when he was younger, he had no particular reasons to be depressed, but he was. He shared that he channeled his emotions into his schoolwork and sports, and so his symptoms went unnoticed for a long period of time. In his sophomore year of college, his depression was triggered by a long snow storm. He described his symptoms as, "the loss of all motivation, the inability to get out of bed," and that eventually, "death takes over your whole brain, it's all you think about." After this occasion, he finally sought out help and was diagnosed with major depressive disorder.

However, the medication that was prescribed to



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW'20/THE COWL

Speakers shared their experience and work with mental illness.

Akers-Campbell was ineffective and he suffered from constant side effects. Akers-Campbell said, "About a year later, after I began my medication, I snapped, and that was my first manic episode." As a person who has bipolar disorder, Akers-Campbell has episodes of both depression and mania. "It's the opposite of depression," Akers-Campbell says about mania. "You always have to be doing something, even if that means not getting any sleep. You don't get the usual negative reinforcement, so you don't feel bad and so nothing ever tells you to stop." After a long road of trial and error with various medications, he says that he finally found a combination that subdues his symptoms and allows him to live his life.

One student asked Akers-Campbell what they should do if they think a friend might be mentally ill. "The best thing that you can do as a friend is get them help," Akers-Campbell said in response. "You may think that they will hate you for a little bit, and they will, but then they'll love you forever."

Another speaker, Lea Knizek '17, shared her experience with anxiety. She said that her symptoms were triggered during a rough start on the first day of high school, when

she experienced a panic attack for the first time. "My heart was beating so, so fast and my skin felt like it was ripping off and my bones were breaking," she recalled. After going to the nurse and being sent back to class, she ignored her symptoms and chose not to tell her parents because she felt that they would be disappointed in her. In order to combat what she felt, Knizek says that she always kept busy, but, "I was so drained that I couldn't live in the present moment and was constantly thinking about what could go wrong."

After graduating high school and choosing to attend PC, Knizek says that her symptoms returned and she developed an eating disorder. She was so nervous to talk during her Development of Western Civilization seminar that her grade plummeted and she received a letter that she was on academic probation. On top of this, she began to withdraw from her friends, quit dancing, became obsessed with going to the gym, and almost stopped eating entirely. She says that when things got really bad, one of her friends sat her down and she was able to share everything that she had been suppressing for so long. Her friend urged her to go the Counseling Center, and so she went. Although she did not enjoy going to counseling at first, Knizek shared that she was able to talk to someone without judgement and that she learned different techniques to manage her anxiety.

The last speaker, Walker Goncalves, shared his story about living with schizophrenia. He recalled having heard voices, always being paranoid, and being depressed. "When I went to school, the voices started accumulating and I started doing horrific things," said Goncalves. After struggling to graduate high school and to maintain a steady job, Goncalves continued to have trouble controlling his emotions. When he was 24, he was jumped and called the Providence Center, a mental health facility, asking for help and saying that he wanted to get revenge on all of the bullies in his life. He was mentally evaluated, and was diagnosed with schizophrenia.

"I started a whole new life after I got my medication," said Goncalves. "I don't think it's a burden being schizophrenic, I think it's a gift from God that I can go around and talk to people."

# Bursting the PC Bubble: Zuckerberg on Trial

## A News Brief on Regulating Social Media Platforms

by Ernie Andreoli '18  
News Staff

WORLD NEWS

Roughly 87 million American Facebook users had their data gathered by Cambridge Analytica and a British-based data firm as a part of a political consulting work, which included President Donald Trump's campaign operation. In light of the revelations first published by *The New York Times* and *The Observer* last month, several U.S. state attorney generals have begun investigations into Cambridge Analytica's misuse of tens of millions of Facebook users' personal data.

In addition, Facebook has suspended Cambridge Analytica from its site for violating its terms of service and Cambridge Analytica's Board of Directors has suspended CEO Alexander Nix from the company. Multiple undercover reports stated that Nix instructed his inferiors to bribe politicians for partnership purposes, and the benefit of the company's development of a database that captured psychological profiles of American voters.

According to several confidential reports, the political consulting firm attracted conservative campaign teams with avant-garde data collection tools that allowed them to compete with Democratic opponents in the 2016 presidential campaign. In an interview with *The New York Times* last month, Christopher Wylie, a whistleblower who helped found the political consulting firm and worked there until 2014, stated: "Rules do not matter for them. For them, this is a war and it is

all fair." In a February 2016 interview with NPR, Nix disclosed that the company worked with information technology researchers to develop a "120-question survey" with the intent to "probe personality" by presenting this survey to thousands of Americans. Nix acknowledged that the company asked a series of behavioral questions in order to create personality models for prospective voters.

Records investigated by the *Times* revealed that around 300,000 people took this survey. While the story continues to unfold day by day, what is known is the fact that Aleksandr Kogan, a researcher affiliated with Cambridge University, created an app that allowed access to users' Facebook accounts. The data, which was intended for academic purposes, included details about users' friends, education, location, occupation, relationship status, and pages liked.

On April 4, Facebook disclosed that Kogan's data transaction to Cambridge Analytica included as many as 87 million users. However, at the time of the reported leak last month, Facebook projected that only roughly 50 million users could have been affected. While Nix and other spokespeople for the company denied receiving or using the Facebook data during a Parliament hearing in February, the *Times* obtained a statement from the company in March stating that the company did receive Kogan's data, but deleted the compilation after realizing that the undertaking could lead to infringements on privacy laws, and the illegality of hiring foreign consultants in political campaigns.

In Dec. 2017, Special Counsel Robert Mueller requested that Cambridge Analytica turn over employees' emails and other undisclosed documents as a part of an effort to investigate the Trump campaign's data operation. While the special counsel's strategy remains largely concealed to the public, anonymous sources revealed to the *Times* last month that Cambridge Analytica had previously held business ties with Russian and Ukrainian affiliates. In regards to how Facebook fares in this situation, the company acknowledged that it first knew about the data mishap in Dec. 2015, and only started notifying users whose data was compromised on April 9. On Tuesday, Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's founder, testified before a joint session of the Senate commerce and judiciary committees.

While Zuckerberg admitted personal responsibility for the company's handling of user data and pledged to resolve the situation from ever occurring again, the hearing brought to light the issues facing social media platforms: the transparency of users' consent with private social media platforms, and privacy.

"We are in an age where storing and processing data has never been cheaper," noted Dr. Adam Villa, an associate professor of computer science at Providence College. Prior to this leak, Villa believed that information technology and social media companies could store data with a lack of concern for users' information. Yet, it remains unknown at this moment what federal oversight could look like. While Zuckerberg hinted that the company

could be open to a variation of the European Union's Data Protection Directive, a statute that regulates the harvesting of personal data, Villa maintained that the majority of data processing covertly occurs behind the scenes. "Internet users must have the mentality that anything could be tracked, traced or used for some uncharted purpose."

Dr. Matthew Guardino, an assistant professor of political science at Providence College, believes that Zuckerberg's testimony will lead to more dialogue about the business models of social media networks on the internet, but that this conversation has been "far overdue" at the congressional level. Guardino insisted that Democrats and Republicans have been adverse to media regulation for various political purposes, but he noted that "public opinion on this issue will affect future regulatory outcomes."

In regards to what type of restrictions would be constitutional to enact on social media companies, Guardino stated that because there have been different first amendment interpretations floating around in the courts, a straightforward regulatory plan of action is not set in stone. In addition to determining how to better protect users' data, the hearing held powerful political implications. Guardino raised an important inquiry that remains dubious: "How comfortable are we with data being used to manipulate us and to hold certain opinions?" This question remains at the forefront of policymakers' agendas in Britain and the United States.



## The Exorbitant Cost of Senior Week

by Lela Biggus '18  
Opinion Staff

CAMPUS

The chaos of planning ahead for senior week has begun. Ticket sales are now underway and the unnecessary stress of coordinating a table with exactly nine friends is setting in. One may be looking at the overall cost of the impending festivities and feeling overwhelmed, ill, or downright angry.

Providence College seniors have a reason to be offended. This is the time of year when nostalgia kicks into overdrive and brings with it an urge to take advantage of every last moment of our last month at this school.

This means that, while no one really wants to spend \$75 on a ticket, which goes towards entry into the week's events as well as refreshments and meals, no one wants to miss out on the events of senior week. It feels like we have no other choice but to fork over the money, purchase our tickets, hotel rooms, tuxes, multiple dresses, shoes, and any other accessories the week may require.

However, this is also the time of year when seniors are looking toward the future, and the future is expensive. Many are applying for jobs or graduate school, some are looking for apartments, and most have crippling student loan debt.

Because life is expensive and the



Students wait in line to buy senior week tickets.

TAYLOR GODFREY '19/THE COWL

transition to post-graduation life can be especially unaffordable, it is wise to consider ways to save money even while the social pressures of senior week demand otherwise.

Let us begin with this problem of hotel rooms. If you are looking at those room prices and feeling duped, you are not alone. It would seem to be entirely unfair for an event to be located at

Foxwoods Casino in Connecticut and for seniors to be given no affordable way back to campus that same night.

There are a few known alternative, like to sleep on the roof of the casino. It is roomy, romantic, and with temperatures rising by the day, there is only a 50 percent chance of snow. Your second option is to never get off the bus in the first place. Presumably,

the bus company hired to take seniors to Foxwoods is going to be somewhat local to the Providence College campus. Hitching a ride back to Rhode Island before Formal Night even begins is a surefire way to save.

Another lament of senior students is the number of dresses required for the week's various events. What you can and should do is dig deep into your closet and resurrect that old Senior Ring Weekend dress. It may not be the norm to wear the same dress to two events in one year, but it should be. There is no reason to buy another floor-length gown just to wear it once, spill beverages on it, and never wear it ever again.

Apart from the cost, this kind of behavior can lead to environmental crisis. 14 million tons of unwanted clothing are discarded each year in the United States. Do not add to this climate disaster! You may be thinking, "I'll just donate my old dress to a second-hand store." Wrong! In fact, roughly 84 percent of our discarded or donated clothing ends up in landfills or incinerators. So you are not only paying an outrageous amount, but adding to environmental waste as well.

However, even if there is no need for a hotel room and your dress stress is taken care of, there unfortunately does not appear to be a way around that initial \$75 ticket cost.

## Ending the Stigma *Mental Health is Just as Important as Physical Health*

by Hannah Paxton '19  
Asst. Opinion Editor

HEALTH

"Mental illness has nothing to do with if you'll be successful or not," said Brown University graduate student, Seth Akers-Campbell. Last Wednesday's "Inside Mental Illness" event, presented by the National Alliance on Mental Illness, featured Akers-Campbell and other speakers who shared their personal experiences with various mental illnesses. They emphasized the importance of recognizing one's worth regardless of their mental health.

While their stories were all different, one common theme among them was the ignorance and stigma associated with mental illnesses. Many do not realize that mental illnesses are in fact biological and hereditary, even if symptoms are not yet present in early childhood. Because symptoms are not always obvious, it is easy to think that depression, anxiety, or other disorders are something that can be managed effortlessly.

However, this is not the case. When listening to the story of someone who experiences mental illness, it becomes apparent that it can be just as inhibiting as any physical disorder.

