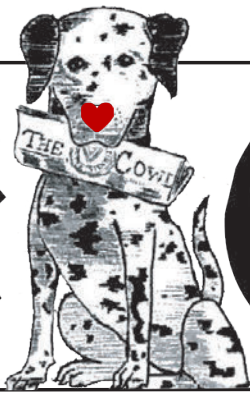


The Cowl



SINCE 1935

Vol. LXXXIII No. 16 | February 13, 2020 | thecowl.com

Lights, Camera, Action: The Providence French Film Festival

by Jennifer Villeda '20
A&E Staff
LOCAL

People enjoy films that connect them, whether it is through topics like the search for identity and navigating daily issues, or to provide an escape through works filled with quirky characters and overactive imaginations. Regardless if it is in another language, the impact of the message can be just as profound and moving as you gain knowledge about another culture and, sometimes, yourself as well.

Taking place from Feb. 28 to March 5, the Providence French Film Festival will be showcasing francophone films at the Martinos Auditorium in the Granoff Center of the Arts at Brown University. This will be the festival's second year held at this center; prior to 2019, it took place at Cable Car Cinema until its closing in 2018.

This will be the first year



The festival will feature over 20 short and feature-length films. PHOTO COURTESY OF BROWN.EDU

Regina Longo will act as the new artistic director of the event. She is excited to have the city of Providence see what this festival has to offer. She said, "We want to reach out to

different groups and bring the city into our campus; this is not just a Brown or RISD event. It is more of a community event as it has something for everyone."

Festival/Page 11

An Inside Look at the Upcoming Softball Season

by Leo Hainline '22
Sports Staff
PREVIEW

This week marks the beginning of the Providence College softball season as the Friars head down to Texas to square off against Houston Baptist University, Sam Houston State University, and George Mason University. PC softball is on the rise after Coach Jill Karwoski took over the program last year, finishing the season with a 30-22 record—a great improvement from the team's 13-32 performance in 2018—and the most wins for the Friars since 2005. Despite some key members graduating, namely Emma Lee '19 who made the Big East Second Team last season with a .411 batting average, excitement is brewing around the current squad.

Coach Karwoski has unified the program through a team-first philosophy that the players have embraced. When asking Skie Villani '22 (who this weekend will be playing close to her hometown of Sugar Land, TX) about the strengths of the team, she emphasized that the true strengths do not lie in an individual player or position but within the values that they hold as a program. "Our strengths come from our core values—attitude and gratitude, open-heart open-mind, and respect and commitment," she stated. "To be successful we know we'll have to work as a team."

Friars/Page 17

"Calories Count: Check Then Choose" A Promotion for Wellness with Potentially Negative Effects

by Olivia Bretzman '22
Opinion Staff
ON CAMPUS

Third floor. Aquinas Hall. The vending machines play an essential role for the residents when a late-night snack helps quell the struggle of a study session or paper-writing. One thing, though, that really puts a bad taste in one's mouth is the large sticker plastered on the drink machine that reads, "Calories Count. Check Then Choose."

The American Beverage Association, which represents Coca-Cola Co., PepsiCo Inc., and Dr Pepper Snapple Group Inc., placed these decals on their drink vending machines as a way to encourage people to make healthier choices when purchasing a drink, like swapping soda for water.

The concept of making healthy decisions is incredibly important on many levels. What is problematic with this particular sticker, even though it is well-intentioned, is the fact that they could be triggering for anyone struggling with an eating disorder. Unfortunately, the reality is that many people struggle with eating disorders or poor body image, something our campus does not talk about enough.

In fact, it is a psychological fact that surrounds this issue: predisposition to calorie counting and poor body image manifests into obsessive compulsive habits with food. This reminder, then, to "count one's calories," can actually be a severe detriment to someone's health. Anyone

walking by these decals—even people who are not purchasing a drink—can be affected by their messaging.

Companies should consider this fact when designing the slogans for their health initiatives. But as a campus, we can go further: we need to foster more conversation about eating disorders and body image.

Eating disorders are a mental illness. It is as simple as that. They typically begin with a negative relationship with food and a psychological shift that food is "evil." People typically try to overmanage their food, calculating calories, setting strict daily limits, etc. This begins as an obsessive cycle that can lead to starvation and, consequently, binge eating. A plethora of health concerns obviously surround all eating disorders.

Unfortunately, for sufferers of these mental illnesses, the nourishment the human body craves becomes an incredibly unhealthy management project. Thus, one can understand where a sticker that encourages counting calories, while meant to suggest a healthy drink, does nothing but perpetuate the problem.

Many students struggle with or even develop eating disorders in college due to stressful workloads, the pressure of transition, social media, etc. Thankfully, there are many who are aware of these disorders at Providence College. Members from the Simply Healthy Club recognize the threat these stickers have on mental health.

Wellness/Page 5



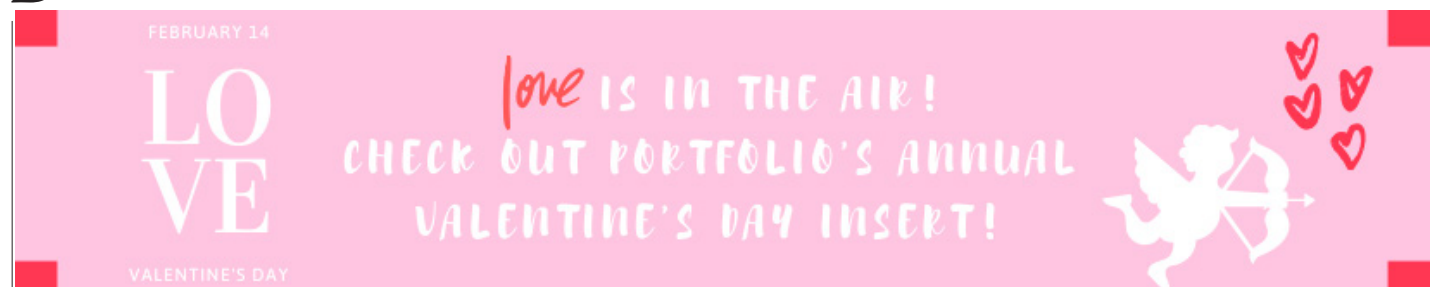
NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL

Although the intention of "Calories Count" is to promote health and wellness, it could do the opposite for some.

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Establishing a New "Peck"ing Order *PC Student Develops New Networking App*

by Hannah Langley '21
News Co-Editor

CAMPUS

As college students, something most of us have probably dealt with before is the difficulty of connecting with fellow classmates and students. Whether it be trying to create group chats for a class project or Venmo a person for dinner the night before, Providence College students can all relate to the difficulty of connecting in an easy, organized way.

To help solve this problem, Patrick Callahan '22 has helped develop a new app called "PeckApp" which, as Callahan describes it, "is a mobile contact sharing app based on the idea that there needs to be a way to connect across platforms of communication quickly and simultaneously because nowadays people communicate through so many different mediums."

With the help of two fellow students—Nick Tolimieri from Vanderbilt University and Zach Cmiel from Northwestern University—the three sophomores noticed during their freshman year that it became difficult to connect with people they were meeting across multiple platforms. "You might have someone's Snapchat because you got added into a group but you don't

"PeckApp allows PC students to network and socialize in a new way that is useful to anyone they come into contact with."

have their phone number when you need to call them," said Callahan, "Or you might have to text a new person asking them what your Venmo account is because you have never sent them money."

Callahan explained how the app works, saying, "When users create a PeckApp profile, they add in any contact information they desire such as their phone number, email, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Snapchat, Groupme, Venmo, or a custom URL. Once their profile is created users select which of their contact information they would like to share and it creates a custom PeckApp QR code. This QR code



Peck App allows students to connect without hassle.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PXHERE.COM

can be scanned by other PeckApp users to "peck" someone else."

He mentioned, too, that even those who do not have the app downloaded can still scan the QR code using their normal cameras, allowing people to connect in a simple and efficient way.

When the PeckApp was first released in May 2019, the three knew they had to come up with a name. Originally, their idea was to have users bump their phones together to transfer information, so they thought the word "peck" captured this quick exchange. "Even though users no longer bump their phones into each other," said Callahan, "we stuck with the name because we love how it can be used as a verb."

While Callahan admits he is not the most "tech-minded individual," he said he was fortunate to meet Cmiel, who had extensive experience and skill with coding and technology. "Zach is the sole developer on the team and is a tech wizard," said Callahan. "We are really lucky to have a talented guy like him on the team."

Even though Callahan is not the developer of PeckApp, he talked about how he has learned a great deal since beginning to create the app 17 months ago. "I have learned so much about marketing, product development, small

businesses, startups, and networking through working on PeckApp," said Callahan.

To showcase PeckApp to the PC community, Callahan is planning on hosting a table at the Career Expo on Wednesday, February 19. He also explained how he is planning on utilizing the app throughout the event, saying, "I have been working on making all of the attending companies PeckApp profiles, which include their phone numbers, social media profiles, emails, websites, and any other useful information. We are then creating custom PeckApp QR codes that they will be able to display on their tables."

His hope is that the PC community, especially students, will download PeckApp in the future, as it allows them to have the ability to "share exactly what they want, when they want, with who they want." He stated, "PeckApp allows PC students to network and socialize in a new way that is useful to anyone they come into contact with."

While he is not sure what will come out of this in the future, Callahan said he is just really enjoying the experience and learning through the process. He encourages the PC community to download PeckApp, which is available on all iPhone and Android devices.

NAACP Spreads the Love

by Will Devaney '23
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

On Feb. 6, Providence College students got the opportunity to listen to Reverend Justin Lester speak about love and the various forms it presents itself in our daily lives at the "Enough Love to Go Around" event. Lester is the pastor for Congdon Street Baptist Church right here in Providence. He is an adjunct professor at Providence College, as well as a Religious Life Affiliate at Brown University. He came to PC last Thursday to share some advice and speak on his own experiences with his church.

College campuses are busy places—they are the birthplace of countless memories, ideas, and relationships. Lester began his talk by speaking to the students about the importance of fostering healthy and valuable relationships. He highlighted the importance of knowing who you are before you commit yourself to a relationship. He stressed that your values should align with the person that you are in a relationship with, in order to be able to grow as a person with them.

His next talking point covered how loving yourself is necessary in order to love others. "In order to cultivate love, we have to do things that we are passionate about and care about," said Rev. Lester, "People should consider all of their experiences as an investment towards yourself," he added. He told the group to be careful with their endeavors, because they make you who you are. Friends, professors, and bosses all contribute to your personal development, so it is important to choose them wisely. Beyond the campus, he told the students that they must choose a job offer that aligns with their personal values. "No is a sentence," he said, explaining that it is ok to say no without offering an explanation. The pastor explained that we dedicate so much of our time and energy into our careers, so it is important that we undertake jobs that allow us to focus on things that we care about.

The event was held in the Slavin Overlook Lounge and hosted by the NAACP. Students who attended got to enjoy some Insomnia Cookies as they listened. Students definitely took away valuable lessons about college life and life after graduation from Rev. Lester. President of the NAACP chapter, Beah Cyrus '22, commented on the talk, "He was lighthearted as he spoke and pretty funny. Students definitely enjoyed the event and he had all of our attention."



PECKAPP

PHOTO COURTESY OF PECKAPP.COM

Featured Friar: Julia Lorkiewicz '20

Friar Finds Her Newfound Passion in HPM

by Kyle Burgess '21
News Co-Editor

FEATURED FRIAR

Before setting foot on campus move-in day, the typical incoming Providence College freshmen bury themselves in a landslide of questions. "Did I pack enough Vineyard Vines apparel?" to "Will I get along with my roommates?" and, for some, "Did I really pick the right major for the career I want to have?"

Some students, like Julia Lorkiewicz '20, eventually find that the major they had declared upon entering PC is not all that they had envisioned it to be. Panic begins to creep in at the prospect of having to go through the process of picking a major all over again, coupled with fears of how this change will impact career choices after graduation.

"I came in declared as a science major, specifically focusing in chemistry," Lorkiewicz explained, "but I also came into college with absolutely no idea what I wanted to do with my life. About two weeks into school, I decided that it was not for me. I felt lost, confused, and very uncertain regarding what was ahead of me."

Lorkiewicz felt at a loss as to what would come next. "At first, I felt disappointed in myself for not finding something right off the bat that I loved, and I spent a lot of time comparing myself to my science classmates who loved what they were doing when I did not feel the same way."

However, while surfing PC's online list of majors with her mother, Lorkiewicz came across Health Policy



Lorkiewicz has kept herself involved in her four years in Friartown. PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIA LORKIEWICZ '20

and Management (HPM) which piqued her interest. Following her mother's advice, she enrolled in an introductory course for her second semester, and the rest was history.

"I can truly say this was the best decision I have ever made. My advisor, Dr. Hackey, has become my mentor, my advocate, and truly one of the best professors I have ever had," Lorkiewicz added.

Life as an HPM major has offered her a wide array of interesting internships, giving her the opportunity to watch policies she reads about in the classroom in action. Lorkiewicz was able to sit in on medical licensing boards with the Rhode Island Department of Health during their discussions of the

opioid crisis in Rhode Island, followed up with her work as a summer intern at a medical malpractice law firm, which fueled her growing desire to attend law school after graduating from PC.

Her most recent internship at Marsh & McLennan Agency located in Worcester, MA, however, is where everything clicked for Lorkiewicz. She was able to use her HPM experience while brokering and consulting with clients, and she is looking forward to working there full time come this June.

When asked to give advice for current students having second thoughts about their major or are still undecided, Lorkiewicz insisted that they find a field that they are truly passionate about.

"The transition of switching my major was one of the scariest, yet greatest decisions I have ever made. Nothing is ever permanent and there are always going to be people to help you find where your strengths lie. Reach out to professors you trust, advisors, the career center, family members, or anyone else you trust for advice. But in the end, it is your happiness that matters in whatever major and career field you choose."

In addition to keeping herself busy with her impressive strand of internships, Lorkiewicz has still found the time to expand her social network at PC.

She has been heavily involved in her four years in Friartown, serving as an Admissions Ambassador senior fellow and executive board member, two-time fall orientation leader, peer ministry leader, Lighthouse and Transformations retreat leader, and was recently inducted into the Dirigo Leadership Honor Society.

In the little free time she has remaining, Lorkiewicz can be found cheering on the Friars at the Dunkin' Donuts Center, working out at Concannon Fitness Center, exploring downtown Providence for new restaurants to try, or buried in a Dunkin' iced coffee with her best friends in Slavin.

Ultimately, however, Lorkiewicz credits the many professors and classmates who helped her to find her true calling as an HPM major during her transitional freshman year and beyond as the foundation for her countless memorable experiences here at PC.

Around the Political Horn

PC Professors Weigh in on Current Political Events

by Nicole Silverio '22
News Staff

CAMPUS

Last Wednesday, February 5, five professors from the political science department, Dr. Bill Hudson, Dr. Joseph Cammarano, Dr. Paul Herron, Dr. Adam Myers, and Dr. Matthew Guardino, held a panel discussion in the Arthur F. and Patricia Ryan School of Business discussing contemporary politics in the past week.

This week has shaped American politics with the start of the Democratic primary and caucus elections, the presidential impeachment trial, and the State of the Union Address, which took place the night before the panel.

The first topics of discussion were the articles of impeachment, in which President Donald Trump was officially acquitted by the Senate. Only one Republican senator, Mitt Romney, voted to convict President Trump.

Dr. Hudson made the claim that Trump was not cooperating with Congress. He then cited a book published in the 1970s titled *The Imperial Presidency* which discussed the impeachment of former President Richard Nixon. Nixon allowed witnesses to testify in his trial, unlike the current president.

"Trump has not been forthcoming in providing information. This administration would not participate in the impeachment at all. Nine witnesses called to testify refused to appear," said Hudson. "There's going to be more stonewalling from the Trump administration which may depend on court cases that may come up."

After the discussion on impeachment, a long discussion arose on the State of the Union Address,

in which President Trump spoke before Congress, Supreme Court justices, and the American people, addressing the progress made in this country.

Dr. Myers stated that historically, "The State of the Union Address was not public until Woodrow Wilson's presidency. The reasoning for this was the fear of demagoguery. Meyers says, "We should go back to the way it was in the 19th century, where the President submitted a letter to his Cabinet and Congress. The current State of the Union is a ridiculous tradition."

Dr. Cammarano added, "We have to acknowledge that Trump has done a lot of what he said he would do in 2016. However, I have been studying politics for several years and this State of the Union made me not want to study politics anymore since it was a classic example of what politics has become. It has become political professional wrestling. What we're seeing is not politics, it's political wrestling."

What he was referring to was the tension between President Trump and Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who visibly tore Trump's speech on camera. After, Trump refused to shake her hand.

In regards to Trump's claims in the State of the Union, Dr. Guardino said, "Last night was an object lesson not only to fact check but to critically evaluate claims in context. The economy is doing well largely due to many grassroots movements, which has led to states across the nation increasing their minimum wages, which the Trump administration has opposed doing." President Trump's accomplishments may have been embellished or have happened without his involvement.

Dr. Hudson mentioned that Trump is "a very clever showman and administered that in the State of the Union. It's in Trump's best interest to be the kind of showman that he is when he talks to the press in order to get reelected."

On the topic of the recent conflicts between political parties, the professors talked about how fifty years ago, political parties were weaker, causing differences in opinions to have less of an impact on legislation.

"Up until the 70s, we did not have strong political parties," said Myers. "When we have strong parties like we do today the system breaks down." Cammarano added, "I want weaker parties and for Republicans and Democrats to focus on the common interest of the people." In today's political climate, it is difficult for people with different political views to understand others opinions, which reflects how the parties treat one another in Congress.

In today's polarizing political climate, the political science department wants students to understand what is currently unfolding in politics because, as Cammarano put it, "the young people are going to be the ones to have to fix the major issues in today's politics, and it is essential to get today's youth involved in political events in order to make significant changes needed in today's crazy political climate."



PHOTO COURTESY OF COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.ORG

Tensions on the Hill remain high despite Trump's acquittal.

Bursting the PC Bubble

Members of Chinese Military Indicted by U.S. Government

by Matthew Mazzella '20
News Staff

WORLD NEWS

Four members of the Chinese military have been charged by the U.S. Department of Justice for the hacking of Equifax credit reporting agency in 2017.

The hackers stole the personal information of nearly 150 million Americans, including names, birthdays, and social security numbers. Deputy FBI Director David Bowdich said this breach is "the largest instance of state-sponsored theft in U.S. history."

The charged parties include four members of the Chinese People's Liberation Army's 54th Research Institute, which is a branch of the Chinese army. The hackers included Wu Zhiyong, Wang Qian, Xu Ke, and Liu Lei. These parties are facing major charges from the United States, including allegations of conspiracy to commit computer fraud, conspiracy to commit economic espionage, and conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

Last year, Equifax has agreed to pay up to \$700 million in settlements with the Federal Trade Commission. These cases investigated how Equifax handled the data breach. A large sum of the settlement went towards to those affected by the data breach, as they allocated \$425 million to help

customers whose data was accessed as a result of the hacking.

Attorney General William Barr was outraged by the attack on America, and expressed his concern for national security, by saying, "This was an organized and remarkably brazen criminal heist of sensitive information of nearly half of all Americans, as well as the hard work and intellectual property of an American company, by a unit of the Chinese military,"

private networks with the hopes of gaining insight on trade details.

This case adds to the list of many breaches performed by the Chinese government, only adding to the already existing trade tensions between the U.S. and China.

Thomas McMahon '20 expressed his concern with the Chinese government being able to access millions of American's private information easily.

McMahon angrily said, "It is really alarming that anyone can access confidential information if they try hard enough. Just look at what happened to Capital One this summer. I try my best to keep my information secure, but there is only so much you can do with the sophistication of hackers these days."

Whether it be the hacking of more than 20 million files on government employees, theft of more than 10 million health records from health insurance provider Anthem, or the stealing of hundreds of millions of Marriot Hotel records, China is no amateur when it comes to stealing precious information from American citizens. These cases have raised questions as to whether the United States government is doing enough to protect its citizens from these ever so often hacking cases by foreign governments.

Charging these four suspects associated with the Equifax case is a step in the right direction for national security, but the United States is far from being able to solve the recurring issue related to the hacking of confidential information.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FREESVG.ORG



Barr said.

This is not the only instance where the Chinese Liberation Army (PLA) has launched hacking campaigns against the United States. In 2014, five Chinese military hackers were charged with breaking into major corporation's

Election of 2020

Political Updates About this Year's Upcoming Election

President "Trumps" Impeachment

by Alexandra Huzyk '20
News Staff

POLITICS

After a four-month period of impeachment processes, President Donald Trump has officially been acquitted of both articles of impeachment drafted against him, as determined by the trials conducted by the Senate.

In September 2019, a government whistleblower issued a complaint against President Trump. Soon after, Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, called for an impeachment inquiry against President Trump, claiming that he had betrayed his Oath of Office and the election process.

The House Intelligence Committee was then tasked with investigation, and the Judiciary Committee drafted two articles of impeachment—one for abuse of power, and the other for obstruction of Congress. The House of Representatives approved both articles, which required a simple majority of votes.

The articles of impeachment were then passed on to the Republican-controlled Senate, which was responsible for conducting President Trump's trial. The trial included opening and closing remarks from the Democratic House impeachment managers and President Trump's team of lawyers, plus a 16-hour questioning period by senators. A super majority of 67 votes was needed to convict President Trump for each respective charge.

For the first article of impeachment—



PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR.COM

President Trump claims victory over charges of impeachment.

abuse of power—all Democrats and Independents voted guilty. All Republicans, with the exception of Utah Senator Mitt Romney, voted not guilty. The final tallies were 52 to 48 to acquit him of this first article.

Romney's vote to convict President Trump "marked the first time in American history that a senator voted to convict a president of his own party in an impeachment trial," as stated by *NBC News*. Romney defended his choice in a speech before the Senate, but continued to receive criticism from both President Trump and other members of the Republican Party.

For the second article of impeachment placed against Trump—obstruction of Congress—all Democrats and

Independents voted guilty, while all Republicans voted not guilty. The final tallies were 53 to 47 to acquit Trump of this second article, split along party lines.

After President Trump's acquittal, he promptly spoke out in a number of tweets. The first was a parody video illustrating his decision to continue running for reelection, ending with the message: "Trump 4EVA." In a separate tweet, he claimed he would provide more commentary, "our Country's VICTORY on the Impeachment Hoax." President Trump will likely use the impeachment trial results to further vilify Democrats during his reelection campaign.

According to Gallup, a recent public

opinion poll reported that President Trump's approval rating hit the highest yet, at 49 percent. The public remains highly divided along partisan lines.

This division was further exacerbated in President Trump's televised State of the Union speech on Feb. 4. After describing Democrats who support universal health care as socialists, President Trump urged Congress to support legislation to lower prescription drug prices. This was met with dissenting chants from Democrats.

President Trump also continued to emphasize policies aimed at helping black Americans, a group which overwhelmingly disapproves of Trump.

However, in conflict with these efforts, President Trump awarded conservative talk radio host Rush Limbaugh the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This award is the nation's highest honor that a civilian can receive. In the past, Limbaugh has made precarious comments on race; particularly in regards to former President Barack Obama.

After President Trump concluded his State of the Union speech, he handed House Speaker Nancy Pelosi a copy of his speech. When she reached out to shake his hand, President Trump turned away. As Republicans cheered, Pelosi tore the copy of President Trump's remarks in half.

Both the impeachment trials and the State of the Union speech are emblematic of continued bipartisan tensions, likely to be echoed in the 2020 presidential campaigns and elections.

“Calories Count”: Starting the Eating Disorder Conversation

Wellness

Continued from front page

Secretary Allyson Giso '22 stated, “I don’t think it was worded correctly. Health doesn’t necessarily equate to calories.” Not only is this statement incredibly accurate, but it is a main tenant of living a balanced and healthy lifestyle.

President Corinne Maier '22 claimed, “If I saw it, I wouldn’t grab the cookies or candy. But that is what the vending machines are for. Why else would we have them?” Vending machines are meant for pleasure and snacking, not overthinking the little things in life.

In all reality, this issue is more prevalent than one may believe. Marketing Director Julia O’Dwyer '22 states, “I think it is desensitizing. There are so many people you don’t know who struggle with eating disorders, so if someone is going through that and sees something like that, it’s very triggering.”

To counteract triggers, a couple of things are necessary. First, we need to destigmatize mental illness on PC’s campus, and second, we can emphasize the concept of balance. Sure, we have an incredibly healthy campus. Many students go to the gym, eat healthy meals, and are passionate about nutrition and sports. There are also a plethora of mental health clubs and events, bringing awareness to depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, etc.

However, eating disorders are not typically a topic of conversation.

Doctors and psychologists specializing in eating disorders are beginning to promote HAES, which stands for “Health at Every Size.” Instead of focusing on losing a certain amount of weight and promoting unhealthy behavior, doctors are beginning to take a sensitive and balanced approach that plans out steps for long-lasting, healthy results. They focus on wellness and eating patterns over calorie counting and excessive food thought.

In reality, societal pressures cause an enormous

amount of stress despite the recent emphasis on self-love and body acceptance. Sure, these are all great, yet hardly effective in the mind of someone with an actual eating disorder.

We cannot remove the stickers put up by a corporation or force them to change their messaging—at least not immediately. But what we can do right away is remain mindful of triggers, and start having conversations on this campus about healthful, balanced lives in order to support our community in the best ways we can.



The vending machine on the lowest level of Feinstein—a heavily trafficked area—also displays the potentially triggering “Calories Count” sticker.

NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL

Coronavirus Does Not Discriminate, So Neither Should You

Ending Racist and Inappropriate Comments about the Disease

by Julia McCoy '22
Opinion Staff

POLITICS

As flu season once again plagues this campus, students are keeping their eye on more than just the flu.

Earlier this year, an outbreak of the coronavirus emerged in Wuhan, China. As of the beginning of February, upwards of 30,000 people have been infected with the disease, and it is spreading rapidly.

Additionally, there has yet to be an identified cure or vaccine that could help those who have been infected.

Considering China’s large population and the rapid spread of the disease in that remote area, this disease has warranted worldwide fear. Its spread to other countries and continents is concerning, especially considering the amount of international travel that is natural to our society.

Providence College has particular interest in this issue. The PC School of Business, in conjunction with the Center for Global Education, had planned to launch a program at East China Normal University in Shanghai, China this spring before the outbreak occurred.

Four of the five enrolled students have worked with CGE and PCSB faculty and staff and are now beginning their studies in Dublin, Ireland instead.

Thankfully, PC students were able to stay safe and relocate to a new area before ever embarking to Shanghai. The Center for Global

Education is now planning to launch the program in Shanghai in the spring of 2021.

The College is moving forward with the Maymester 2020 program in South Korea, according to Dean Joseph Stanley of the Center for Global Education, unless the situation escalates.

He is confident in his dialogue with On Call International, PC’s travel risk management partner, and other international stakeholders to make a well-informed decision, as the College did with PCSB in Shanghai.

Of course, as college students, it is important to be aware of possible threats to our health. However, it is also imperative that students are correctly informed and do not spread false information regarding this outbreak.

Yes, it is true that the coronavirus outbreak began in Wuhan, China. However, that does not mean that Chinese people in general should be held responsible for an outbreak that exploded without their choosing.

This disease is not a matter of culture or ethnicity, it is not a matter of lifestyle. It is an unbiased virus that can affect anyone.

That’s right, some less informed people have taken to steering away from Chinese people in fear of the transmittance of the disease.

Additionally, there is a generic stigma around all Asian citizens, regardless of the country or if their origin could have been exposed to the disease.

This stigma has little to no

basis; while Asian countries are geographically closer to the area of impact, their chances of being infected with coronavirus are almost the same as America.

Perhaps this geographic distance makes people believe it more justified for some people to laugh about the coronavirus.

Twitter and Instagram, among other social media platforms, have been filled with jokes about “Coronavirus,” in which people call out of work to drink Corona beer.

Not only do jokes like this diminish the actual effects of this rapidly spreading and deadly disease, they are insensitive to those affected by the increasing global nature of the disease.

The United States has seen its first few cases in the last few days

and a small panic has begun. With jokes circulating about the disease, it is a concern that people will not take this virus as seriously as they should.

Consider the facts: this disease is rapidly mutating, it can spread faster than the common flu, there is no known vaccine, and it can go unnoticed for up to two weeks.

Thus, it is incredibly important to take this virus seriously. It is a culture-blind disease that can affect the world.

Healthy habits and awareness of surroundings, especially on a college campus, are important during any normal flu season. Coronavirus certainly comes with a more imminent threat, and it should therefore be taken seriously and not used as a reason to discriminate.

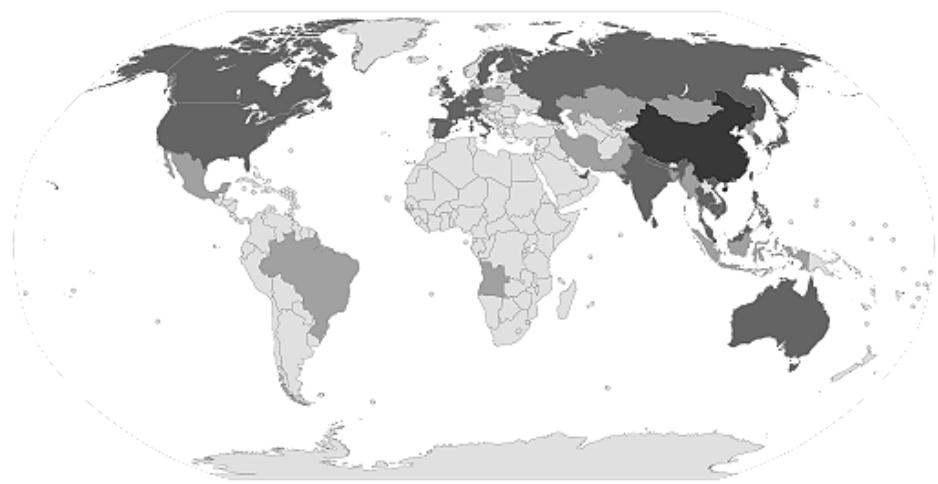


PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The shaded regions depicted on the map above indicate locations where cases of the virus have either been confirmed or are suspected to have occurred. Its spread to other parts of the globe is clear indication that the disease has nothing to do with race or ethnicity.

Picking up after Yourself: A Small Act with a Big Impact

Putting a Stop to Microdemonstrations of Privilege on PC's Campus

by Joshua Chlebowski '21
Opinion Staff

SOCIETY

When eating a meal at one of the various dining spots on campus, it is not uncommon for food to fall off of a plate, for a napkin to drop onto the floor, or for someone to spill something on the table. However, reactions to such occurrences say much about privilege on the Providence College campus.

There is a phenomenon here on campus where students leave behind dirty napkins or, in extreme circumstances, portions of their meal on the dining tables, with minimal to no effort made to clean them up.

While there are employees of these dining spots that carry washrags and move about cleaning the tables, they should not be responsible for disposing of large chunks of food or napkins that are left behind on the table. These employees are tasked with sanitizing rather than completing a task many of us were taught as children: if you make a mess, you clean it up.

It is not someone else's responsibility to clean up a mess that you made and are perfectly capable of handling. Even without a washrag, there are ample napkins with which you can pick up a piece of food or wipe up a spill.

That being said, the most important part of cleaning up the mess is to dispose of the napkins used to clean it up—simply leaving them behind because “they are disgusting” or “I’ll get my hands dirty” is an unacceptable and extremely privileged viewpoint.

Just because you are not paid to clean up the dining halls does not mean your individual actions are excused. If you are able to clean up a mess, then you should be doing so, with the exception of extreme situations involving broken glass or ceramic plates.

An underlying privilege often manifests itself in minute, everyday actions—or inactions. In this case, one's inaction demonstrates an internal belief that they are above cleaning such a mess up, and that it is beneath them to do so.