"From the outside in, it didn't look like anything," Akers-Campbell said when explaining how he first discovered that he had a major depressive disorder. When someone has depression, the signs will not always be overt. They could appear to be perfectly fine at school, showing no indication of feeling unwell. But then when they are at home, they isolate themselves in their room, go long periods of time without eating, or display a lack of concentration.

Because the majority of the symptoms are not

overtly recognizable, depression is often not taken as seriously as a bodily affliction, like a broken leg or having the flu. When signs are largely ambiguous, one might feel as though no one truly understands the gravity of their situation.

People with mental illnesses are often labeled as "lazy" or "pessimistic" when they should be "lively" and "motivated," as though their attitude is something that can be changed with a few words of encouragement. But to ask that of someone with depression is like asking someone with a broken hand to write their name.

When Lea Knizek '17 shared her background with anxiety, she noted how hopeless and insignificant she felt, and how she never told anyone about her situation until her sophomore year of college. If you are not personally experiencing a mental illness, it is hard to fully

comprehend just how much it affects your life.

Society tends to brush mental illness under the rug, away from discussion. But we cannot truly understand it if we do not take the time to listen to those who have anxiety, depression, and other mental disorders. When we listen, we realize that it is wrong to use mental illness as a measure of worth or success.

Even when life is difficult, people with mental illness should not be judged on whether or not they have a stable job, financial balance, or other indicators of a "successful" life. Perhaps they are still living at home after school, or maybe they are taking a semester off. This does not mean that they are lazy, but rather that they are getting the treatment they really need. As Knizek said, "If you're at the end of your rope, things do get better."



Jeremiah S. Rainville, Dana Dillon, Michelle Bouchard, Lisa Laurie, and Lea Knizek from the Rhode Island chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).

PHOTO COURTESY OF NAMI RHODE ISLAND



# The Importance of Being an Ally

by Taylor Godfrey '19  
Opinion Co-Editor

SOCIETY

When polarizing events happen on campus, it can be difficult to find a way to move on from the discord to a place of love and respect for all students. For those who are not members of marginalized groups, it can be difficult to understand how to help in these situations. That is why it is so important to be an ally.

This was the topic of the talk given Monday night by SHEPARD co-founder Paige Clausius-Parks '03. She came to speak about the importance of allyship, specifically for LGBTQ+ individuals, and what she had learned from forming SHEPARD at Providence College in 2002.

Like many issues in our world today, passivity is not the solution that will solve problems on our campus. Sitting by and hoping somebody else solves the problem will only result in the problem not being solved at all. Clausius-Parks emphasized the need for allies to speak up for the sake of those who may not be in a position to speak up for themselves and to encourage others to speak up as well. If nobody is talking, the issues will not be resolved.

Clausius-Parks also underlined the importance of reflection not only of yourself, but also of other people and topics that you may not know much about. You must first understand the issues and your own place in relation to them before you can solve anything.

And that is not to say that people will not make mistakes or will be a perfect ally right away. As Clausius-Parks said, it is not about dwelling on past mistakes or misunderstandings, but finding “comfort in the discomfort” and making “a promise to do better



Students attend a workshop on how to be a better ally on February 12.

NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL

next time.” The point is to try your best and to listen to and learn from others.

It might seem like some issues facing society today are too contentious and that fighting this uphill battle is too much for someone who may not be directly affected. But those are the people who should be helping, who should be using their more priveleged voices to uplift the voices of others that may be quieter or may not be ready to speak at all.

In the tense political climate that we live in today, it can seem like there is nothing one person can do to stem the tide of hatred and intolerance in our communities. It can seem like people are so entrenched in their own lives and opinions that real, positive change may never come.

But one person actively working towards a more open and accepting society is doing much more than someone who is remaining neutral or silent. In order to move forward together, we must hold on to, as Clausius-Parks said, “the revolutionary idea that one person can make a difference.”

If we are truly committed to being a “Friar Family,” then we must learn from and care about every student on this campus. No one should have to fight their battles alone and with a family of almost 4,000 students, we do not need to. We all have to make more of an effort to, as Clausius-Parks said, “have the courage and audacity to be present,” involve ourselves in issues that need our help, and work together to make a more accepting and inclusive “Friar Family.”

# Space Crunch: PC Needs More Study Spaces

by Nicholas Moran '19  
Opinion Staff

CAMPUS

Reading on a leather chair in front of a crackling fire, no study-spot on campus trumps the Fiondella Great Room. Far from the crowded echo-chamber that is Phillip’s Memorial Library, the Great Room is dead silent and comfortably furnished. One time, when the library closed, security office let students stay until the early morning hours.

Unfortunately, school events in rooms like the Great Room force studiers out of their favorite campus spot, with few alternatives. Now, I waste precious time wandering through the library’s back halls, trying to find one last open desk. Echoes blare over the library bookshelves, distracting studiers in the “Quiet Zone” with sounds of chatting, cell phone ring-tones, and unmentionable ongoing in the bathroom. Paying attention

in the chaos of college dorms is near impossible, as is trying to drown out the never-ending John Hughes soundtrack blaring from Slavin’s speakers.

Trapped in a rickety desk in the library’s back halls, students need more alternative study spaces. Far from the “shared usage” space that administration claims, rooms like the Great Room have devolved into pure event halls, with only sporadic time for students. Of course, as professors host visitors to our campus, groups need spacious and presentable spaces to hold events, but it should not be at the expense of displaced students. When faced with a space crunch, Providence College should provide alternative study spots for its students.

Representatives from the Office of College Events, 25 Live Central Reservations, and Student Activities have noticed a rise in requests for event space in recent years. With more events competing for the same amount of space, the administration claims to have taken

steps to preserve study time for students in event areas. However, it has become clear that these measures are hollow, unenforceable, and simply rhetoric.

For instance, the administration claims to reserve the Great Room for academic events and year-ending club events, forcing clubs and student organizations to use other rooms for weekly meetings. Yet this has done nothing to free time for studiers.

Daily, the room is filled with events that force out studiers, regardless of the fact that they are “academic events” rather than club meetings. In fact, administration admits that small club events occasionally commandeer the space without formal approval, further muddying the reservation issue.

Similarly, administration claims to reserve study time in the Great Room and Moore lounges, yet these reservations’ terms render them toothless. According to the administration, it would be “too strong” to say that these reservations “forbid” events during these study times, rather, they “encourage” events to respect study hours. Yet if events are not forbidden during study hours, how can administration claim to set aside time for studiers in these “shared usage spaces?” Should studiers plug their ears in the Great Room’s corner, trying to drown out a lecturer’s talk on Stoic philosophy?

Fortunately, Student Congress members Ben Harper '18 and Lexi Lima '20 introduced “A Recommendation Regarding Study Space Reform” last December. This measure “recommended” that the Ruane and Aquinas Lounge, and the Great Room “cannot be reserved” for events after 8 p.m. from Sunday to Thursday. As admirable as the recommendation is, it remains just a recommendation, totally unenforceable. In fact, administration made it clear that this measure has not completed the “process for those recommendations to be considered and adopted campus wide.”

Additionally, the administration requires event holders to request

their spaces to be cleaned and cleared immediately, allowing studiers and even classes to enjoy them afterward. All too often, these spaces are not cleaned properly after events, as rows of chairs, projectors, and aging food sometimes fill the Great Room. Overfilled with waste and plastic chairs, how are students supposed to use these “shared usage” spaces? Of course, students may enjoy the cheese platter that a speaking event forgot, but left overnight, ants also enjoy the provolone!

Furthermore, just as studiers struggle to find a comfortable spot, event planners also are faced with few options. As professor Dr. Colin Jaundrill of the history department noted, “there are only so many rooms on campus that can both accommodate a large audience and allow PC to put its best foot forward” with events. Spacious lecture halls and “other similarly-size spaces” fill up quickly, leaving the “welcoming” Great Room as one of the few options that “demonstrates a modicum of respect for our guests.”

Similarly, history professor Dr. Jennifer Illuzzi stated that the room was “not easy to get,” as event planners clamor to reserve “the nice... [Great Room] in the ‘signature’ building for the humanities.” In fact, with “quiet studiers” dominating the room in the morning and events at night, Illuzzi noted that the ‘round the clock use prevents people from using the space as “a collaborative... group space,” where professors can meet with students.

Faced with weeklong waitlists and an overflowed library, the College needs to provide more study spaces. As interesting speakers and enlightening events come to campus, studiers cannot be forgotten in the fray. No longer should students have to resort to a messy dorm room desk, or search the back halls of the library for one more desk. PC, place study hour limits with teeth, ensure that studiers can actually share these “shared usage” spots, and expand studying hours; your students’ GPAs will thank you.



Providence College students love to utilize the Great Room .

NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL



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# Standing Up to Sexual Assault

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

EDITOR'S COLUMN

April is designated as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, an entire month dedicated to calling attention to sexual violence and educating the public about statistics, prevention, and resources in an effort to combat stereotypes and reduce violence.



This month also plays an important role in empowering survivors and helping them heal, as many survivors of sexual assault and abuse often experience feelings of guilt, fear, and shame. According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center eight out of 10 rape cases involve an assailant who was known to the victim, and—arguably the most disturbing statistic—over 90 percent of people who are sexually assaulted on university campuses do not report their assaults. Although sexual violence is already the lowest reported crime in the United States, the rate of reporting is even lower on college campuses. There are a variety of reasons that a survivor may choose not to report his or her assault, including not seeing the assault as a reportable offense at all. As a college campus, we need to focus our efforts not only on preventing assault from happening and holding assailants accountable, but also changing the way we as a community perceive assault.

According to the Providence College Department of Public Safety's crime statistics for 2016, there were zero reported instances of forced touching or fondling, and four reported rapes. On our campus, the national statistic would equate to about one out of four women and one out of six men experiencing sexual assault during their time at Providence College. We need to make sure we are providing a safe environment for survivors to come forward. This month, do what you can to educate yourself about sexual violence, how you can help prevent it, and how you can support survivors in your life; we are all Friars, so it is up to all of us. To report sexual misconduct, contact the Department of Public Safety, the Title IX Coordinator/Deputy Coordinator, or the VASE (Victim Advocacy, Support, and Education) Coordinator. For confidential resources, contact the Personal Counseling Center, Office of the Chaplain, Student Health Center, or VASE.

# TANGENTS & TIRADES

## Don't Judge a Book by Its Cover

To some, the phrase "Human Library" might sound more like something out of *Beauty and the Beast* than an event held at Providence College. Images of fantasy aside, the Human Library is an annual event hosted by Students for Social Action that took place this past Sunday. The Human Library is an international organization committed to breaking down barriers and dismantling stereotypes through the sharing of stories. At Human Library events, participants can listen to stories from human "books," or volunteers, who wish to share their unique life experiences. Volunteers at PC's event represented a diverse range of experiences such as, what it is like to grow up with deaf parents, working in the healthcare field, being a first generation American and college student, and living with a brain injury. The mission of Human Library is incredibly important. In a time where communication through technology is the norm and people appear to capitalize on differences, the opportunity to speak face to face with someone with a different perspective can be invaluable. The event promotes empathy and tolerance in a way that cannot be replicated on social media or even in a real book. As PC strives to create a more inclusive community on campus and educate tomorrow's leaders, events like Human Library can prove to be a true asset.

-Gabrielle Bianco '21



## Friar Students Already Give


This past week, the Providence College community came together for the 24-hour giving event, #FriarsGive, in the hopes of reaching a goal of 3,989 donors for each of the 3,989 PC students. Parents, PC athletics supporters, Friars of the last decade, PC alumni, as well as current students were all challenged to donate and participate in spreading the word of the event through social media. While no one can deny the importance of charitable donations to support PC's mission and its students, should students really be asked to make donations on top of the annually increasing rates of tuition and room and board paid every semester? Although the #FriarsGive website states, "Your participation as a PC student, not the amount of your gift, matters," the various campus-based events, as well as the food and prize giveaways directed towards students definitely place at the least some sort of expectation on the part of the student body to make a gift towards the school. While we cannot deny the reality of PC as being a tuition-driven educational institution, we can focus the efforts of #FriarsGive towards the charitable donations of members of the PC community who already graduated. What kind of financial position are college students in to make any more of a donation than what is already required of them to attend PC in the first place? Instead of celebrating the number of student donations made during #FriarsGive Day, why don't we instead take a moment to recognize the growing number of PC students who will be in mounting debt by the time they graduate? It's time to shift the focus of #FriarsGive donation efforts away from PC students.

-Sarah Kelley '18

## More Mental Health Awareness

Last Wednesday National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) sponsored an event called "Inside Mental Illness." The discussion itself was enlightening and humbling as members of the community shared their struggles with depression, anxiety, and schizophrenia. However, it was disappointing to see that not every single chair in the Fiondella Great Room was occupied. Providence College holds these events for students to attend, and it is troubling and saddening to see how few college students take actual advantage of all of the resources the campus provides. In fact, these events allow for students to recognize mental illness symptoms in not only themselves but also in their roommates and close friends. If more students attended these events they might learn that certain behaviors—like sleeping too often or drinking too much—may be signs of something more serious. Campus events like these are important because mental illness is prominent in society and it is not going anywhere. According to a spring 2015 report by the American College Health Association, two-thirds of students who are struggling do not seek treatment. One in four adults experience mental illness in a given year. That can be you, your roommate, your significant other, or anyone. It's important for students to attend these events so that they can bring awareness to themselves and to those around them. The stigma needs to end!

-Laura Arrango '20



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SCHOLARSHIP

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SLAVIN CENTER

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A lively selection of research presentations, visual art exhibits,  
and performances will take place throughout the afternoon.

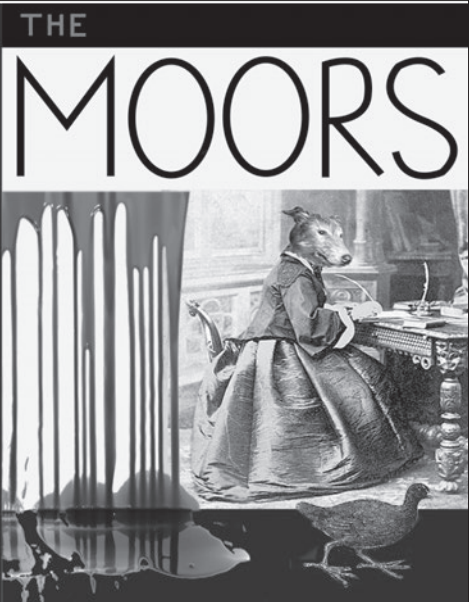
Written by Jen Silverman  
Directed by Mary Farrel