In addition to this mentality allowing for dining hall tables to remain dirtied for other students, it demeans the employees of the College who clean



Messes and spills are bound to happen in the dining hall. What we can control, however, is how we take responsibility and clean up after ourselves.

LAURA CHADBOURNE '20/THE COWL

the facilities by insinuating that they are hired to do the “less important” jobs.

Certainly, the cleaning of tables is not glamorous by many people's standards, but it is an extremely important task which keeps dining spaces clean and welcoming to all. It is not our place to pass judgment or shy away from dirtying our hands a little to help out fellow members of the PC community—both employees and students.

Though some forms of privilege—such as destruction of property—are active, the privilege exposed through a lack of small efforts to clean is more passive, and thus more difficult to combat.

Addressing these behaviors requires a moment of realization of the consequences of such actions, as they pertain to the community in which we live. One must put themselves in a place of critical examination as to how a shift in their actions will lead to an increasingly positive experience for those around them.

We have all at one point or another gone to sit in a specific place in a dining location on campus only to see the mess someone else left behind. What we forget to do is take this moment and guide our actions accordingly by cleaning up after ourselves. As previously stated, this does not need to be a massive undertaking, rather a conscious attempt to make a table as usable as possible for the next individuals to use it.

Privilege is a daunting and challenging topic to confront, and there are certainly many manifestations of it on our campus. The first step is recognizing our own problematic behaviors and correcting them.

The next time you find yourself eating at one of the dining spaces on campus, take a few extra seconds to clean up after yourself and encourage your friends to do the same, thus creating a community of respect while also combatting one form of the various forms of privilege seen at PC.

Writer vs. Writer

Is It Safe to Leave Your Possessions out in the Open on Campus?

by Marie Sweeney '20
Opinion Staff

NO

A common practice among students at Providence College is to leave their valuables around campus due to the strong amount of trust students have in one another.

However, students need to be more careful with where they place their items because there is a risk of non-student and student thieves, students mistaking others' items for their own, and the fact that not everyone can be trusted.

The Concannon Fitness Center is a common place where people put their items at risk. Students have developed the practice of leaving valuables such as wallets, headphones, phones, and more in the cubbies, which are in plain sight.

This also occurs in the library, where students will leave their laptops on tables for hours unattended. Anyone, a student or a non-student, could take it.

Although some may argue that this is just a part of the PC culture and that we should embrace it, there are individuals that can take advantage of the unspoken trust that students have for one another. For instance, there have been many reports in certain residence halls of people stealing clothes from the laundry rooms.

Rachael Kelly '20, a student worker

at Concannon, said, “People report missing items to us all the time. Someone loses their airpods or airpod cases at least once a day.”

While this trust among students is part of the Friar culture, it is not worth it for students to put their valuables at risk. Students need to be more careful where they place their important items to avoid the risk of them being taken.

Unfortunately, not everyone can be trusted and when it comes to the more expensive and important items, it is always better to be safe than sorry.

by Alyssa Cohen '21
Opinion Staff

YES

While it is a gamble to leave one's valuables unattended on campus, or within any public setting for that matter, Providence College students have no reason to fear their belongings being stolen.

Considering the many anxieties that may be induced by the academic rigor and social culture of the college lifestyle, the concern of being robbed

on campus need not present itself as an added stressor.

The trustworthiness of the PC community is evident in a variety of ways. Take, for example, the “lost and found” page that has naturally emerged on the PC mobile app that students constantly utilize to connect with one another to return missing belongings.

Additionally, the culture of the Concannon Fitness Center also proves the trustworthiness of the College campus.

Despite the fact that students regularly leave electronics, wallets, airpods, and other valuables unattended in the cubbies on a daily basis, Hannah Lavery '22, a student worker at the fitness center, says, “Claims of articles being stolen are pretty rarely reported.”

Not to mention the fact that language and behaviors of skepticism and paranoia towards having one's belongings stolen emit an air of distrust of one's peers.

Such attitudes are detrimental to efforts to promote an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere within the PC community.

Essentially, while it is always important to use common sense when it comes to leaving valuables unattended in any public setting both on or off campus, manifesting constant anxieties of robbery is both unproductive and unnecessary, and emits toxic energy into our campus community.



PC students often make reference to the “Friar Family,” but is this family always trustworthy when it comes to valuables left out on campus?

LAURA CHADBOURNE '20/THE COWL

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Valentine's Day is Beyond the CVS Aisles: A Love-Filled Thank You Note to Mom



by Katherine Torok '20
Associate Editor-in-Chief

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Valentine's Day: a time filled with supermarket flowers, heart-shaped candy boxes wrapped in red

cellophane, overpriced cards, and stuffed animals holding hearts with cheesy sayings.

While this may be an over-exaggeration, it's the typical Valentine's Day that Hollywood and CVS have planted into my and many of my friends' minds. Thus, if you are not in a relationship, this holiday may feel like a complete drag.

Now, instead of going on a stereotypical single-girl rant about how important self-love is, or how much I love my friends, I wanted to take this time to thank the woman who has loved me unconditionally for the past 22 years. So, thank you, Mom.

Growing up as an only child, I had a great relationship with my parents; I can honestly say that my mom is, and forever will be, my best friend. Yet, we've had our share of arguments, fights, and silent treatments over the years, and I

would be lying if I said that there weren't moments when I thought I had lost her love.

However, I've learned over the years that I will never lose my mom's love.

So, here are just some of the things that I would like to thank you for, Mom:

Thank you for answering every text message and phone call, regardless of the hour. Thank you for kissing every cut and scrape I got on the playground. Thank you for holding me when that boy made fun of my hair in the fifth grade. Thank you for letting me cry through the phone at 8 a.m. when that boy broke my heart. Thank you for constantly reminding me of my own self-worth. And thank you for raising me to be a strong, independent yet loving woman.

Valentine's Day isn't just a time for romantic love; it's a holiday for every type of love.

TANGENTS & TIRADES

*Dunkin' Cam for
the Mail Room*

Have you ever gone to pick up a package only to see the line is out the door? In a situation like this, it makes it increasingly more difficult to fit going to the package room into our already busy days as students. Not to mention that your package will be sent back if it is not claimed within five days of arrival. One way to avoid this problem would be to add a camera, similar to the Dunkin' cam, to the package room.

Most people pick up their packages between classes, which is the source of the problem. Everyone is in the same mindset, thinking it is most convenient to stop by after they finish class, which only causes more of a wait.

The addition of a camera outside of the package room could ease this stress, not only for those working at the time, but also for students who have limited time to pick things up. The benefits do not only include convenience, but also efficiency. If students have more free time, although it may be marginal, it can contribute to better grades and a more involved campus life in general.

The integration on the My PC app could be seamless. Programming and installation are very minimal tasks, which could result in numerous benefits, including the ones listed above. This could be an opportunity to impact the campus in a widespread way—to ease the stress on students' busy schedules as well as the package room employees.

As a benefit to students there, it should be a student-run push for this integration. Similar to the Ray improvements, if there is enough support for this, change is attainable. Students have more power than we realize, and that should be used to our advantage, which is the reason why students should band together to get this achieved.

—Peter Mazzella '22

*Reading to the
End of the Page*

What attracts you to an article? The title, the content, or both? Most young adults in our current society attempt to read the news but stop after the first paragraph or glance through. They don't read the entire article, and this can cause many problems.

It is possible that when we only glance through an article, we lose the main focus and interpret it in ways that are different from what the author meant. For example, we can look at the recent Coronavirus issue, where most of us only read the title or first paragraph of an article and not the entirety of it.

Reading the headline without getting all the information can lead to the spreading of false information, rumors, and possibly hysteria, as has been the case with the Coronavirus. We need to be careful with how we interpret and digest information that we read.

Reading the news is essential to be informed about our society today and it is a great way to be educated in modern events. But when most are just skimming or not truly reading the whole content, this can become problematic for the individual and society.

We need to push everyone to read the full article, and then discuss the facts which they are reading. This will help so many young adults be better educated on the news that they are reading daily.

—Erin Garvey '22



PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC DOMAIN VECTORS

*Becoming
a Bookworm*

After a long day of classes or work, people dream of hopping back into a nicely made bed, opening up their laptop, and binge-watching Netflix shows for hours upon hours. While spending time this way is certainly desirable, reading for pleasure is a great, or even better, alternative.

With a busy lifestyle and loads of reading for homework, college students might argue that reading for pleasure cannot fit into their schedule. Why would they want to add even more reading on top of their reading for classes?

When it comes to reading for pleasure, one can choose a book that appeals to their specific taste instead of something assigned that they do not enjoy. If you like drama, try *Big Little Lies* by Liane Moriarty. If you enjoy coming-of-age fiction, try *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. If you like fantasy fiction, read the *Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling. If romance is more your thing, any of the Nicholas Sparks books will do. There are options for any type of interest and any type of reader.

Also, there is no time crunch when it comes to reading a book for fun. One can read for 10 minutes before bed, a few hours on the weekends, or in between classes for a little break.

If you read this and you are still convinced that you would prefer Netflix, challenge yourself to read a book and afterwards watch the movie that is based on that book. Try *The Hunger Games*, *The Outsiders*, or *The Great Gatsby*, and then watch the movies to see how your interpretation of the book comes alive.

Reading for pleasure challenges the mind in a way that watching television cannot. It's a way for one to escape reality and fully transport one's self into a whole new story.

—Emily Ball '22

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WHAT'S UP THIS WEEK IN FRIARTOWN?

Feb 13: Love Your Melanin presented by BOW (7 p.m., Moore Hall 125)

Feb 13: Valentine's Day Bingo (9 p.m., McPhail's)

Feb 14: Black & White Ball presented by BOP (7:30 p.m., Peterson Field House)

OPEN AUDITIONS
FOR ALL PC STUDENTS | MAINSTAGE *Peter and the Starcatcher*
directed by Tim Seib

Tuesday, Feb. 18
7:00pm | Smith Center Lobby

Production Dates: April 3-5 & 17-19

PLEASE NOTE: CALLBACKS WILL BE THE SAME NIGHT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE AUDITIONS.

PCTDF supports diverse non-traditional casting as a regular part of all its theatre productions. Open to all PC students! No previous experience is necessary!

Peter and the Starcatcher is a fantastical coming-of-age comedy with a ton of heart. Please prepare and memorize a 1-2 minute monologue in the style of the show. Perusal scripts are available for sign-out in the green room.

Questions? Contact Tim Seib at: timseib@gmail.com or Jim Calitri at: jcalitri@providence.edu



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Fabian the Magician Returns to Providence College *BOP Welcomes back the "Mumford and Sons of Magic"*

by Brenna O'Leary '20
A&E Staff

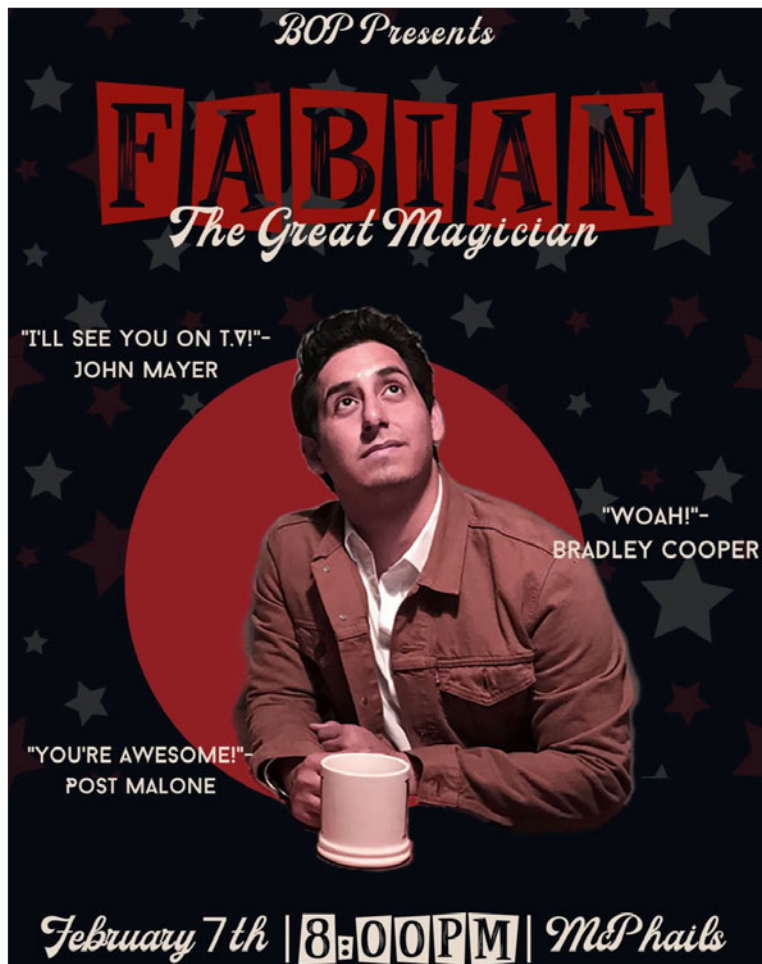
ON-CAMPUS

"I dated a witch once" was one of the many highlights of Fabian the Magician's spectacular event. McPhail's was buzzing with laughter and magic this past Friday, February 7. The show created wonder and awe in the lively atmosphere of McPhail's, making Fabian the Magician a complete success. From conjuring shots of whiskey to delivering heartfelt commentary on his own illusions, Fabian created an evening of disbelief and fun.

Fabian's set started at 8 p.m. and provided an hour of magic; he magically altered napkins and teleported dollar bills into other people's wallets. His magic consisted of disappearing and reappearing acts, as well as a little voodoo and mind reading. But what truly wowed the spectators was Fabian's forte for storytelling, and his ability to pull students into the magic alongside him.

One of the Providence College student participant Karl Reidel '20 admitted, "I was absolutely flabbergasted. I truly was shocked at the fact that the magic worked on me." Reidel had even felt prepared, having seen Fabian perform at PC before, and was convinced he knew what to expect. Overall, Reidel said it was "a night of surprises."

On his website, Fabian has been described as "The Perfect Act for any Liberal Arts Venue," and he perfectly exemplified this in his set. Fabian was thrilled to be back at PC, and shared his affinity for the liberal arts. "Providence was really the first school that kicked off the university string of touring for the year. I was a liberal arts major. I loved film media but I decided on literature." Fabian was really excited to start here at PC and will be making his way across the country through April.



Fabian has performed for well-known celebrities throughout the U.S.

But Fabian's stories made the night truly magical. Fabian's storytelling only made the audience love him more and fall deeper into his magic. Fabian chatted with members of the audience, bringing them into the act to make it more enthralling, but

also to prove that he had nothing to hide: the magic spoke for itself. "This is just an example of what didn't happen," he said to his audience. The trick was an illusion, and it was important because "the idea is just what we can make it." It could be whatever we thought possible.

The event was sponsored by the Board of Programmers, and Kevin Schwalm '21 was sincerely pleased with the huge turnout. Schwalm related that Fabian "came to campus three or four years ago and we wanted to bring him back last year. We ended up having like 170 people show up, so we thought because it was so successful last year, it would be great to bring him back." BOP provided cupcakes from LaSalle and encouraged guests to take advantage of the bar. Having filled almost all 100 of the chairs set out plus standing room, McPhail's was alive with magic and storytelling.

Introduced as the "Mumford and Sons of magic," Fabian the Magician has a wide array of sponsors, and his magic has introduced him to figures such as John Mayer and Bradley Cooper. It has taken him to new places, and PC was lucky to have him.

For Fabian, magic means a lot, but people are a huge part of it; "When I got into the market, I noticed there were a lot of magicians who were just doing trick after trick...I was more about substance...so I like to combine stories with the magic to kind of frame it around that, that way it's more of an experience and a conversation as opposed to a show." This focus on storytelling elevates Fabian's magic to a personal level, making for a memorable experience.

Providence Community to Celebrate French Films *Brown University to Host Immersive Experience for Local Film Lovers*

Festival

Continued from front page

The films shown at the festival are pieces that touch upon the diversity of voices that compose French culture or, as Longo stated in how she selected the movies, "I wanted to try to reflect the changes in France and the world, highlight the many faces that make up French and francophone culture."

Africa Mia, directed by Richard Minier and Édouard Salier, explores the lives of 10 young, talented musicians from Mali who were invited to Cuba by Fidel Castro. They formed a popular band called "Las Maravillas de Mali," and invented Afro-Cuban music. The documentary goes between the past and present, highlighting what happened to the members after they left Cuba.

The film *Zombi Child* by Bertrand Bonello is a horror, science fiction, and fantasy piece that takes place in a French all-female private high school. A group of girls invite a Haitian girl into their circle, but she must share a secret to be accepted. From there, things take a dark turn as the film explores issues young women deal with, from identity to relationships.

Another film highlighting women's issues is by Stéphane Demoustier, titled *The Girl with a Bracelet* or *La fille au*

bracelet. The courtroom drama follows an 18-year-old girl accused of murdering her friend over a slut-shaming post made about her. She is forced to wear a tracking bracelet while under house arrest. Longo recommended this film, saying, "I think this film does a good job of showing the issues women deal with in the age of social media. The acting is phenomenal and does a great job of not passing any judgment." This film was adapted from an Argentinian film of the same name in 2018 and made waves throughout the festival circuit.

These are only a few of the many films that will be showcased; attendees will find a range of genres and themes that will appeal to all audiences. The opening night of the Providence French Film Festival is Feb. 28 and offers a glimpse into French culture and its nuances through a showing of a short film exclusively for that night. The trailers for the films that will premiere in Rhode Island are posted on the event's website.

It will be a lovely Friday evening from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. with complimentary French food and drinks, as audience members get acquainted with French cinema and meet the people involved with the festival. The party is open to all and completely free. Tickets will be on sale at the party for the showings on Feb. 29 to March 5, and can be purchased online as well.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL FACEBOOK

Quadio: Connecting College Artists Empowering Students Through Social Media

by Patrick Fuller '21
A&E Co-Editor

MUSIC



Quadio is "a social music streaming platform for the next generation."

PHOTO COURTESY OF QUADIO

In the current competitive music arena, where streaming services like Spotify, Apple Music, and Soundcloud advertise only the most popular artists, college students seeking a career in music struggle to gain recognition. Even the more underground music categories require a threshold of streams to be bumped into auto-generated playlists or charts. For college students juggling course work, extracurricular activities, and a tight budget, being able to match the quality and quantity of celebrity artists' output is near impossible.

While singers like Ariana Grande and Taylor Swift have access to multi-million-dollar production equipment and closed studio time, most college artists are producing music in their bedrooms on their home computers. Billie Eilish and her brother Finneas only recently proved that home production can ascend to stardom, but college students still need a helping hand.

Quadio, a social media app connecting college musicians throughout the

United States, seeks to lend that helping hand. President and CEO of Quadio, Marcus Welch, founded the service in 2018 in Brooklyn, New York along with Joe Welch, the current chief content officer. David Kwan, a Quadio representative, visited the Providence College campus before the beta launched. He explained that the Quadio beta would offer a "chart system based on organic growth," and "collaboration between producers" which would greatly aid college start-ups in music creation and gaining recognition.

The Quadio website describes the service as "a social music streaming platform for the next generation." Any college student with a university-affiliated email address (.edu) and a provided beta invite code can join the platform. Here, they can create a profile describing their occupation (producer, audio engineer, web developer, drummer, band, rapper, songwriter, etc.) and indicate what they are looking for from the community. Songwriters will be able to find singers, rappers will

be able to find producers, and so on.

The sleek desktop interface filters searches based on university, state, region, nation, and genre. A quick filtered university search for artists on Providence College's campus yields surprising results. Estarlyn Hirado '21, stage name Starling, is on Quadio as a rapper, videographer, and audio engineer.

His biography mentions how his music "educates different communities about the injustices of the world through his art by telling breath-taking stories in a relatable but compelling way." Thanks to the app's "looking for" feature, Starling has indicated his need for an agent, vocalist, and trumpeter, all of which can be found through Quadio's interstate, inter-university community.

PC audio engineer, radio DJ, and rapper Mark Healy '20, also known as Marco \$olo, also published his tracks "Another Time" and "BPZ (The Recipe)" on Quadio with good success.

Beyond allowing college artists to publish original content, Quadio includes both a "Hot," and "All-Time" chart for college artists only. This function essentially gives college artists a place to be heard without having to compete with big labels, corporate producers, or popular celebrity musicians.

While the Quadio beta already provides an open, collaborative space for college musicians to grow, it is still developing. The service does not aim to replace big streaming platforms like Spotify or Apple Music; rather it seeks to lay the foundation for college artists to succeed in an independent community. As the service grows, partnerships with brands or music labels could generate campus events. But, for now, Quadio is a revolutionary step in the right direction for the next generation of artists.

Cupcake Wars: Sweet Campus

Unity

by Arianna Weling '23
A&E Staff

ON-CAMPUS

We all know and love Taco Tuesday, but Providence College put a different spin on Tuesday: Cupcake Tuesday. The event provided the opportunity to decorate and eat some delicious cupcakes, enjoy watching campus clubs compete against one another, and even compete for a LaSalle Bakery gift-card, judged by Alumni Hall Food Court's very own Sue Valenti.

The event featured the following clubs: Board of Programmers (BOP), Board of Multicultural Student Affairs (BMSA), Student Congress, Friars Club, and Campus Ministry. Each of the clubs competed in four rounds with designated themes: Friars, Holidays, Animals, and Emojis. With the stakes high for a LaSalle Bakery gift card, the clubs were out for blood.

After rounds of icing and decorating, Friars Club and Campus Ministry ended up tying, causing a tiebreaker in which both clubs had to decorate a cupcake that best described their club in just a minute. Thinking quickly and creatively, Friars Club managed to successfully take the win.

Ultimately, the event generated positive feedback from students, participants, and Valenti. Nicole Gass '20 added, "It was really fun to see all the different clubs come together and to have Sue here judging."

The celebrity judge, Valenti, shared the same experience, noting, "The event was planned very creatively. All the organizers worked well together, and everyone had a good time."

Events like Cupcake Wars are a great unifier among the clubs, emphasizing the Friar family mentality. Between class, club meetings, and the busy lifestyle of Friars, events like these are significant in bringing the student body together and being fun de-stressors.



LAURA CHADBOURNE '20 / THE COWL

A cupcake inspired by the Calabria Plaza torch.

Parasite Breaks Barriers Bong Joon-ho Directs Thrilling Masterpiece

by Julia Vaccarella '20
A&E Staff

FILM

Since the release of *Parasite* last year, the acclaimed South Korean film has reached a widespread audience. Locally, the Avon Theater on Thayer Street has been offering patrons the opportunity to view the movie for several months. On a much larger scale, *Parasite* has also been nominated for several prestigious film awards, including the Golden Globes, the BAFTAs, and the Oscars. *Parasite* brought home the Oscars for Best Picture, Best Director, Best International Feature Film, and Best Original Screenplay.

The viewers who have been able to get past submitting themselves to subtitles, since the film is presented in Korean, will nonetheless be rewarded with the depth of the film's plot. This element has actually had a positive contribution to the global interest that *Parasite* has garnered since its debut in May 2019. One reason for this is that many of the people who have opted to see the movie have claimed that they were still able to grasp the full meaning behind the film despite it not being in English.

"I think it just shows that *Parasite* isn't a film that came out of nowhere.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

Korean cinema has a very long history, and *Parasite* is a continuation of all the Korean films that came before. It's an extension of our history. It's not the first time a Korean film has gone through something like this," said director Bong Joon-ho in an interview with the New York Times. Such rhetoric is especially relevant considering increased criticism for the lack of diversity in the film industry.

The combination of humor and suspense present throughout has attracted individuals to *Parasite*. The film focuses on a family of four that is struggling to make ends meet. As a result, they all scheme to work for an affluent family by pretending to

be unrelated and recommending one another for their respective positions. While socioeconomic differences would normally never bring families like the Kim's and the Park's together, *Parasite* displays just that, and the two families become closely connected.

However, what begins as a seemingly peaceful and harmless film about a poor family quickly shifts to a rather ominous and disturbing tone. The division between how the poor and the wealthy live and think drive this change; ultimately it is this theme that guides the entirety of the film.

The title of the film is meant to be purposely vague, as Joon-ho intended for his audience to interpret it for themselves. Will Gompertz of BBC News writes, "The movie's title conveys the humiliation endured by the poor forced to live off the wealthy, for whom the word parasite is equally applicable. It is also questioning the political, economic and commercial philosophies upon which we build our lives. For the most part, the film does this with incisiveness and intelligence."

With the juxtaposition of comedy and thrill, *Parasite* has made a profound impact in the film industry. From its complex plot to its powerful thematic elements, it is understandable why the film has been so successful.

The 92nd Oscars Shocks with Performers, Awards

Eminem Takes His Opportunity while Parasite Makes History

by Anne DeLello '20
A&E Staff

FILM

While the Super Bowl is the premiere event in sports, this past Sunday the entertainment industry had a super bowl of its own: the Oscars. A list of top tier actors, actresses, and crew members were nominated to win coveted Oscars. Not only are the nominees showcased at the event, but there were top notch performers in attendance as well.

The 92nd Academy Awards debuted live on ABC on Feb. 9, and, as per usual, the show impressed those watching at home with an entertaining evening. The organization continued the tradition of broadcasting without a host for the second year in a row.

The list of nominees was expansive, and there were plenty of great contenders. One of the biggest winners of the night was the movie *Parasite*. Director and producer Bong Joon-ho won in four categories for which he and the film were nominated, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best International Film, and Best Original Screenplay. The film made history as the first foreign language film to win Best Picture at the Oscars. Much to the amusement of those watching, Bong Joon-ho joked to the audience in his acceptance speech for Best Picture, saying, "I'm ready to drink tonight."

Brad Pitt earned an award for his role as Cliff Booth in *Once Upon A Time in Hollywood*, walking away with the award for Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role.

Other big wins for actors included Joaquin Pheonix for his performance in *Joker*. Though he has been nominated before, this was Phoenix's first Oscar win for Best Actor, and he used the opportunity to express how his position has allowed him to give a voice to the causes important to him. The actor spoke about inequality and the environment, claiming that "human beings, at our best, are so inventive and creative and ingenious, and I think that when we use love and compassion as our guiding principles, we can create, develop and implement systems of change that are beneficial to all sentient beings and to the environment."

Some big wins for actresses included Laura Dern with her first Oscar win for Best Actress in a Supporting Role due to her role in *Marriage Story*, a role for which she also won a Golden Globe this year. Renée Zellweger also won the Oscar for Best Actress for her role in the Judy Garland biopic, *Judy*.

Not only did the night feature groundbreaking wins, but the Oscars also featured a series of performances during the show. Idina Menzel performed "Into the Unknown" from *Frozen 2* with a backing chorus of 'Elsas' from countries throughout the world singing in their native languages. *Good Morning America* dubbed this a "truly global performance." The Oscars also featured a surprise performance by Eminem. He performed "Lose Yourself" following a montage of iconic music in films.

The Oscars were filled with first-time wins and groundbreaking victories. With many well-deserved winners, this year's Oscars have set a precedent for many years to come.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF PATRICK FULLER '21 / THE COWL

Kobe Bryant: A Beloved Basketball Player and Storyteller

by Grace O'Connor '22
A&E Staff

FILM/TELEVISION



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

"I love the idea of creative content whether it's mythology or animation, written or film, that can inspire people and give them something tangible they can use in their own lives," said Kobe Bryant to *Sports Illustrated* in 2018.

Bryant founded Granity Studios to develop his own content in order to combine his love of basketball and fantasy. He took his vision to this studio in order to see his dream play out. Bryant directed one of Granity's earliest projects, *Detail*, which was meant to teach basketball in the same way that the legendary Tex Winter did. He stated, "If this show existed when I was 11 or 12 years old, I believe by the age of 21, 22, I would have been a much better basketball player," when asked by the *New York Times* in 2018.

Bryant claimed, "Animation can capture the emotion in the story in a much more compelling, visual way than live action." He always had an interest in animation and he made the previous statement to Glen

Kaene. Kaene helped Bryant produce *Dear Basketball*, a story based on a poem that he used to promote his retirement from basketball. The film showed him both as a young boy and as the star he became.

Dear Basketball won the Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film and the Annie Award. After Bryant's passing, Kaene commented, "As soon as he stepped into animation, he eagerly began soaking up every aspect of it. Working with him was a dream and one of the high points of my career."

This highlights Bryant's influence on the movie industry and his versatility. Bryant had an eye for animation and helped Kaene to see a different perspective, proving that Bryant understood the importance of the little details that go into making a film. Kaene mentioned that it was really important to Bryant to tell a story that resonates with everyone. Bryant wanted to make changes for the better and his involvement in the movie industry portrays his drive to tell a genuine, compelling story.

Bryant's love for storytelling started when he was young. In high school, he took creative writing classes which helped strengthen his creative writing abilities and fed his interest in storytelling. He studied movies from Disney, as well as *Harry Potter* and *Star Wars* in order to better understand character development.

This exemplifies his passion for telling stories and his famous "Mamba mentality" to always do more. As Bryant told the *New York Times* in 2015, "Cinematically, we wanted to do something that would be different from the ways documentaries are shot. This was about doing something that was fun but also honest." Rather than writing a book, Bryant saw a film as something that got his story out more effectively. Though he did not grow up an avid reader, Bryant's talent lies in creative writing. Bryant left a mark on the world not only as a basketball player but also as a storyteller. This was

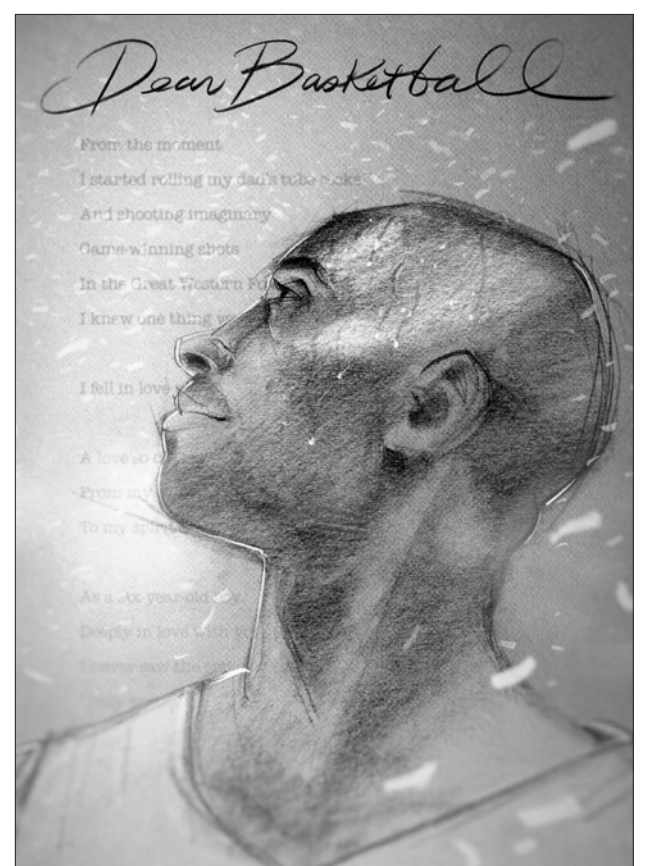


PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

a huge part of his identity that should be recognized due to his immense efforts and true passion for the craft. He wanted to tell a story that would touch the lives of others, and he managed to do just that while still being known as one of the best basketball players in history. Kobe Bryant's creative half bleeds through and should be recognized as an equally important part of his identity.

The Ranch Reflects Small Town, Rural America Ashton Kutcher Wraps Up Netflix Political Comedy Series

by Brenna Cavallaro '23
A&E Staff

TELEVISION

After over three years, four seasons, and eight parts of comedy, tragedy, romance, and controversy, the Netflix original *The Ranch* has come to an end. The comedy starring Ashton Kutcher takes on the weight of political viewpoints and perspectives from small town Americans and Midwest ranchers that are often overlooked by politicians and liberal activists.

Although the dry humor presented by old-fashioned conservative ranchers predominantly carries the show, modern day thinking and more leftist viewpoints are also presented as the seasons progress.