April 13-15 &  
20-21


Fridays and  
Saturdays at 7:30,  
Sundays at 2:00

~~~~~

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Online: [providence.edu/theatre](http://providence.edu/theatre)  
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PC & PwC 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Service Day- St. Mary's Home for Children

April 21, 2018



Where: St. Mary's Home for Children

Time: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Please contact the Accounting Association if interested in participating  
[treilly9@friars.providence.edu](mailto:treilly9@friars.providence.edu)



PwC

It's time to sign up for...

RELAY FOR LIFE

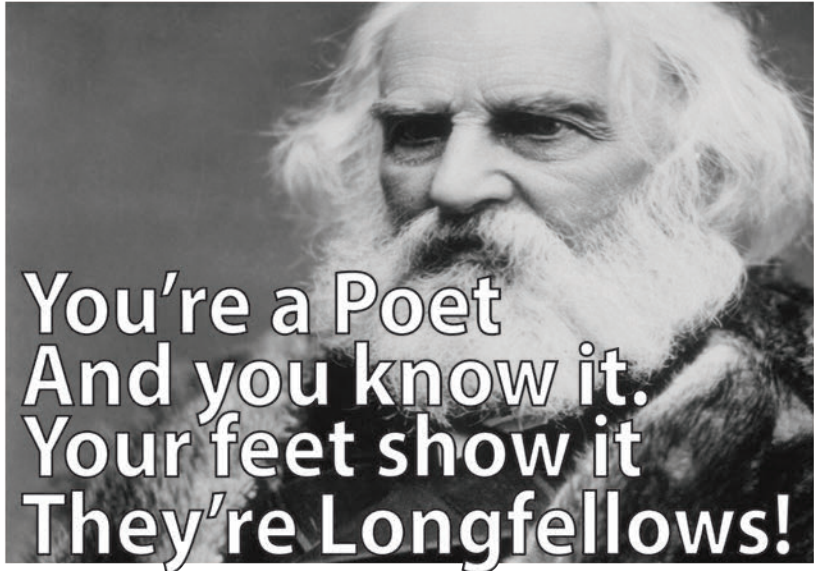


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Last  
Week's  
Answer

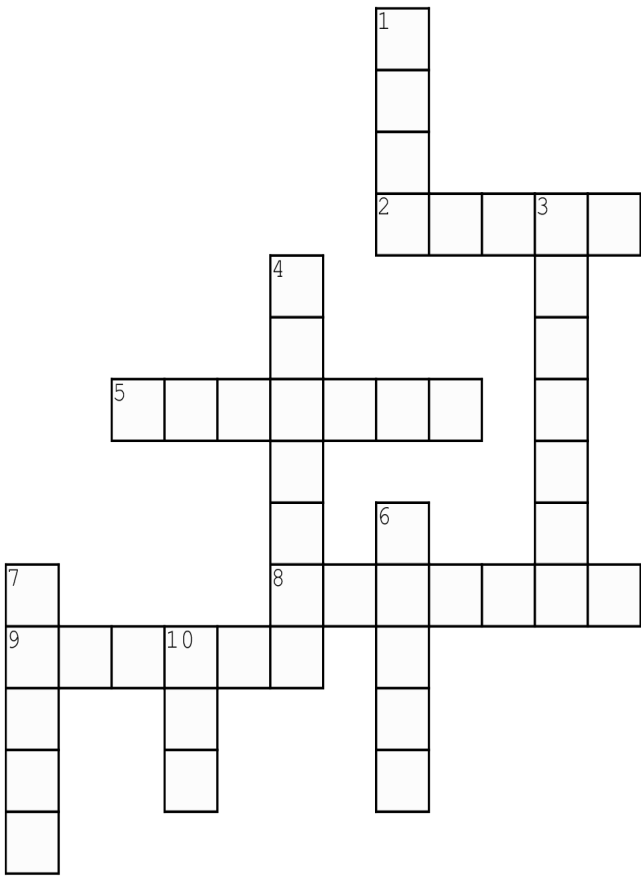
Did you  
spot the  
fake news  
in *The  
Scowl*?

Man arrested after juggling  
mangos while naked on  
side of Florida highway



Celebrity Baby Names

Complete the crossword below



Across

- 2. A very common, round, red fruit.
- 5. The Midwestern state in which the University of Notre Dame is located.
- 8. The tallest mountain on Earth.
- 9. A machine that is sent into space.

Down

- 1. Another word for 'coffee'.
- 3. A town in southwestern France.
- 4. The name of an insect and also a sport.
- 6. Type of clothing that is popularly worn as pants, skirts, jackets, and occasionally shirts.
- 7. One of the five boroughs of New York City.
- 10. A variation of the spelling of a word used to refer to children and also baby goats.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TEACHERSCORNER.NET

NEW ENGLAND WEATHER



CARTOON COURTESY OF DAVID MARTINEAU '18



# PHOTOGRAPHY

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April 12, 2018



KIM LEZAMA '18/ THE COWL



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/ THE COWL



LAURA CHADBOURNE '20/ THE COWL



KIM LEZAMA '18/ THE COWL

**ABOVE:** Patrick Heffernan '18 plays the saxophone at PC Jazz Night in McPhail's, a musical event which featured the Providence College jazz and funk ensembles.

**TOP LEFT:** Alex DaCosta '20 and Brian Kennedy '17 defend the soccer ball in a game against the College of the Holy Cross. The Providence College Men's Soccer Team won the spring scrimmage 3-0.

**LEFT:** Steve Lawrence '21 and Ashley Maitland '19 sign a banner at A Day to End Hate, sponsored by BMSA. The coffeehouse-style event featured an open microphone, Insomnia Cookies, performances by the Motherland Dance Group and Believers of Words, and opportunities for attendees to discuss ways to end hate with other students.

**BELOW LEFT:** Emily Ventura '18 speaks with Richard Muto, a man who survived and recovered from a severe brain injury, at the Human Library. The annual event, sponsored by Students for Social Action, encourages students to positively engage in nuanced conversations to break stereotypes and challenge prejudices.



# ROVING PHOTOGRAPHY

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April 12, 2018

*If you were a chicken nugget, in what sauce would you like to be dipped?*



**"Ranch, because why not?"**  
Stephanie Rizzo '20



**"Mayonnaise, because it's an instrument."**  
Ryan Britt '21



**"Honey mustard, because it's like classic mustard but with a little twist."**  
Sean Richardson '20



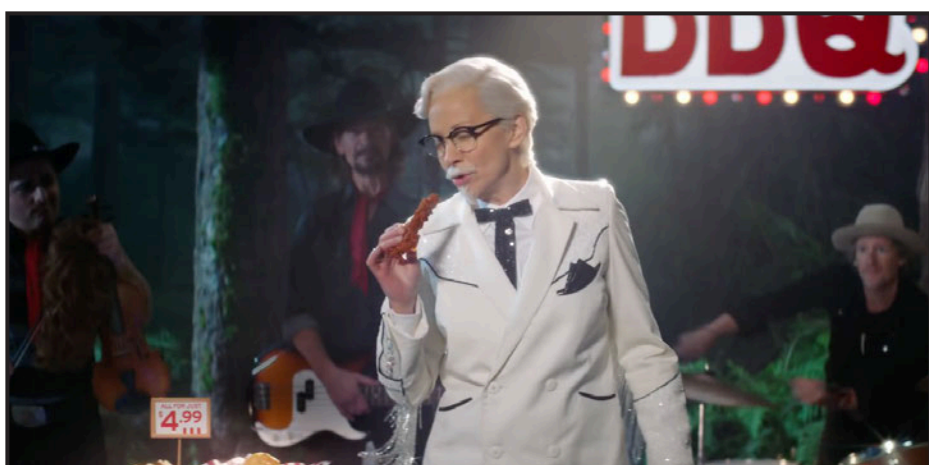
**"Ketchup. Boring but classic."**  
Maria Tobin '18



**"Sweet and sour, because I'm a little bit of both."**  
Lexi Rabbitt '20



**"Ranch, because, we be dressin'."**  
Emily Ventura '18



**"Smokey mountain BBQ."**

**-Reba McEntire as Colonel Sanders.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF KFC VIA YOUTUBE

**Photos by Laura Chadbourne '20, Staff Photographer**



## For the Love of Music: An Interview with Schola Cantorum’s Student Director

by Sara Conway ’21  
A&E Staff

ON-CAMPUS

Any Providence College student who attends Mass at St. Dominic’s Chapel is familiar with the choirs whose voices flood the room with sweet melodies. Recently, I sat down with Gabrielle Manion ’18, the student director of Schola Cantorum, to talk about her experience.

Sara Conway (SC): *I know that you are a music major (with a history minor), so what caused you to choose these areas of study?*

Gabrielle Manion (GM): I’ve played the piano since I was in first grade, so that was always a part of my life. I wanted to continue with music in college because I had given so much of my time to it and realized I could make a living doing what I love [while] using my gifts well. I added a history minor my junior year because I’ve always had a deep fascination with history and taken many classes at college already. Music and history have a lot of overlap, but history is a way for me to explore something that I love outside of music.

SC: *When did you join Schola Cantorum? How did you hear about this choir/why did you join? How did you become their student director?*

GM: I joined Schola Cantorum my freshman year and have been a member ever since. I think I heard about the choir when I came and visited PC my senior year of high school. The group was listed on a program for one of the Masses. I’ve been involved in



St. Dominic’s Chapel.

PHOTO COURTESY OF STEWMILNEPHOTOS.COM

liturgical music since middle school and so I knew I would continue doing so at PC. Schola did the type of music that I have a deep appreciation for—Gregorian chant, polyphony, et cetera, so I was really eager to join. I became the student leader this year after

applying through Campus Ministry. I had accompanied Schola for two years under the previous director, Susannah Clarke, so I knew the ropes pretty well.

SC: *What are some positives in leading Schola? What are some of the challenges?*

GM: One positive aspect of leading

Schola is that I get to help and see each singer growing throughout the year. That sounds so cliché, but it’s true! I love having the opportunity to bring out the best in people’s musical gifts and see them putting their gifts to use. It’s also a great privilege to provide music for Mass so that’s definitely the highlight. There are challenges, of course. It can be hard to let go of control and realize that it’s in God’s hands. I often think that if I work the choir really hard or if I’m a better leader, we’ll do better. And then I have to step back and remember that we do our best when we offer it up to the Lord and don’t get consumed by every mistake.

SC: *What is your process in choosing the music (if you have one)? What kinds of pieces especially inspire you?*

GM: My process for choosing music is: I look at the readings for Mass and think about the liturgical season and mood. I want to pick things that the choir enjoys and will lift the hearts of the congregation to prayer.

SC: *What is one of your favorite pieces that Schola has sung (if that is not an impossible question)? What is your greatest takeaway about leading/being part of Schola?*

GM: I think my favorite piece Schola has done is Tantum Ergo by Gabriel Faure (Sorry men, I know this is a ladies only piece!). The women worked so hard on this beautiful piece. I suppose my greatest takeaway from Schola is the privilege of working with my friends to praise God. It’s a really unique opportunity since Schola is a close-knit group and it’s beautiful to share this goal with people I love.

## The Week(e)nd Has Only Just Begun...

by Julia Vaccarella ’20  
A&E Staff

MUSIC

To the happiness of fans all over the world, contemporary R&B singer The Weeknd recently released a new EP titled *My Dear Melancholy*. Comprised of six songs, this production comes just under two years since his last album, *Starboy*, and just before that, 2015’s *Beauty Behind the Madness*. Both projects are considered to have accelerated The Weeknd’s mainstream notoriety that we see today.

Abel Tesfaye, who is more commonly known by his stage name, The Weeknd, has been praised for *My Dear Melancholy*, and the set’s similarity to his earlier work. Weeknd’s initial mixtape, *House of Balloons*, was released in 2011 and launched his personal brand as a prototype for dark R&B. Since then, The Weeknd and his songs have become synonymous with pop music.

According to *Rolling Stone*, The Weeknd “can lay claim to exerting a huge influence on the menacing tone that undergirds a large swath of contemporary R&B.” Earlier this year, for example, The Weeknd was featured on *Black Panther: The Album – Music from and Inspired By*; the song, “Pray for Me,” along with album curator Kendrick Lamar, is one of the many well-known works involving The Weeknd. Another example is his song “The Hills,” which is a track on *Beauty Behind the Madness* that remained on the top of Billboard’s Hot 100 charts for six straight weeks.

The EP is more conducive to The Weeknd’s earlier work that had been released anonymously. The album is absent of features from other popular musical figures, such as Lana Del Rey and Future, who were both present on *Starboy*. *My Dear Melancholy*, does include two songs with Gesaffelstein, who has been positively received by the British magazine *New Musical Express*.

This particular project by The Weeknd, however, is different from *Starboy* and *Beauty Behind the Madness* in terms of content and



The Weeknd performing at Coachella in Indio California last April.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY HARRIS

structure. One of the most obvious differences is the fact that *My Dear Melancholy*, only includes six songs, whereas *Starboy* contained 18 songs.

The tracks are less focused on the pop sound that The Weeknd’s first established with *Beauty Behind the Madness*. The newer tracks revert back to lesser known songs from The Weeknd’s anonymously released works, such as “Wicked Games” and “Kiss Land.” Since the EP’s release, The Weeknd’s, “Call Out My Name” has become the most notable of the six songs. On its first day, the song received the highest stream count of the year 2018 thus far on Spotify. “Call Out My Name,” along with the other

songs paired on the EP, *My Dear Melancholy*, has been cast as a breakup album. Many have gathered this conclusion from the fact that The Weeknd’s highly publicized relationships with model Bella Hadid and singer/actress Selena Gomez, both of which have presumed to be nonexistent at the moment.

A *Vulture* critic says, “The new surprise Weeknd project *My Dear Melancholy*, is the Toronto singer’s slight return to the guts and grit that built him.” It will be interesting to see where The Weeknd goes from here and whether he will again revert back to pop production styles or continue to turn back to his earlier sound.



# Donald Trump, Music, and *Blade Runner* 2049

## *Thirty Seconds to Mars* Drops Passionate New Album

by Patrick Fuller '21  
A&E Staff

MUSIC

One might argue that entertainment in the United States of America is a complicated construct that can be boiled down to two things: music and film. However, to actor and musician Jared Leto, American society worships six pillars of culture. These six focal points of every American thought, Tweet, and action are displayed in bold black text against a pink backdrop on *Thirty Seconds to Mars*' new album, *AMERICA*.

Five years since their last album *LOVE LUST FAITH + DREAMS*, Leto and his brother Shannon portray the general American psyche in six names: "Kim Justin Jesus Michael Mickey Donald." Yet the theme which seems to run subliminally through every song on the album rests on the last name.

*USA Today* asked Leto about his emotional inspiration for the newest project in which he responded, "Fear. Failure. Hope. Dreams. Love." In the same conversation, Leto rightfully labels intolerance as the scariest portion of American conflict right now.

Leto voices his anger and frustration with racial and political intolerance not only in the lyrics of each song, but also in the overall style of music. Single anthem "Walk on Water" is a passionate call for rebellion which fits the gospel, call-and-response format. Collaborations with A\$AP Rocky on "One Track Mind," Halsey on "Love Is Madness," and Zedd drag *Thirty Seconds to Mars* further away from the stereotypical hardness of emo-rock into the modern world of electronica and pop. This underlying tone of hope and unity, according to Leto, is more necessary in America today than ever before.

The band's progression and new experimentation certainly stems from Jared Leto's numerous influences. In an interview with *Rolling Stone*, Leto cited the synthesizers of Depeche Mode and The Who and the distorted guitar of Pink Floyd as major influences on the album's electronic sound.

However, he also mentioned Kanye West as "an inspiration for his bravery" and the bold

minimalism of Father John Misty in his track "Bored in the U.S.A." He even names the *Thirty Seconds to Mars* tour "Monolith" in tribute to Hans Zimmer and the brilliance of soundtracks.

Also, Jared Leto managed to make this entire album while filming *Suicide Squad* and *Blade Runner 2049*. Sure, many argue *Suicide Squad* is a failure in every aspect of the word, but Jared Leto plays a creepily convincing Joker. More importantly, his portrayal of the creator Replicant Niander Wallace in *Blade Runner 2049* is technically stunning.

To achieve such acting excellence requires effort alone, never mind also being a musician. Yet Leto told *Rolling Stone*, "When I focus on

something, I'll focus on it completely, and when I make music, I'm part manager, part marketer, part creative director, et cetera.... I enjoy it, and it drives me [expletive] nuts a lot of times."

Although the music production process may be demanding, Leto values music over film. He told *USA Today*, "It'd be much easier to walk away from film than music. Music is very personal my brother and I have shared this journey and this dream for almost our entire lives."

*Thirty Seconds to Mars* will be rolling through the Northeast on their "Monolith" tour this June. Tickets are available on Ticketmaster through the band's website.



Members of *Thirty Seconds to Mars* pose for a promotional photoshoot for their new album.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TRANSETTERMARTETING

# *Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert* Sets New Standards for Live Theater Productions

by Ryan Cox '18  
A&E Staff

MUSIC

Many Christians and theater-lovers alike wrapped up their Easter celebrations with *NBC*'s production of *Jesus Christ Superstar Live*, which starred John Legend as Jesus and Sara Bareilles as Mary Magdalene. The acclaimed musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice tells the story of Jesus Christ, beginning with the Apostles' first following him, briefly touching upon his ministry, and concluding with the Last Supper and Crucifixion.

*Jesus Christ Superstar* is the latest production in a trend of live musical productions aired on the major television networks. This trend has included *The Sound of Music*, starring Carrie Underwood as Maria von Trapp, *Grease!* featuring Vanessa Hudgens, and *Hairspray* featuring Disney star Dove Cameron and former popstar Ariana Grande.

Star-studded casting has been a hallmark of all of these live productions as it helps to draw attention to the production and drive up viewership. However, this move has been criticized for the risk in trying to turn pop artists into Broadway-grade actors.

This time, it seemed as though critics viewed the star-studded casting more positively. *Vanity Fair* wrote, "stunt casting is by now a staple of these events... Legend is a relative newcomer

to the world of musical theater, but... even at rehearsal, he was already putting his stamp on Jesus's vocals."

On Easter night, Legend's performance exceeded expectations.

Despite being more of a high baritone and Jesus being written for a tenor, Legend's smooth, rich timbre fits the music surprisingly well. His acting seemed a little rocky at first, but owned

the role by the crucifixion at the end, playing it poignantly and dramatically.

Bareilles seemed made for Mary Magdalene's role. Her solos, including "Everything's Alright" and "I Don't Know How to Love Him," sit in a perfect register for her. That, combined with the vulnerability and calmness in her voice, made her performance exceptional. Bareilles seemed natural on the stage, due to her successful run starring in *Waitress: the Musical*.

Rock icon Alice Cooper made an appearance at the end of the show as King Herod. Visually, Cooper was a great selection for Herod, considering the show's goth/punk set and costume design. However, his acting felt dry and unconnected. This is perhaps rightfully so, considering the character he was playing, but it was difficult to tell if he was playing himself or playing Herod.

Despite what seems to be a hit-or-miss trend in producing these live TV musicals, they cater to a wide audience. There is a unique merit to staging these shows live so as to convey the excitement and unpredictability of a live musical. It makes Broadway theatre more easily accessible to those who cannot afford to travel to New York City or are not near a touring stop. After all, if you cannot bring people to the theater, bring theatre to the people.

There is no confirmation yet on any upcoming projects, but if the generally positive feedback is to be a gauge for the success of this trend, these kinds of productions have a bright future ahead.



John Legend stars as Jesus Christ in the *NBC* production of *Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC LIEBOWITZ/NBC



# Lorde of All Lords

## Singer-Songwriter Makes Her Way Across the World for Melodrama

by Elizabeth Jancsy '18  
A&E Staff

MUSIC

Grammy winning singer-songwriter and New Zealand native Lorde made her way into Connecticut on April 7 on the North America leg of her *Melodrama* World Tour. Playing over 70 shows in Europe, North America, Oceania, Asia, and South America, this is the second world tour for Lorde.

Anyone who is familiar with Lorde’s style of music one might expect very mellow and chill vibes at her concert, but. Lorde presented fans with an absolutely incredible, upbeat, over dramatic, and inspiring concert. From beginning to end, the audience was taken on a passionate and emotional artistic journey through song and dance.

Opening with the hit “Sober,” Lorde, along her backup dancers broke out on to the stage, covering the stage from all angles. Lorde showed off her dancing skills at her concert, which contained several dance routines that she participated in. The lyrical dance style complemented the songs very well.

The songs, to no one’s surprise, were just as good as they are blasting from one’s speaker listening to the studio album. Lorde has a voice that is so rare in pop singers today, especially ones of her generation. She sings with strength and tone, and captivates an audience any time she performs.

With the word “drama” in the album title, it is only fitting that Lorde be dressed like an actress in a Shakespearean production. She had two outfit changes throughout the night, which ranged from a simple matching top and pants to a more elaborate matching shirt and skirt outfit. Almost every outfit was in two pieces—

avoiding dresses so that Lorde could get back to her songs and perform. When she was not jumping up and down on stage, she was flipping her hair and dancing beside the backup dancers. Although the stage was simple, what was unique about the show was the moving box that started on the ground of the floor and moved all the way to the top of the stage set.

The box was used to hold dancers as they moved up and down on the set, looking as though they were dancing in mid-air. The band also assisted Lorde and acted as the backdrop to the rest of the set.

It is easy to get caught up in the entertainment

of the concert, but Lorde did take time to thank her fans for helping her get this far, and for “getting her.” She talked about how special this tour is to her and how it amazes her that she has support from all over the world.

One of the more memorable moments of the show was after her speech, when she went into her slower songs, such as “Liability” and a cover of Frank Ocean’s “Solo.” This was an intimate moment for Lorde, and showed off just how versatile she is. If you were not dancing to her music, you were singing along with her. Either way, Lorde’s *Melodrama* is an amazing act to witness.



Lorde showing off her unique outfits while performing at the MTV Video Music Awards.

PHOTO COURTESY OF POPSUGAR.COM

## Review: Midnight Sun Fulfills Teen Drama Dreams

by Cathering Goldberg '20  
A&E Staff

FILM

The box office has been in dire need of romantic teen dramas this spring, and March’s release of *Midnight Sun* has proven to be a success. One may see the latest romance as a cross between *Tangled* and *The Fault in Our Stars*, which nails the target market of girls from ages 12 to 20.

*Midnight Sun* is a remake of a popular Japanese film from 2006, *Song to the Sun*, that features a rare skin disease called *xeroderma pigmentosum* (XP).

The main character of the film, 17-year-old Katie Price, played by Bella Thorne, is diagnosed the one in a million disease. Katie has been cooped up in her home for the majority of her childhood and all of her teen years. The skin disease she has makes her body extremely sensitive to sunlight. When exposed to the sun for too long, her life is at risk.

Katie lives with her extremely protective father Jack, played by Rob Riggle, in a well-to-do Seattle suburb. Jack has taken every precaution in order to protect her from the sunlight, from heavy duty tinted windows to a minivan with top notch protection from dangerous UV rays. The audience learns in a conversation between Jack and Katie’s doctor that it is a miracle that she has survived for so long.



Bella Thorne (left) and Patrick Schwarzenegger (right) during a scene from their new film, *Midnight Sun*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ED ARAQUEL

All her life, Katie imagines finding love with the man of her dreams. She has watched her neighbor, Charlie, played by Patrick Schwarzenegger, from her tinted bedroom window for years, and has always had a crush on him. To keep her safely inside, however, Katie’s father always encourages her to find solace in music by playing the guitar. He suggests she play her guitar at night, when the sun is down, at the small suburban train station stop.

One night, Katie is spotted by her crush when he is on the way home from a party. Charlie notices her musical talent and beauty, and in turn, asks her out. And so begins the infamous

summer fling, which ultimately leads to them falling in love.

Their nightly summer adventures lead to Katie being introduced to a world larger than she has ever known as she meets new people and experiences new places. She keeps her disease a secret from Charlie, and it eventually puts her life at risk. She is left with a heartbreaking dilemma: whether she should continue dating her soulmate, Charlie, or stay within the comforts of her home to remain safe from the sun.

*Rotten Tomatoes* has deemed the film “a romantic tearjerker.” A *Metacritic* reviewer wrote, “Such a great film, I laughed, I cried, and I also enjoyed

the music. Both Thorne and Schwarzenegger’s performances were outstanding.” According to *The Hollywood Reporter*, the film does “an effective job of tugging at vulnerable teenage hearts, while managing to provide a few laughs along the way. None of the film rings remotely true, but the two young leads are so darn attractive and appealing that one can’t help being caught up in their characters’ poignant romance.”

The film is surely not worth of an Academy Award nomination, but is a cheesy love story teens are destined to love. Grab a box of tissues and venture off to Providence Place Mall to find out what happens to the star crossed-lovers.



# WHITE-OUT

by Marisa DelFarno '18  
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

Three towering walls wrap around Henry. The dull, plain looking bricks laid out around him resemble grey fish scales. The fourth wall consists of thick rust-rotted bars lined up high in unison. The room is as cold as an icebox. A single dim light bulb flickers above. No windows or daylight can be found.

Henry defeatedly bows his head down and whispers, "Death row."

"Henry, look at me. Look at me." Doug pulls Henry's chin up. "I am going to get you out of here. I promise."

"But you're an...."

Henry sighs. "I don't know the word."

"Lawyer?"

"Yeah," Henry says. "I didn't know people like you still existed."

"We still do. Though there are less of us now since the White-Out Movement. It is much harder to persuade people now when your vocabulary is stuck at 20,000 words—less than what the average 12-year-old used to know."

Henry turns his head away from Doug and mutters, "My limit is now at 2,000."

"I know. I know. They shouldn't have reduced it. The death penalty is enough," Doug says.

"It doesn't matter. I am already a dead man," Henry coldly replies.

"Don't you dare say that. I am going to help you. I am going to the judge's chambers this afternoon. He mentioned an alternative," Doug responds.

Henry shakes his head. "No." "Why?"

"There is no use. What's worse? Death or losing your words? Do you know what this...thing is?"

"The alternative? Not yet. I am going to find out later."

Henry spins his eyes away from him. Doug lights a cigarette. He takes a drag before looking up at Henry. His dark brown eyes pierce through Henry's soul.

"You did do it, right?" Doug mutters with his cigarette dangling from his mouth.

"Yes, I was trying to...I can't think of the word," Henry says, weighing down his shoulders in defeat.

"Read?"

"Yes, they found me with it." Doug pauses for a moment.

"How on Earth did you get the book?"

"I hid it years ago before all this happened," Henry replies.

"And they said the book you were found with was...*Fahrenheit 451*?" Doug shyly smiles.

Henry lightly chuckles to himself. "Isn't it...funny?"

"I think ironic is the word you are looking for," Doug says. "Why that book? Out of all the books in the world?"

dumb," he says.

"I know. Remember. Never doubt an army of dumbasses. They're loose cannons."

Henry takes a long pause. "People are dumb."

Doug scoffs. "Now we are all dumb...I didn't know they could continue to limit your vocab. When did yours go all the way down to 2,000?"

Henry extends his arms out with opened palms. "When they put me here."

Doug sighs. "They never tell me anything until after the fact."

Their conversation withers into silence. Doug starts to pace

Henry wrinkles his forehead in disbelief. "How?"

"I would say that you simply found the book. It wasn't yours to begin with. They can't prove that it was yours."

"That is just...dumb."

Doug rubs his forehead. "I don't know what to say. They burned all the books years ago," he sighs. "I guess I am stuck telling the judge the truth, but I will make him understand why you were reading. He is—or was—a so-called 'intellectual' like us. Maybe he will forgive you. Remember, he mentioned an alternative to the death penalty. Any alternative means living."

"Doug, just leave. You're no help. I just...don't want to talk about it anymore." Henry turns aside on his cot with his back facing Doug.

Doug slightly opens his mouth to say something, but instead, decides to refrain from speaking. He keeps his feet planted to the solid concrete floor, and stares at Henry before the guards escort him out of Henry's cell.