Kutcher plays Colt Bennet, a washed-up football star constantly getting himself into trouble who is the perfect romantic dope in the sitcom. You will somehow find yourself rooting for Colt's handsome looks and big heart despite his role as a close-minded, ignorant egotist. Colt's brother Rooster is another

egocentric character to look out for. Rooster adds comedic relief that cannot be replaced by any other character. The Bennet brothers' father, Beau, is certainly the star of the political comedy. His conservatism is either upsetting or hysterical depending on which side of the political spectrum one is on.

Aside from absolutely shredding the idea of being "politically correct," the Netflix original provides a sense of what "real" American families deal with day in and day out, especially with the modern world constantly changing. These harsh realities of life in a small town, not only as a rancher, but as a business owner, mother, father, political activist, immigrant, war hero, etc. could not be epitomized better than *The Ranch's* take on these ordeals.

People have to make decisions every day that are highly controversial or even detrimental, but when they live in their own little bubble, they cut off the devastating realities of others' lives. *The Ranch* provides this humble, eye-opening viewpoint that allows one to experience the "American dream" in a whole new way.

The underlying romance, along with the overarching theme of familial love, keeps eyes glued to the screen. Comedic relief from each of the characters allows for the audience to cope with the dramatic issues and harsh realities a small-town ranching family must face. Political issues in the modern world, from both a conservative and liberal standpoint, are explored

throughout all eight seasons as the show reflects the highly discussed controversies in America today.

Not only will Kutcher's charm keep you hooked on *The Ranch*, but this original is a must-watch because of the perspective it can provide to Americans as well as to all cultures around the globe. Plus, you will, without a doubt, find yourself longing for a life in a small American town when you complete the dramatic comedy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GREG GAYNE/NETFLIX

Political viewpoints are presented through a comedic lens throughout this Netflix comedy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

Lin-Manuel Miranda Announces *Hamilton* Film How the Movie Will Feature the Original Cast and Stage

by Madison Palmieri '22
A&E Staff

FILM

Fans of *Hamilton* will be satisfied to know that the hit Broadway musical is coming to the big screen. On Monday, February 3, Lin-Manuel Miranda, the show's creator who originally starred as the titular Founding Father, announced on Twitter that a film featuring the original Broadway cast of the musical and filmed at the Richard Rodgers Theatre is in the works. Disney is set to produce the movie, which currently has a release date of October 15, 2021.

Some Providence College students count themselves among the many fans already excited to see the movie. "I'm super excited that they are making a film version of the musical *Hamilton*. I think it's great that they are doing a recording of the live stage production and not an adaptation," says Kara Berlin-Gallo '21.

"In my opinion, some film adaptations of musicals have not been great. I feel like Hollywood cares more about hiring big name actors instead of hiring Broadway stars who can really sing. Therefore, what



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

Hamilton will be Miranda's second stage-to-screen adaptation, following 2020's *In the Heights*.

I like about this *Hamilton* film is that people can see the original cast and the original staged production, which is so incredible and almost impossible to recreate for a film. I honestly cannot wait for the movie to come out and I'm counting down the days until I can see this incredible production in the theaters!"

Indeed, the original cast and stage footage appear to be the facets of the production that *Hamilton* fans are most excited about. Having seen the show on stage, the show's lighting, costumes, and set add symbolism and another dimension to *Hamilton's* story," explains Allison Kohne '22. "The original cast is also iconic, so I'm excited to see them in their original roles."

The musical first premiered at the Richard Rodgers Theatre in early 2015, and quickly garnered a mass following, catapulting its cast to stardom and receiving 11 Tony Awards, the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, and

the Grammy Award for Best Musical Theatre Album.

Hamilton follows the life and times of Alexander Hamilton as he and other historical figures attempt to create a new nation while facing the everyday struggles of life, love, and loss. Notably, it incorporates a wide variety of musical genres into its soundtrack, ranging from hip-hop and rap to more traditional showtunes.

Although he is best known for *Hamilton*, this show is not Lin-Manuel Miranda's first Broadway musical. In fact, a film adaptation of his 2008 show, *In the Heights*, will hit theaters on June 26. Unlike the upcoming *Hamilton* film, however, *In the Heights* will feature a new cast.

Nonetheless, both films are sure to please audiences. While *In the Heights* will be released in a matter of months, those eagerly anticipating *Hamilton* are going to have to wait for it.

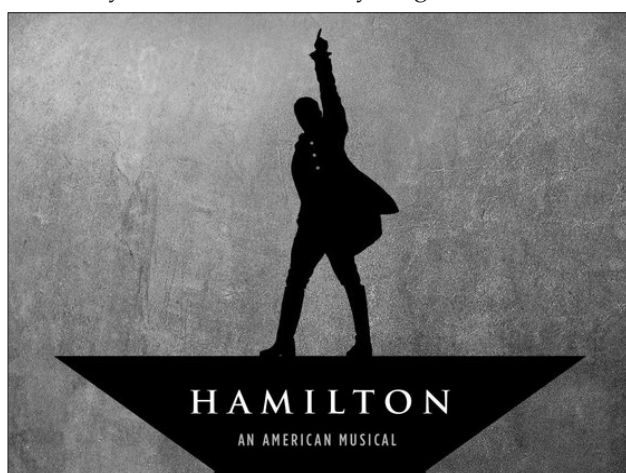


PHOTO COURTESY OF SPOTIFY

Using Music as a Platform for Voting Activism

Billie Eilish, Ariana Grande, Taylor Swift Step Up

by Grace Whitman '22
A&E Staff

MUSIC

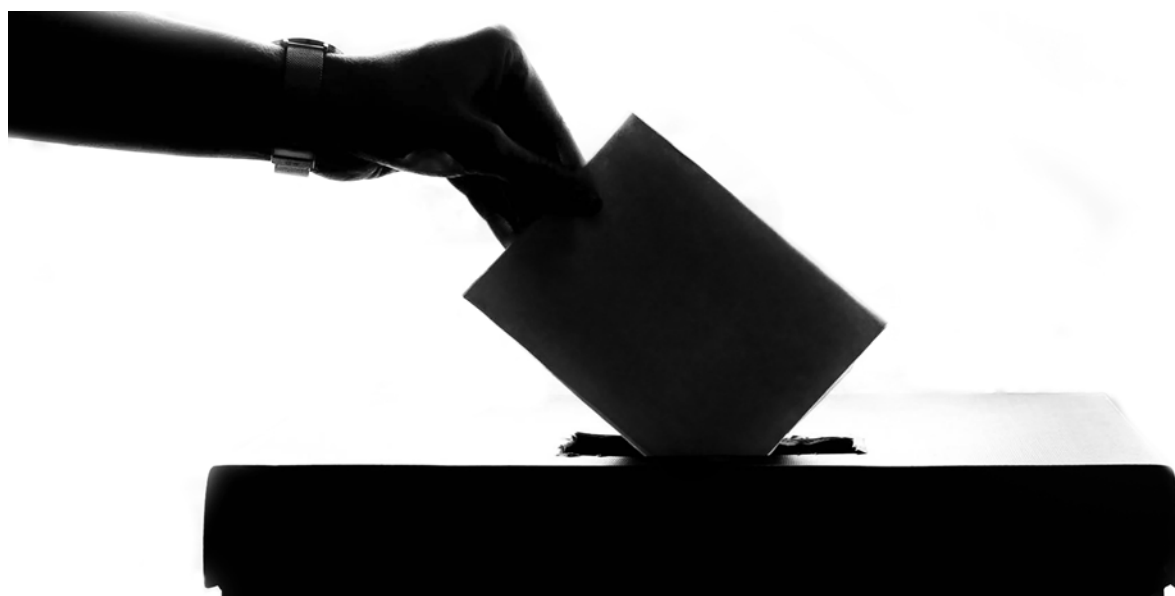
Music and politics have gone together for as long as we can remember. Whether it is through artists choosing to endorse political candidates, or through their lyrics, like in Shawn Mendes and Khalid's song "Youth," musicians use their platform to promote political views and better the world. With the primary elections coming up, there is no better time to register to vote than right now.

Even at her young age, Grammy Award Winning 2020 Best New Artist Billie Eilish has taken a leap into politics. Eilish teamed up with HeadCount, a non-partisan organization whose goal is to use the power of music to register voters and promote participation in democracy.

HeadCount helped fans at her Where Do We Go World Tour register to vote for the 2020 elections. Although she just recently became eligible to vote, Eilish is passionate about inspiring her generation to go vote and participate in the democratic process. HeadCount's other touring partners include Maroon 5, Jay-Z, Panic! At The Disco, Harry Styles, Halsey and hundreds of others.

Especially after the suicide bombing at Manchester Arena during her 2017 Dangerous Women Tour, Ariana Grande has been committed to using her platform for good. Grande's Sweetener World Tour broke HeadCount's all-time voter registration record with 33,381 in December of 2019. In an interview with Elle Magazine, Grande said that the role of artists is to "not only help people and comfort them, but also push people to think differently, raise questions, and push their boundaries mentally."

Although she had been private about her political views growing up in the spotlight, Taylor Swift



High-profile musicians partner with HeadCount to help fans register to vote.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELEMENT 5 DIGITAL

has recently revealed where she stands. In her new Netflix documentary *Miss Americana*, Swift highlights how she refuses to stay silent, especially given the number of people she can influence.

"Every time I didn't speak up about politics as a young person, I was applauded for it," she says. "It was wild. I said, 'I'm a 22-year-old girl—people don't want to hear what I have to say about politics.'" Now, at 30 years old, Swift is using her platform to fight for the history she wants to be made.

Although Swift may have risked her reputation when she endorsed two Democratic congressional nominees in Tennessee, she ultimately inspired approximately 65,000 people to vote, according to Vote.org. In her Instagram post on October 7, 2018, she wrote, "Please, please educate yourself on the candidates running in your state and vote based on

who most closely represents your values. So many intelligent, thoughtful, self-possessed people have turned 18 in the past two years and now have the right and privilege to make their vote count. But first, you need to register, which is quick and easy to do."

Additionally, Swift released a brand new song exclusively for the documentary called "Only the Young." With the intention of inspiring the next generation to vote and make a difference in our world, Swift's song is a message of hope and faith in the new generation.

As mentioned before, music and politics have gone hand in hand for decades. In 1971, the 26th Amendment gave 18-year-olds the right to vote. Do not let this right go to waste. Heed the call and make your voice heard in these elections. Be sure to request an absentee ballot if necessary.

An Update on 21 Savage's Immigration Hearing

Atlanta Shows Its Support while Rapper Remains Waiting

by Daniel O'Neill '21
A&E Staff

MUSIC

February 3, 2020 marked the one-year anniversary of the arrest of popular rapper 21 Savage by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The charges against the Atlanta rapper accused him of overstaying his visa, and alleged that he is originally a United Kingdom national without United States citizenship, making him illegally present in the country. His trial has yet to begin, and he is waiting somewhere on a long list of backlogged immigration cases.

The punishment facing 21 Savage, born Shéyaa Bin Abraham-Joseph, includes potential deportation as well as a total 10-year ban from entering the United States. Since he is currently awaiting trial, he cannot leave the United States. That has not stopped him from moving forward with his already illustrious career in the music industry, however.

Just last May, 21 Savage announced a tour across North America with rapper DaBaby opening for him. This kept 21 Savage on the road for the majority of the summer. Since then, he has been going about his life like he normally would. On Jan. 26, 21 Savage and J. Cole won Best Rap Song at the Grammy's for their song "A Lot" off of his most recent album, *I Am > I Was*.

While the charges state that 21 Savage is a citizen of the United Kingdom and not the United States, many of his supporters argue that his time in Atlanta has solidified him as one of the community's main figures.

Last year, 21 Savage partnered with Georgia Congressman Hank Johnson to expand the "Bank Account" program for youth in Atlanta. The program is essentially a way to increase the financial

literacy of the youth population in the area. According to Rolling Stone, the duo partnered with nonprofits like Get Schooled to implement the financial literacy program.

Because of 21 Savage's massive impact on the Atlanta metropolitan area, many of his supporters are claiming that removing the rapper from the United States would hurt the communities he has helped. Their argument is that removing him from the country would cancel any future plans he had to improve and unite the communities within the city of Atlanta. The fact that he is still touring and moving on with his career shows that he believes he belongs in the United States. With his trial still waiting in the Federal Immigration backlog, there does not seem to be a clear ending in sight for the rapper's case.

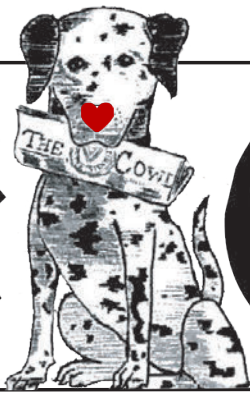
The most unique part about 21 Savage's case is that it is proof for the entire country that fame does not always protect against difficult circumstances. Other artists, such as Jay-Z, Offset, and Cardi B, have all expressed their support and opinions on the matter. Even with the help of some relatively powerful friends, the Atlanta rapper's case got moved into a backlog even though it was classified as an expedited case to get an earlier hearing. It seems that the issue is that ICE may not be giving the rapper a fair trial and may be using him as a precedent for their future prosecutions. For now, however, all 21 Savage can do is await his trial.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

With his case backlogged, 21 Savage has continued to have an impact on his community.

The Cowl



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Vol. LXXXIII No. 16 | February 13, 2020 | thecowl.com

Lights, Camera, Action: The Providence French Film Festival

by Jennifer Villeda '20
A&E Staff
LOCAL

People enjoy films that connect them, whether it is through topics like the search for identity and navigating daily issues, or to provide an escape through works filled with quirky characters and overactive imaginations. Regardless if it is in another language, the impact of the message can be just as profound and moving as you gain knowledge about another culture and, sometimes, yourself as well.

Taking place from Feb. 28 to March 5, the Providence French Film Festival will be showcasing francophone films at the Martinos Auditorium in the Granoff Center of the Arts at Brown University. This will be the festival's second year held at this center; prior to 2019, it took place at Cable Car Cinema until its closing in 2018.

This will be the first year



The festival will feature over 20 short and feature-length films. PHOTO COURTESY OF BROWN.EDU

Regina Longo will act as the new artistic director of the event. She is excited to have the city of Providence see what this festival has to offer. She said, "We want to reach out to

different groups and bring the city into our campus; this is not just a Brown or RISD event. It is more of a community event as it has something for everyone."

Festival/Page 11

An Inside Look at the Upcoming Softball Season

by Leo Hainline '22
Sports Staff
PREVIEW

This week marks the beginning of the Providence College softball season as the Friars head down to Texas to square off against Houston Baptist University, Sam Houston State University, and George Mason University. PC softball is on the rise after Coach Jill Karwoski took over the program last year, finishing the season with a 30-22 record—a great improvement from the team's 13-32 performance in 2018—and the most wins for the Friars since 2005. Despite some key members graduating, namely Emma Lee '19 who made the Big East Second Team last season with a .411 batting average, excitement is brewing around the current squad.

Coach Karwoski has unified the program through a team-first philosophy that the players have embraced. When asking Skie Villani '22 (who this weekend will be playing close to her hometown of Sugar Land, TX) about the strengths of the team, she emphasized that the true strengths do not lie in an individual player or position but within the values that they hold as a program. "Our strengths come from our core values—attitude and gratitude, open-heart open-mind, and respect and commitment," she stated. "To be successful we know we'll have to work as a team."

Friars/Page 17

"Calories Count: Check Then Choose" A Promotion for Wellness with Potentially Negative Effects

by Olivia Bretzman '22
Opinion Staff
ON CAMPUS

Third floor. Aquinas Hall. The vending machines play an essential role for the residents when a late-night snack helps quell the struggle of a study session or paper-writing. One thing, though, that really puts a bad taste in one's mouth is the large sticker plastered on the drink machine that reads, "Calories Count. Check Then Choose."

The American Beverage Association, which represents Coca-Cola Co., PepsiCo Inc., and Dr Pepper Snapple Group Inc., placed these decals on their drink vending machines as a way to encourage people to make healthier choices when purchasing a drink, like swapping soda for water.

The concept of making healthy decisions is incredibly important on many levels. What is problematic with this particular sticker, even though it is well-intentioned, is the fact that they could be triggering for anyone struggling with an eating disorder. Unfortunately, the reality is that many people struggle with eating disorders or poor body image, something our campus does not talk about enough.

In fact, it is a psychological fact that surrounds this issue: predisposition to calorie counting and poor body image manifests into obsessive compulsive habits with food. This reminder, then, to "count one's calories," can actually be a severe detriment to someone's health. Anyone

walking by these decals—even people who are not purchasing a drink—can be affected by their messaging.

Companies should consider this fact when designing the slogans for their health initiatives. But as a campus, we can go further: we need to foster more conversation about eating disorders and body image.

Eating disorders are a mental illness. It is as simple as that. They typically begin with a negative relationship with food and a psychological shift that food is "evil." People typically try to overmanage their food, calculating calories, setting strict daily limits, etc. This begins as an obsessive cycle that can lead to starvation and, consequently, binge eating. A plethora of health concerns obviously surround all eating disorders.

Unfortunately, for sufferers of these mental illnesses, the nourishment the human body craves becomes an incredibly unhealthy management project. Thus, one can understand where a sticker that encourages counting calories, while meant to suggest a healthy drink, does nothing but perpetuate the problem.

Many students struggle with or even develop eating disorders in college due to stressful workloads, the pressure of transition, social media, etc. Thankfully, there are many who are aware of these disorders at Providence College. Members from the Simply Healthy Club recognize the threat these stickers have on mental health.

Wellness/Page 5



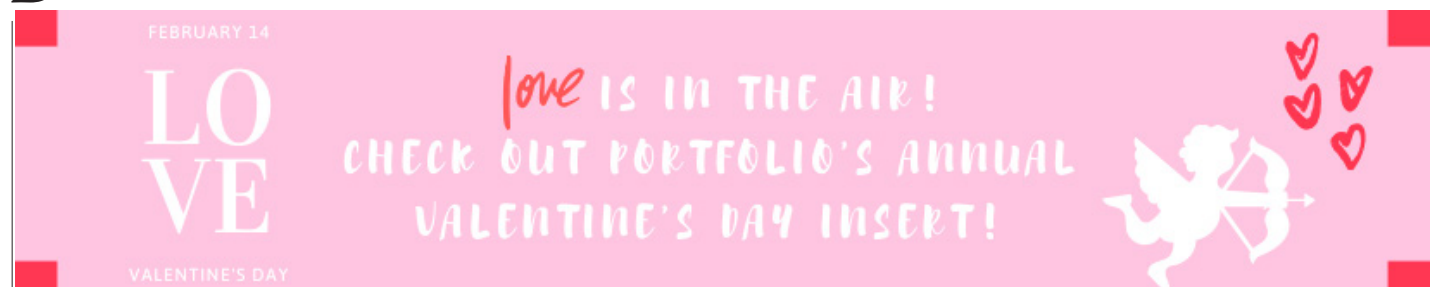
NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL

Although the intention of "Calories Count" is to promote health and wellness, it could do the opposite for some.

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***YOU HAVE TO
CHASE LOVE
TO FIND LOVE***



**©Portfolio Valentine's Day Insert
Limited Consolidated Incorporated**

FLUROMANCE: FINDING LOVE IN THE MIDST OF THE FLU OUTBREAK

by Kate Ward '23
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

"I got you a present." His voice was muffled, one hand pressed against the glass, the other behind his back.

I took off my mask and looked at him intently. "If it's another mask I'm going to be mad." I laughed a little. It had been sixteen years since the initial outbreak of the flu and nearly every house on the street had been ordered to put glass around the perimeter of the property. My next-door neighbor Michael and I had become infected at relatively the same time. I caught it first after being hospitalized for a nasty case of the flu. I got out right before Valentine's Day, and that was when we went on a date. I kissed him, things advanced, and two weeks later he was sick. Let me tell you, fostering romance while sick is an entirely new challenge within itself. I watched through the glass as he took a box out from behind him; it was one of those heart-shaped chocolate boxes.

"You do know that there's no way for me to get those, right?" I laughed a little.

"Yes, I do know that, so I'm just going to show them to you." He chuckled. "No, I'm kidding, I'm going to find a way to give them to you. Here, back up."

I took a few steps away from the glass and looked up at where the small air hole was. The air hole was something that the government had decided to put in the ceiling of the glass to make sure we had some way of getting fresh air without spreading the disease. Michael stepped back and then began to run

at the glass, jumping and hurling the box through his air hole and into mine. I watched as the chocolate box fell open, pill bottles tumbling out from the inside.

Gasping as a few clattered onto my head, I whirled to look at

there were three tightly rolled pieces of paper.

"They're letters," Michael explained as I went around and collected the rest of the bottles, some already broken open.

I was quiet for a moment, trying to find the words and the courage to say

was willing to be trapped in a glass cage for the remainder of his life if it meant seeing me each day.

"I don't deserve you," I whispered.

"You're going to have to speak up; the glass is thick," he said, pointing to his ears for further clarification.

"I—never mind." I shook my head. "It was a stupid thought!" Stupid to bring something like that up on a day like today.

Michael waited patiently, looking at me in case I wanted to say something further. I shook my head again. "I don't have

anything to say, so quit looking at me like that, will you?"

"You know, I was thinking about, like... do you remember back in 2020 when people still used that term ship? I was thinking about our ship

name." He had this stupid yet adorable grin on his face.

I lifted a brow. "Oh? What might that be?"

He wrung his hands. "I don't know if I should tell you judging by your reaction to the gift."

"You can't just bring it up and not say it!" I cried, pointing at him.

He put his hands up in surrender, our eyes locking as I watched him try to figure out his next move. "Our ship name isn't a joining of our names but more like our current... predicament. It's Fluromance." Michael grinned.

I sighed. *Flu Romance, of course he would think of something that stupid yet somewhat witty.*



him. "Are you kidding me, Michael?"

He was doubled over, laughing loudly as he watched the expression on my face change from shock and horror to anger.

"What? Come on, I thought it was funny! Why can't I make jokes about our sickness, huh?" he asked, pressing his hands up to the glass.

"You think *this*," I held up a prescription bottle and flung it at the glass, "is funny?! Do you think this is a proper Valentine's gift?" I cried.

"Look inside the bottles," he said, now more serious.

I shook my head and bent down, picking up one of the orange bottles, unscrewing the cap. Inside

what I wanted to say. I opened one letter and glanced over it. "This is from our first date." I picked up another. "And this is from our last." I looked at him. He nodded and smiled sheepishly.

"I thought it was a nice idea, I don't know, maybe it's stupid," Michael murmured, his breath fogging up the glass.

"No! No, it isn't a stupid idea, I mean, at least you got me something. Last Valentine's Day all I got you was sick with this virus." I tried to lighten the mood.

Michael chuckled. "And I wouldn't have it any other way."

The slightly dark and oddly cute sentence caught me off guard. This man

JAGGED LOVE

by Connor Zimmerman '20
Portfolio Editor

PROSE POETRY

Is it bad that I can feel the echoes of your sorrow coming off of you, as I glide over the scars on your arm? Is it bad that I can touch your distress as my fingers run through your hair? Is it bad that I can sense your anguish pulsing through your heart as our bodies become closer? Is it bad that I taste your regret as our lips slowly meet?

You are beautiful not in spite of all this...but

One of your exes fell in love with another girl, and even though he was honest he split your heart into two. Another once made you feel like you were less than you truly are, and while it eventually ended, your heart broke into four pieces. The next one said that you didn't have any love left to give, and his words smashed the pieces of your heart into eight fragments.

You are beautiful not in spite of all this...but because of

You have been cut, broken, and hurt...just like I have. You have a past that makes you want to scream and run...just like I want to do. You wear your feelings, the good, bad, and everything in between...just like I do. Your edges are jagged and rough...just like mine are.

You are beautiful not in spite of all this...but because

Even with everything that you have been through, you still see past my flaws. You have taught me to feel again when I did not know if that was possible. You make me smile and laugh even when I believe the world is going to end. You listen to the songs, watch the movies, and read the books I like because you want to know more about me. You still have love to give, more than anyone I know.

You are beautiful not in spite of all this but because of it.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY.COM

The Last Two

by Jay Willett '20
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

"Cheers," she raised her wine glass, "to being single on this lovely Valentine's Day!" We clinked and took our first sips of the red wine I bought for seven bucks at Shaw's. She wrinkled her nose and gasped.

"That's bitter!"

"Wine can't be bitter." I grinned.

"Well, it is!"

I nodded my head as I drank, catching her doubtful glance that I was enjoying the beverage.

It's true I was bluffing, and after a couple more, I couldn't stop myself.

"ACK!" I coughed into my sleeve. She folded her

arms in self-proclaimed victory. Laughter echoed from upstairs. Noise of the city filtered through cracks in the drywall. It was muzzled but audible to hear the couples dancing and

kissing in the streets. She tugged at the front strands of her hair. I stamped the heel of my foot on the

felt carpet. There was no avoiding it; the aroma of love had breached our walls of singularity. Our safe space for honest discussion and unrelenting cynicism had been invaded by the

enamored. They took the stage while we fell silent.

"It's not fair, you know,"

she whispered.

"What?"

"I don't know." She fiddled with her necklace. "Like, that we are here, and people expect us to be sad and lonely tonight."

"Hm," was all I could respond with.

"...But I'm not—I'm here, drinking with you. And I'm happy!"

"Right."

"I am—I'm—" Tears rolled down her flushed cheeks. I raised my glass.

"Hey—cheers." We clinked for a second time. She laughed as I spat out my wine.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY.COM

Falling Without Gravity

by Clara Howard '20
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

"Hellooo, earth to Marina?"

Marina blinked, the fog of memories and laughter lifting at the voice of the attending on-call and the surrounding sounds of the hospital. "What?"

Dr. Li frowned at her. "Are you okay? That's the third time you've spaced out on me this shift."

Marina shook her head and shoulders, the way a bird might settle its wings after a long flight. "Sorry, I'm fine. Just have a lot on my mind today."

"Did you want to talk about it?"

"Not really," she replied, smiling a little tightly. "Well, not right now, at any rate."

Dr. Li nodded and leaned forward, resting his forearms on the counter of the nurses' station. The new position brought his face closer to where Marina's head was bent over a pile of charts she was supposed

to be reviewing. "So, what do you want to talk about, then?" He asked, his voice quieter.

Marina rolled her eyes, a small smile playing with the edges of her mouth. "I don't really have anything that I want to talk about right now," she responded, her voice just as low.

"Really, absolutely nothing?"

"Not that I can think of." "No special plans for the weekend?"

She shrugged, the smile growing wider with the exchange. "Not really." She glanced up at him then, struggling not to laugh at the way his eyes sparked with mock outrage.

His eyes widened as he

gaped at her. "You wound me, Marina Blair," he whispered, the mirth in his eyes belying his words.

Marina did a subtle sweep of the space around them before leaning in closer to Dr. Li, making as if she were about to divulge a secret. "Good thing you're a doctor, then, and can

patch yourself up," she whispered back.

He burst out laughing, clapping a hand over his mouth as his shoulders shook. Marina sat back, her grin turning smug as she watched him. He shook his head and matched her gaze. "So little sympathy for the injured, Nurse Blair?"

"Only when the injured is you, Dr. Li," she quipped,

even daring to shoot him a wink.

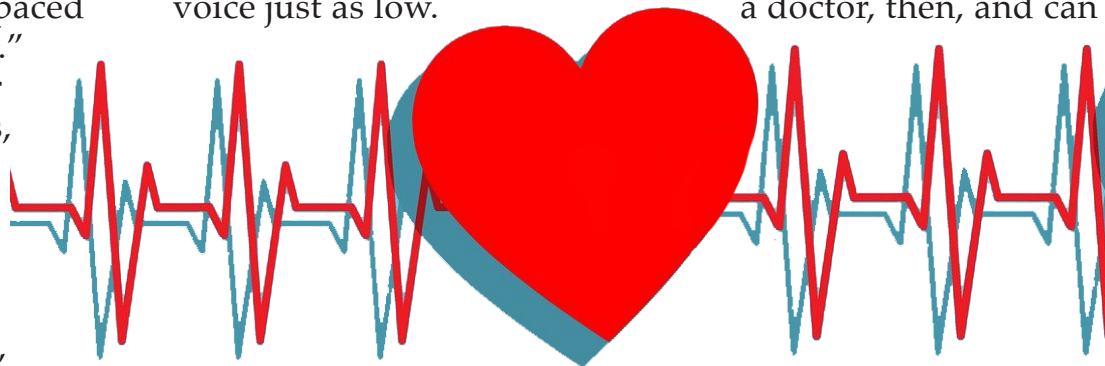
"Sounds like someone needs to help you work on those bedside manners."

"Oh really?" Her dimples came out in full force and she leaned forward again. "And I suppose you're offering to be that someone?"

His deep brown eyes seemed to smolder with heated promises as he looked at her. "I suppose that I am."

Her smile turned slow, curling at the corners like a cat in front of a fire. "Then I suppose—"

"Marina, have you seen the chart for the patient in room 207?" Nurse Jenkins interrupted, her nose buried in a bunch of files as she turned the corner and walked up to the nurses' station. She looked up to see Dr. Li straightening the pile of charts in front of him and Marina searching for a pen. She decided not to comment on the blushes staining their cheeks.



14 Ways to Say I Love You

by Jessica Polanco '21
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

I love you.
I hate you.

I want to hear your voice.
Shut up.

Hug me.
Don't touch me.

Come over.
Stay away.

Kiss me.
Don't kiss me.

We make a good team.
I'm better without you.

I miss you.
Leave me alone.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY.COM

PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLICDOMAINPICTURES.NET & GRAPHIC DESIGN BY CONNOR ZIMMERMAN '20

LOVE LIMERICKS

Short and Sweet

by Sarah Heavren '21
Portfolio Staff

Master of the cleverest pun,
You make all the boring things fun.
I hope you know
And that I show
You're loved by a certain someone.

Staycation

by Samantha Pellman '20
Portfolio Staff

What do I get him for Valentine's Day?
Plan something special, they all say
So I booked a vacation
At the very best location
A ticket to Greece and it's a one-way!

Glacier

by Jay Willett '20
Portfolio Staff

Frost gales frolic, shrouding all we could see.
Eyjafjallajökull explodes on the bended knee.
Not with fire, but with hope,
alone together on our slope.
One proposition, one question, and I'm finally free.

Money Can't Buy Love

by Sarah McLaughlin '23
Asst. Portfolio Editor

There once was a broke college student
Who thought it would be rather prudent
To skip buying flowers
And instead work twelve hours
Which prompted his love life's conclusion.

Dead Languages Don't Get You Dates

by Sean Tobin '20
Portfolio Staff

I once tried to flirt in Italian.
By nature I'm no Latin stallion.
I learned Greek with ease,
Ancient Hebrew's a breeze,
But for romance they get no medallion.