~~~~~  
"Henry?" Doug says quietly.

Henry looks up from the shaded corner of his cell. He is crouched down on the grimey ground, holding his knees to his chest, convulsing like a leaf in autumn.

"Henry," he sniffles. "Henry, I am so sorry."

Henry's baggy blue eyes stare at him, his pupils dilated with fear.

"If I could, I would continue to fight. I am a horrible, horrible lawyer....I am sorry. When I asked about the alternative, the judge promised you would live, but your vocab would have to be permanently limited. I thought he meant the limit it was at, 2,000. That is what he suggested. That is what I later told you before you accepted the alternative." his voice shakes. "Henry, I am so sorry." He pauses. "I didn't know the judge would have them erase your entire vocabulary...Henry do you understand me? Do...do you know what I'm saying?"

Tears start to gently roll down Doug's cheek. "Henry. Speak to me."

Henry does not respond.

around the compact cell. "We need a defense."

"It is too late," Henry replies.

"I'm going to talk to the judge. Somehow, he might understand."

Henry shakes his head defiantly. "He has no say in it. They do."

Doug doesn't know how to respond. He lights another cigarette before shattering the silence between them.

"Henry, you are a lot like me. We were both educated before they stole our words. I understand your pain. I miss speaking like an adult. I miss reading. I miss holding a book. And I am going to continue to defend you from those morons. I am willing to lie for you."



"Because like 'that word' you said. And also it was my favorite, and I couldn't leave it so I hid it." Henry points to the cold concrete floor stretched below him. "I hid it under the...ground of my house. Ten feet under."

Doug scratches his chin. "Hmm I wonder how many other books are hidden?"

"Does it matter? Our vocab is getting smaller and smaller. We can't even..." Henry lets silence finish his sentence.

Doug deeply inhales. "I know. Those nuts have ruined everything."

Henry lies back on the thin mattress on his cot and stares at the pale, tiled ceiling. "How did it get this far?"

"You know. The White-Out Movement, anti-intellectualism, so on."

Henry lifts his back up from the metal cot. "Wait. You still have that word?"

"Anti-intellectualism? Of course. It is a movement they are proud of. Why get rid of the word?"

Henry lies back down. "Ugh, they had to create that...that...that...thing and make us all



by Marisa Gonzalez '18  
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

The envelope in my mailbox had no return address. At first, I was quite shocked. Why would someone want to remain anonymous? Of course, once I asked myself this question, I realized how stupid that was. Someone would want to remain anonymous if they were evil, an escaped prisoner, a stalker, or a serial killer. Or, you know, it could be something as simple as the letter went to the wrong place or was from a secret admirer, but my brain does not automatically go to simple. Also, secret admirers are creepy. Why do they want to remain secret?