Fast Fiction: Dream First Date

Only us drowned in candlelight.

by Grace O'Connor '22
Portfolio Staff



A good laugh...all I need.

by Erin Venuti '20
Portfolio Staff



Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, Disney+, and...

by Connor Zimmerman '20
Portfolio Editor



They laugh together, and she's happy.

by Clara Howard '20
Portfolio Staff



Stole my heart, then my wallet.

by Kate Ward '23
Portfolio Staff



Ends with plans for a second.

by Sarah McLaughlin '23
Asst. Portfolio Editor

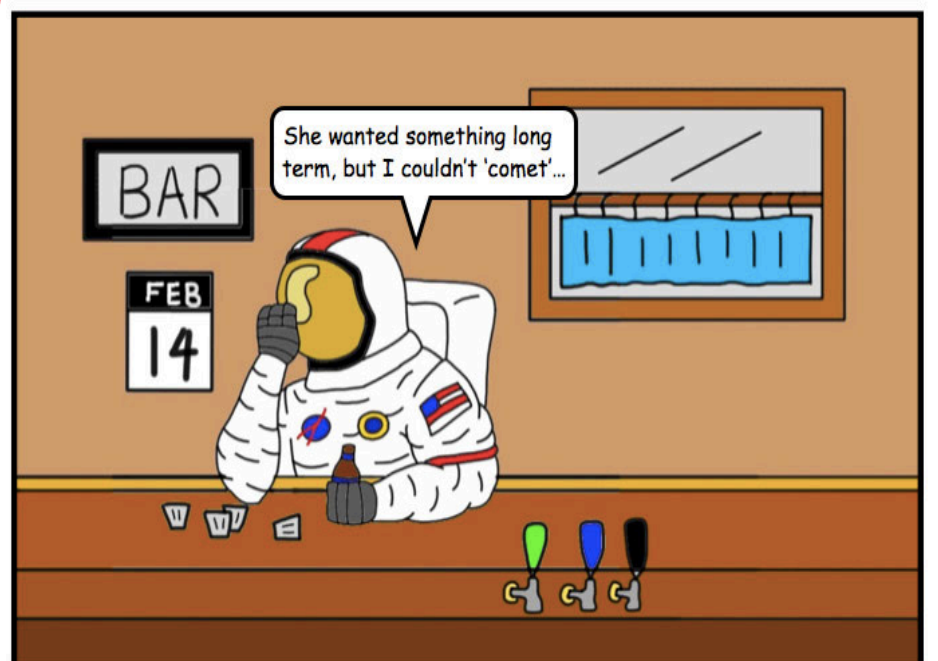
PHOTOS COURTESY OF PEXELS.COM

by Mark Fairchild '20
Portfolio Staff

CARTOON

PERSONAL SPACE

MARK FAIRCHILD



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIACOMMONS.ORG

A Real Galentine's Day

by Samantha Pellman '20
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

It's a Friday night at 6 p.m.
The sky is dark already
The air is cold.

To us it's just a Friday night
But to others it's the most romantic day of the year.
We don't look at it that way.

We stand in front of the mirror
Curling our hair
And putting on mascara.

Laughing together
And sipping wine
Tonight will be one for the books.

It's a night to celebrate our freedom
We're only young for so long
We'll be wishing to be at this stage in life again.

We're leaving our phones home tonight
We don't need to get in contact with anyone
This night is for us.

I take candid pictures of my friends
So we can remember how happy we were
Just to have each other.

Valentine's Day is wonderful
But for now, it's me and my girls
We're all we need tonight and always.

BELOW, A GUIDE FOR WRITING A LOVE POEM TO YOUR SWEETHEART (OR BOOGABEAR, SNOOKEMS, OR TOOTSIE WOOTSIE)

by Sam Ward '21
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

*To better understand love and its treasures,
You must first reexamine your loyalty to vices.
You are not ready to love unless you take the right measures.
Would you keep caffeine in the A.M. if Starbucks raised its prices?*

*Wag your finger to rom-coms, even Paul Rudd ones.
Love has no place for a man who makes silly puns.
Say no to chocolate in bed, sugar for breakfast.
To forgo these things is to keep your heart the freshest.*

*A rose is still a rose, if you detest it,
And a bed full of petals is no place to rest in.
Flowery poetry makes you look like a sap,
Now say, "Valentine's Day is crap!"*



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PEXELS.COM

by Mark Fairchild '20
Portfolio Staff

CARTOON



PHOTO COURTESY BY NEEDPIX.COM & GRAPHIC DESIGN BY SARAH KIRCHNER '21



Showing How You Really Feel

by Lil Wit '21
Portfolio Staff

SATIRE

The mushiest, most lovey-dovey, better-not-be-alone-because-that-sucks day of the year (unless you want to be conventional and remember that this day is actually the feast day for a saint who was martyred for the sake of spreading the Catholic faith and is esteemed in the eyes of the Church to be canonized and revered for his example of dedication to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ) is upon us. Valentine's Day is arguably—and by arguably, I mean that if you argue against this, you'll lose—an overly-commercialized day, but it provides us with an excuse to remind the people

whom we love that we love them. However, Valentine's Day also brings the dreaded responsibility of getting a



thoughtful gift for your significant other. So, we hit the sidewalks to see what ideas PC students have for Valentine's Day gifts.

Sophomore Fred Drick offered this advice: "A homemade gift is the way to go. Usually they're less expensive and if your S.O. hates it, it's not like they can return it, but they can still see you tried. I've used old *Cowls* to make a few paper-mâché life-sized replicas of my girlfriend in the past, and she hasn't said anything negative about it yet, so I take that as a green light. But you want to be really good at paper-mache if you're going to do that or else she'll think you think she's ugly. Whatever you do, make sure it comes from the heart and not Hallmark. Don't feed the capitalist beast."

Tiffany & Earl

Making PC an emotionally stable place one letter at a time

Dear Tiff and Earl,

I just found out that my significant other is allergic to every single flower known to man and hates all chocolate (I promise she's fun!), and CVS has nothing else that is Valentine's Day related. What should I get her?

Nervously,
Drug Store Drags

Dear DSD,

Don't sell CVS short. Just because it's not related to Valentine's Day doesn't mean it isn't a thoughtful gift. Nothing says love like a bottle of laxatives (she'll thank you later).

Regularly,

Tiff

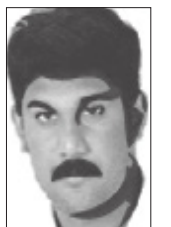


Dear Druggie,

Flowers and chocolate won't do anything your personality hasn't proven. Your woman knows who you are, so just be yourself. Offer her the rest of the pizza you've already eaten half of. Give her a hug, after you've wiped the Cheeto dust off your fingers and onto the frayed undershirt you're still wearing after three days. Just show her you care, even if that's by giving her the Disney+ password. She needs the nostalgia more than you need *The Mandalorian*. After all, who knows, afterwards you might "Kiss the Girl" or even "Go the Distance" with her.

Lovingly,

Earl

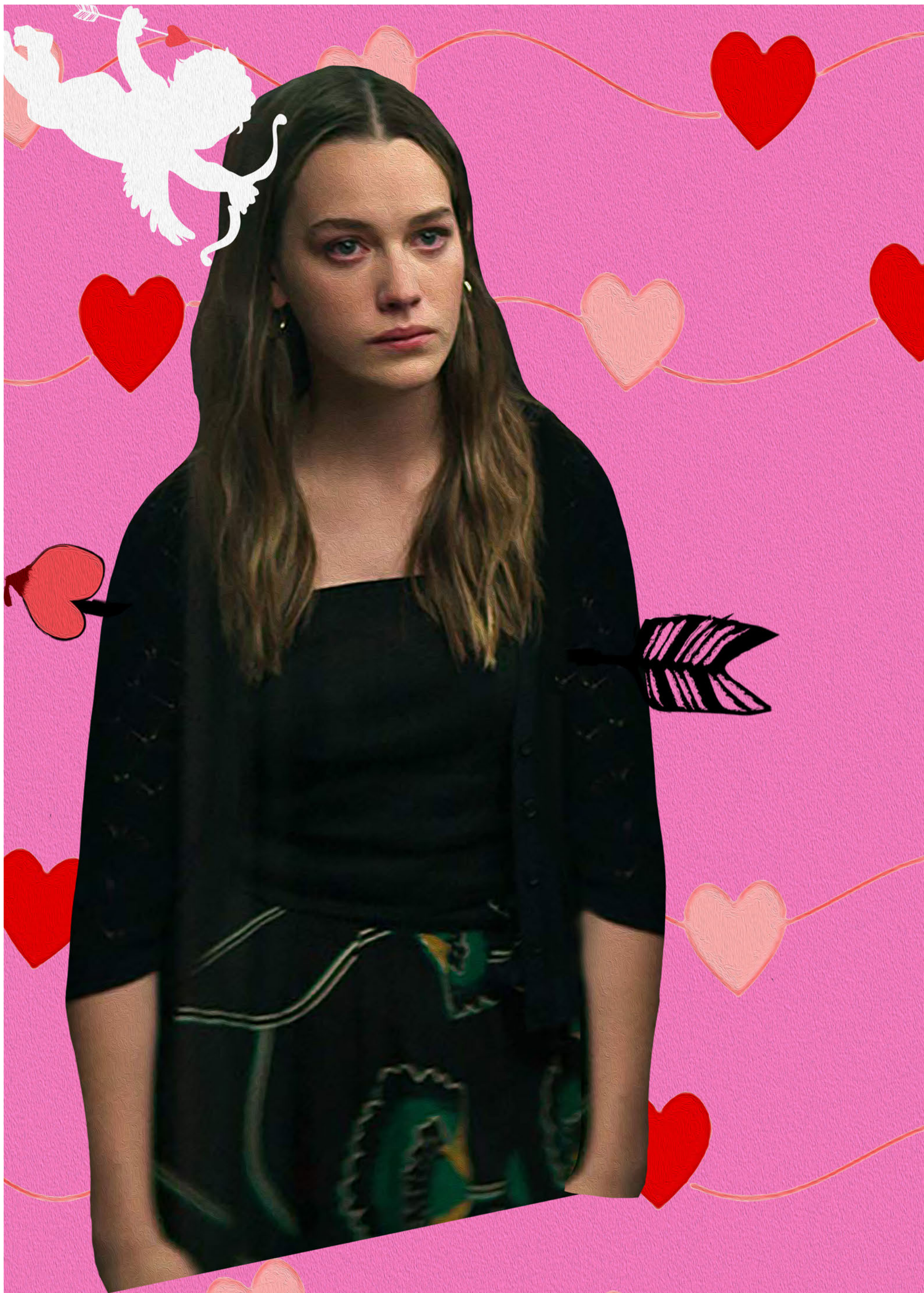


Listomania*

How to make someone fall in love with you

- Stand outside their dorm room with a boombox
- Leave them on open on Snapchat
- DM their ex on Instagram
- Take them out to Ray
- Photoshop them into pictures with you
- Bring them chicken nuggets on Thursday
- Go to the chapel with them
- Express your feelings in Morning Mail
- Steal a golf cart and drive them to their classes
- Hide under their bed
- Give them all your Friarbucks
- Tell Dot to tell them how you feel
- Buy their Black and White Ball ticket (if \$20 isn't an act of love, I don't know what is)
- Wear clean clothes
- Wear their clothes
- Request their location on Find My Friends
- Watch *You* for tips
- Get them the flame from Slavin lawn instead of a candle

*Listomania and Tiffany & Earl and Friartire are satirical pieces that do not reflect the views of Providence College or The Cowl. PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEEDPIX.COM



LOVE LASTS FOREVER

Establishing a New "Peck"ing Order *PC Student Develops New Networking App*

by Hannah Langley '21
News Co-Editor

CAMPUS

As college students, something most of us have probably dealt with before is the difficulty of connecting with fellow classmates and students. Whether it be trying to create group chats for a class project or Venmo a person for dinner the night before, Providence College students can all relate to the difficulty of connecting in an easy, organized way.

To help solve this problem, Patrick Callahan '22 has helped develop a new app called "PeckApp" which, as Callahan describes it, "is a mobile contact sharing app based on the idea that there needs to be a way to connect across platforms of communication quickly and simultaneously because nowadays people communicate through so many different mediums."

With the help of two fellow students—Nick Tolimieri from Vanderbilt University and Zach Cmiel from Northwestern University—the three sophomores noticed during their freshman year that it became difficult to connect with people they were meeting across multiple platforms. "You might have someone's Snapchat because you got added into a group but you don't

"PeckApp allows PC students to network and socialize in a new way that is useful to anyone they come into contact with."

have their phone number when you need to call them," said Callahan, "Or you might have to text a new person asking them what your Venmo account is because you have never sent them money."

Callahan explained how the app works, saying, "When users create a PeckApp profile, they add in any contact information they desire such as their phone number, email, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Snapchat, Groupme, Venmo, or a custom URL. Once their profile is created users select which of their contact information they would like to share and it creates a custom PeckApp QR code. This QR code



Peck App allows students to connect without hassle.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PXHERE.COM

can be scanned by other PeckApp users to "peck" someone else."

He mentioned, too, that even those who do not have the app downloaded can still scan the QR code using their normal cameras, allowing people to connect in a simple and efficient way.

When the PeckApp was first released in May 2019, the three knew they had to come up with a name. Originally, their idea was to have users bump their phones together to transfer information, so they thought the word "peck" captured this quick exchange. "Even though users no longer bump their phones into each other," said Callahan, "we stuck with the name because we love how it can be used as a verb."

While Callahan admits he is not the most "tech-minded individual," he said he was fortunate to meet Cmiel, who had extensive experience and skill with coding and technology. "Zach is the sole developer on the team and is a tech wizard," said Callahan. "We are really lucky to have a talented guy like him on the team."

Even though Callahan is not the developer of PeckApp, he talked about how he has learned a great deal since beginning to create the app 17 months ago. "I have learned so much about marketing, product development, small

businesses, startups, and networking through working on PeckApp," said Callahan.

To showcase PeckApp to the PC community, Callahan is planning on hosting a table at the Career Expo on Wednesday, February 19. He also explained how he is planning on utilizing the app throughout the event, saying, "I have been working on making all of the attending companies PeckApp profiles, which include their phone numbers, social media profiles, emails, websites, and any other useful information. We are then creating custom PeckApp QR codes that they will be able to display on their tables."

His hope is that the PC community, especially students, will download PeckApp in the future, as it allows them to have the ability to "share exactly what they want, when they want, with who they want." He stated, "PeckApp allows PC students to network and socialize in a new way that is useful to anyone they come into contact with."

While he is not sure what will come out of this in the future, Callahan said he is just really enjoying the experience and learning through the process. He encourages the PC community to download PeckApp, which is available on all iPhone and Android devices.

NAACP Spreads the Love

by Will Devaney '23
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

On Feb. 6, Providence College students got the opportunity to listen to Reverend Justin Lester speak about love and the various forms it presents itself in our daily lives at the "Enough Love to Go Around" event. Lester is the pastor for Congdon Street Baptist Church right here in Providence. He is an adjunct professor at Providence College, as well as a Religious Life Affiliate at Brown University. He came to PC last Thursday to share some advice and speak on his own experiences with his church.

College campuses are busy places—they are the birthplace of countless memories, ideas, and relationships. Lester began his talk by speaking to the students about the importance of fostering healthy and valuable relationships. He highlighted the importance of knowing who you are before you commit yourself to a relationship. He stressed that your values should align with the person that you are in a relationship with, in order to be able to grow as a person with them.

His next talking point covered how loving yourself is necessary in order to love others. "In order to cultivate love, we have to do things that we are passionate about and care about," said Rev. Lester, "People should consider all of their experiences as an investment towards yourself," he added. He told the group to be careful with their endeavors, because they make you who you are. Friends, professors, and bosses all contribute to your personal development, so it is important to choose them wisely. Beyond the campus, he told the students that they must choose a job offer that aligns with their personal values. "No is a sentence," he said, explaining that it is ok to say no without offering an explanation. The pastor explained that we dedicate so much of our time and energy into our careers, so it is important that we undertake jobs that allow us to focus on things that we care about.

The event was held in the Slavin Overlook Lounge and hosted by the NAACP. Students who attended got to enjoy some Insomnia Cookies as they listened. Students definitely took away valuable lessons about college life and life after graduation from Rev. Lester. President of the NAACP chapter, Beah Cyrus '22, commented on the talk, "He was lighthearted as he spoke and pretty funny. Students definitely enjoyed the event and he had all of our attention."



PECKAPP

PHOTO COURTESY OF PECKAPP.COM

Featured Friar: Julia Lorkiewicz '20

Friar Finds Her Newfound Passion in HPM

by Kyle Burgess '21
News Co-Editor

FEATURED FRIAR

Before setting foot on campus move-in day, the typical incoming Providence College freshmen bury themselves in a landslide of questions. "Did I pack enough Vineyard Vines apparel?" to "Will I get along with my roommates?" and, for some, "Did I really pick the right major for the career I want to have?"

Some students, like Julia Lorkiewicz '20, eventually find that the major they had declared upon entering PC is not all that they had envisioned it to be. Panic begins to creep in at the prospect of having to go through the process of picking a major all over again, coupled with fears of how this change will impact career choices after graduation.

"I came in declared as a science major, specifically focusing in chemistry," Lorkiewicz explained, "but I also came into college with absolutely no idea what I wanted to do with my life. About two weeks into school, I decided that it was not for me. I felt lost, confused, and very uncertain regarding what was ahead of me."

Lorkiewicz felt at a loss as to what would come next. "At first, I felt disappointed in myself for not finding something right off the bat that I loved, and I spent a lot of time comparing myself to my science classmates who loved what they were doing when I did not feel the same way."

However, while surfing PC's online list of majors with her mother, Lorkiewicz came across Health Policy



Lorkiewicz has kept herself involved in her four years in Friartown. PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIA LORKIEWICZ '20

and Management (HPM) which piqued her interest. Following her mother's advice, she enrolled in an introductory course for her second semester, and the rest was history.

"I can truly say this was the best decision I have ever made. My advisor, Dr. Hackey, has become my mentor, my advocate, and truly one of the best professors I have ever had," Lorkiewicz added.

Life as an HPM major has offered her a wide array of interesting internships, giving her the opportunity to watch policies she reads about in the classroom in action. Lorkiewicz was able to sit in on medical licensing boards with the Rhode Island Department of Health during their discussions of the

opioid crisis in Rhode Island, followed up with her work as a summer intern at a medical malpractice law firm, which fueled her growing desire to attend law school after graduating from PC.

Her most recent internship at Marsh & McLennan Agency located in Worcester, MA, however, is where everything clicked for Lorkiewicz. She was able to use her HPM experience while brokering and consulting with clients, and she is looking forward to working there full time come this June.

When asked to give advice for current students having second thoughts about their major or are still undecided, Lorkiewicz insisted that they find a field that they are truly passionate about.

"The transition of switching my major was one of the scariest, yet greatest decisions I have ever made. Nothing is ever permanent and there are always going to be people to help you find where your strengths lie. Reach out to professors you trust, advisors, the career center, family members, or anyone else you trust for advice. But in the end, it is your happiness that matters in whatever major and career field you choose."

In addition to keeping herself busy with her impressive strand of internships, Lorkiewicz has still found the time to expand her social network at PC.

She has been heavily involved in her four years in Friartown, serving as an Admissions Ambassador senior fellow and executive board member, two-time fall orientation leader, peer ministry leader, Lighthouse and Transformations retreat leader, and was recently inducted into the Dirigo Leadership Honor Society.

In the little free time she has remaining, Lorkiewicz can be found cheering on the Friars at the Dunkin' Donuts Center, working out at Concannon Fitness Center, exploring downtown Providence for new restaurants to try, or buried in a Dunkin' iced coffee with her best friends in Slavin.

Ultimately, however, Lorkiewicz credits the many professors and classmates who helped her to find her true calling as an HPM major during her transitional freshman year and beyond as the foundation for her countless memorable experiences here at PC.

Around the Political Horn

PC Professors Weigh in on Current Political Events

by Nicole Silverio '22
News Staff

CAMPUS

Last Wednesday, February 5, five professors from the political science department, Dr. Bill Hudson, Dr. Joseph Cammarano, Dr. Paul Herron, Dr. Adam Myers, and Dr. Matthew Guardino, held a panel discussion in the Arthur F. and Patricia Ryan School of Business discussing contemporary politics in the past week.

This week has shaped American politics with the start of the Democratic primary and caucus elections, the presidential impeachment trial, and the State of the Union Address, which took place the night before the panel.

The first topics of discussion were the articles of impeachment, in which President Donald Trump was officially acquitted by the Senate. Only one Republican senator, Mitt Romney, voted to convict President Trump.

Dr. Hudson made the claim that Trump was not cooperating with Congress. He then cited a book published in the 1970s titled *The Imperial Presidency* which discussed the impeachment of former President Richard Nixon. Nixon allowed witnesses to testify in his trial, unlike the current president.

"Trump has not been forthcoming in providing information. This administration would not participate in the impeachment at all. Nine witnesses called to testify refused to appear," said Hudson. "There's going to be more stonewalling from the Trump administration which may depend on court cases that may come up."

After the discussion on impeachment, a long discussion arose on the State of the Union Address,

in which President Trump spoke before Congress, Supreme Court justices, and the American people, addressing the progress made in this country.

Dr. Myers stated that historically, "The State of the Union Address was not public until Woodrow Wilson's presidency. The reasoning for this was the fear of demagoguery. Meyers says, "We should go back to the way it was in the 19th century, where the President submitted a letter to his Cabinet and Congress. The current State of the Union is a ridiculous tradition."

Dr. Cammarano added, "We have to acknowledge that Trump has done a lot of what he said he would do in 2016. However, I have been studying politics for several years and this State of the Union made me not want to study politics anymore since it was a classic example of what politics has become. It has become political professional wrestling. What we're seeing is not politics, it's political wrestling."

What he was referring to was the tension between President Trump and Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who visibly tore Trump's speech on camera. After, Trump refused to shake her hand.

In regards to Trump's claims in the State of the Union, Dr. Guardino said, "Last night was an object lesson not only to fact check but to critically evaluate claims in context. The economy is doing well largely due to many grassroots movements, which has led to states across the nation increasing their minimum wages, which the Trump administration has opposed doing." President Trump's accomplishments may have been embellished or have happened without his involvement.

Dr. Hudson mentioned that Trump is "a very clever showman and administered that in the State of the Union. It's in Trump's best interest to be the kind of showman that he is when he talks to the press in order to get reelected."

On the topic of the recent conflicts between political parties, the professors talked about how fifty years ago, political parties were weaker, causing differences in opinions to have less of an impact on legislation.

"Up until the 70s, we did not have strong political parties," said Myers. "When we have strong parties like we do today the system breaks down." Cammarano added, "I want weaker parties and for Republicans and Democrats to focus on the common interest of the people." In today's political climate, it is difficult for people with different political views to understand others opinions, which reflects how the parties treat one another in Congress.

In today's polarizing political climate, the political science department wants students to understand what is currently unfolding in politics because, as Cammarano put it, "the young people are going to be the ones to have to fix the major issues in today's politics, and it is essential to get today's youth involved in political events in order to make significant changes needed in today's crazy political climate."



PHOTO COURTESY OF COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.ORG

Tensions on the Hill remain high despite Trump's acquittal.

Bursting the PC Bubble

Members of Chinese Military Indicted by U.S. Government

by Matthew Mazzella '20
News Staff

WORLD NEWS

Four members of the Chinese military have been charged by the U.S. Department of Justice for the hacking of Equifax credit reporting agency in 2017.

The hackers stole the personal information of nearly 150 million Americans, including names, birthdays, and social security numbers. Deputy FBI Director David Bowdich said this breach is "the largest instance of state-sponsored theft in U.S. history."

The charged parties include four members of the Chinese People's Liberation Army's 54th Research Institute, which is a branch of the Chinese army. The hackers included Wu Zhiyong, Wang Qian, Xu Ke, and Liu Lei. These parties are facing major charges from the United States, including allegations of conspiracy to commit computer fraud, conspiracy to commit economic espionage, and conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

Last year, Equifax has agreed to pay up to \$700 million in settlements with the Federal Trade Commission. These cases investigated how Equifax handled the data breach. A large sum of the settlement went towards to those affected by the data breach, as they allocated \$425 million to help

customers whose data was accessed as a result of the hacking.

Attorney General William Barr was outraged by the attack on America, and expressed his concern for national security, by saying, "This was an organized and remarkably brazen criminal heist of sensitive information of nearly half of all Americans, as well as the hard work and intellectual property of an American company, by a unit of the Chinese military,"

private networks with the hopes of gaining insight on trade details.

This case adds to the list of many breaches performed by the Chinese government, only adding to the already existing trade tensions between the U.S. and China.

Thomas McMahon '20 expressed his concern with the Chinese government being able to access millions of American's private information easily.

McMahon angrily said, "It is really alarming that anyone can access confidential information if they try hard enough. Just look at what happened to Capital One this summer. I try my best to keep my information secure, but there is only so much you can do with the sophistication of hackers these days."

Whether it be the hacking of more than 20 million files on government employees, theft of more than 10 million health records from health insurance provider Anthem, or the stealing of hundreds of millions of Marriot Hotel records, China is no amateur when it comes to stealing precious information from American citizens. These cases have raised questions as to whether the United States government is doing enough to protect its citizens from these ever so often hacking cases by foreign governments.

Charging these four suspects associated with the Equifax case is a step in the right direction for national security, but the United States is far from being able to solve the recurring issue related to the hacking of confidential information.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FREESVG.ORG



Barr said.

This is not the only instance where the Chinese Liberation Army (PLA) has launched hacking campaigns against the United States. In 2014, five Chinese military hackers were charged with breaking into major corporation's

Election of 2020

Political Updates About this Year's Upcoming Election

President "Trumps" Impeachment

by Alexandra Huzyk '20
News Staff

POLITICS

After a four-month period of impeachment processes, President Donald Trump has officially been acquitted of both articles of impeachment drafted against him, as determined by the trials conducted by the Senate.

In September 2019, a government whistleblower issued a complaint against President Trump. Soon after, Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, called for an impeachment inquiry against President Trump, claiming that he had betrayed his Oath of Office and the election process.

The House Intelligence Committee was then tasked with investigation, and the Judiciary Committee drafted two articles of impeachment—one for abuse of power, and the other for obstruction of Congress. The House of Representatives approved both articles, which required a simple majority of votes.

The articles of impeachment were then passed on to the Republican-controlled Senate, which was responsible for conducting President Trump's trial. The trial included opening and closing remarks from the Democratic House impeachment managers and President Trump's team of lawyers, plus a 16-hour questioning period by senators. A super majority of 67 votes was needed to convict President Trump for each respective charge.

For the first article of impeachment—



PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR.COM

President Trump claims victory over charges of impeachment.

abuse of power—all Democrats and Independents voted guilty. All Republicans, with the exception of Utah Senator Mitt Romney, voted not guilty. The final tallies were 52 to 48 to acquit him of this first article.

Romney's vote to convict President Trump "marked the first time in American history that a senator voted to convict a president of his own party in an impeachment trial," as stated by *NBC News*. Romney defended his choice in a speech before the Senate, but continued to receive criticism from both President Trump and other members of the Republican Party.

For the second article of impeachment placed against Trump—obstruction of Congress—all Democrats and

Independents voted guilty, while all Republicans voted not guilty. The final tallies were 53 to 47 to acquit Trump of this second article, split along party lines.

After President Trump's acquittal, he promptly spoke out in a number of tweets. The first was a parody video illustrating his decision to continue running for reelection, ending with the message: "Trump 4EVA." In a separate tweet, he claimed he would provide more commentary, "our Country's VICTORY on the Impeachment Hoax." President Trump will likely use the impeachment trial results to further vilify Democrats during his reelection campaign.

According to Gallup, a recent public

opinion poll reported that President Trump's approval rating hit the highest yet, at 49 percent. The public remains highly divided along partisan lines.

This division was further exacerbated in President Trump's televised State of the Union speech on Feb. 4. After describing Democrats who support universal health care as socialists, President Trump urged Congress to support legislation to lower prescription drug prices. This was met with dissenting chants from Democrats.

President Trump also continued to emphasize policies aimed at helping black Americans, a group which overwhelmingly disapproves of Trump.

However, in conflict with these efforts, President Trump awarded conservative talk radio host Rush Limbaugh the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This award is the nation's highest honor that a civilian can receive. In the past, Limbaugh has made precarious comments on race; particularly in regards to former President Barack Obama.

After President Trump concluded his State of the Union speech, he handed House Speaker Nancy Pelosi a copy of his speech. When she reached out to shake his hand, President Trump turned away. As Republicans cheered, Pelosi tore the copy of President Trump's remarks in half.

Both the impeachment trials and the State of the Union speech are emblematic of continued bipartisan tensions, likely to be echoed in the 2020 presidential campaigns and elections.

“Calories Count”: Starting the Eating Disorder Conversation

Wellness

Continued from front page

Secretary Allyson Giso '22 stated, “I don’t think it was worded correctly. Health doesn’t necessarily equate to calories.” Not only is this statement incredibly accurate, but it is a main tenant of living a balanced and healthy lifestyle.

President Corinne Maier '22 claimed, “If I saw it, I wouldn’t grab the cookies or candy. But that is what the vending machines are for. Why else would we have them?” Vending machines are meant for pleasure and snacking, not overthinking the little things in life.

In all reality, this issue is more prevalent than one may believe. Marketing Director Julia O’Dwyer '22 states, “I think it is desensitizing. There are so many people you don’t know who struggle with eating disorders, so if someone is going through that and sees something like that, it’s very triggering.”

To counteract triggers, a couple of things are necessary. First, we need to destigmatize mental illness on PC’s campus, and second, we can emphasize the concept of balance. Sure, we have an incredibly healthy campus. Many students go to the gym, eat healthy meals, and are passionate about nutrition and sports. There are also a plethora of mental health clubs and events, bringing awareness to depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, etc.

However, eating disorders are not typically a topic of conversation.

Doctors and psychologists specializing in eating disorders are beginning to promote HAES, which stands for “Health at Every Size.” Instead of focusing on losing a certain amount of weight and promoting unhealthy behavior, doctors are beginning to take a sensitive and balanced approach that plans out steps for long-lasting, healthy results. They focus on wellness and eating patterns over calorie counting and excessive food thought.

In reality, societal pressures cause an enormous

amount of stress despite the recent emphasis on self-love and body acceptance. Sure, these are all great, yet hardly effective in the mind of someone with an actual eating disorder.

We cannot remove the stickers put up by a corporation or force them to change their messaging—at least not immediately. But what we can do right away is remain mindful of triggers, and start having conversations on this campus about healthful, balanced lives in order to support our community in the best ways we can.



The vending machine on the lowest level of Feinstein—a heavily trafficked area—also displays the potentially triggering “Calories Count” sticker.

NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL

Coronavirus Does Not Discriminate, So Neither Should You

Ending Racist and Inappropriate Comments about the Disease

by Julia McCoy '22
Opinion Staff

POLITICS

As flu season once again plagues this campus, students are keeping their eye on more than just the flu.

Earlier this year, an outbreak of the coronavirus emerged in Wuhan, China. As of the beginning of February, upwards of 30,000 people have been infected with the disease, and it is spreading rapidly.

Additionally, there has yet to be an identified cure or vaccine that could help those who have been infected.

Considering China’s large population and the rapid spread of the disease in that remote area, this disease has warranted worldwide fear. Its spread to other countries and continents is concerning, especially considering the amount of international travel that is natural to our society.

Providence College has particular interest in this issue. The PC School of Business, in conjunction with the Center for Global Education, had planned to launch a program at East China Normal University in Shanghai, China this spring before the outbreak occurred.

Four of the five enrolled students have worked with CGE and PCSB faculty and staff and are now beginning their studies in Dublin, Ireland instead.

Thankfully, PC students were able to stay safe and relocate to a new area before ever embarking to Shanghai. The Center for Global

Education is now planning to launch the program in Shanghai in the spring of 2021.

The College is moving forward with the Maymester 2020 program in South Korea, according to Dean Joseph Stanley of the Center for Global Education, unless the situation escalates.

He is confident in his dialogue with On Call International, PC’s travel risk management partner, and other international stakeholders to make a well-informed decision, as the College did with PCSB in Shanghai.

Of course, as college students, it is important to be aware of possible threats to our health. However, it is also imperative that students are correctly informed and do not spread false information regarding this outbreak.

Yes, it is true that the coronavirus outbreak began in Wuhan, China. However, that does not mean that Chinese people in general should be held responsible for an outbreak that exploded without their choosing.

This disease is not a matter of culture or ethnicity, it is not a matter of lifestyle. It is an unbiased virus that can affect anyone.

That’s right, some less informed people have taken to steering away from Chinese people in fear of the transmittance of the disease.

Additionally, there is a generic stigma around all Asian citizens, regardless of the country or if their origin could have been exposed to the disease.

This stigma has little to no

basis; while Asian countries are geographically closer to the area of impact, their chances of being infected with coronavirus are almost the same as America.

Perhaps this geographic distance makes people believe it more justified for some people to laugh about the coronavirus.

Twitter and Instagram, among other social media platforms, have been filled with jokes about “Coronavirus,” in which people call out of work to drink Corona beer.