Anyway, I stared at the envelope for some time before figuring out what I should do with it. Do I throw it away? Do I open it? Will it explode? Will I find a key that will unlock a magical world? All of these questions swarmed around in my head as I just stood there and stared. I must have looked crazy. Finally, after 20 minutes of staring, I realized that the letter may not even be for me. It only had my address. For a moment I felt satisfied that I had actually made a realization but then I

started thinking about what I should do with it. If it were not for me, then who was it for. What do I do with it?

I took a deep breath, cleared my mind and figured that the best option was to simply open it. If I didn't open it, how would I know who it was for? Yup, that made perfect sense! So, I held my breath and opened the envelope, hoping my questions would be answered. Unfortunately, they were not. I opened the letter and it turned out to be addressed to me. But, that wasn't the weird part. The contents of the letter were not what I was expecting. It read:

*Ms. Underwood,*  
*We have been keeping an eye on you. We are happy to say that you have not disappointed us. When you signed the petition to set Bilbo the Bear free from bear baiting, we had high hopes for you. Your activism is quite impressive as are your Facebook posts. You clearly care deeply for animals and we would like to speak to you. As you may have noticed, there is no return address. That was intentional as our organization is to remain a secret. I hope that you will be able to use that brilliant brain of yours to figure out where we reside.*

OPA

I was very confused and freaked out. These people have

been watching me. Wonderful. Although, they seem to love animals so that's good. But still, they have been watching me. Also, I am supposed to find them with my brilliant brain. I didn't even know I had a brilliant brain. But, these people thought I did, so I better figure it out. Once again, I went back to my staring method. Luckily, the method worked this time.

After staring at the letter, I began to think about *National Treasure* and how the Declaration of Independence had a secret message on the back. Ben and Abigail used lemon juice to reveal the message. Maybe this could work on the letter. Of course, I didn't know where the address would be, so I used my brilliant brain and soaked the whole letter and envelope in lemon juice. It worked! The letter smelled of lemons and was pretty much damaged, but it worked!

An address appeared in the corner of the letter. I quickly ran inside and looked up the address on my computer. According to the internet, it was an abandoned factory. Awesome. Not scary at all. I took a deep breath, grabbed my coat, wrote a note to my parents, and took off on my bike to the factory, because I have a brilliant brain

and thought going to a scary factory was a smart idea. Go me.

I biked to the factory and parked my bike outside. Upon seeing the building, I stood for what felt like hours just staring at the shattered windows and fallen wall. I think I would have stayed there all day if I hadn't heard a bark. I jumped and turned to where the barking was coming from. A German shephard then came running at me. I tried to run back to my bike but the dog grabbed my leg. I shrieked and then I saw a figure in a dark hood coming toward me. I continued to shriek like a dying goose when the figure touched my shoulders. I shivered, gulped, and looked up at the hooded figure.

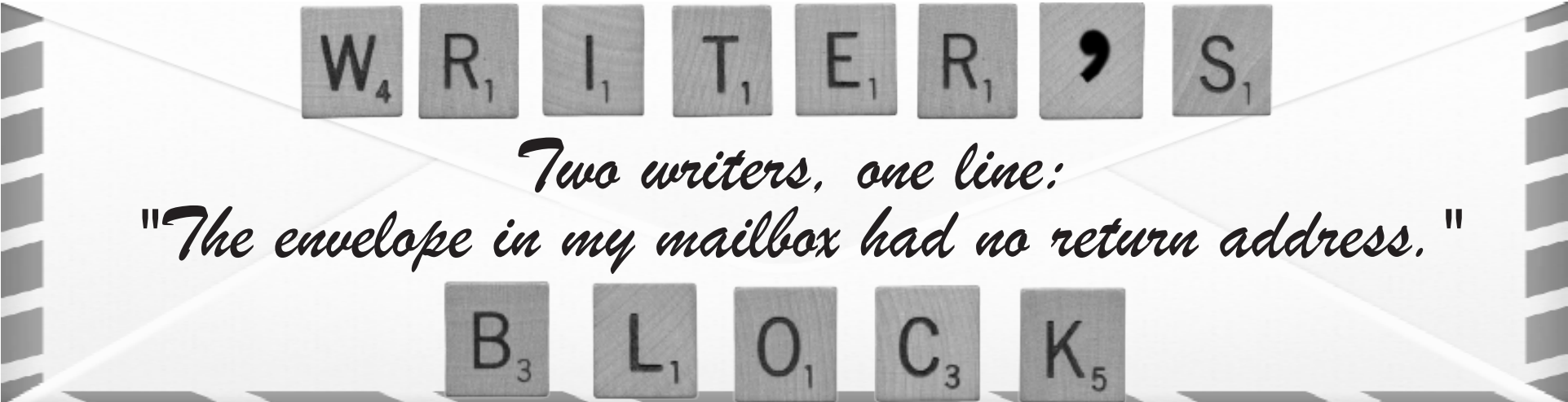
"Are you Macie Underwood?" The figure asked. I gulped again.

"Yes," I stuttered.

"Well, welcome." The figure then guided me through the door, down some stairs and I end up in the basement of the factory and inside a room that looks a lot like the Q Branch from *James Bond*. The figure took off its hood to reveal a middle-aged woman.

"Welcome," she said.

"Welcome, Ms. Underwood, to the Organization of Protectors of Animals."



by Erin Lucey '20  
Portfolio Staff

The envelope in my mailbox had no return address. Looking back, that should have been the first clue that something was off. But I was completely blind to the idea that something was fishy. I hadn't seen or heard from Liam in over 14 months at this point!

The note I received appeared to be my saving grace; my only route to an explanation from him. So of course, to my current regret, I followed the shaky directions on the note to the café that is inside the subway station on the corner of Park Ave. When I first got there, I was nervous. Would he be angry with me for not finding him? Happy to see me and act like nothing happened? Anxiety. That is the last sentiment I remember

entertaining as an awake, alive, independent-minded individual in the outside world. I simply did not know what to expect of that moment so long ago, but what actually happened that day had never come close to crossing my mind.

Honestly, I can't even soundly assert that that day wasn't a few hours ago, or perhaps years ago. As of now it seems that I will never truly know how long I have been "under" for. The next thing I remember after my final moment in that greasy café was the first hazy awakening that surfaced me to my current state of consciousness.

I know I've described this many times before, but I must keep reminding myself of what is real, as I am terrified of what will happen if I forget. Besides, I will forever be unsure which pages, if any, will ever make it out of here—if anything I am communicating will eventually reach another set of eyes.

The first time this happened, it felt like I had finally woken up from the deepest sleep of my life. Trapped in a barren white room, it seemed almost as if I was floating around, but yet still somewhat anchored to a point below me. In the far distance ahead of me I could see a rolling image, with a graininess that resembled a colorized scene projected from an old movie.

To my surprise and confusion, the scene was eerily familiar—something I had undoubtedly viewed before in my life. As I stared longer I could make out that I was watching an image of my mother, but not the way she was when I last saw her alive. Her face was fuller, eyes livelier—she was younger. I was watching a moment that had occurred within the first

few years of my life, a time that I did not even realize I could recall. Images from the deepest parts of my brain were being projected before an unknown audience, and I was completely trapped, watching from afar.

At this "present" point, I am still unaware if I am alive or dead. My guess is that this consciousness I am experiencing was not the goal of whomever is responsible for my condition. As I continue to exist in this state of limbo, my images grow slightly further and further away each time I "wake up." Though my hope seems to be growing smaller with my screen, I'm still holding onto the belief that there is a chance I can be freed.

—J.C.; 45th recorded instance of conscious awareness, Page 56, Date Unknown



# Our Song

by Marelle Hipolito '21  
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

I was looking out the window  
Humming to the radio  
When suddenly it came on  
My heart skipped a beat  
I leaned forward in my seat  
and pressed the button to turn it right off

I sat back and looked away  
So I didn't have to explain  
Why that song always made me ache  
I wiped a tear from my cheek  
I didn't move, I didn't speak  
And I drifted back into space

To the time when we had it all figured out  
Thought we knew what life was about  
And our plans were set in stone  
I didn't want to remember  
Way back to September  
But the memories came, all too well known

Everything was perfect  
Sleepless nights were worth it  
every drive with the windows down  
You always greeted my father with a handshake  
Helped my mother make pancakes  
never would've guessed you'd ghost our town

You texted me sorry I have to leave  
Was I really that naive  
To expect closure through that "goodbye"  
I kept searching for explanations  
asking if this whole time I was just mistaken  
Cause I still didn't understand why

You came and went just like that  
Like a finger and a thumb, in a snap  
made and changed my whole life  
You made me find my strength  
To find love through my pain  
If only we could've also found more time

But here I am in April  
Still hurt, but grateful  
That although you're gone, you were at one point here  
so I turned to put the radio back on  
Held his hand, and at end of the song  
Listened to the music, like you, bittersweetly fade & disappear

# Kisses from a Dove

by Jessica Polanco '20  
Portfolio Staff

PROSE POETRY

The silence of the wind is the bed that I sleep on. The language of the waves assure me they are singing my favorite song. Someday I will find the courage to ask them to show me how to play the instruments they use. The body movement of the trees give motion to my favorite rhythm. My bucket list has "join their dance team" as number three. The wood stands tall and still, but you can tell by their eyes that they are enjoying the tune. Eye contact secured our similar thoughts in feeling liberate but still caged in self-restrictions. I wish I could remember who kindly invited me to this party. Hoping I will be asked to join again, already losing patience to feel the pulse of the wilderness in great relief. The lullaby of the wind bewildered my eyes with joy creating a flood in my soul, permanently stamping its melody in my ears. As the party was coming to an end I am influenced by the pure white dove in the sky. I blow a kiss, and I catch it, storing it in my heart.







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April 12, 2018

## Softball Plays Tough Against the Pirates

### *Two Friars Make Big East Honor Roll*

by Thomas Zinzarella '21  
Sports Staff

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SOFTBALL

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This past week, while most of the student body was focused on the Masters Tournament, the Friars were taking the field for their series matchup with the Seton Hall University Pirates.

The Friars started their weekend series with a doubleheader on Friday, where they split both games with Seton Hall. The Friars took the first game 8-6, but the Pirates roared back to win the second with a score of 7-6. The Pirates would win the series with a 3-2 walk-off victory on Saturday.

In game one, the Friars offense was led by Julianne Rurka '18, who was most recently named to the Big East Honor Roll for the week of March 25. During that week, she hit .250 while driving in four runs. In Friday's victory, Rurka recorded a 3-3 day while scoring twice. Rurka, who has caught fire at the plate recently, was named All-Big East Second Team last year ranking fourth in the Big East in average (.388) and RBI (21) during conference play.

On the mound, the Friars received a solid outing from Christina Ramirez '18. Ramirez, who has strung together a collection of strong performances, earned a spot on the Big East Honor Roll for the week of April second. Ramirez threw six and one-third innings, only



Mackensie Compton '20 steps up to the plate against Seton Hall.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

allowing one earned run in a win on the road versus Creighton.