Not only do jokes like this diminish the actual effects of this rapidly spreading and deadly disease, they are insensitive to those affected by the increasing global nature of the disease.

The United States has seen its first few cases in the last few days

and a small panic has begun. With jokes circulating about the disease, it is a concern that people will not take this virus as seriously as they should.

Consider the facts: this disease is rapidly mutating, it can spread faster than the common flu, there is no known vaccine, and it can go unnoticed for up to two weeks.

Thus, it is incredibly important to take this virus seriously. It is a culture-blind disease that can affect the world.

Healthy habits and awareness of surroundings, especially on a college campus, are important during any normal flu season. Coronavirus certainly comes with a more imminent threat, and it should therefore be taken seriously and not used as a reason to discriminate.

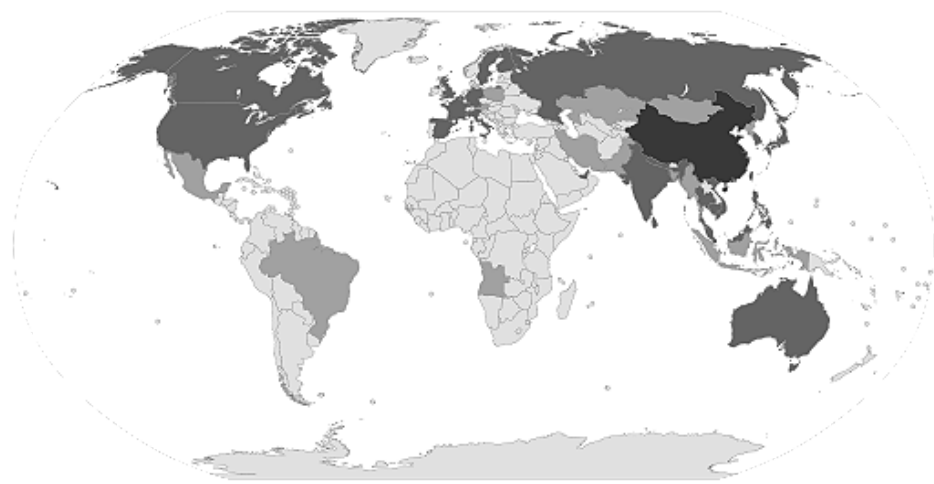


PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The shaded regions depicted on the map above indicate locations where cases of the virus have either been confirmed or are suspected to have occurred. Its spread to other parts of the globe is clear indication that the disease has nothing to do with race or ethnicity.

Picking up after Yourself: A Small Act with a Big Impact

Putting a Stop to Microdemonstrations of Privilege on PC's Campus

by Joshua Chlebowski '21
Opinion Staff

SOCIETY

When eating a meal at one of the various dining spots on campus, it is not uncommon for food to fall off of a plate, for a napkin to drop onto the floor, or for someone to spill something on the table. However, reactions to such occurrences say much about privilege on the Providence College campus.

There is a phenomenon here on campus where students leave behind dirty napkins or, in extreme circumstances, portions of their meal on the dining tables, with minimal to no effort made to clean them up.

While there are employees of these dining spots that carry washrags and move about cleaning the tables, they should not be responsible for disposing of large chunks of food or napkins that are left behind on the table. These employees are tasked with sanitizing rather than completing a task many of us were taught as children: if you make a mess, you clean it up.

It is not someone else's responsibility to clean up a mess that you made and are perfectly capable of handling. Even without a washrag, there are ample napkins with which you can pick up a piece of food or wipe up a spill.

That being said, the most important part of cleaning up the mess is to dispose of the napkins used to clean it up—simply leaving them behind because “they are disgusting” or “I’ll get my hands dirty” is an unacceptable and extremely privileged viewpoint.

Just because you are not paid to clean up the dining halls does not mean your individual actions are excused. If you are able to clean up a mess, then you should be doing so, with the exception of extreme situations involving broken glass or ceramic plates.

An underlying privilege often manifests itself in minute, everyday actions—or inactions. In this case, one's inaction demonstrates an internal belief that they are above cleaning such a mess up, and that it is beneath them to do so.

In addition to this mentality allowing for dining hall tables to remain dirtied for other students, it demeans the employees of the College who clean



Messes and spills are bound to happen in the dining hall. What we can control, however, is how we take responsibility and clean up after ourselves.

LAURA CHADBOURNE '20/THE COWL

the facilities by insinuating that they are hired to do the “less important” jobs.

Certainly, the cleaning of tables is not glamorous by many people's standards, but it is an extremely important task which keeps dining spaces clean and welcoming to all. It is not our place to pass judgment or shy away from dirtying our hands a little to help out fellow members of the PC community—both employees and students.

Though some forms of privilege—such as destruction of property—are active, the privilege exposed through a lack of small efforts to clean is more passive, and thus more difficult to combat.

Addressing these behaviors requires a moment of realization of the consequences of such actions, as they pertain to the community in which we live. One must put themselves in a place of critical examination as to how a shift in their actions will lead to an increasingly positive experience for those around them.

We have all at one point or another gone to sit in a specific place in a dining location on campus only to see the mess someone else left behind. What we forget to do is take this moment and guide our actions accordingly by cleaning up after ourselves. As previously stated, this does not need to be a massive undertaking, rather a conscious attempt to make a table as usable as possible for the next individuals to use it.

Privilege is a daunting and challenging topic to confront, and there are certainly many manifestations of it on our campus. The first step is recognizing our own problematic behaviors and correcting them.

The next time you find yourself eating at one of the dining spaces on campus, take a few extra seconds to clean up after yourself and encourage your friends to do the same, thus creating a community of respect while also combatting one form of the various forms of privilege seen at PC.

Writer vs. Writer

Is It Safe to Leave Your Possessions out in the Open on Campus?

by Marie Sweeney '20
Opinion Staff

NO

A common practice among students at Providence College is to leave their valuables around campus due to the strong amount of trust students have in one another.

However, students need to be more careful with where they place their items because there is a risk of non-student and student thieves, students mistaking others' items for their own, and the fact that not everyone can be trusted.

The Concannon Fitness Center is a common place where people put their items at risk. Students have developed the practice of leaving valuables such as wallets, headphones, phones, and more in the cubbies, which are in plain sight.

This also occurs in the library, where students will leave their laptops on tables for hours unattended. Anyone, a student or a non-student, could take it.

Although some may argue that this is just a part of the PC culture and that we should embrace it, there are individuals that can take advantage of the unspoken trust that students have for one another. For instance, there have been many reports in certain residence halls of people stealing clothes from the laundry rooms.

Rachael Kelly '20, a student worker

at Concannon, said, “People report missing items to us all the time. Someone loses their airpods or airpod cases at least once a day.”

While this trust among students is part of the Friar culture, it is not worth it for students to put their valuables at risk. Students need to be more careful where they place their important items to avoid the risk of them being taken.

Unfortunately, not everyone can be trusted and when it comes to the more expensive and important items, it is always better to be safe than sorry.

by Alyssa Cohen '21
Opinion Staff

YES

While it is a gamble to leave one's valuables unattended on campus, or within any public setting for that matter, Providence College students have no reason to fear their belongings being stolen.

Considering the many anxieties that may be induced by the academic rigor and social culture of the college lifestyle, the concern of being robbed

on campus need not present itself as an added stressor.

The trustworthiness of the PC community is evident in a variety of ways. Take, for example, the “lost and found” page that has naturally emerged on the PC mobile app that students constantly utilize to connect with one another to return missing belongings.

Additionally, the culture of the Concannon Fitness Center also proves the trustworthiness of the College campus.

Despite the fact that students regularly leave electronics, wallets, airpods, and other valuables unattended in the cubbies on a daily basis, Hannah Lavery '22, a student worker at the fitness center, says, “Claims of articles being stolen are pretty rarely reported.”

Not to mention the fact that language and behaviors of skepticism and paranoia towards having one's belongings stolen emit an air of distrust of one's peers.

Such attitudes are detrimental to efforts to promote an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere within the PC community.

Essentially, while it is always important to use common sense when it comes to leaving valuables unattended in any public setting both on or off campus, manifesting constant anxieties of robbery is both unproductive and unnecessary, and emits toxic energy into our campus community.



PC students often make reference to the “Friar Family,” but is this family always trustworthy when it comes to valuables left out on campus?

LAURA CHADBOURNE '20/THE COWL

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Valentine's Day is Beyond the CVS Aisles: A Love-Filled Thank You Note to Mom



by Katherine Torok '20
Associate Editor-in-Chief

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Valentine's Day: a time filled with supermarket flowers, heart-shaped candy boxes wrapped in red

cellophane, overpriced cards, and stuffed animals holding hearts with cheesy sayings.

While this may be an over-exaggeration, it's the typical Valentine's Day that Hollywood and CVS have planted into my and many of my friends' minds. Thus, if you are not in a relationship, this holiday may feel like a complete drag.

Now, instead of going on a stereotypical single-girl rant about how important self-love is, or how much I love my friends, I wanted to take this time to thank the woman who has loved me unconditionally for the past 22 years. So, thank you, Mom.

Growing up as an only child, I had a great relationship with my parents; I can honestly say that my mom is, and forever will be, my best friend. Yet, we've had our share of arguments, fights, and silent treatments over the years, and I

would be lying if I said that there weren't moments when I thought I had lost her love.

However, I've learned over the years that I will never lose my mom's love.

So, here are just some of the things that I would like to thank you for, Mom:

Thank you for answering every text message and phone call, regardless of the hour. Thank you for kissing every cut and scrape I got on the playground. Thank you for holding me when that boy made fun of my hair in the fifth grade. Thank you for letting me cry through the phone at 8 a.m. when that boy broke my heart. Thank you for constantly reminding me of my own self-worth. And thank you for raising me to be a strong, independent yet loving woman.

Valentine's Day isn't just a time for romantic love; it's a holiday for every type of love.

TANGENTS & TIRADES

*Dunkin' Cam for
the Mail Room*

*Reading to the
End of the Page*

*Becoming
a Bookworm*

Have you ever gone to pick up a package only to see the line is out the door? In a situation like this, it makes it increasingly more difficult to fit going to the package room into our already busy days as students. Not to mention that your package will be sent back if it is not claimed within five days of arrival. One way to avoid this problem would be to add a camera, similar to the Dunkin' cam, to the package room.

Most people pick up their packages between classes, which is the source of the problem. Everyone is in the same mindset, thinking it is most convenient to stop by after they finish class, which only causes more of a wait.

The addition of a camera outside of the package room could ease this stress, not only for those working at the time, but also for students who have limited time to pick things up. The benefits do not only include convenience, but also efficiency. If students have more free time, although it may be marginal, it can contribute to better grades and a more involved campus life in general.

The integration on the My PC app could be seamless. Programming and installation are very minimal tasks, which could result in numerous benefits, including the ones listed above. This could be an opportunity to impact the campus in a widespread way—to ease the stress on students' busy schedules as well as the package room employees.

As a benefit to students there, it should be a student-run push for this integration. Similar to the Ray improvements, if there is enough support for this, change is attainable. Students have more power than we realize, and that should be used to our advantage, which is the reason why students should band together to get this achieved.

—Peter Mazzella '22

What attracts you to an article? The title, the content, or both? Most young adults in our current society attempt to read the news but stop after the first paragraph or glance through. They don't read the entire article, and this can cause many problems.

It is possible that when we only glance through an article, we lose the main focus and interpret it in ways that are different from what the author meant. For example, we can look at the recent Coronavirus issue, where most of us only read the title or first paragraph of an article and not the entirety of it.

Reading the headline without getting all the information can lead to the spreading of false information, rumors, and possibly hysteria, as has been the case with the Coronavirus. We need to be careful with how we interpret and digest information that we read.

Reading the news is essential to be informed about our society today and it is a great way to be educated in modern events. But when most are just skimming or not truly reading the whole content, this can become problematic for the individual and society.

We need to push everyone to read the full article, and then discuss the facts which they are reading. This will help so many young adults be better educated on the news that they are reading daily.

—Erin Garvey '22



PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC DOMAIN VECTORS

After a long day of classes or work, people dream of hopping back into a nicely made bed, opening up their laptop, and binge-watching Netflix shows for hours upon hours. While spending time this way is certainly desirable, reading for pleasure is a great, or even better, alternative.

With a busy lifestyle and loads of reading for homework, college students might argue that reading for pleasure cannot fit into their schedule. Why would they want to add even more reading on top of their reading for classes?

When it comes to reading for pleasure, one can choose a book that appeals to their specific taste instead of something assigned that they do not enjoy. If you like drama, try *Big Little Lies* by Liane Moriarty. If you enjoy coming-of-age fiction, try *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. If you like fantasy fiction, read the *Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling. If romance is more your thing, any of the Nicholas Sparks books will do. There are options for any type of interest and any type of reader.

Also, there is no time crunch when it comes to reading a book for fun. One can read for 10 minutes before bed, a few hours on the weekends, or in between classes for a little break.

If you read this and you are still convinced that you would prefer Netflix, challenge yourself to read a book and afterwards watch the movie that is based on that book. Try *The Hunger Games*, *The Outsiders*, or *The Great Gatsby*, and then watch the movies to see how your interpretation of the book comes alive.

Reading for pleasure challenges the mind in a way that watching television cannot. It's a way for one to escape reality and fully transport one's self into a whole new story.

—Emily Ball '22

PHOTOGRAPHY



LAURA CHADBOURNE '20/THE COWL



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL

TOP LEFT: Aaron Larget-Caplan, founder, guitarist, and director of ¡Con Fuego!, performs in the Ryan Concert Hall on Sunday, February 9. ¡Con Fuego! combines classical Spanish music with flamenco dance and song and is based in Boston.

TOP RIGHT: Artistic Director Jonathan Pitts-Wiley answers audience questions after his live adaptation of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Beyond Vietnam" speech in the Fiondella Great Room on Friday, February 7. Pitts-Wiley emphasized MLK's words: "We still have a choice today: nonviolent coexistence or violent coannihilation. We must move past indecision to action."

RIGHT: Kalif Young '20 dunks at the Providence College men's basketball game against Creighton University on Wednesday, February 5. The Friars beat the Bluejays 73-56.



NORA JOHNSON '20/THE COWL



LILLIE HUNTER '22/THE COWL

LEFT: Kaitlin Parks '22, Lily Sanphy '22, Michaela Campbell '22, and Kiley Sheehan '22, show off the prizes they won during the Slavin Duck Hunt, a Valentine's Day event.

BELOW LEFT: Evan McGreen '21 looks to pass the ball as the Providence College Men's Lacrosse Team faced off against the College of the Holy Cross in their home opener on Saturday, February 8. The Friars beat the Crusaders 6-4.

BELOW: Robin DiAngelo speaks about her book *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* in '64 Hall on Wednesday, February 12.



TESSA McANDREWS '23/THE COWL



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL

ROVING PHOTOGRAPHY

What is your perfect Providence date?



"Flatbread Company."
Jen Cappucci '21



"Waterfire."
Christian Peña '23



"Capital Grille."
Vanessa McKenzie '22



"Definitely Constantino's."
Jeff McCormack '21



"Ice skating at the Providence Rink."
William Donahue '22



"The Free Play Bar Arcade."
Sam Moreira '20



"April 25th—because it's not too hot, not too cold. All you need is a light jacket."

-Miss Rhode Island, Heather Burns

PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROTHERS

Photos by Nora Johnson '20, Photography Co-Editor

Men's Basketball

by Gavin Woods '22
Sports Staff

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Providence College Men's Basketball Team was defeated by Xavier University last Saturday, 58-64. The Friars record has now fallen to 13-11 on the regular season, and 6-5 within the Big East.

Both teams came out of the gates aggressively. The Friars got into an early rhythm, but struggled to slow the Musketeers from inside the paint. The soft coverage down low and lack of communication among the defense enabled the Musketeers to consistently get high percentage looks.

The Friars' offense seemed to be working effectively, as they maintained the lead for the majority of the first half. However, their issue was not scoring, but rather keeping Xavier from scoring easy layups. As the game progressed, Xavier seemed to find success with their substitutions, particularly with Kyky Tandy, who scored 10 points off the bench.

PC's offense was led by Nate Watson '21 with 16 points and seven rebounds. Watson was supported by Alpha Diallo '20 and David Duke '22 with 14 and 12 points, respectively. However, the Friars seem to be struggling to find their identity, as these three stars are the only players to consistently score double digits each game. The offensive burden for the Friars must be more evenly distributed among the team.

Another issue currently plaguing the Friars is subpar perimeter shooting. Out of 23 attempted three point shots, only four fell, resulting in a three point percentage of 17.4. It's entirely possible that PC is simply attempting too many three pointers. Luwane Pipkins '20 shot a total of nine three pointers only to make two of them. This means that seven possessions were essentially handed to Xavier. The Musketeers attempted only 19 three pointers and landed five of them for a three point percentage of 26.3.

Perhaps the biggest issue for the Friars lies in the way they finish games. As seen several times throughout the 2019-2020 season, including the recent loss to Villanova University, PC's shot selection in the dying minutes of the second half become erratic and forced. With 8:59 to play in the second half, Providence led 50-47. Xavier then went on to execute a 5-0 point run, leading PC 52-50. Following this run, the Musketeers never gave the lead back, with the Friars making only three shots within the final 10 minutes of the second half.

Head coach Ed Cooley voiced his frustration following the loss saying, "I'm really pissed at my team. I thought we were undisciplined. I thought we took some uncharacteristic shots. I didn't think we were united the way you have to be on the road in these environments."

The PC versus St. John's game was not completed at press time.

Karwoski, Softball Team Ready to Roll *Team Looks to Build Upon Last Year's Breakout Season*

Friars

Continued from front page

Coach Karwoski also highlighted the importance of making the most of the Friars' opportunities on offense and minimizing mistakes in order to reach their potential: "I think so much of it is taking advantage of opportunities you know when we have runners in scoring positions... what hurts a lot of teams sometimes is when you leave a lot of runners on base—Coach Bree has been doing a fantastic job with our offense and utilizing some of our strengths so and doing that—taking advantage of those base runners and on defense minimizing our errors—we want to make sure we're having quick innings and not letting things snowball or get out of control."

The Friars have six seniors on the roster, including Mackensie Compton '20 who holds the highest batting average of all returning players from last season. Along with the seniors, there are also plenty of talented underclassmen on the roster. Daniela Alvarez '22 is another name to watch out for. As a freshman, she held an 18-8 record with a 2.25 ERA. She had more wins than any other pitcher on the 2019 roster and it appears she could be a dominant force for PC softball this season and in the years to come.

After their opening games in Texas, the Friars will head down to Maderia Beach, FL for an array of five out-of-conference games that include matchups against Colombia University, Stony Brook University, and Merrimack College. They then return to Clearwater for the Clearwater Spring Break Invitational in early March, where the Friars will play twelve games in a span of five days. On Wednesday, March 18, PC softball will have its first home game at Glay Field versus Bryant (the Friars went 11-2 at home last season) and will open Big East play that Friday in Friartown against St. John's University, who won the Big East regular season in 2019.

Anticipate a lot of excitement



LAURA CHADBOURNE '20/THE COWL

Danielle Alvarez '22 will look to follow up on a dominant freshman campaign in which she garnered All-Big East First Team honors and was named Big East Co-Freshman of the Year.

from the Big East this year. From top to bottom the teams are going to be competitive and will make for some great softball. In response to what games she was looking forward to, Coach Karwoski responded, "I think every single Big East game I'm looking forward to. Last year was our first year in the Big East in terms of our coaching staff and we just really enjoyed the competitiveness of it, and you know, every team equally matched up and each game was a lot of fun."

PC softball also has the motivation to prove the doubters wrong—they were ranked 6th out of 8 teams in the Big East Preseason Coaches' Poll. For a team that finished third in the conference in 2019 and has retained more than a serviceable amount of talent, the Friars will be looking to prove that last year's success was not a fluke. However, Coach Karwoski hesitated to make much of the preseason polls

She said, "Last year I think we were

picked eighth and I think we ended up finishing third—that's just what it is, it's a preseason poll and I think every year we get underestimated and until we start having consecutively good years in the top four of the conference, you know, right now I'm sure they'll look at last year maybe as a fluke or maybe as a one-time thing so now it's up to us to prove that we can consistently compete for a Big East Championship."

Reigning Big East tournament champion DePaul University looks to be Providence's biggest competition this season. Not only did they make the NCAA tournament last year but they were the team that knocked the Friars out of the Big East tournament. Although PC softball likes to focus on the season by going one game at a time, their series at home versus DePaul at the end of their regular season on May 1-3 are games that both players and fans should be marking on their calendars.



PC kicks off its promising season this weekend as the team heads to Texas to compete in the Bearkat Classic. PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

Did the MLB Do Enough to Punish the Astros? Providence College Investigates:

Yes, They Did Enough

This past offseason was one of the most active and dramatic the MLB has seen in recent history. Compared to the past couple of offseasons, this year MLB fans witnessed big name free agents getting paid faster, more trades, and the biggest scandal the sport has seen since the steroid era. Many could not believe the Houston Astros, the 2017 World Series Champions, were accused of conducting an elaborate system to steal other team's signs.

After the report from MLB commissioner Rob Manfred came out, the country was shocked by the levels of sophistication the Astros used. It was revealed that the Astros had set up a camera in center field and then put up a monitor between the clubhouse and dugout. Players could study the signs the pitcher was receiving from the catcher, identify what pitch was going to be thrown and then communicate that to the batter either by noise (banging on a trash can) or possibly other means.

So, what did this trash can orchestra lead to? The MLB handed Houston one-year bans for their manager and GM (both fired), forfeiture of first and second round picks in the next two drafts, and a \$5 million fine. Houston then fired their manager A.J. Hinch and GM Jeff Luhnow. The Red Sox and Mets then fired their managers Alex Cora and Carlos Beltran for their roles when they were with Houston.

I believe that this punishment was

completely fair. Obviously the two in charge needed to be suspended. There was no precedent for this because the game has not seen a scandal like this. A year was fine since the scandal only lasted a year. In the end, the Hinch and Luhnow will likely not be allowed in the MLB anytime soon. It would not be fair to punish other coaches and players involved because they are scattered on different teams, and punishing them now would also unfairly punish those teams. If you are not punishing all the players, you also cannot punish those still on the Astros. The fine given was the most the MLB could give and losing draft picks, will significantly hamper the club's future.

Many people also wanted a postseason ban or removal of the World Series title. Both of these are trivial. The MLB wants to continue and put this behind them. Keeping one of the best teams or any team for that matter out of the postseason not only affects that team and the city's local economy but also the league. As for the removal of the title, that does no good. Everyone will still remember the Astros as champs; you cannot just crown one of the teams they beat the new champion. There is no satisfaction in that, and it will only create controversy.

-Joseph Quirk '23
Sports Staff

No, Far From It

If a player in the MLB tests positive for steroids, they receive an 80-game suspension, a second failed test leads to a full season, a third leads to a lifetime ban from baseball. Former player/manager Pete Rose was banned from baseball for betting on games. Even players who were suspected of taking steroids have had their reputation tarnished to the point that it has prevented them from being inducted into the Hall of Fame.

The punishment for using cameras to steal an opponent's signs: nothing. After Major League Baseball investigated and found the Houston Astros guilty for using technology to steal signs, manager A.J. Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow were each suspended for a year by the league and subsequently fired by Houston. The team was fined and lost four draft picks over the next two years. Meanwhile, the players were granted immunity for their cooperation in the investigation.

While the MLB recognized handing suspensions down to the players would trigger a battle with the Players' Union, not even giving a fine to any of the players puts all the blame on Hinch and Luhnow. While both knew of the scheme, Hinch broke a TV monitor twice to show his displeasure in the scheme.

It is unfair that Hinch and Lunhow are taking the full brunt of the punishment of the scandal. It may be the leaders' jobs to make sure that their team complies with the rules (which both failed to do), but

they are working with grown men who were very aware they were breaking the rules.

Finding the extent of the involvement of each player is hard to pinpoint exactly, but if there is no punishment to teach players to not cheat, what is preventing another scandal from happening again? Even a basic fine can dissuade players on cheaper salaries from participating.

The only player from the 2017 team who has gotten any sort of punishment was Carlos Beltrán. Beltrán was hired by the New York Mets in the fall to become their new manager.

MLB commissioner Rob Manfred made it clear that it will be on the leadership of each team to make sure everyone in the dugout and front office complies with the rules, taking the pressure off the players. What hurt Hinch was that he trusted his players too much and failed to intervene when he needed to.

Very few players have come forward to apologize, and no one still on the team has spoken. The people who led this scheme need to be held accountable for breaking the rules. The men who failed to stop it will serve their time, but how about the ones who were the ringleaders?

-Jack Belanger '21
Sports Co-editor

Women's Basketball Falls Short to Blue Jays

by Sullivan Burgess '20
Sports Staff

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

On Saturday, February 8, the Providence College Women's Basketball Team played against Big East rival Creighton University for their second matchup of the season, this time taking place at home in Mullaney Gym.

The season has been rocky for the Friars as they continue Big East play throughout the end of winter



ISABELLA BAFFONI '23/THE COWL

Webb began the game on a hot streak, compiling eight points by the end of the first quarter.

and into spring. Going into the game against the Blue Jays, the Friars had posted a 10-13 record overall, with a 1-10 record in the Big East Conference, currently tied for last place along with Xavier University.

Providence's first Big East win came a few weeks ago against Xavier University, in a home win 60-48. Guard Earlette Scott '22 led the game with 20 points, while center sophomore Mary Baskerville '22 led the game with 11 rebounds.

The Friars previous game took place on Feb. 2 at DePaul University in Chicago. While the Friars put up a good fight in each quarter against the no. 13 Blue Demons, the win ultimately went to DePaul in a final score of 93-71. Guard Chanell Williams '21 led the game with 15 points, while Alyssa Geary '22 led with six rebounds for the Friars.

The Friars were looking to bounce back and find a spark to ignite the team to go on a run, especially with postseason approaching and the Women's Big East Tournament in early March.

Now it was time for the Friars to once again face Creighton. In the previous matchup which took place at Creighton, the Friars lost by nine in a 63-72 matchup. Kaela Webb '22 led the team with 14 points. The Friars were ready to give everything they had for this next matchup.

The game was set, and the Friars were on their way to face the Blue Jays once again. Constantly leading throughout the first quarter of play, things were looking up for the Friars as players such as Baskerville and Webb could not miss shots. As well as the Friars were playing, nothing was stopping Creighton's Jaylyn Agnew. By the end of the game Agnew finished the game with a career-high 38 points.

The Friars once again sadly lost by nine after battling through the second half to come back, but Agnew and Creighton could not miss a basket. Baskerville led the team in both points and rebounds at 19 and eight, respectively.

Scott, Webb, and Geary also finished with double



ISABELLA BAFFONI '23/THE COWL

Finishing with 16 points, Scott was one of four starters to land in double digits.

digits in scoring and even helped Providence shoot 52.9 percent of shooting from the field.

Despite the team's struggles, the Friars have had some great individual performances throughout the year. Baskerville is leading in the top twenty of scoring for the Big East at 12.9 points per game and fourth in rebounding 7.8 rebounds per game.

Next up, the Friars are back home for two games in the coming week against Seton Hall University and St. John's University. Seton Hall's game will be played 11:30 a.m. on Friday as part of Project Providence where local schools will come to watch the game.

Trio of Men's Soccer Players Go Pro

by Liam Tormey '22
Sports Staff

MEN'S SOCCER

Three Providence College men's soccer players are now professional soccer players. Danny Griffin '20 and Austin Aviza '20RS are now both part of Major League Soccer (MLS) teams, while Tiago Mendonca '20RS has signed in the United Soccer League (USL).

The 2020 MLS SuperDraft took place on Thursday, January 9. In the draft, Aviza was selected in the second round, number 44 overall, by Orlando City. Griffin was also selected in the second round, just five spots after Aviza in the number 49 spot overall, selected by the Columbus Crew SC. Mendonca has signed a professional contract with the New England Revolution II in the USL League One.

In the 2019 campaign for the Friars, Aviza, from Medway, MA, featured in all 23 games as PC's goalie. Aviza was also honored to the Big East Weekly Honor Roll twice along with being awarded All-Big East Third Team honors. After their second round win in the NCAA Men's Soccer Tournament against Penn State University, Coach Craig Stewart credited Aviza, saying, "I think he's been steady all year and very consistent as a goal keeper," and a large part of the comeback win against Penn State was because of Aviza; as Coach Stewart mentioned, "We don't win that game without him." In the 23 games Aviza played this season, he posted a 16-7 with 56 saves and recorded nine shutouts.

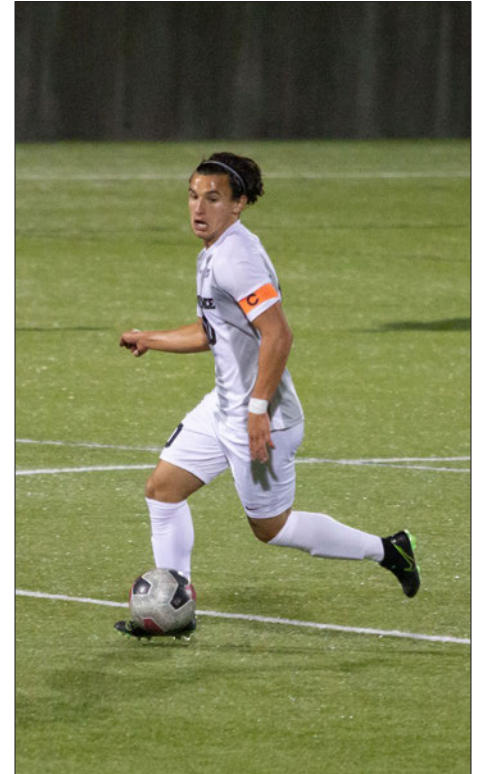
Griffin, one of the captain midfielders from Wethersfield, CT, had the same profound impact for the team in his time spent at Friartown. In his career, Griffin recorded 32 points with 13 goals and six



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL



LILLIE HUNTER '22/THE COWL



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL

(From Left) Mendonca, Aviza, Griffin all made significant contributions to the Friars this season, bringing the team to the NCAA Tournament.

assists. Griffin has been named to the Preseason All-Big East Team in 2018 and was also a unanimous pick into the Big East All-Freshman Team. He played and started in all 80 games during his career. In the 2019 campaign, Griffin had eight points and one game-winning goal this season against the University of Villanova in a 2-0 victory. He was also awarded All-Big East Third Team Honors this past season.

Mendonca, from Faro, Portugal, was another captain for the Friars this season. He started all 23 games and was an integral part in the midfield. He was crucial in helping the team reach the

third round of the NCAA Tournament. In his time at PC, Mendonca recorded 26 total points with 11 goals and four assists. Before the season's start, Mendonca was named to the Preseason All-Big East team and then was named to the All-Big East First Team and Big East All-Tournament Team to round out the season. In the second round game against Penn State, Mendonca scored the equalizer with just under five minutes remaining in regulation before the Friars would go on to win in overtime.

After PC's heartbreaking loss to Clemson University in double overtime in the third round of the NCAA

Tournament, Coach Stewart commended his senior captains, saying he "couldn't be more proud for the work that they've contributed towards the program." Stewart said they were both "fantastic footballers but also human beings."

In the same press conference, Griffin spoke of his time with the Friars and said, since freshman year, "The community, the coaches, the staff, the trainers, it's been a family and it's meant everything to us."

Aviza, Griffin, and Mendonca all played crucial roles in the big success PC had on the pitch this past season. They were role models for the organization and have left their mark on Friar history.

Women's Hockey Splits Weekend against UMaine

Team Needs to Boost Record before Hockey East Playoffs

by Meaghan Cahill '20
Sports Co-Editor

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

The Providence College Women's Hockey Team, which is ranked fourth in Hockey East, split last weekend's series against the no. 7 team, the University of Maine.