Against Seton Hall, Ramirez earned her fourth win of the year, throwing a complete game while allowing eight hits and striking out four. Ramirez is having her most dominant season to this point. She has a career-low ERA of 3.25 in 69 innings while also tallying six complete games and one

shutout so far in the 2018 campaign. She is currently ranked ninth in the Big East in ERA.

Game two featured Miranda Trinidad '20 on the mound. Trinidad was also named to the Big East Honor Roll during the week of March 25 for her dominant pitching performance against Georgetown University. Trinidad threw 11 innings and held

a 1.27 ERA while only allowing six hits and two runs during the series. The sophomore threw a complete game against the Hoyas on March 24, only allowing one earned run on three hits. Trinidad owns the team's lowest earned run average with a 3.07 ERA in 59 1/3 innings pitched while throwing six complete games and is currently eighth in the Big East in ERA.

The Friars offense had contributions from multiple players with Emma Lee '19 going 3-4 with three runs, and Brittney Veler '18 adding two hits while driving in a run and scoring. The Friars came up just short after taking the lead in the top of the seventh. The Pirates walked it off in the 7-6 victory in the bottom ladder of the seventh.

In the final game of the three-game series, Megan McCune '19 took the rubber. McCune was able to keep the Pirate hitters off balance by throwing five innings while only allowing two runs on four hits. Seton Hall scored two in the bottom half of the fifth but the Friars answered right back with Mackensie Compton '20 hitting a two-run home run. The Pirates were able to squeeze by again with a walk-off single in the 3-2 victory for the Pirates.

The Friars finished the series with a 4-4 record in Big East Conference play and 7-21 in total. The Friars look to bounce back against Villanova University at home on Friday, April 13.

## Villanova Takes The Title

by Max Anderson '18  
Sports Staff

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PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL

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After one of the craziest seasons in recent history for men's college basketball, it only made sense that the postseason tournament matched the insanity.

The madness kicked off right out of the gate. In the opening two days, title hopefuls Arizona University and Wichita State University were both sent packing. In perhaps the biggest upset in NCAA Tournament history, the University of Maryland Baltimore County Golden Retrievers sent the number one overall seed University of Virginia home early with a final score of 74-54, marking the first time ever a No. 16 seed defeated a No. 1 seed. In the following two days, University of Tennessee, University of North Carolina, Michigan State University, University of Cincinnati, and another No. 1 seed, Xavier University, would bid farewell also. With the losses of North Carolina, Xavier and Cincinnati, the left side of the bracket was without not only the two No. 1 seeds, but also the two No. 2 seeds, marking it the first time ever in NCAA history that this has happened.

While the Sweet 16 and Elite Eight did not have the same madness the opening rounds contained, it did have one massive Cinderella story that



Villanova used its depth and great shooting to win their third National Title.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLES KRUPA/AP PHOTO

captivated the nation in No. 11 seed Loyola University of Chicago. The team, led by their 98-year-old unofficial mascot Sister Jean, won game after game, despite being labeled as the underdog in every matchup. They were able to best Miami and Tennessee in the opening rounds, followed by Nevada and Kansas St. in the later rounds to advance to the Final Four, just the fifth time a double-digit seed has advanced that far. The magic ultimately ran out when the Ramblers ran into John Beilein's University of Michigan Wolverines, losing by a final tally of 57-

69. Despite the Ramblers' failure to pull it off, they still showed that in March, double-digit seeds can make just as much noise as single-digit seeds.

On the right side of the bracket, order was mostly maintained, with No. 1 seeds Villanova University and University of Kansas advancing to the Final Four. Villanova, on the back of National Player of the Year Jalen Brunson, easily handled Kansas, advancing to their second National Championship game in three years, where they would square off with the Wolverines. In the National

Championship game, Michigan contested with the Wildcats early; however, Beilein's squad had no answer for Donte Divincenzo, who scored a game-high 31 points. Divincenzo's hot hand, along with Brunson's leadership, vaulted Villanova to a 79-62 victory, giving the Wildcats their second NCAA title in a three-year span.

As a fan of college basketball, I congratulate Villanova on their NCAA Championship victory; as a Friar, I say great, but look for the Providence Friars to make another strong run for the Big East Championship in 2019.



# NHL First-Round Playoff Preview

by **Jeremy Perrigo '18**  
Sports Staff

PROFESSIONAL HOCKEY

Christmas has befallen the National Hockey League, as the 2018 playoffs have officially arrived. For those who follow the NHL with any sort of consistency, April marks the beginning of two and a half months of pure joy and entertainment, as 16 of the league’s best teams embark on a grueling journey in a quest for the crowned jewel of the hockey world: The Stanley Cup.

Part of the great allure of the NHL playoffs is the fact that every series is played in the best-of-seven format, where teams can play no fewer than four games per round. The physical endurance required for this style of competition makes the on ice performance of its participants that much more impressive.

While other sports, such as basketball, conduct their postseasons in a similar seven-game format, the unpredictable nature of hockey allows for more variance in the results of each series. Therefore, it is not incredibly uncommon for an “underdog” team to beat an opponent that is heavily favored.

In 2012, the Los Angeles Kings, who entered the tournament as the eighth and final seed in the Western Conference, famously defeated first place Vancouver Canucks in round one, the second place St. Louis Blues in round two, and the third place Phoenix (now Arizona) Coyotes in round three. This was all before the Kings went on to defeat the New Jersey Devils in the final and



Brad Marchand looks to lead Boston back to the finals for the first time since 2013.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FRED KFOURY III/ GETTY IMAGES

claimed their first Stanley Cup in franchise history.

Just last season, the Nashville Predators, the 16th out of 16 teams to qualify for the playoffs, swept the Western Conference Champion Chicago Blackhawks in four games. Nashville would continue their run through St. Louis and Anaheim, where they would eventually fall to the Pittsburgh Penguins, two wins short of the Stanley Cup.

Nashville has returned with a vengeance this season, claiming the league’s Presidents Trophy for the team with the most points in the

regular season at 117. This marks a dramatic turnaround for the Predators from a year ago, where they went from never having the opportunity for home ice advantage in the playoffs, to being guaranteed that privilege all the way through to the final, should they return again this year.

While the club from Music City is a favorite for many to win the Stanley Cup this season, formidable opponents such as the Tampa Bay Lightning, Boston Bruins, and the divisional rival Winnipeg Jets may stand in their way.

While Tampa and Boston are both in the Eastern Conference and only have the potential of encountering Nashville in the final, a team like Winnipeg could present a roadblock as soon as the second round.

The Colorado Avalanche and Minnesota Wild are the first round opponents for Nashville and Winnipeg, respectively. While both the Avalanche and Wild have had strong seasons in their own right, there are few that see either roster as capable of eliminating the Central Division powerhouses that have been their demise throughout the regular season. If these two matchups go the route of the statistician, a second round clash between the Predators and Jets is all but a lock.

Other notable series include the Kings and the new addition Vegas Golden Knights, who sarcastically tout themselves “proud member of the league’s original 31” teams. Vegas and L.A. have sized up well this season, each team winning two of four meetings, with an overtime victory each way.

Some doubt the Knight’s ability to hang with some of the NHL’s best (even after they clinched the Pacific Division title). Others see this uncertainty as just another opportunity to prove the hockey world wrong, as the team was widely expected to take up residence in the cellar of the NHL standings heading into its inaugural season.

Local interest will likely be focused on the Bruins and the Toronto Maple Leafs, who last met up in the postseason back in 2013, where Boston memorably mounted a comeback in the third period of game seven, erasing a 4-1 deficit and winning the series off a shot from Patrice Bergeron in overtime. However, the Maple Leafs facing the Bruins this time around is a much newer and faster model than the version remembered from five years ago, and Boston is sure to have their hands full.

For fans, any first round series you decide to watch has a high chance of being worth the time spent, as the 2018 Stanley Cup Playoffs are shaping up to be one of the most exciting displays of athletic prowess that hockey has to offer.



The Predators are looking to make back-to-back Stanley Cup Finals appearances.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN RUSSELL/ NASHVILLE PREDATORS



# Patrick Reed Wins Masters

by Joe Myko '19  
Sports Staff

GOLF

Held on the weekend of April 5-8 at the Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia, this year's Masters Tournament saw Patrick Reed pick up his first major championship title.

Beginning the competition as the world's 24th ranked professional golfer meant Reed was not one of the first names backed for success in Augusta, making this somewhat of a surprise win. Born in San Antonio, Texas, Reed bested two of his fellow countrymen, Jordan Spieth and Rickie Fowler, to take home the glory with a spectacular one-shot win.

27-year-old Reed led the competition from the second round, besting Rory McIlroy by three shots overnight. Northern-Irishman McIlroy, who still has yet to win this competition, declined with two-over 74. Meanwhile, Reed showcased nerves of steel when he parred the last shot, shooting 71 and winning with 15 under. Ultimately though, Rickie Fowler bested Spieth to second-finishing with nine birdies within a 64.

Tiger Woods gave his best



Reed celebrates his first Masters win.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK SMITH/ GETTY IMAGES

performance to one of the early rounds of the tournament, accumulating a three-under-par 69 for one-over 289 tying for 32nd overall. The 42-year-old has won the Masters on four previous occasions, the most recently in 2005. Woods has been on a sharp decline

in his success since his last major win in 2008, which has been mainly catalyzed by a debilitating back problem which left him required spinal fusion surgery. An upbeat Woods was quoted by *USA Today* news seeming grateful to have even took part in the competition: "To just be out here competing again, if you had said that last year at this particular time I would have said you're crazy," he said.

Reed was quoted as saying that this win was all the more special due to it being held in such close proximity to where he attended college, at the University of Georgia.

However, upsets are not uncommon at this annual tournament, with Reed being the ninth first-time major title winner at the Masters from the last twelve events. Impressively also, all four of the major championship titles in professional golf currently belong to Americans, all of which are under 28.

The Masters, established in 1934, is one of the four major championship titles for professional golfers. However, it is distinguished from the others in that it has always been held at the same location; the private course in Augusta, Georgia, built in 1933.

# PC'S Erik Foley Goes Pro

by Sam Scanlon '19  
Sports Staff

ICE HOCKEY

Twenty-seven seconds is all that stood in the way of the Providence College Men's Ice Hockey Team getting a chance to top the Notre Dame Fighting Irish in the NCAA Tournament East Region Finals on March 24. Unfortunately, the end of another successful Friars Hockey season came to a crashing halt as Notre Dame stunned the Friars with a late third period goal to win the game 2-1.

With the conclusion of the season, PC not only says goodbye to the five graduating seniors, including Friar superstar Brian Pinho '18 and the lone graduate transfer Tommy Davis, but we also lose a top forward in Erik Foley '19. Foley has decided to forego his senior season with the Friars and sign an entry-level contract with the St. Louis Blues, but will report to the San Antonio Rampage, the AHL affiliate of St. Louis, on an Amateur Tryout (ATO). Foley's three year entry-level deal with the Blues will be in effect at the start of the 2018-19 NHL season.

Foley was originally selected to the Winnipeg Jets in the third round of the 2015 NHL Entry Draft, but his rights were shipped to St. Louis at this year's trade deadline. Foley was a part of a package deal that included NHL veteran Paul Stasny and a handful of prospects and future draft picks.

The Mansfield, Massachusetts native and product of Tabor Academy in Marion, Massachusetts spent a year in Cedar Rapids, Iowa with the Cedar Rapids Roughriders of the USHL prior to his freshman year at Providence College. Foley



Foley looks to continue a successful college career to the NHL.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

has excelled in his three years as a Friar, as he has posted 88 points on 38 goals and 50 assists in his 110 games played as a Friar.

Foley's production increased each year, as he posted career highs in points (35), goals (16), and tying his 2017 mark in assists (19) this past season. His efforts were enough to lead the team in points and tie for the team high in goals with Kasper Björkqvist '20. Foley has emerged as one of the nation's most dangerous scoring threats, and his offensive presence is going to be missed at the forefront of the Friar's lineup.

His production this season did not go unnoticed, as he was named the Hockey East Player of the Month in November and had 14 points during a seven-game point streak throughout the month. Foley was also named as a Hockey East First Team All-Star for this season, joining teammate Jacob Bryson '20 and four Northeastern Huskies.

In his three years, Foley was no stranger to winning, as he plotted

a 73-31-13 record. Also, Foley was a part of the historic USA IIHF World Junior Championships team in the 2017 Tournament who won the Gold Medal in dramatic fashion over Canada.

His big physical presence on the ice as well as scoring touch are going to be missed at Schneider Arena next season. Nonetheless, congratulations to Erik Foley on both a fantastic collegiate career and the start of a successful professional career.



# PCI: Who Will Win the NBA Finals?

## Portland Trail Blazers



PHOTO COURTESY: CRAIG MITCHELLDYER/USA TODAY

Damien Lillard and the Portland Trail Blazers are ready to make a run for the NBA title.

by Sullivan Burgess '20  
Sports Staff

PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL

While the NBA’s Western Conference used to be dominated by teams such as the Lakers, Spurs, and Warriors, this season has shown that any of the eight teams from the est have an equal chance to win the NBA Finals. However, this year’s champions of the 2018 NBA Finals should be the Portland Trail Blazers. Currently sitting third in the western conference with one game left, behind the Rockets and the Warriors, Portland looks to be the underdog in a conference full of All-Stars. While the Rockets have the best record in the NBA, stars Chris Paul and James Harden do not have the track record to finish a series in their favor, and will most likely lose in the Western Conference Finals in six games. The Warriors will most likely not be able to get far into the playoffs, despite Kevin Durant playing outstanding basketball this season. They have no option in the guard area as Stephen Curry is still battling his MCL injury. Point guard Damian Lillard and the rest of his team have the mindset to take over this year’s playoffs and prove they are championship team

this season. Lillard has shaped himself into one of the best point guards in the NBA, averaging 26.8 points per game, 6.5 assists per game, and 4.5 rebounds, proving himself to be a top candidate for this year’s league MVP. Lillard, in past experience, has had the ability to take over games in crunch time, and show up to be the closer to any opponent that stands in his way. Alongside Lillard is shooting guard CJ McCollum, who is averaging 21.4 points per game, elavating this duo to one of the best backcourt tandems in the NBA. McCollum has the strength to throw off his defenders, making him one of the hardest players to guard, and the power to consistently make shots. On the defensive end, Jusuf Nurkic stands out as one of the top 10 centers of the Western Conference as he averages nine rebounds per game. The bench has also come together to play good overall basketball as they prove to be reliable scoring options and defensive efforts to stop any team. The Trail Blazers have shown throughout the season their ability to turn heads to prove them as the front runners of the west. The Portland Trail Blazers will go onto win the championship and bring the franchise’s second title in history.

## Philadelphia 76ers



PHOTO COURTESY OF USA TODAY IMAGES

Joel Embiid leads into the playoffs after several years of being one of the worst teams in the NBA.

by Ethan Ticehurst '18  
Sports Staff

PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL

This is the year that “the process” is finally going to pay off. With the third seed in the East nearly locked up, it is easy to see that the 76ers have definitely had a successful regular season. Their season has become all the more impressive when looking at the standings from last season, when Philadelphia finished second to last in the Eastern Conference. Improving from their 28-54 season last year, to winning more than 50 games this year for the first time in nearly 20 years should be enough to convince anyone that the rebuild seems to be complete in Philly. The path to the NBA Finals for the 76ers is far from daunting. The Raptors and the Celtics, the top two teams in the conference, have had pretty good regular seasons but will not present much of a challenge. The Raptors have had a tough time in the playoffs in recent years, losing some series that they probably should have won. The Celtics, who have had a good season and looked strong for most the year, have been riddled with injuries in the last month of the season and are

now without their star player, Kyrie Irving. The only real challenge that seems to remain in the East is the Cavaliers, who simply continue to remain a threat thanks to LeBron James. However, the 76ers have managed to split the season series with the Cavaliers, showing that they are evenly matched. If they can match up with LeBron well, they can manage to win. This is all assuming that the Cavaliers do not get knocked out in an earlier round. Once the finals come around, the 76ers would have to face their toughest challenge yet. Whichever team comes out of the West, they will be challenging and fresh off winning what is shaping up to be a dogfight in the earlier rounds. The assumption is that the West’s representative in the finals will most likely be the Houston Rockets, given their strong regular season, the assumed MVP James Harden, and the injury problems that currently face the Golden State Warriors. A matchup between the 76ers and the Rockets would be very entertaining finals, as they split the season series in two very close games. Ben Simmons, Joel Embiid, and the Philldelphia 76ers will be hoisting the Larry O’Brien trophy in the end.



# Red Sox-Yankees Rivalry is Back on

by Jack Belanger '21  
Sports Co-Editor

BASEBALL

After the first week of the Major League Baseball season, there is already plenty of excitement around the league. Shohei Ohtani of the Los Angeles Angels is showing he can dominate on, the mound, and at the plate, the Astros strong play has carried over from last year, and the Mets have surprisingly jumped out hot to start the year. The most interesting storyline this year could be the potential resurgence of the Red Sox-Yankees rivalry, who played their first series this week.

Both teams added fuel to fire this offseason as the Yankees hired Red Sox enemy Aaron Boone as their new manager and signed 2017 home run leader Giancarlo Stanton.

The Sox made moves of their own by signing outfielder J.D. Martinez and hiring former Red Sox infielder Alex Cora as their manager. Making the playoffs is not the goal for these teams as both owners expect their teams to compete for a title year in and year out. This year, the teams could potentially meet in the playoffs for the first time since 2004.

Coming into their first series of the season at Fenway Park, the Red Sox and Yankees each pegged their top three starters to pitch in the series. Each team sent their ace out for the first game as Boston's Chris Sale faced off against New York's Luis Severino. Sale pitched like the true ace he is and only gave up one run in six innings. Severino, however, struggled and allowed five runs in five innings. Overall, the Sox won 14-1, highlighted by right fielder Mookie Betts' grand slam in the bottom of the sixth inning. The game had a playoff atmosphere right from the beginning, as the Sox were looking to make a statement win over the AL East favorites. Boos and jeers were constant throughout the night, especially when Yankees stars Aaron Judge and Stanton came up to bat.

The next night the Yanks returned a favor as they scored four runs against pitcher David Price in the first inning and scored eight runs through four innings though the Sox fought back to make it a close game. A brawl also broke out after Red Sox pitcher Joe Kelley hit Yankee Tyler Austin. Austin then charged the mound and both team's benches cleared out. This opening series has brought a spark back to the rivalry that will continue throughout the season.

Last season was the first year since 2009 that both the Yankees and the Red Sox make it to the playoffs. For the past eight seasons, Boston and New York have had their fair share of disappointing years, causing the rivalry to cool down.

Last season saw the Red Sox win 93 games and their second consecutive division title but lose in the American League Divisions Series, this time to the eventual champs, the Houston Astros. The Yankees, on the other hand, came into 2017 looking to continue to rebuild after only winning 84 games in 2016, and wound up winning 91 games due to a break-out season by rookie sensation Judge and were one win away from going to the World Series, also losing to Houston. The Yankees beat the Red Sox in the season series, 11-8.

# PC's Jessica Looney '20 Looks to Compete in Boston Marathon

by Meaghan Cahill '20

BOSTON MARATHON

After a mere 26.2 miles, Jessica Looney '20 will become the youngest member of the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team to complete the world famous Boston Marathon.

Running for both of her grandfathers, who each passed away from cancer, Looney decided to apply for the Dana-Farber team because it was "a good charity to give back to." The team consists of a little over 500 people, and this year 50-75 new applicants were accepted.

The application process was very extensive, and once she made the team, Looney was faced with the challenge of having to raise the required amount of money to be on the team.

"There is the expectation to raise \$10,000," Looney said, which is double the required amount of raised donations. With that \$10,000 price in mind, Looney decided to set the goal of reaching the minimum \$5,000 before Christmas.

"Anything after that is a bonus," she said. Her goal was met and to date, Looney has raised well over \$8,000.

"I am so happy to be raising...much more [than

the required \$5,000]." Looney relentlessly pursued fundraising opportunities, choosing to send fliers to neighbors, family friends, etc. However, the main source of her fundraising came from the blog that she decided to create to put her marathon experience into words.

The blog, entitled "Why I Run," is a way for Looney to publicly reach out to as many people as she can to receive donations, but also to memorialize her "milestone moments" in word form and track her progress and training experience, which officially began Jan. 1 of this year.

When asked why she decided to start training for the Boston Marathon, Looney admitted that it was "always something I wanted to do and the [Providence] half marathon really pushed me to want to go to that next step." Looney then continued to say, "It had been on my mind since I got to college."

Come the start of the new year, Looney wasted no time getting into her training, setting apart long distance days and short distance days. Her runs range from 10 to 18 miles.

Her longest run to date was when she completed the first 22 miles of the Boston Marathon, stopping just after grinding up



Looney trains for the Boston Marathon.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA LOONEY '20



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA LOONEY '20

Looney credits Harrod with helping her prepare for the marathon.

Heartbreak Hill, which Looney boldly claims is "not as hard as everyone makes it out to be."

"Your body is moving and you aren't even thinking about it after a while," Looney commented on the long distance of the course and the amount of time it takes to finish it. "Plus, after a while everything just goes numb," she jokingly added.

With no prior running training, Looney turned to Andrew "Drew" Harrod '19 for tips and assistance in how to prepare.

"He's really helped a lot," Looney said of her running companion, who is not running the Boston Marathon, but is planning on competing in the Providence Marathon.

Being a "student in training," Looney does admit to missing out on a lot of things such as "going out on the weekends with my friends," but she does not regret her choice to run the marathon.

"I'm probably gonna cry when I finish," she admitted.

Turning more towards the actual race, Looney claims she is "feeling pretty confident" and that she has "no need to prepare any more [than she already has]."

"It's been in my mind for six months and I can't believe that it's finally here," she stated. And if there is one thing that she definitely wants to highlight about the past six months, and the biggest race of her life, it's that to Looney, "It is all about the experience, the experience is the most important part," and that she will "be happy to finish no matter what [time she gets]."

In terms of her final time, Looney admitted, "I'd be excited to break four hours."

Having run every day since sophomore year of high school, Looney believes she is "not going to know what to do with herself" once she finishes the Boston Marathon.

"I am going abroad next spring and I would like to run some half marathons in different countries," she admitted. Due to her being away next time the Boston Marathon comes around, Looney will be unable to run it, but she is determined she will "definitely run it again," in the future.

Donations are still being accepted for the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge Team. Those who wish to donate can go to Looney's personal blog [why-irun.com](http://why-irun.com) to make a donation.