In the first game on Friday, February 7, the Friars skated to a 2-2 tie despite having a 2-1 lead for the majority of the second period. UMaine skater Liga Milijone put the Black Bears on the scoreboard first after sniping one past PC goaltender Sandra Abstreiter '22RS five minutes into the game. Three minutes later, Isabelle Hardy's '23 wrist shot soared into the top left corner of the net after passes from Hayley Lunny '21 and team captain Avery Fransoo '20. Hardy's goal was her fourth of the season and third in the last five games.

The Friars finished the first period with a goal from Neve Van Pelt '20 in the final 23 seconds of the period. Van Pelt netted a backhand over the Black Bear goalie's shoulder for her sixth goal of the season. Meaghan Rickard '20 recorded her ninth assist of the season.

Van Pelt concluded the scoring for the Friars this game. With just under four minutes left in the second period, UMaine player Celene Tedeny scored a power-play goal to even out the score to two apiece.

The Friars outshot the Black Bears 35-25 but they could not capitalize on their

three power plays and were unable to go 4-4 on the penalty kill. Defenseman Whitney Dove '20, who leads PC in assists and is ranked fifth in Hockey East for defenseman scoring, recorded a game-high six shots on net. Abstreiter concluded the game with 23 shots saved and two goals against. She is currently ranked third in Hockey East for her 1.65 goals against average.

The Friars returned to Schneider

Arena again the next day where they were unable to gain momentum to garner the full two points. PC lost to UMaine 1-2. Abstreiter was once again in net, making 18 saves throughout the game.

PC fell two goals behind quickly into the first period after the Black Bears scored 26 seconds apart about seven minutes into the game.

Despite having a man advantage four times throughout the game, PC did not

find their way onto the scoreboard until midway throughout the third period. The goal came from Lauren DeBlois '23 who ripped a slap shot from the right point that notched the lone score for the Friars in the game. This was DeBlois's third goal of the season.

Once again, PC outshot UMaine 44-20. The team also saw more success at the face-off circle, winning 35-64 faceoffs compared to UMaine's 29-64. Unfortunately, the Friars were unable to dig themselves out of the hole that they got into early in the first.

The team has just four more games remaining in their regular season before they will partake in the 2020 Hockey East Tournament. This upcoming weekend, they will be facing off against No. 1 Hockey East team Northeastern University in their second to last home-and-home series. They will travel to Boston on Friday, February 14 and then return to Schneider on Feb. 15. The following weekend, PC will wrap up their regular season in another home-and-home series against the College of the Holy Cross, playing in Worcester, MA on Friday and back in Friartown on the Saturday for not only their last game of the season, but also the team's senior game which will honor the team's seven seniors.

The team will need to pick up some much needed points in their final four games if they want to have a chance to pull ahead of the University of Connecticut, who is currently tied for fourth place with the Friars in Hockey East.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

PC's leading scorer, Sara Hjalmarsson '22, will look to continue her strong play.

A Look Around Friartown

Men's Ice Hockey:

2/07 at University of Massachusetts-Amherst, loss 1-3

2/08 vs. University of Massachusetts-Amherst, loss 1-5

Upcoming:

2/14 at University of Vermont

2/15 at University of Vermont

2/21 vs. Merrimack College

2/22 at Merrimack College

Women's Ice Hockey:

2/07 vs. University of Maine, tie 2-2 (OT)

2/08 vs. University of Maine, loss 1-2

Upcoming:

2/14 at Northeastern University

2/21 at College of The Holy Cross

2/22 vs. College of The Holy Cross

Men's Basketball:

2/08 at Xavier University, loss 58-64

2/12 at St. John's University, TBD

Upcoming:

2/15 vs. Seton Hall University

2/19 at Georgetown University

Women's Basketball:

2/08 vs. Creighton University, loss 68-77

Upcoming:

2/14 vs. Seton Hall University

2/16 vs. St. John's University

2/21 at Xavier University

Men's Lacrosse:

2/08 vs. College of the Holy Cross, win 6-4

Upcoming:

2/15 vs. Bryant University



Men's Hockey Falls to UMass

by Thomas Zinzarella '21
Sports Staff

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY

Following a loss at Northeastern University the previous weekend, the 10th ranked Providence College Men's Hockey Team had a chance to move themselves up in the Hockey East standings this weekend as they faced off against the 8th ranked University of Massachusetts Amherst Minutemen.

Last year, all three matchups with UMass finished with a final score of 3-2 with UMass taking two. The Friars' lone win came at home against the then top-ranked Minutemen. The two had a chance to meet in the National Championship game in Buffalo, but the Friars fell to Minnesota Duluth University, who would go on to knock off UMass.

This year, the two teams would only meet twice, and both meetings took place this past weekend. Coming into Friday's game at the Mullins Center, UMass was tied with Boston College for first place in the conference. The Friars were in a four-way tie for fourth place, just two points off of first place.

The Friars have struggled over the years playing at Amherst. Before Friday's game, PC had a 16-15-5 record and had lost three straight games playing at UMass. On Friday, it was no different. UMass outshot PC 17-3 in the first period which featured a goal by Reed Leinster just 5:35 in. The Friars struggled to generate offense for most of this game.

The Friars, who average just under 35 shots per game, were held to just 15 shots while UMass recorded 36 shots. Michael Lackey GS made a series of highlight reel saves in the second period to keep the game at a one-goal deficit, but the Minutemen were too much. Matt Koopman '21 would score the lone point for the Friars. UMass would go on to win 3-1, although Lackey had one of his best games in a Friar uniform with 33 saves and kept the game closer than what it could have been. Greg Carvel, the UMass head coach said after the game, "That's as solid a game as we've played in this building probably since I've been here."

Each team resumed their matchup the next evening in Providence where the Friars were seeking to split the series. The Friars came out firing with an early power play opportunity just 35 seconds into the game. Tyce Thompson '22 smashed a line drive off the post, sending a booming echo throughout the arena. However, a goal by John Leonard put UMass ahead 1-0 after



PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

Dugan leads the nation in points with 46, five more than the second leading scorer.

the first period. In the second period, the Friars were only able to muscle two shots on goal, while Leonard struck again for UMass with a short-handed goal. In the remaining minutes of the second period, Oliver Chau recorded a goal on a hustle play, putting the game seemingly out of the Friars' reach. However, PC made a push halfway through the third period, as Thompson netted his 18th goal of the season on a Jack Dugan '22 assist.

Shortly after the goal, the Friars had another chance to gain some momentum on a power play opportunity, but UMass soon shut the door on the Friars with two more goals. Leonard completed the hat-trick for UMass and his four-point night led UMass to a 5-1 victory. The Friars once again did not take advantage of their opportunities, as they went 1-6 on the power play. "It'll change when we get sick of losing," said coach Nate Leaman after the game. "We're a really young group and we're playing like it." PC will look to rebound Friday against the University of Vermont.



With the series sweep, UMass remains firmly in control of the top spot in Hockey East, boasting a 11-6-2 conference record.

NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL

PHOTOGRAPHY



LAURA CHADBOURNE '20/THE COWL



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL

TOP LEFT: Aaron Larget-Caplan, founder, guitarist, and director of ¡Con Fuego!, performs in the Ryan Concert Hall on Sunday, February 9. ¡Con Fuego! combines classical Spanish music with flamenco dance and song and is based in Boston.

TOP RIGHT: Artistic Director Jonathan Pitts-Wiley answers audience questions after his live adaptation of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Beyond Vietnam" speech in the Fiondella Great Room on Friday, February 7. Pitts-Wiley emphasized MLK's words: "We still have a choice today: nonviolent coexistence or violent coannihilation. We must move past indecision to action."

RIGHT: Kalif Young '20 dunks at the Providence College men's basketball game against Creighton University on Wednesday, February 5. The Friars beat the Bluejays 73-56.



NORA JOHNSON '20/THE COWL



LILLIE HUNTER '22/THE COWL

LEFT: Kaitlin Parks '22, Lily Sanphy '22, Michaela Campbell '22, and Kiley Sheehan '22, show off the prizes they won during the Slavin Duck Hunt, a Valentine's Day event.

BELOW LEFT: Evan McGreen '21 looks to pass the ball as the Providence College Men's Lacrosse Team faced off against the College of the Holy Cross in their home opener on Saturday, February 8. The Friars beat the Crusaders 6-4.

BELOW: Robin DiAngelo speaks about her book *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* in '64 Hall on Wednesday, February 12.



TESSA McANDREWS '23/THE COWL



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL

ROVING PHOTOGRAPHY

What is your perfect Providence date?



"Flatbread Company."
Jen Cappucci '21



"Waterfire."
Christian Peña '23



"Capital Grille."
Vanessa McKenzie '22



"Definitely Constantino's."
Jeff McCormack '21



"Ice skating at the Providence Rink."
William Donahue '22



"The Free Play Bar Arcade."
Sam Moreira '20



"April 25th—because it's not too hot, not too cold. All you need is a light jacket."

-Miss Rhode Island, Heather Burns

PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROTHERS

Photos by Nora Johnson '20, Photography Co-Editor

Fabian the Magician Returns to Providence College *BOP Welcomes back the "Mumford and Sons of Magic"*

by Brenna O'Leary '20
A&E Staff

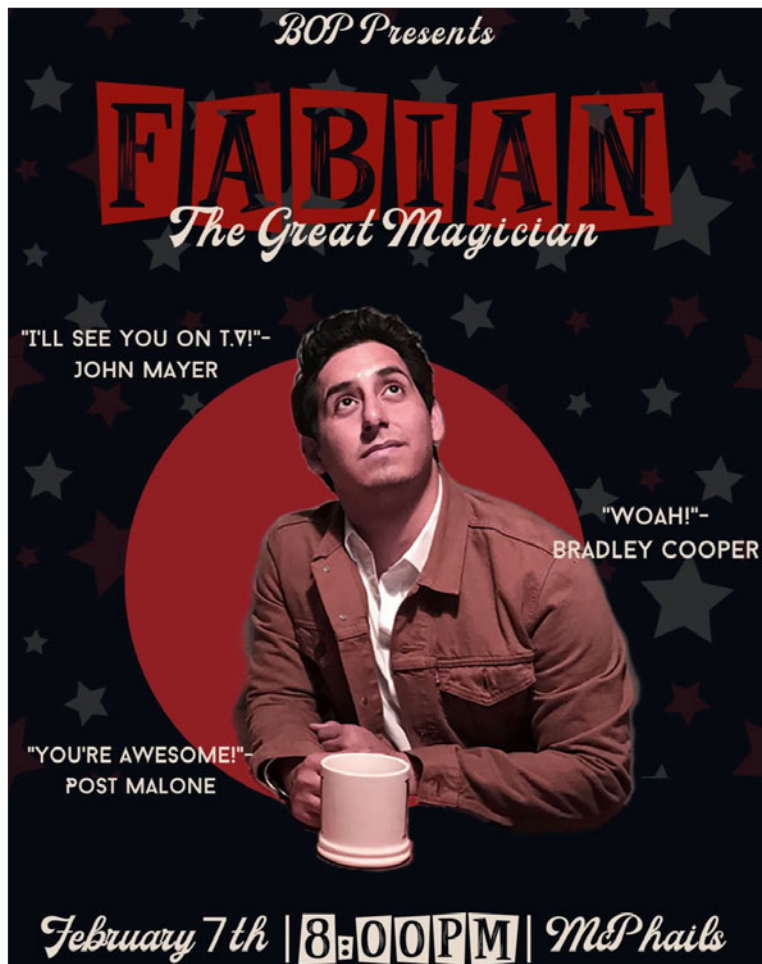
ON-CAMPUS

"I dated a witch once" was one of the many highlights of Fabian the Magician's spectacular event. McPhail's was buzzing with laughter and magic this past Friday, February 7. The show created wonder and awe in the lively atmosphere of McPhail's, making Fabian the Magician a complete success. From conjuring shots of whiskey to delivering heartfelt commentary on his own illusions, Fabian created an evening of disbelief and fun.

Fabian's set started at 8 p.m. and provided an hour of magic; he magically altered napkins and teleported dollar bills into other people's wallets. His magic consisted of disappearing and reappearing acts, as well as a little voodoo and mind reading. But what truly wowed the spectators was Fabian's forte for storytelling, and his ability to pull students into the magic alongside him.

One of the Providence College student participant Karl Reidel '20 admitted, "I was absolutely flabbergasted. I truly was shocked at the fact that the magic worked on me." Reidel had even felt prepared, having seen Fabian perform at PC before, and was convinced he knew what to expect. Overall, Reidel said it was "a night of surprises."

On his website, Fabian has been described as "The Perfect Act for any Liberal Arts Venue," and he perfectly exemplified this in his set. Fabian was thrilled to be back at PC, and shared his affinity for the liberal arts. "Providence was really the first school that kicked off the university string of touring for the year. I was a liberal arts major. I loved film media but I decided on literature." Fabian was really excited to start here at PC and will be making his way across the country through April.



Fabian has performed for well-known celebrities throughout the U.S.

But Fabian's stories made the night truly magical. Fabian's storytelling only made the audience love him more and fall deeper into his magic. Fabian chatted with members of the audience, bringing them into the act to make it more enthralling, but

also to prove that he had nothing to hide: the magic spoke for itself. "This is just an example of what didn't happen," he said to his audience. The trick was an illusion, and it was important because "the idea is just what we can make it." It could be whatever we thought possible.

The event was sponsored by the Board of Programmers, and Kevin Schwalm '21 was sincerely pleased with the huge turnout. Schwalm related that Fabian "came to campus three or four years ago and we wanted to bring him back last year. We ended up having like 170 people show up, so we thought because it was so successful last year, it would be great to bring him back." BOP provided cupcakes from LaSalle and encouraged guests to take advantage of the bar. Having filled almost all 100 of the chairs set out plus standing room, McPhail's was alive with magic and storytelling.

Introduced as the "Mumford and Sons of magic," Fabian the Magician has a wide array of sponsors, and his magic has introduced him to figures such as John Mayer and Bradley Cooper. It has taken him to new places, and PC was lucky to have him.

For Fabian, magic means a lot, but people are a huge part of it; "When I got into the market, I noticed there were a lot of magicians who were just doing trick after trick...I was more about substance...so I like to combine stories with the magic to kind of frame it around that, that way it's more of an experience and a conversation as opposed to a show." This focus on storytelling elevates Fabian's magic to a personal level, making for a memorable experience.

Providence Community to Celebrate French Films *Brown University to Host Immersive Experience for Local Film Lovers*

Festival

Continued from front page

The films shown at the festival are pieces that touch upon the diversity of voices that compose French culture or, as Longo stated in how she selected the movies, "I wanted to try to reflect the changes in France and the world, highlight the many faces that make up French and francophone culture."

Africa Mia, directed by Richard Minier and Édouard Salier, explores the lives of 10 young, talented musicians from Mali who were invited to Cuba by Fidel Castro. They formed a popular band called "Las Maravillas de Mali," and invented Afro-Cuban music. The documentary goes between the past and present, highlighting what happened to the members after they left Cuba.

The film *Zombi Child* by Bertrand Bonello is a horror, science fiction, and fantasy piece that takes place in a French all-female private high school. A group of girls invite a Haitian girl into their circle, but she must share a secret to be accepted. From there, things take a dark turn as the film explores issues young women deal with, from identity to relationships.

Another film highlighting women's issues is by Stéphane Demoustier, titled *The Girl with a Bracelet* or *La fille au*

bracelet. The courtroom drama follows an 18-year-old girl accused of murdering her friend over a slut-shaming post made about her. She is forced to wear a tracking bracelet while under house arrest. Longo recommended this film, saying, "I think this film does a good job of showing the issues women deal with in the age of social media. The acting is phenomenal and does a great job of not passing any judgment." This film was adapted from an Argentinian film of the same name in 2018 and made waves throughout the festival circuit.

These are only a few of the many films that will be showcased; attendees will find a range of genres and themes that will appeal to all audiences. The opening night of the Providence French Film Festival is Feb. 28 and offers a glimpse into French culture and its nuances through a showing of a short film exclusively for that night. The trailers for the films that will premiere in Rhode Island are posted on the event's website.

It will be a lovely Friday evening from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. with complimentary French food and drinks, as audience members get acquainted with French cinema and meet the people involved with the festival. The party is open to all and completely free. Tickets will be on sale at the party for the showings on Feb. 29 to March 5, and can be purchased online as well.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL FACEBOOK

Quadio: Connecting College Artists Empowering Students Through Social Media

by Patrick Fuller '21
A&E Co-Editor

MUSIC



Quadio is "a social music streaming platform for the next generation."

PHOTO COURTESY OF QUADIO

In the current competitive music arena, where streaming services like Spotify, Apple Music, and Soundcloud advertise only the most popular artists, college students seeking a career in music struggle to gain recognition. Even the more underground music categories require a threshold of streams to be bumped into auto-generated playlists or charts. For college students juggling course work, extracurricular activities, and a tight budget, being able to match the quality and quantity of celebrity artists' output is near impossible.

While singers like Ariana Grande and Taylor Swift have access to multi-million-dollar production equipment and closed studio time, most college artists are producing music in their bedrooms on their home computers. Billie Eilish and her brother Finneas only recently proved that home production can ascend to stardom, but college students still need a helping hand.

Quadio, a social media app connecting college musicians throughout the

United States, seeks to lend that helping hand. President and CEO of Quadio, Marcus Welch, founded the service in 2018 in Brooklyn, New York along with Joe Welch, the current chief content officer. David Kwan, a Quadio representative, visited the Providence College campus before the beta launched. He explained that the Quadio beta would offer a "chart system based on organic growth," and "collaboration between producers" which would greatly aid college start-ups in music creation and gaining recognition.

The Quadio website describes the service as "a social music streaming platform for the next generation." Any college student with a university-affiliated email address (.edu) and a provided beta invite code can join the platform. Here, they can create a profile describing their occupation (producer, audio engineer, web developer, drummer, band, rapper, songwriter, etc.) and indicate what they are looking for from the community. Songwriters will be able to find singers, rappers will

be able to find producers, and so on.

The sleek desktop interface filters searches based on university, state, region, nation, and genre. A quick filtered university search for artists on Providence College's campus yields surprising results. Estarlyn Hirado '21, stage name Starling, is on Quadio as a rapper, videographer, and audio engineer.

His biography mentions how his music "educates different communities about the injustices of the world through his art by telling breath-taking stories in a relatable but compelling way." Thanks to the app's "looking for" feature, Starling has indicated his need for an agent, vocalist, and trumpeter, all of which can be found through Quadio's interstate, inter-university community.

PC audio engineer, radio DJ, and rapper Mark Healy '20, also known as Marco \$olo, also published his tracks "Another Time" and "BPZ (The Recipe)" on Quadio with good success.

Beyond allowing college artists to publish original content, Quadio includes both a "Hot," and "All-Time" chart for college artists only. This function essentially gives college artists a place to be heard without having to compete with big labels, corporate producers, or popular celebrity musicians.

While the Quadio beta already provides an open, collaborative space for college musicians to grow, it is still developing. The service does not aim to replace big streaming platforms like Spotify or Apple Music; rather it seeks to lay the foundation for college artists to succeed in an independent community. As the service grows, partnerships with brands or music labels could generate campus events. But, for now, Quadio is a revolutionary step in the right direction for the next generation of artists.

Cupcake Wars: Sweet Campus

Unity

by Arianna Weling '23
A&E Staff

ON-CAMPUS

We all know and love Taco Tuesday, but Providence College put a different spin on Tuesday: Cupcake Tuesday. The event provided the opportunity to decorate and eat some delicious cupcakes, enjoy watching campus clubs compete against one another, and even compete for a LaSalle Bakery gift-card, judged by Alumni Hall Food Court's very own Sue Valenti.

The event featured the following clubs: Board of Programmers (BOP), Board of Multicultural Student Affairs (BMSA), Student Congress, Friars Club, and Campus Ministry. Each of the clubs competed in four rounds with designated themes: Friars, Holidays, Animals, and Emojis. With the stakes high for a LaSalle Bakery gift card, the clubs were out for blood.

After rounds of icing and decorating, Friars Club and Campus Ministry ended up tying, causing a tiebreaker in which both clubs had to decorate a cupcake that best described their club in just a minute. Thinking quickly and creatively, Friars Club managed to successfully take the win.

Ultimately, the event generated positive feedback from students, participants, and Valenti. Nicole Gass '20 added, "It was really fun to see all the different clubs come together and to have Sue here judging."

The celebrity judge, Valenti, shared the same experience, noting, "The event was planned very creatively. All the organizers worked well together, and everyone had a good time."

Events like Cupcake Wars are a great unifier among the clubs, emphasizing the Friar family mentality. Between class, club meetings, and the busy lifestyle of Friars, events like these are significant in bringing the student body together and being fun de-stressors.



LAURA CHADBOURNE '20 / THE COWL

A cupcake inspired by the Calabria Plaza torch.

Parasite Breaks Barriers Bong Joon-ho Directs Thrilling Masterpiece

by Julia Vaccarella '20
A&E Staff

FILM

Since the release of *Parasite* last year, the acclaimed South Korean film has reached a widespread audience. Locally, the Avon Theater on Thayer Street has been offering patrons the opportunity to view the movie for several months. On a much larger scale, *Parasite* has also been nominated for several prestigious film awards, including the Golden Globes, the BAFTAs, and the Oscars. *Parasite* brought home the Oscars for Best Picture, Best Director, Best International Feature Film, and Best Original Screenplay.

The viewers who have been able to get past submitting themselves to subtitles, since the film is presented in Korean, will nonetheless be rewarded with the depth of the film's plot. This element has actually had a positive contribution to the global interest that *Parasite* has garnered since its debut in May 2019. One reason for this is that many of the people who have opted to see the movie have claimed that they were still able to grasp the full meaning behind the film despite it not being in English.

"I think it just shows that *Parasite* isn't a film that came out of nowhere.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

Korean cinema has a very long history, and *Parasite* is a continuation of all the Korean films that came before. It's an extension of our history. It's not the first time a Korean film has gone through something like this," said director Bong Joon-ho in an interview with the New York Times. Such rhetoric is especially relevant considering increased criticism for the lack of diversity in the film industry.

The combination of humor and suspense present throughout has attracted individuals to *Parasite*. The film focuses on a family of four that is struggling to make ends meet. As a result, they all scheme to work for an affluent family by pretending to

be unrelated and recommending one another for their respective positions. While socioeconomic differences would normally never bring families like the Kim's and the Park's together, *Parasite* displays just that, and the two families become closely connected.

However, what begins as a seemingly peaceful and harmless film about a poor family quickly shifts to a rather ominous and disturbing tone. The division between how the poor and the wealthy live and think drive this change; ultimately it is this theme that guides the entirety of the film.

The title of the film is meant to be purposely vague, as Joon-ho intended for his audience to interpret it for themselves. Will Gompertz of BBC News writes, "The movie's title conveys the humiliation endured by the poor forced to live off the wealthy, for whom the word parasite is equally applicable. It is also questioning the political, economic and commercial philosophies upon which we build our lives. For the most part, the film does this with incisiveness and intelligence."

With the juxtaposition of comedy and thrill, *Parasite* has made a profound impact in the film industry. From its complex plot to its powerful thematic elements, it is understandable why the film has been so successful.

The 92nd Oscars Shocks with Performers, Awards

Eminem Takes His Opportunity while Parasite Makes History

by Anne DeLello '20
A&E Staff

FILM

While the Super Bowl is the premiere event in sports, this past Sunday the entertainment industry had a super bowl of its own: the Oscars. A list of top tier actors, actresses, and crew members were nominated to win coveted Oscars. Not only are the nominees showcased at the event, but there were top notch performers in attendance as well.

The 92nd Academy Awards debuted live on ABC on Feb. 9, and, as per usual, the show impressed those watching at home with an entertaining evening. The organization continued the tradition of broadcasting without a host for the second year in a row.

The list of nominees was expansive, and there were plenty of great contenders. One of the biggest winners of the night was the movie *Parasite*. Director and producer Bong Joon-ho won in four categories for which he and the film were nominated, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best International Film, and Best Original Screenplay. The film made history as the first foreign language film to win Best Picture at the Oscars. Much to the amusement of those watching, Bong Joon-ho joked to the audience in his acceptance speech for Best Picture, saying, "I'm ready to drink tonight."

Brad Pitt earned an award for his role as Cliff Booth in *Once Upon A Time in Hollywood*, walking away with the award for Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role.

Other big wins for actors included Joaquin Pheonix for his performance in *Joker*. Though he has been nominated before, this was Phoenix's first Oscar win for Best Actor, and he used the opportunity to express how his position has allowed him to give a voice to the causes important to him. The actor spoke about inequality and the environment, claiming that "human beings, at our best, are so inventive and creative and ingenious, and I think that when we use love and compassion as our guiding principles, we can create, develop and implement systems of change that are beneficial to all sentient beings and to the environment."

Some big wins for actresses included Laura Dern with her first Oscar win for Best Actress in a Supporting Role due to her role in *Marriage Story*, a role for which she also won a Golden Globe this year. Renée Zellweger also won the Oscar for Best Actress for her role in the Judy Garland biopic, *Judy*.

Not only did the night feature groundbreaking wins, but the Oscars also featured a series of performances during the show. Idina Menzel performed "Into the Unknown" from *Frozen 2* with a backing chorus of 'Elsas' from countries throughout the world singing in their native languages. *Good Morning America* dubbed this a "truly global performance." The Oscars also featured a surprise performance by Eminem. He performed "Lose Yourself" following a montage of iconic music in films.

The Oscars were filled with first-time wins and groundbreaking victories. With many well-deserved winners, this year's Oscars have set a precedent for many years to come.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF PATRICK FULLER '21 / THE COWL

Kobe Bryant: A Beloved Basketball Player and Storyteller

by Grace O'Connor '22
A&E Staff

FILM/TELEVISION



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

"I love the idea of creative content whether it's mythology or animation, written or film, that can inspire people and give them something tangible they can use in their own lives," said Kobe Bryant to *Sports Illustrated* in 2018.

Bryant founded Granity Studios to develop his own content in order to combine his love of basketball and fantasy. He took his vision to this studio in order to see his dream play out. Bryant directed one of Granity's earliest projects, *Detail*, which was meant to teach basketball in the same way that the legendary Tex Winter did. He stated, "If this show existed when I was 11 or 12 years old, I believe by the age of 21, 22, I would have been a much better basketball player," when asked by the *New York Times* in 2018.

Bryant claimed, "Animation can capture the emotion in the story in a much more compelling, visual way than live action." He always had an interest in animation and he made the previous statement to Glen

Kaene. Kaene helped Bryant produce *Dear Basketball*, a story based on a poem that he used to promote his retirement from basketball. The film showed him both as a young boy and as the star he became.

Dear Basketball won the Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film and the Annie Award. After Bryant's passing, Kaene commented, "As soon as he stepped into animation, he eagerly began soaking up every aspect of it. Working with him was a dream and one of the high points of my career."

This highlights Bryant's influence on the movie industry and his versatility. Bryant had an eye for animation and helped Kaene to see a different perspective, proving that Bryant understood the importance of the little details that go into making a film. Kaene mentioned that it was really important to Bryant to tell a story that resonates with everyone. Bryant wanted to make changes for the better and his involvement in the movie industry portrays his drive to tell a genuine, compelling story.

Bryant's love for storytelling started when he was young. In high school, he took creative writing classes which helped strengthen his creative writing abilities and fed his interest in storytelling. He studied movies from Disney, as well as *Harry Potter* and *Star Wars* in order to better understand character development.

This exemplifies his passion for telling stories and his famous "Mamba mentality" to always do more. As Bryant told the *New York Times* in 2015, "Cinematically, we wanted to do something that would be different from the ways documentaries are shot. This was about doing something that was fun but also honest." Rather than writing a book, Bryant saw a film as something that got his story out more effectively. Though he did not grow up an avid reader, Bryant's talent lies in creative writing. Bryant left a mark on the world not only as a basketball player but also as a storyteller. This was

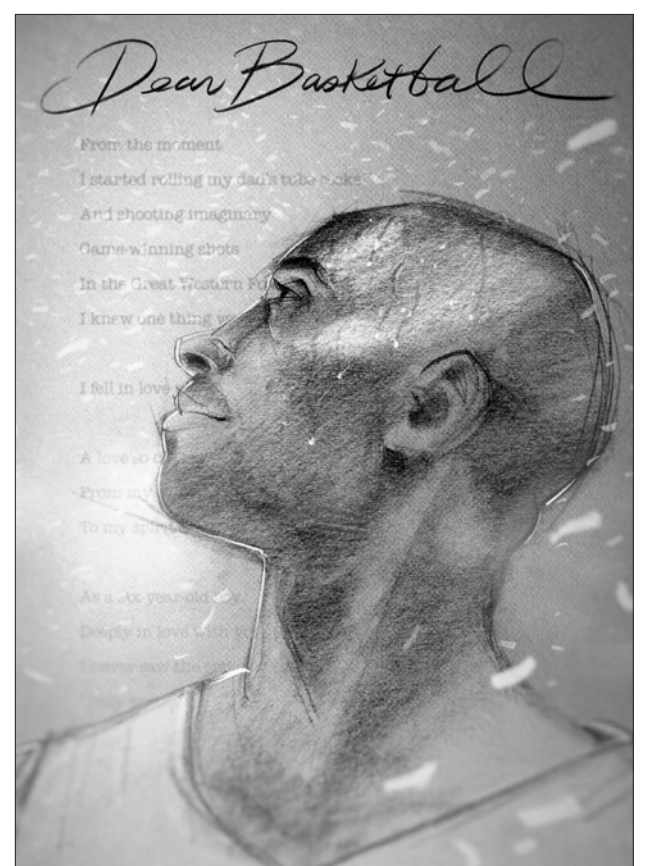


PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

a huge part of his identity that should be recognized due to his immense efforts and true passion for the craft. He wanted to tell a story that would touch the lives of others, and he managed to do just that while still being known as one of the best basketball players in history. Kobe Bryant's creative half bleeds through and should be recognized as an equally important part of his identity.

The Ranch Reflects Small Town, Rural America

Ashton Kutcher Wraps Up Netflix Political Comedy Series

by Brenna Cavallaro '23
A&E Staff

TELEVISION

After over three years, four seasons, and eight parts of comedy, tragedy, romance, and controversy, the Netflix original *The Ranch* has come to an end. The comedy starring Ashton Kutcher takes on the weight of political viewpoints and perspectives from small town Americans and Midwest ranchers that are often overlooked by politicians and liberal activists.

Although the dry humor presented by old-fashioned conservative ranchers predominantly carries the show, modern day thinking and more leftist viewpoints are also presented as the seasons progress.

Kutcher plays Colt Bennet, a washed-up football star constantly getting himself into trouble who is the perfect romantic dope in the sitcom. You will somehow find yourself rooting for Colt's handsome looks and big heart despite his role as a close-minded, ignorant egotist. Colt's brother Rooster is another

egocentric character to look out for. Rooster adds comedic relief that cannot be replaced by any other character. The Bennet brothers' father, Beau, is certainly the star of the political comedy. His conservatism is either upsetting or hysterical depending on which side of the political spectrum one is on.

Aside from absolutely shredding the idea of being "politically correct," the Netflix original provides a sense of what "real" American families deal with day in and day out, especially with the modern world constantly changing. These harsh realities of life in a small town, not only as a rancher, but as a business owner, mother, father, political activist, immigrant, war hero, etc. could not be epitomized better than *The Ranch's* take on these ordeals.

People have to make decisions every day that are highly controversial or even detrimental, but when they live in their own little bubble, they cut off the devastating realities of others' lives. *The Ranch* provides this humble, eye-opening viewpoint that allows one to experience the "American dream" in a whole new way.

The underlying romance, along with the overarching theme of familial love, keeps eyes glued to the screen. Comedic relief from each of the characters allows for the audience to cope with the dramatic issues and harsh realities a small-town ranching family must face. Political issues in the modern world, from both a conservative and liberal standpoint, are explored

throughout all eight seasons as the show reflects the highly discussed controversies in America today.

Not only will Kutcher's charm keep you hooked on *The Ranch*, but this original is a must-watch because of the perspective it can provide to Americans as well as to all cultures around the globe. Plus, you will, without a doubt, find yourself longing for a life in a small American town when you complete the dramatic comedy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GREG GAYNE/NETFLIX

Political viewpoints are presented through a comedic lens throughout this Netflix comedy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

Lin-Manuel Miranda Announces *Hamilton* Film

How the Movie Will Feature the Original Cast and Stage

by Madison Palmieri '22
A&E Staff

FILM

Fans of *Hamilton* will be satisfied to know that the hit Broadway musical is coming to the big screen. On Monday, February 3, Lin-Manuel Miranda, the show's creator who originally starred as the titular Founding Father, announced on Twitter that a film featuring the original Broadway cast of the musical and filmed at the Richard Rodgers Theatre is in the works. Disney is set to produce the movie, which currently has a release date of October 15, 2021.

Some Providence College students count themselves among the many fans already excited to see the movie. "I'm super excited that they are making a film version of the musical *Hamilton*. I think it's great that they are doing a recording of the live stage production and not an adaptation," says Kara Berlin-Gallo '21.

"In my opinion, some film adaptations of musicals have not been great. I feel like Hollywood cares more about hiring big name actors instead of hiring Broadway stars who can really sing. Therefore, what



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

Hamilton will be Miranda's second stage-to-screen adaptation, following 2020's *In the Heights*.

I like about this *Hamilton* film is that people can see the original cast and the original staged production, which is so incredible and almost impossible to recreate for a film. I honestly cannot wait for the movie to come out and I'm counting down the days until I can see this incredible production in the theaters!"

Indeed, the original cast and stage footage appear to be the facets of the production that *Hamilton* fans are most excited about. Having seen the show on stage, the show's lighting, costumes, and set add symbolism and another dimension to *Hamilton's* story," explains Allison Kohne '22. "The original cast is also iconic, so I'm excited to see them in their original roles."

The musical first premiered at the Richard Rodgers Theatre in early 2015, and quickly garnered a mass following, catapulting its cast to stardom and receiving 11 Tony Awards, the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, and

the Grammy Award for Best Musical Theatre Album.

Hamilton follows the life and times of Alexander Hamilton as he and other historical figures attempt to create a new nation while facing the everyday struggles of life, love, and loss. Notably, it incorporates a wide variety of musical genres into its soundtrack, ranging from hip-hop and rap to more traditional showtunes.

Although he is best known for *Hamilton*, this show is not Lin-Manuel Miranda's first Broadway musical. In fact, a film adaptation of his 2008 show, *In the Heights*, will hit theaters on June 26. Unlike the upcoming *Hamilton* film, however, *In the Heights* will feature a new cast.

Nonetheless, both films are sure to please audiences. While *In the Heights* will be released in a matter of months, those eagerly anticipating *Hamilton* are going to have to wait for it.

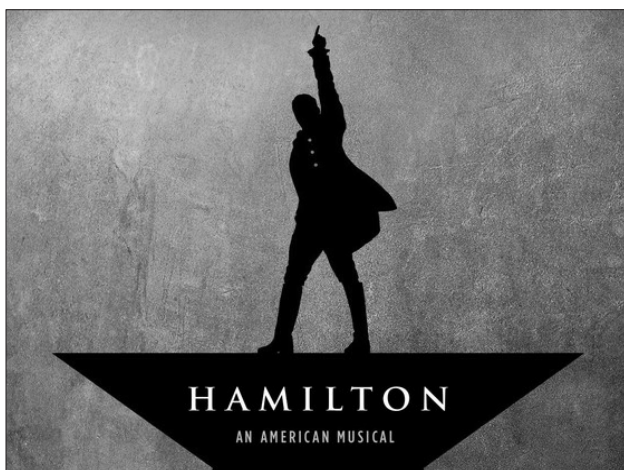


PHOTO COURTESY OF SPOTIFY

Using Music as a Platform for Voting Activism

Billie Eilish, Ariana Grande, Taylor Swift Step Up

by Grace Whitman '22
A&E Staff

MUSIC

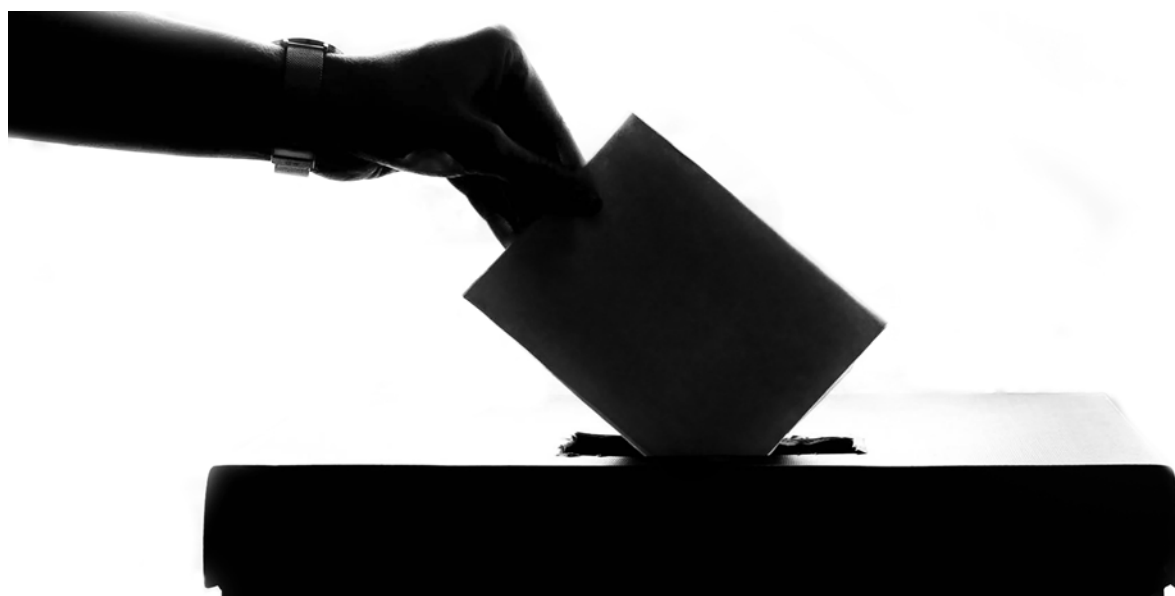
Music and politics have gone together for as long as we can remember. Whether it is through artists choosing to endorse political candidates, or through their lyrics, like in Shawn Mendes and Khalid's song "Youth," musicians use their platform to promote political views and better the world. With the primary elections coming up, there is no better time to register to vote than right now.

Even at her young age, Grammy Award Winning 2020 Best New Artist Billie Eilish has taken a leap into politics. Eilish teamed up with HeadCount, a non-partisan organization whose goal is to use the power of music to register voters and promote participation in democracy.

HeadCount helped fans at her Where Do We Go World Tour register to vote for the 2020 elections. Although she just recently became eligible to vote, Eilish is passionate about inspiring her generation to go vote and participate in the democratic process. HeadCount's other touring partners include Maroon 5, Jay-Z, Panic! At The Disco, Harry Styles, Halsey and hundreds of others.

Especially after the suicide bombing at Manchester Arena during her 2017 Dangerous Women Tour, Ariana Grande has been committed to using her platform for good. Grande's Sweetener World Tour broke HeadCount's all-time voter registration record with 33,381 in December of 2019. In an interview with Elle Magazine, Grande said that the role of artists is to "not only help people and comfort them, but also push people to think differently, raise questions, and push their boundaries mentally."

Although she had been private about her political views growing up in the spotlight, Taylor Swift



High-profile musicians partner with HeadCount to help fans register to vote.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELEMENT 5 DIGITAL

has recently revealed where she stands. In her new Netflix documentary *Miss Americana*, Swift highlights how she refuses to stay silent, especially given the number of people she can influence.

"Every time I didn't speak up about politics as a young person, I was applauded for it," she says. "It was wild. I said, 'I'm a 22-year-old girl—people don't want to hear what I have to say about politics.'" Now, at 30 years old, Swift is using her platform to fight for the history she wants to be made.

Although Swift may have risked her reputation when she endorsed two Democratic congressional nominees in Tennessee, she ultimately inspired approximately 65,000 people to vote, according to Vote.org. In her Instagram post on October 7, 2018, she wrote, "Please, please educate yourself on the candidates running in your state and vote based on

who most closely represents your values. So many intelligent, thoughtful, self-possessed people have turned 18 in the past two years and now have the right and privilege to make their vote count. But first, you need to register, which is quick and easy to do."

Additionally, Swift released a brand new song exclusively for the documentary called "Only the Young." With the intention of inspiring the next generation to vote and make a difference in our world, Swift's song is a message of hope and faith in the new generation.

As mentioned before, music and politics have gone hand in hand for decades. In 1971, the 26th Amendment gave 18-year-olds the right to vote. Do not let this right go to waste. Heed the call and make your voice heard in these elections. Be sure to request an absentee ballot if necessary.

An Update on 21 Savage's Immigration Hearing

Atlanta Shows Its Support while Rapper Remains Waiting

by Daniel O'Neill '21
A&E Staff

MUSIC

February 3, 2020 marked the one-year anniversary of the arrest of popular rapper 21 Savage by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The charges against the Atlanta rapper accused him of overstaying his visa, and alleged that he is originally a United Kingdom national without United States citizenship, making him illegally present in the country. His trial has yet to begin, and he is waiting somewhere on a long list of backlogged immigration cases.

The punishment facing 21 Savage, born Shéyaa Bin Abraham-Joseph, includes potential deportation as well as a total 10-year ban from entering the United States. Since he is currently awaiting trial, he cannot leave the United States. That has not stopped him from moving forward with his already illustrious career in the music industry, however.

Just last May, 21 Savage announced a tour across North America with rapper DaBaby opening for him. This kept 21 Savage on the road for the majority of the summer. Since then, he has been going about his life like he normally would. On Jan. 26, 21 Savage and J. Cole won Best Rap Song at the Grammy's for their song "A Lot" off of his most recent album, *I Am > I Was*.

While the charges state that 21 Savage is a citizen of the United Kingdom and not the United States, many of his supporters argue that his time in Atlanta has solidified him as one of the community's main figures.

Last year, 21 Savage partnered with Georgia Congressman Hank Johnson to expand the "Bank Account" program for youth in Atlanta. The program is essentially a way to increase the financial

literacy of the youth population in the area. According to Rolling Stone, the duo partnered with nonprofits like Get Schooled to implement the financial literacy program.

Because of 21 Savage's massive impact on the Atlanta metropolitan area, many of his supporters are claiming that removing the rapper from the United States would hurt the communities he has helped. Their argument is that removing him from the country would cancel any future plans he had to improve and unite the communities within the city of Atlanta. The fact that he is still touring and moving on with his career shows that he believes he belongs in the United States. With his trial still waiting in the Federal Immigration backlog, there does not seem to be a clear ending in sight for the rapper's case.

The most unique part about 21 Savage's case is that it is proof for the entire country that fame does not always protect against difficult circumstances. Other artists, such as Jay-Z, Offset, and Cardi B, have all expressed their support and opinions on the matter. Even with the help of some relatively powerful friends, the Atlanta rapper's case got moved into a backlog even though it was classified as an expedited case to get an earlier hearing. It seems that the issue is that ICE may not be giving the rapper a fair trial and may be using him as a precedent for their future prosecutions. For now, however, all 21 Savage can do is await his trial.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

With his case backlogged, 21 Savage has continued to have an impact on his community.

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Feb 13: Valentine's Day Bingo (9 p.m., McPhail's)

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OPEN AUDITIONS
FOR ALL PC STUDENTS | MAINSTAGE *Peter and the Starcatcher*
directed by Tim Seib

Tuesday, Feb. 18
7:00pm | Smith Center Lobby

Production Dates: April 3-5 & 17-19

PLEASE NOTE: CALLBACKS WILL BE THE SAME NIGHT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE AUDITIONS.

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Perusal scripts are available for sign-out in the green room.

Questions?
Contact Tim Seib at: timseib@gmail.com or Jim Calitri at: jcalitri@providence.edu

THEATRE DANCE & FILM

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February 13, 2020

Men's Basketball

by Gavin Woods '22
Sports Staff

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Providence College Men's Basketball Team was defeated by Xavier University last Saturday, 58-64. The Friars record has now fallen to 13-11 on the regular season, and 6-5 within the Big East.

Both teams came out of the gates aggressively. The Friars got into an early rhythm, but struggled to slow the Musketeers from inside the paint. The soft coverage down low and lack of communication among the defense enabled the Musketeers to consistently get high percentage looks.

The Friars' offense seemed to be working effectively, as they maintained the lead for the majority of the first half. However, their issue was not scoring, but rather keeping Xavier from scoring easy layups. As the game progressed, Xavier seemed to find success with their substitutions, particularly with Kyky Tandy, who scored 10 points off the bench.

PC's offense was led by Nate Watson '21 with 16 points and seven rebounds. Watson was supported by Alpha Diallo '20 and David Duke '22 with 14 and 12 points, respectively. However, the Friars seem to be struggling to find their identity, as these three stars are the only players to consistently score double digits each game. The offensive burden for the Friars must be more evenly distributed among the team.

Another issue currently plaguing the Friars is subpar perimeter shooting. Out of 23 attempted three point shots, only four fell, resulting in a three point percentage of 17.4. It's entirely possible that PC is simply attempting too many three pointers. Luwane Pipkins '20 shot a total of nine three pointers only to make two of them. This means that seven possessions were essentially handed to Xavier. The Musketeers attempted only 19 three pointers and landed five of them for a three point percentage of 26.3.

Perhaps the biggest issue for the Friars lies in the way they finish games. As seen several times throughout the 2019-2020 season, including the recent loss to Villanova University, PC's shot selection in the dying minutes of the second half become erratic and forced. With 8:59 to play in the second half, Providence led 50-47. Xavier then went on to execute a 5-0 point run, leading PC 52-50. Following this run, the Musketeers never gave the lead back, with the Friars making only three shots within the final 10 minutes of the second half.

Head coach Ed Cooley voiced his frustration following the loss saying, "I'm really pissed at my team. I thought we were undisciplined. I thought we took some uncharacteristic shots. I didn't think we were united the way you have to be on the road in these environments."

The PC versus St. John's game was not completed at press time.

Karwoski, Softball Team Ready to Roll *Team Looks to Build Upon Last Year's Breakout Season*

Friars

Continued from front page

Coach Karwoski also highlighted the importance of making the most of the Friars' opportunities on offense and minimizing mistakes in order to reach their potential: "I think so much of it is taking advantage of opportunities you know when we have runners in scoring positions... what hurts a lot of teams sometimes is when you leave a lot of runners on base—Coach Bree has been doing a fantastic job with our offense and utilizing some of our strengths so and doing that—taking advantage of those base runners and on defense minimizing our errors—we want to make sure we're having quick innings and not letting things snowball or get out of control."

The Friars have six seniors on the roster, including Mackensie Compton '20 who holds the highest batting average of all returning players from last season. Along with the seniors, there are also plenty of talented underclassmen on the roster. Daniela Alvarez '22 is another name to watch out for. As a freshman, she held an 18-8 record with a 2.25 ERA. She had more wins than any other pitcher on the 2019 roster and it appears she could be a dominant force for PC softball this season and in the years to come.

After their opening games in Texas, the Friars will head down to Maderia Beach, FL for an array of five out-of-conference games that include matchups against Colombia University, Stony Brook University, and Merrimack College. They then return to Clearwater for the Clearwater Spring Break Invitational in early March, where the Friars will play twelve games in a span of five days. On Wednesday, March 18, PC softball will have its first home game at Glay Field versus Bryant (the Friars went 11-2 at home last season) and will open Big East play that Friday in Friartown against St. John's University, who won the Big East regular season in 2019.

Anticipate a lot of excitement



LAURA CHADBOURNE '20/THE COWL

Danielle Alvarez '22 will look to follow up on a dominant freshman campaign in which she garnered All-Big East First Team honors and was named Big East Co-Freshman of the Year.

from the Big East this year. From top to bottom the teams are going to be competitive and will make for some great softball. In response to what games she was looking forward to, Coach Karwoski responded, "I think every single Big East game I'm looking forward to. Last year was our first year in the Big East in terms of our coaching staff and we just really enjoyed the competitiveness of it, and you know, every team equally matched up and each game was a lot of fun."

PC softball also has the motivation to prove the doubters wrong—they were ranked 6th out of 8 teams in the Big East Preseason Coaches' Poll. For a team that finished third in the conference in 2019 and has retained more than a serviceable amount of talent, the Friars will be looking to prove that last year's success was not a fluke. However, Coach Karwoski hesitated to make much of the preseason polls

She said, "Last year I think we were

picked eighth and I think we ended up finishing third—that's just what it is, it's a preseason poll and I think every year we get underestimated and until we start having consecutively good years in the top four of the conference, you know, right now I'm sure they'll look at last year maybe as a fluke or maybe as a one-time thing so now it's up to us to prove that we can consistently compete for a Big East Championship."

Reigning Big East tournament champion DePaul University looks to be Providence's biggest competition this season. Not only did they make the NCAA tournament last year but they were the team that knocked the Friars out of the Big East tournament. Although PC softball likes to focus on the season by going one game at a time, their series at home versus DePaul at the end of their regular season on May 1-3 are games that both players and fans should be marking on their calendars.



PC kicks off its promising season this weekend as the team heads to Texas to compete in the Bearkat Classic. PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

Did the MLB Do Enough to Punish the Astros? Providence College Investigates:

Yes, They Did Enough

This past offseason was one of the most active and dramatic the MLB has seen in recent history. Compared to the past couple of offseasons, this year MLB fans witnessed big name free agents getting paid faster, more trades, and the biggest scandal the sport has seen since the steroid era. Many could not believe the Houston Astros, the 2017 World Series Champions, were accused of conducting an elaborate system to steal other team's signs.

After the report from MLB commissioner Rob Manfred came out, the country was shocked by the levels of sophistication the Astros used. It was revealed that the Astros had set up a camera in center field and then put up a monitor between the clubhouse and dugout. Players could study the signs the pitcher was receiving from the catcher, identify what pitch was going to be thrown and then communicate that to the batter either by noise (banging on a trash can) or possibly other means.

So, what did this trash can orchestra lead to? The MLB handed Houston one-year bans for their manager and GM (both fired), forfeiture of first and second round picks in the next two drafts, and a \$5 million fine. Houston then fired their manager A.J. Hinch and GM Jeff Luhnow. The Red Sox and Mets then fired their managers Alex Cora and Carlos Beltran for their roles when they were with Houston.

I believe that this punishment was

completely fair. Obviously the two in charge needed to be suspended. There was no precedent for this because the game has not seen a scandal like this. A year was fine since the scandal only lasted a year. In the end, the Hinch and Luhnow will likely not be allowed in the MLB anytime soon. It would not be fair to punish other coaches and players involved because they are scattered on different teams, and punishing them now would also unfairly punish those teams. If you are not punishing all the players, you also cannot punish those still on the Astros. The fine given was the most the MLB could give and losing draft picks, will significantly hamper the club's future.

Many people also wanted a postseason ban or removal of the World Series title. Both of these are trivial. The MLB wants to continue and put this behind them. Keeping one of the best teams or any team for that matter out of the postseason not only affects that team and the city's local economy but also the league. As for the removal of the title, that does no good. Everyone will still remember the Astros as champs; you cannot just crown one of the teams they beat the new champion. There is no satisfaction in that, and it will only create controversy.

-Joseph Quirk '23
Sports Staff

No, Far From It

If a player in the MLB tests positive for steroids, they receive an 80-game suspension, a second failed test leads to a full season, a third leads to a lifetime ban from baseball. Former player/manager Pete Rose was banned from baseball for betting on games. Even players who were suspected of taking steroids have had their reputation tarnished to the point that it has prevented them from being inducted into the Hall of Fame.

The punishment for using cameras to steal an opponent's signs: nothing. After Major League Baseball investigated and found the Houston Astros guilty for using technology to steal signs, manager A.J. Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow were each suspended for a year by the league and subsequently fired by Houston. The team was fined and lost four draft picks over the next two years. Meanwhile, the players were granted immunity for their cooperation in the investigation.

While the MLB recognized handing suspensions down to the players would trigger a battle with the Players' Union, not even giving a fine to any of the players puts all the blame on Hinch and Luhnow. While both knew of the scheme, Hinch broke a TV monitor twice to show his displeasure in the scheme.

It is unfair that Hinch and Lunhow are taking the full brunt of the punishment of the scandal. It may be the leaders' jobs to make sure that their team complies with the rules (which both failed to do), but

they are working with grown men who were very aware they were breaking the rules.

Finding the extent of the involvement of each player is hard to pinpoint exactly, but if there is no punishment to teach players to not cheat, what is preventing another scandal from happening again? Even a basic fine can dissuade players on cheaper salaries from participating.

The only player from the 2017 team who has gotten any sort of punishment was Carlos Beltrán. Beltrán was hired by the New York Mets in the fall to become their new manager.

MLB commissioner Rob Manfred made it clear that it will be on the leadership of each team to make sure everyone in the dugout and front office complies with the rules, taking the pressure off the players. What hurt Hinch was that he trusted his players too much and failed to intervene when he needed to.

Very few players have come forward to apologize, and no one still on the team has spoken. The people who led this scheme need to be held accountable for breaking the rules. The men who failed to stop it will serve their time, but how about the ones who were the ringleaders?

-Jack Belanger '21
Sports Co-editor

Women's Basketball Falls Short to Blue Jays

by Sullivan Burgess '20
Sports Staff

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

On Saturday, February 8, the Providence College Women's Basketball Team played against Big East rival Creighton University for their second matchup of the season, this time taking place at home in Mullaney Gym.

The season has been rocky for the Friars as they continue Big East play throughout the end of winter



ISABELLA BAFFONI '23/THE COWL

Webb began the game on a hot streak, compiling eight points by the end of the first quarter.

and into spring. Going into the game against the Blue Jays, the Friars had posted a 10-13 record overall, with a 1-10 record in the Big East Conference, currently tied for last place along with Xavier University.

Providence's first Big East win came a few weeks ago against Xavier University, in a home win 60-48. Guard Earlette Scott '22 led the game with 20 points, while center sophomore Mary Baskerville '22 led the game with 11 rebounds.

The Friars previous game took place on Feb. 2 at DePaul University in Chicago. While the Friars put up a good fight in each quarter against the no. 13 Blue Demons, the win ultimately went to DePaul in a final score of 93-71. Guard Chanell Williams '21 led the game with 15 points, while Alyssa Geary '22 led with six rebounds for the Friars.

The Friars were looking to bounce back and find a spark to ignite the team to go on a run, especially with postseason approaching and the Women's Big East Tournament in early March.

Now it was time for the Friars to once again face Creighton. In the previous matchup which took place at Creighton, the Friars lost by nine in a 63-72 matchup. Kaela Webb '22 led the team with 14 points. The Friars were ready to give everything they had for this next matchup.

The game was set, and the Friars were on their way to face the Blue Jays once again. Constantly leading throughout the first quarter of play, things were looking up for the Friars as players such as Baskerville and Webb could not miss shots. As well as the Friars were playing, nothing was stopping Creighton's Jaylyn Agnew. By the end of the game Agnew finished the game with a career-high 38 points.

The Friars once again sadly lost by nine after battling through the second half to come back, but Agnew and Creighton could not miss a basket. Baskerville led the team in both points and rebounds at 19 and eight, respectively.

Scott, Webb, and Geary also finished with double



ISABELLA BAFFONI '23/THE COWL

Finishing with 16 points, Scott was one of four starters to land in double digits.

digits in scoring and even helped Providence shoot 52.9 percent of shooting from the field.

Despite the team's struggles, the Friars have had some great individual performances throughout the year. Baskerville is leading in the top twenty of scoring for the Big East at 12.9 points per game and fourth in rebounding 7.8 rebounds per game.

Next up, the Friars are back home for two games in the coming week against Seton Hall University and St. John's University. Seton Hall's game will be played 11:30 a.m. on Friday as part of Project Providence where local schools will come to watch the game.

Trio of Men's Soccer Players Go Pro

by Liam Tormey '22
Sports Staff

MEN'S SOCCER

Three Providence College men's soccer players are now professional soccer players. Danny Griffin '20 and Austin Aviza '20RS are now both part of Major League Soccer (MLS) teams, while Tiago Mendonca '20RS has signed in the United Soccer League (USL).

The 2020 MLS SuperDraft took place on Thursday, January 9. In the draft, Aviza was selected in the second round, number 44 overall, by Orlando City. Griffin was also selected in the second round, just five spots after Aviza in the number 49 spot overall, selected by the Columbus Crew SC. Mendonca has signed a professional contract with the New England Revolution II in the USL League One.

In the 2019 campaign for the Friars, Aviza, from Medway, MA, featured in all 23 games as PC's goalie. Aviza was also honored to the Big East Weekly Honor Roll twice along with being awarded All-Big East Third Team honors. After their second round win in the NCAA Men's Soccer Tournament against Penn State University, Coach Craig Stewart credited Aviza, saying, "I think he's been steady all year and very consistent as a goal keeper," and a large part of the comeback win against Penn State was because of Aviza; as Coach Stewart mentioned, "We don't win that game without him." In the 23 games Aviza played this season, he posted a 16-7 with 56 saves and recorded nine shutouts.

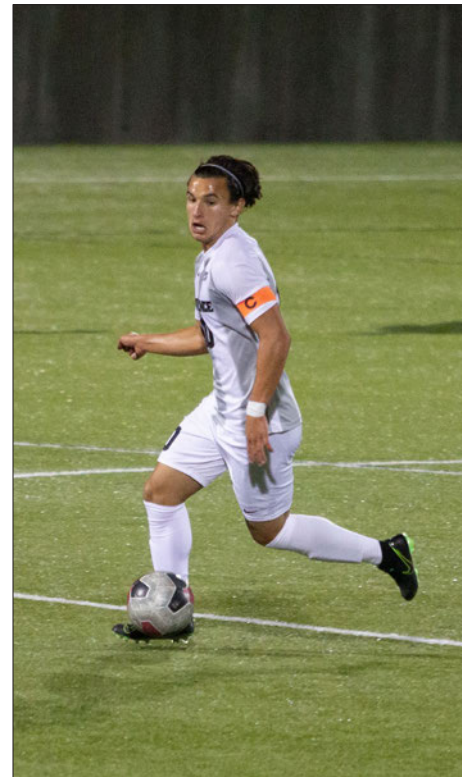
Griffin, one of the captain midfielders from Wethersfield, CT, had the same profound impact for the team in his time spent at Friartown. In his career, Griffin recorded 32 points with 13 goals and six



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL



LILLIE HUNTER '22/THE COWL



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL

(From Left) Mendonca, Aviza, Griffin all made significant contributions to the Friars this season, bringing the team to the NCAA Tournament.

assists. Griffin has been named to the Preseason All-Big East Team in 2018 and was also a unanimous pick into the Big East All-Freshman Team. He played and started in all 80 games during his career. In the 2019 campaign, Griffin had eight points and one game-winning goal this season against the University of Villanova in a 2-0 victory. He was also awarded All-Big East Third Team Honors this past season.

Mendonca, from Faro, Portugal, was another captain for the Friars this season. He started all 23 games and was an integral part in the midfield. He was crucial in helping the team reach the

third round of the NCAA Tournament. In his time at PC, Mendonca recorded 26 total points with 11 goals and four assists. Before the season's start, Mendonca was named to the Preseason All-Big East team and then was named to the All-Big East First Team and Big East All-Tournament Team to round out the season. In the second round game against Penn State, Mendonca scored the equalizer with just under five minutes remaining in regulation before the Friars would go on to win in overtime.

After PC's heartbreaking loss to Clemson University in double overtime in the third round of the NCAA

Tournament, Coach Stewart commended his senior captains, saying he "couldn't be more proud for the work that they've contributed towards the program." Stewart said they were both "fantastic footballers but also human beings."

In the same press conference, Griffin spoke of his time with the Friars and said, since freshman year, "The community, the coaches, the staff, the trainers, it's been a family and it's meant everything to us."

Aviza, Griffin, and Mendonca all played crucial roles in the big success PC had on the pitch this past season. They were role models for the organization and have left their mark on Friar history.

Women's Hockey Splits Weekend against UMaine

Team Needs to Boost Record before Hockey East Playoffs

by Meaghan Cahill '20
Sports Co-Editor

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

The Providence College Women's Hockey Team, which is ranked fourth in Hockey East, split last weekend's series against the no. 7 team, the University of Maine.

In the first game on Friday, February 7, the Friars skated to a 2-2 tie despite having a 2-1 lead for the majority of the second period. UMaine skater Liga Milijone put the Black Bears on the scoreboard first after sniping one past PC goaltender Sandra Abstreiter '22RS five minutes into the game. Three minutes later, Isabelle Hardy's '23 wrist shot soared into the top left corner of the net after passes from Hayley Lunny '21 and team captain Avery Fransoo '20. Hardy's goal was her fourth of the season and third in the last five games.

The Friars finished the first period with a goal from Neve Van Pelt '20 in the final 23 seconds of the period. Van Pelt netted a backhand over the Black Bear goalie's shoulder for her sixth goal of the season. Meaghan Rickard '20 recorded her ninth assist of the season.

Van Pelt concluded the scoring for the Friars this game. With just under four minutes left in the second period, UMaine player Celene Tedeny scored a power-play goal to even out the score to two apiece.

The Friars outshot the Black Bears 35-25 but they could not capitalize on their

three power plays and were unable to go 4-4 on the penalty kill. Defenseman Whitney Dove '20, who leads PC in assists and is ranked fifth in Hockey East for defenseman scoring, recorded a game-high six shots on net. Abstreiter concluded the game with 23 shots saved and two goals against. She is currently ranked third in Hockey East for her 1.65 goals against average.

The Friars returned to Schneider

Arena again the next day where they were unable to gain momentum to garner the full two points. PC lost to UMaine 1-2. Abstreiter was once again in net, making 18 saves throughout the game.

PC fell two goals behind quickly into the first period after the Black Bears scored 26 seconds apart about seven minutes into the game.

Despite having a man advantage four times throughout the game, PC did not

find their way onto the scoreboard until midway throughout the third period. The goal came from Lauren DeBlois '23 who ripped a slap shot from the right point that notched the lone score for the Friars in the game. This was DeBlois's third goal of the season.

Once again, PC outshot UMaine 44-20. The team also saw more success at the face-off circle, winning 35-64 faceoffs compared to UMaine's 29-64. Unfortunately, the Friars were unable to dig themselves out of the hole that they got into early in the first.

The team has just four more games remaining in their regular season before they will partake in the 2020 Hockey East Tournament. This upcoming weekend, they will be facing off against No. 1 Hockey East team Northeastern University in their second to last home-and-home series. They will travel to Boston on Friday, February 14 and then return to Schneider on Feb. 15. The following weekend, PC will wrap up their regular season in another home-and-home series against the College of the Holy Cross, playing in Worcester, MA on Friday and back in Friartown on the Saturday for not only their last game of the season, but also the team's senior game which will honor the team's seven seniors.

The team will need to pick up some much needed points in their final four games if they want to have a chance to pull ahead of the University of Connecticut, who is currently tied for fourth place with the Friars in Hockey East.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

PC's leading scorer, Sara Hjalmarsson '22, will look to continue her strong play.

A Look Around Friartown

Men's Ice Hockey:

2/07 at University of Massachusetts-Amherst, loss 1-3

2/08 vs. University of Massachusetts-Amherst, loss 1-5

Upcoming:

2/14 at University of Vermont

2/15 at University of Vermont

2/21 vs. Merrimack College

2/22 at Merrimack College

Women's Ice Hockey:

2/07 vs. University of Maine, tie 2-2 (OT)

2/08 vs. University of Maine, loss 1-2

Upcoming:

2/14 at Northeastern University

2/21 at College of The Holy Cross

2/22 vs. College of The Holy Cross

Men's Basketball:

2/08 at Xavier University, loss 58-64

2/12 at St. John's University, TBD

Upcoming:

2/15 vs. Seton Hall University

2/19 at Georgetown University

Women's Basketball:

2/08 vs. Creighton University, loss 68-77

Upcoming:

2/14 vs. Seton Hall University

2/16 vs. St. John's University

2/21 at Xavier University

Men's Lacrosse:

2/08 vs. College of the Holy Cross, win 6-4

Upcoming:

2/15 vs. Bryant University



Men's Hockey Falls to UMass

by Thomas Zinzarella '21
Sports Staff

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY

Following a loss at Northeastern University the previous weekend, the 10th ranked Providence College Men's Hockey Team had a chance to move themselves up in the Hockey East standings this weekend as they faced off against the 8th ranked University of Massachusetts Amherst Minutemen.

Last year, all three matchups with UMass finished with a final score of 3-2 with UMass taking two. The Friars' lone win came at home against the then top-ranked Minutemen. The two had a chance to meet in the National Championship game in Buffalo, but the Friars fell to Minnesota Duluth University, who would go on to knock off UMass.

This year, the two teams would only meet twice, and both meetings took place this past weekend. Coming into Friday's game at the Mullins Center, UMass was tied with Boston College for first place in the conference. The Friars were in a four-way tie for fourth place, just two points off of first place.

The Friars have struggled over the years playing at Amherst. Before Friday's game, PC had a 16-15-5 record and had lost three straight games playing at UMass. On Friday, it was no different. UMass outshot PC 17-3 in the first period which featured a goal by Reed Leinster just 5:35 in. The Friars struggled to generate offense for most of this game.

The Friars, who average just under 35 shots per game, were held to just 15 shots while UMass recorded 36 shots. Michael Lackey GS made a series of highlight reel saves in the second period to keep the game at a one-goal deficit, but the Minutemen were too much. Matt Koopman '21 would score the lone point for the Friars. UMass would go on to win 3-1, although Lackey had one of his best games in a Friar uniform with 33 saves and kept the game closer than what it could have been. Greg Carvel, the UMass head coach said after the game, "That's as solid a game as we've played in this building probably since I've been here."

Each team resumed their matchup the next evening in Providence where the Friars were seeking to split the series. The Friars came out firing with an early power play opportunity just 35 seconds into the game. Tyce Thompson '22 smashed a line drive off the post, sending a booming echo throughout the arena. However, a goal by John Leonard put UMass ahead 1-0 after



PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

Dugan leads the nation in points with 46, five more than the second leading scorer.

the first period. In the second period, the Friars were only able to muscle two shots on goal, while Leonard struck again for UMass with a short-handed goal. In the remaining minutes of the second period, Oliver Chau recorded a goal on a hustle play, putting the game seemingly out of the Friars' reach. However, PC made a push halfway through the third period, as Thompson netted his 18th goal of the season on a Jack Dugan '22 assist.

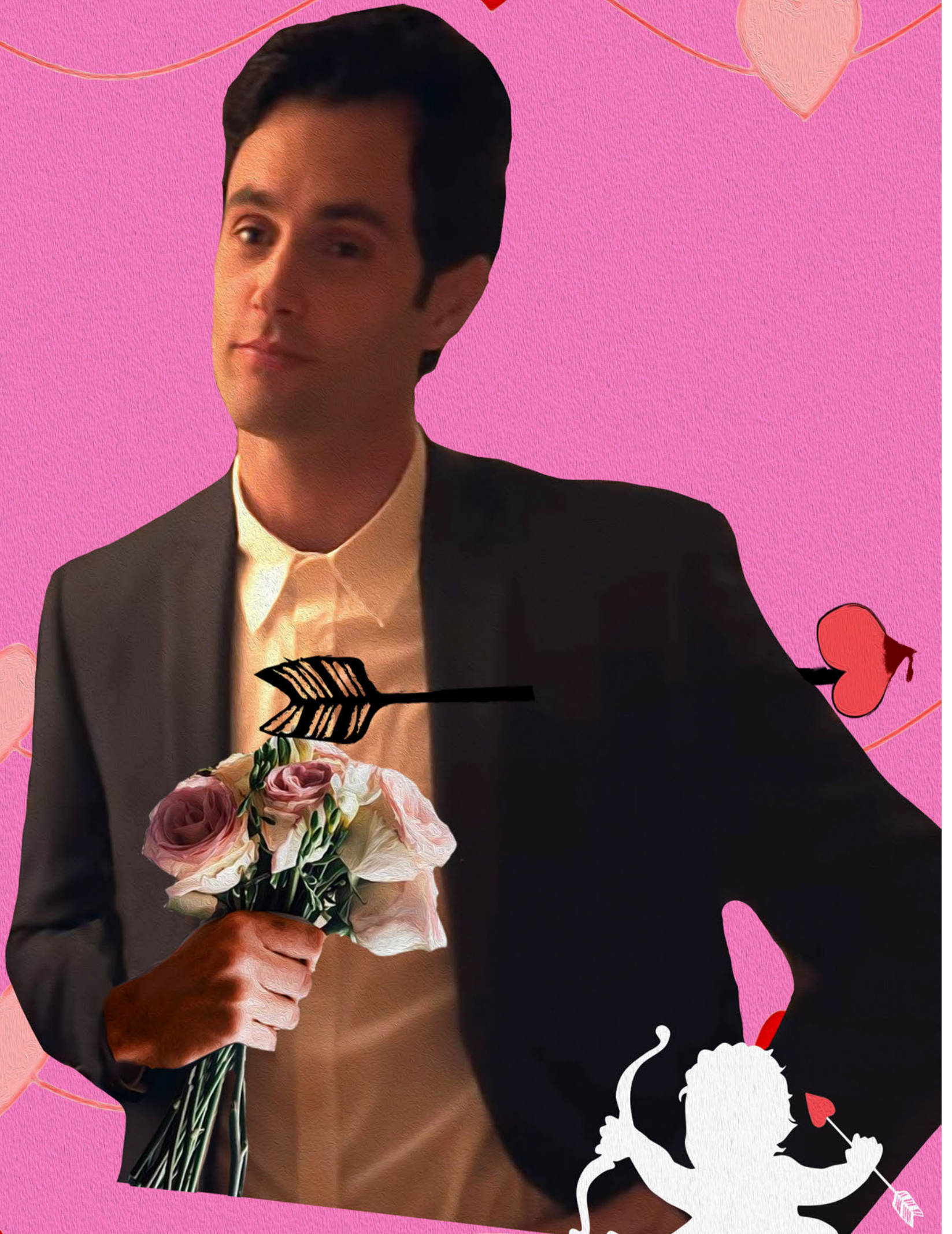
Shortly after the goal, the Friars had another chance to gain some momentum on a power play opportunity, but UMass soon shut the door on the Friars with two more goals. Leonard completed the hat-trick for UMass and his four-point night led UMass to a 5-1 victory. The Friars once again did not take advantage of their opportunities, as they went 1-6 on the power play. "It'll change when we get sick of losing," said coach Nate Leaman after the game. "We're a really young group and we're playing like it." PC will look to rebound Friday against the University of Vermont.



With the series sweep, UMass remains firmly in control of the top spot in Hockey East, boasting a 11-6-2 conference record.

NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL

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FLUROMANCE: FINDING LOVE IN THE MIDST OF THE FLU OUTBREAK

by Kate Ward '23
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

"I got you a present." His voice was muffled, one hand pressed against the glass, the other behind his back.

I took off my mask and looked at him intently. "If it's another mask I'm going to be mad." I laughed a little. It had been sixteen years since the initial outbreak of the flu and nearly every house on the street had been ordered to put glass around the perimeter of the property. My next-door neighbor Michael and I had become infected at relatively the same time. I caught it first after being hospitalized for a nasty case of the flu. I got out right before Valentine's Day, and that was when we went on a date. I kissed him, things advanced, and two weeks later he was sick. Let me tell you, fostering romance while sick is an entirely new challenge within itself. I watched through the glass as he took a box out from behind him; it was one of those heart-shaped chocolate boxes.

"You do know that there's no way for me to get those, right?" I laughed a little.

"Yes, I do know that, so I'm just going to show them to you." He chuckled. "No, I'm kidding, I'm going to find a way to give them to you. Here, back up."

I took a few steps away from the glass and looked up at where the small air hole was. The air hole was something that the government had decided to put in the ceiling of the glass to make sure we had some way of getting fresh air without spreading the disease. Michael stepped back and then began to run

at the glass, jumping and hurling the box through his air hole and into mine. I watched as the chocolate box fell open, pill bottles tumbling out from the inside.

Gasping as a few clattered onto my head, I whirled to look at

there were three tightly rolled pieces of paper.

"They're letters," Michael explained as I went around and collected the rest of the bottles, some already broken open.

I was quiet for a moment, trying to find the words and the courage to say

was willing to be trapped in a glass cage for the remainder of his life if it meant seeing me each day.

"I don't deserve you," I whispered.

"You're going to have to speak up; the glass is thick," he said, pointing to his ears for further clarification.

"I—never mind." I shook my head. "It was a stupid thought!" Stupid to bring something like that up on a day like today.

Michael waited patiently, looking at me in case I wanted to say something further. I shook my head again. "I don't have

anything to say, so quit looking at me like that, will you?"

"You know, I was thinking about, like... do you remember back in 2020 when people still used that term ship? I was thinking about our ship

name." He had this stupid yet adorable grin on his face.

I lifted a brow. "Oh? What might that be?"

He wrung his hands. "I don't know if I should tell you judging by your reaction to the gift."

"You can't just bring it up and not say it!" I cried, pointing at him.

He put his hands up in surrender, our eyes locking as I watched him try to figure out his next move. "Our ship name isn't a joining of our names but more like our current... predicament. It's Fluromance." Michael grinned.

I sighed. *Flu Romance, of course he would think of something that stupid yet somewhat witty.*



him. "Are you *kidding me*, Michael?"

He was doubled over, laughing loudly as he watched the expression on my face change from shock and horror to anger.

"What? Come on, I thought it was funny! Why can't I make jokes about our sickness, huh?" he asked, pressing his hands up to the glass.

"You think *this*," I held up a prescription bottle and flung it at the glass, "is funny?! Do you think this is a proper Valentine's gift?" I cried.

"Look inside the bottles," he said, now more serious.

I shook my head and bent down, picking up one of the orange bottles, unscrewing the cap. Inside

what I wanted to say. I opened one letter and glanced over it. "This is from our first date." I picked up another. "And this is from our last." I looked at him. He nodded and smiled sheepishly.

"I thought it was a nice idea, I don't know, maybe it's stupid," Michael murmured, his breath fogging up the glass.

"No! No, it isn't a stupid idea, I mean, at least you got me something. Last Valentine's Day all I got you was sick with this virus." I tried to lighten the mood.

Michael chuckled. "And I wouldn't have it any other way."

The slightly dark and oddly cute sentence caught me off guard. This man

JAGGED LOVE

by Connor Zimmerman '20
Portfolio Editor

PROSE POETRY

Is it bad that I can feel the echoes of your sorrow coming off of you, as I glide over the scars on your arm? Is it bad that I can touch your distress as my fingers run through your hair? Is it bad that I can sense your anguish pulsing through your heart as our bodies become closer? Is it bad that I taste your regret as our lips slowly meet?

You are beautiful not in spite of all this...but

One of your exes fell in love with another girl, and even though he was honest he split your heart into two. Another once made you feel like you were less than you truly are, and while it eventually ended, your heart broke into four pieces. The next one said that you didn't have any love left to give, and his words smashed the pieces of your heart into eight fragments.

You are beautiful not in spite of all this...but because of

You have been cut, broken, and hurt...just like I have. You have a past that makes you want to scream and run...just like I want to do. You wear your feelings, the good, bad, and everything in between...just like I do. Your edges are jagged and rough...just like mine are.

You are beautiful not in spite of all this...but because

Even with everything that you have been through, you still see past my flaws. You have taught me to feel again when I did not know if that was possible. You make me smile and laugh even when I believe the world is going to end. You listen to the songs, watch the movies, and read the books I like because you want to know more about me. You still have love to give, more than anyone I know.

You are beautiful not in spite of all this but because of it.

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The Last Two

by Jay Willett '20
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

"Cheers," she raised her wine glass, "to being single on this lovely Valentine's Day!" We clinked and took our first sips of the red wine I bought for seven bucks at Shaw's. She wrinkled her nose and gasped.

"That's bitter!"

"Wine can't be bitter." I grinned.

"Well, it is!"

I nodded my head as I drank, catching her doubtful glance that I was enjoying the beverage.

It's true I was bluffing, and after a couple more, I couldn't stop myself.

"ACK!" I coughed into my sleeve. She folded her

arms in self-proclaimed victory. Laughter echoed from upstairs. Noise of the city

filtered through cracks in the drywall.

It was muzzled but audible to hear the couples dancing and

kissing in the streets. She tugged at the front strands of her hair. I stamped the heel of my foot on the

felt carpet. There was no avoiding it; the aroma of love had breached

our walls of singularity.

Our safe space for honest discussion and unrelenting cynicism had been invaded by the

enamored. They took the stage while we fell silent.

"It's not fair, you know,"

she whispered.

"What?"

"I don't know." She fiddled with her necklace. "Like, that we are here, and people expect us to be sad and lonely tonight."

"Hm," was all I could respond with.

"...But I'm not—I'm here, drinking with you. And I'm happy!"

"Right."

"I am—I'm—" Tears rolled down her flushed cheeks. I raised my glass.

"Hey—cheers." We clinked for a second time. She laughed as I spat out my wine.

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Falling Without Gravity

by Clara Howard '20
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

"Hellooo, earth to Marina?"

Marina blinked, the fog of memories and laughter lifting at the voice of the attending on-call and the surrounding sounds of the hospital. "What?"

Dr. Li frowned at her. "Are you okay? That's the third time you've spaced out on me this shift."

Marina shook her head and shoulders, the way a bird might settle its wings after a long flight. "Sorry, I'm fine. Just have a lot on my mind today."

"Did you want to talk about it?"

"Not really," she replied, smiling a little tightly. "Well, not right now, at any rate."

Dr. Li nodded and leaned forward, resting his forearms on the counter of the nurses' station. The new position brought his face closer to where Marina's head was bent over a pile of charts she was supposed

to be reviewing. "So, what do you want to talk about, then?" He asked, his voice quieter.

Marina rolled her eyes, a small smile playing with the edges of her mouth. "I don't really have anything that I want to talk about right now," she responded, her voice just as low.

"Really, absolutely nothing?"

"Not that I can think of." "No special plans for the weekend?"

She shrugged, the smile growing wider with the exchange. "Not really." She glanced up at him then, struggling not to laugh at the way his eyes sparked with mock outrage.

His eyes widened as he

gaped at her. "You wound me, Marina Blair," he whispered, the mirth in his eyes belying his words.

Marina did a subtle sweep of the space around them before leaning in closer to Dr. Li, making as if she were about to divulge a secret. "Good thing you're a doctor, then, and can

patch yourself up," she whispered back.

He burst out laughing, clapping a hand over his mouth as his shoulders shook. Marina sat back, her grin turning smug as she watched him. He shook his head and matched her gaze. "So little sympathy for the injured, Nurse Blair?"

"Only when the injured is you, Dr. Li," she quipped,

even daring to shoot him a wink.

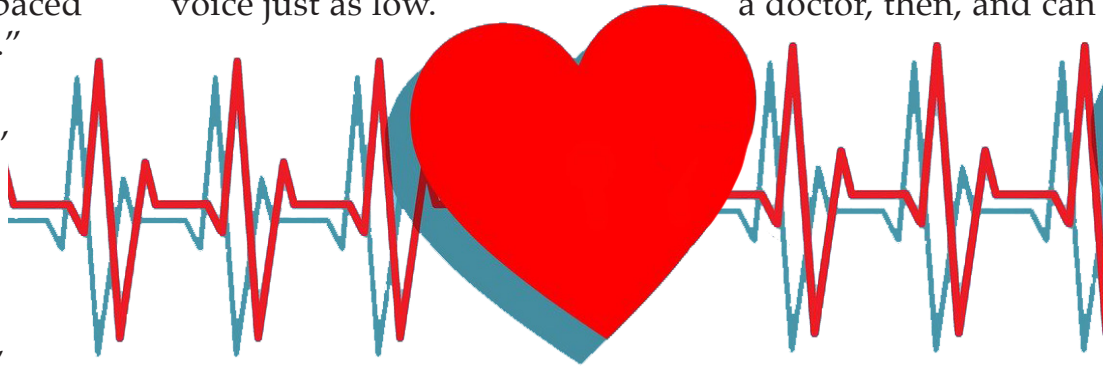
"Sounds like someone needs to help you work on those bedside manners."

"Oh really?" Her dimples came out in full force and she leaned forward again. "And I suppose you're offering to be that someone?"

His deep brown eyes seemed to smolder with heated promises as he looked at her. "I suppose that I am."

Her smile turned slow, curling at the corners like a cat in front of a fire. "Then I suppose—"

"Marina, have you seen the chart for the patient in room 207?" Nurse Jenkins interrupted, her nose buried in a bunch of files as she turned the corner and walked up to the nurses' station. She looked up to see Dr. Li straightening the pile of charts in front of him and Marina searching for a pen. She decided not to comment on the blushes staining their cheeks.



14 Ways to Say I Love You

by Jessica Polanco '21
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

I love you.
I hate you.

I want to hear your voice.
Shut up.

Hug me.
Don't touch me.

Come over.
Stay away.

Kiss me.
Don't kiss me.

We make a good team.
I'm better without you.

I miss you.
Leave me alone.



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PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLICDOMAINPICTURES.NET & GRAPHIC DESIGN BY CONNOR ZIMMERMAN '20

LOVE LIMERICKS

Short and Sweet

by Sarah Heavren '21
Portfolio Staff

Master of the cleverest pun,
You make all the boring things fun.
I hope you know
And that I show
You're loved by a certain someone.

Staycation

by Samantha Pellman '20
Portfolio Staff

What do I get him for Valentine's Day?
Plan something special, they all say
So I booked a vacation
At the very best location
A ticket to Greece and it's a one-way!

Glacier

by Jay Willett '20
Portfolio Staff

Frost gales frolic, shrouding all we could see.
Eyjafjallajökull explodes on the bended knee.
Not with fire, but with hope,
alone together on our slope.
One proposition, one question, and I'm finally free.

Money Can't Buy Love

by Sarah McLaughlin '23
Asst. Portfolio Editor

There once was a broke college student
Who thought it would be rather prudent
To skip buying flowers
And instead work twelve hours
Which prompted his love life's conclusion.

Dead Languages Don't Get You Dates

by Sean Tobin '20
Portfolio Staff

I once tried to flirt in Italian.
By nature I'm no Latin stallion.
I learned Greek with ease,
Ancient Hebrew's a breeze,
But for romance they get no medallion.

Fast Fiction: Dream First Date

Only us drowned in candlelight.

by Grace O'Connor '22
Portfolio Staff



A good laugh...all I need.

by Erin Venuti '20
Portfolio Staff



Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, Disney+, and...

by Connor Zimmerman '20
Portfolio Editor



They laugh together, and she's happy.

by Clara Howard '20
Portfolio Staff



Stole my heart, then my wallet.

by Kate Ward '23
Portfolio Staff



Ends with plans for a second.

by Sarah McLaughlin '23
Asst. Portfolio Editor

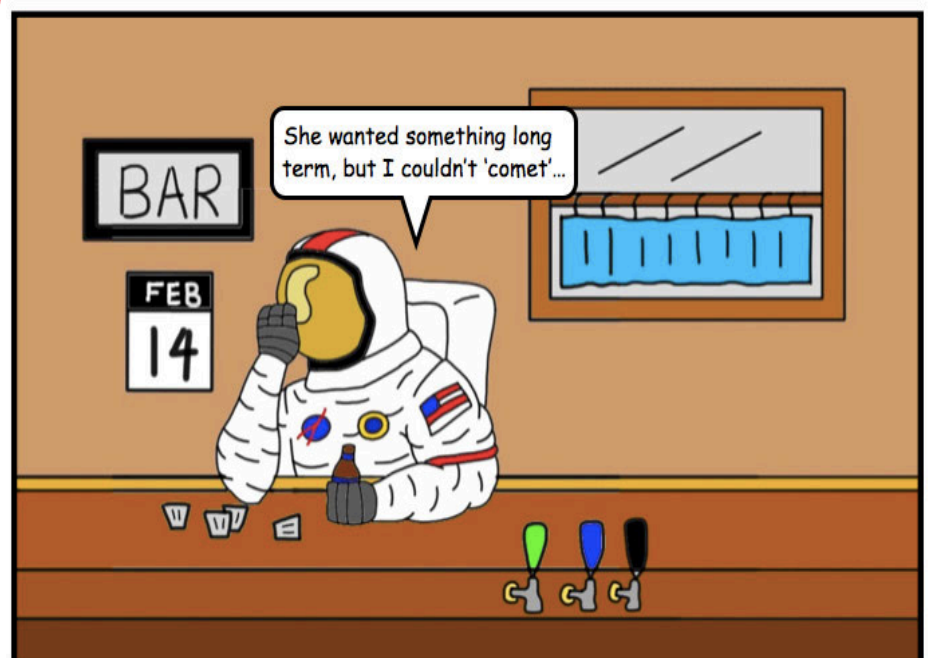
PHOTOS COURTESY OF PEXELS.COM

by Mark Fairchild '20
Portfolio Staff

CARTOON

PERSONAL SPACE

MARK FAIRCHILD



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIACOMMONS.ORG

A Real Galentine's Day

by Samantha Pellman '20
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

It's a Friday night at 6 p.m.
The sky is dark already
The air is cold.

To us it's just a Friday night
But to others it's the most romantic day of the year.
We don't look at it that way.

We stand in front of the mirror
Curling our hair
And putting on mascara.

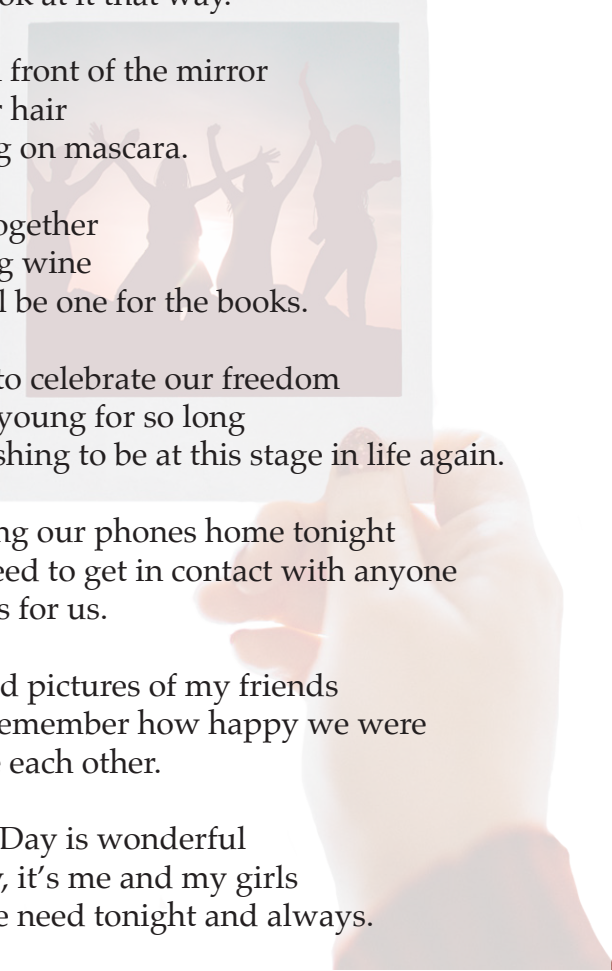
Laughing together
And sipping wine
Tonight will be one for the books.

It's a night to celebrate our freedom
We're only young for so long
We'll be wishing to be at this stage in life again.

We're leaving our phones home tonight
We don't need to get in contact with anyone
This night is for us.

I take candid pictures of my friends
So we can remember how happy we were
Just to have each other.

Valentine's Day is wonderful
But for now, it's me and my girls
We're all we need tonight and always.



BELOW, A GUIDE FOR WRITING A LOVE POEM TO YOUR SWEETHEART (OR BOOGABEAR, SNOOKEMS, OR TOOTSIE WOOTSIE)

by Sam Ward '21
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

*To better understand love and its treasures,
You must first reexamine your loyalty to vices.
You are not ready to love unless you take the right measures.
Would you keep caffeine in the A.M. if Starbucks raised its prices?*

*Wag your finger to rom-coms, even Paul Rudd ones.
Love has no place for a man who makes silly puns.
Say no to chocolate in bed, sugar for breakfast.
To forgo these things is to keep your heart the freshest.*

*A rose is still a rose, if you detest it,
And a bed full of petals is no place to rest in.
Flowery poetry makes you look like a sap,
Now say, "Valentine's Day is crap!"*



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PEXELS.COM

by Mark Fairchild '20
Portfolio Staff

CARTOON



PHOTO COURTESY BY NEEDPIX.COM & GRAPHIC DESIGN BY SARAH KIRCHNER '21



Showing How You Really Feel

by Lil Wit '21
Portfolio Staff

SATIRE

The mushiest, most lovey-dovey, better-not-be-alone-because-that-sucks day of the year (unless you want to be conventional and remember that this day is actually the feast day for a saint who was martyred for the sake of spreading the Catholic faith and is esteemed in the eyes of the Church to be canonized and revered for his example of dedication to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ) is upon us. Valentine's Day is arguably—and by arguably, I mean that if you argue against this, you'll lose—an overly-commercialized day, but it provides us with an excuse to remind the people

whom we love that we love them. However, Valentine's Day also brings the dreaded responsibility of getting a



thoughtful gift for your significant other. So, we hit the sidewalks to see what ideas PC students have for Valentine's Day gifts.

Sophomore Fred Drick offered this advice: "A homemade gift is the way to go. Usually they're less expensive and if your S.O. hates it, it's not like they can return it, but they can still see you tried. I've used old *Cowls* to make a few paper-mâché life-sized replicas of my girlfriend in the past, and she hasn't said anything negative about it yet, so I take that as a green light. But you want to be really good at paper-mache if you're going to do that or else she'll think you think she's ugly. Whatever you do, make sure it comes from the heart and not Hallmark. Don't feed the capitalist beast."

Tiffany & Earl

Making PC an emotionally stable place one letter at a time

Dear Tiff and Earl,

I just found out that my significant other is allergic to every single flower known to man and hates all chocolate (I promise she's fun!), and CVS has nothing else that is Valentine's Day related. What should I get her?

Nervously,
Drug Store Drags

Dear DSD,

Don't sell CVS short. Just because it's not related to Valentine's Day doesn't mean it isn't a thoughtful gift. Nothing says love like a bottle of laxatives (she'll thank you later).

Regularly,

Tiff

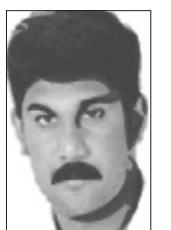


Dear Druggie,

Flowers and chocolate won't do anything your personality hasn't proven. Your woman knows who you are, so just be yourself. Offer her the rest of the pizza you've already eaten half of. Give her a hug, after you've wiped the Cheeto dust off your fingers and onto the frayed undershirt you're still wearing after three days. Just show her you care, even if that's by giving her the Disney+ password. She needs the nostalgia more than you need *The Mandalorian*. After all, who knows, afterwards you might "Kiss the Girl" or even "Go the Distance" with her.

Lovingly,

Earl

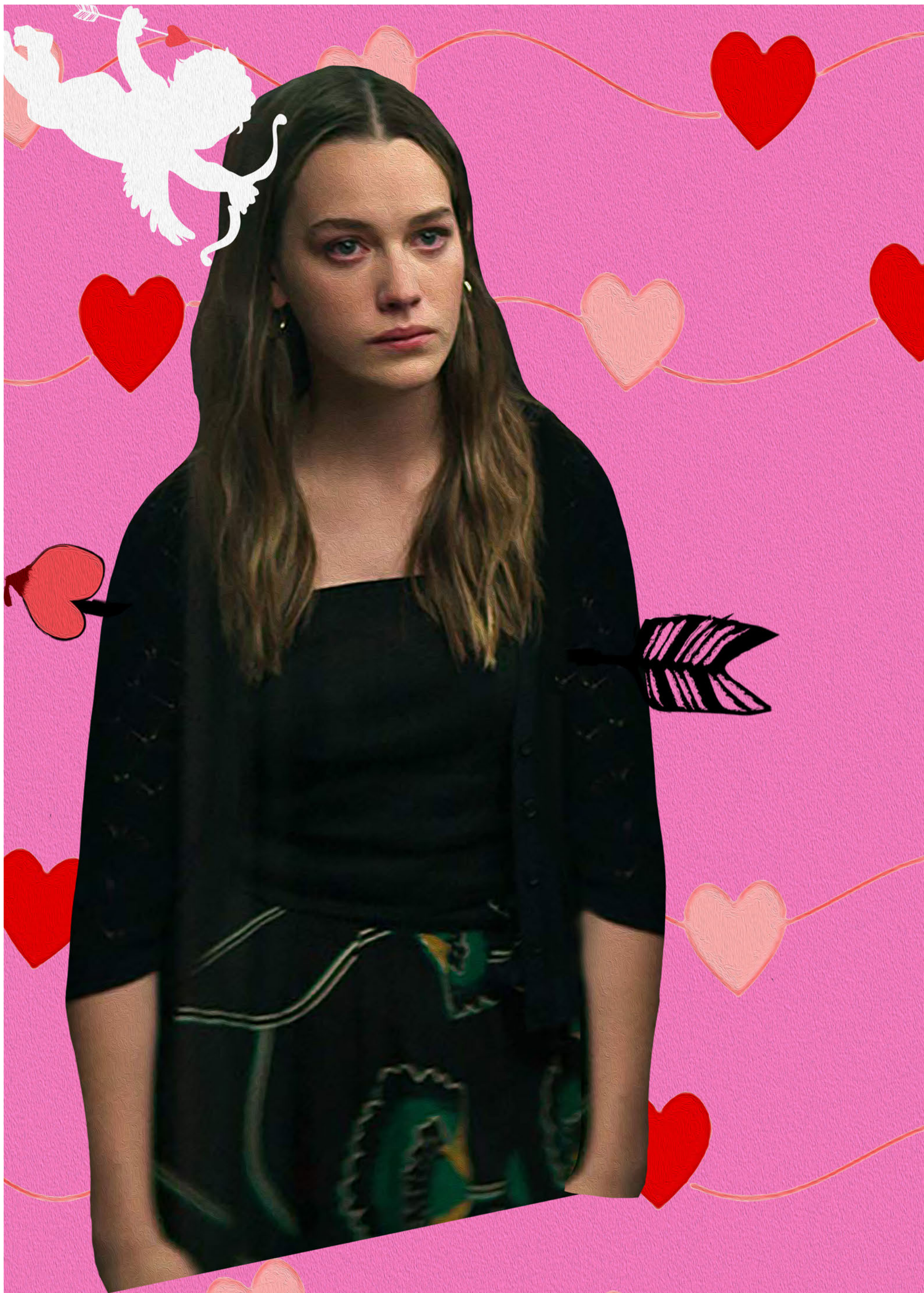


Listomania*

How to make someone fall in love with you

- Stand outside their dorm room with a boombox
- Leave them on open on Snapchat
- DM their ex on Instagram
- Take them out to Ray
- Photoshop them into pictures with you
- Bring them chicken nuggets on Thursday
- Go to the chapel with them
- Express your feelings in Morning Mail
- Steal a golf cart and drive them to their classes
- Hide under their bed
- Give them all your Friarbucks
- Tell Dot to tell them how you feel
- Buy their Black and White Ball ticket (if \$20 isn't an act of love, I don't know what is)
- Wear clean clothes
- Wear their clothes
- Request their location on Find My Friends
- Watch *You* for tips
- Get them the flame from Slavin lawn instead of a candle

*Listomania and Tiffany & Earl and Friartire are satirical pieces that do not reflect the views of Providence College or The Cowl. PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEEDPIX.COM



LOVE LASTS FOREVER