

# The Cowl

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## As Cases Spike, COVID Concerns Grip PC Community *With Off-Campus Students on Lockdown, PC Aims to Stop the Spread*

by **Andrea Traietti '21**  
Editor-in-Chief  
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News Co-Editor

COVID-19

Slowly but steadily, unease crept across campus early on Tuesday as rumors began to spread that a number of off-campus students had received positive COVID-19 test results. Over the course of the day, concern grew into near-panic for many as students began to communicate with one another about what they had heard and as more details emerged.

Late Tuesday night, around 10 p.m., students received their first concrete piece of information of the day, though maybe not what they were hoping for: effective immediately, students living off-campus were to quarantine for an unspecified period of time.

The late-night email from Dean Steven Sears on Sept. 15, effectively putting off-campus students in lockdown, sent shockwaves across campus.

Early last week, the College saw its first real increase in confirmed COVID-19 cases with three positive test results on Monday, Sept. 7. Five more positive results followed the next day, putting students and faculty on edge, as it was unknown whether or not this was evidence of a growing trend, soon to explode into an outbreak or merely a blip of isolated cases.

When cases dropped down to two on Sept. 9 and then stayed at zero for the next several days, it seemed as though PC had escaped what many thought had the potential to become an outbreak. But within 24 hours on Tuesday, it was clear that any sense of security offered by the low number of cases on the dashboard was not going to last.

News of positive cases prompted many off-campus students to seek rapid testing options at sites off campus, separate from the on-campus testing facility that PC has been using for its surveillance testing of students and faculty.

By the afternoon, news that some of these off-campus tests had returned positive added to the already heightened sense of anxiety on campus. In an afternoon meeting with several students on different club executive boards, Dean Sears indicated that he had received reports of confirmed cases both on and off campus, and that at least one of those cases had been reported to the College from an off-campus testing location.

With no official statement made to the entire PC community, and no updates to the testing data, students were left wondering what course of action the College might take—and if they themselves might have been exposed. That night, however, these questions were answered with the email sent by Sears mandating the immediate isolation and quarantine of all off-campus students.

The first line of Dean Sears' email referenced the off-campus tests: "We have received reports of students who have tested for COVID-19 tests on their own, at off-campus facilities." He continued, "Some of these results have been reported to the College by the Rhode Island Department of Health; others have been self-reported." Sears asked students who had received a positive test from any off-campus location to contact Kathy Kelleher in the Student Health Center.

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BRIANNA COLLETTI '21/THE COWL

Before being allowed entry into the Peterson Center testing site, all students have their temperatures taken.



### A Story of Resilience: Keasel Broome '14

by **Jack Belanger '21**  
Sports Co-Editor

FEATURE

When we see athletes celebrate after winning a championship, it shows us what it looks like to reach the pinnacle of sports. We witness these athletes in their finest moments. What we miss are the struggles and challenges they must endure just to step on the field. For every MVP season, there is a story behind the athlete. Fans hear about the transformation the player makes on the field to become the best at their craft, but what often goes unnoticed are the trials they had to face behind the scenes. In some ways, the trials make those successful seasons more remarkable.

In 2014, the Providence College Men's Soccer Team had their best season in program history. Not only did the team win its first-ever Big East championship, they also made a run in the national tournament where they made it to the College Cup Semifinal. During the Semifinal, they pushed the University of California, Los Angeles into double overtime but fell short of making the championship, losing 2-3. It was a record-setting year for the team, in large part thanks to the man in the net, Keasel Broome '14.

Keasel Broome/Page 22

PHOTO COURTESY OF KEASEL BROOME

### Humanities Forum Sparks Campus-Wide Debate

by **Savannah Plaisted '21**  
Opinion Co-Editor

EDITORIAL

Over the past several months, Providence College administrators and representatives released multiple statements that claimed they were committed to combating racism and improving diversity on our campus. However, inviting academics like Spencer Klavan to speak on this campus contradicts the commitments that the College made, and serves as evidence that PC is not seriously committed to acting on these promises.

Klavan was invited to speak on the Iliad at last Friday's Humanities Forum. While the topic of Klavan's presentation on campus was not controversial, his personal Twitter account was discovered to be riddled with inflammatory rhetoric on topics of race, gender, and sexual orientation. He also expressed his position on wearing masks, through publicly encouraging people to not wear them.

One of Klavan's retweets was "BLM is the KKK in black face," and one of his personal tweets was "Anyway, there are two genders, you're probably not racist, and America is excellent."

Given that we are currently experiencing one of the biggest national civil rights movements in history, and the fact that the College had been called out for the use of racist language in a safety advisory released by the Office of Public Safety the day before, it could not have been a worse time to host someone with views like Klavan's on campus.

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### Opinion

Read about why we should focus on upcoming local and state elections.

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### A&E

Check out how musical artists have added their voices to the BLM movement.


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### Portfolio

Marelle Hipolito '22 reflects on the anniversary of 9/11 in "Forever and Every Day."

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## Featured Friar: Sebastian D'Ambrosio '21 *Tackling COVID through Team Effort*

by Eileen Cooney '23  
News Staff

FEATURED FRIAR

This week, the Featured Friar spotlight shines upon Sebastian D'Ambrosio '21.

D'Ambrosio, a Redondo Beach, CA native and a senior quantitative economics major with minors in mathematics and theology, is president of the Providence College Men's Club Rugby Team. The team competes in the Rugby Northeast Conference and is formally recognized by both the New England Rugby Football Union and USA Rugby. It has a reputation as being one of the premier collegiate club rugby programs in the greater New England area.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the team has not been able to practice formally together, nor have they been able to compete in any collegiate games. As is clearly evident, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced almost every club or organization to change its usual methods in order to adapt to the necessary social distancing protocols. Finding ways to adjust becomes especially difficult within the context of sports, and particularly rugby, which is a high contact sport.

Despite these challenges, D'Ambrosio has maintained a commitment to keeping the club rugby team up and running. He says, "As a team, we have been working tirelessly with Chris Schmidt, the head of club sports, to ensure that we develop a plan to reinstate practices in a way that is both safe and sustainable."

The key words here are "safe and sustainable," as the College does not want to bring back club sports prematurely only to have to shut them down again if there is a spike in COVID-19 cases. Thus, the return of club sports will involve a careful balance



D'Ambrosio '21 seen playing in a game held before COVID-19.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SEBASTIAN D'AMBROSIO '21

of precision and accuracy in order to ensure that it can be done effectively.

In order to do this, D'Ambrosio says they have been trying to work out a plan with the College that could allow for non-contact skills training and conditioning in the hopes of doing an inner club rugby competition. While he acknowledges that this will not be the same as competing against other schools, he says that it could still help the team improve their game by challenging one another.

While one might think that this lull period would lead to laziness and complacency amongst team members, D'Ambrosio says that this challenge has only further motivated his team. He says, "Until a plan is put in place, many of our players are taking it upon themselves to continue prepping for the spring," when he anticipates club

sports may be able to return under more normal circumstances.

Additionally, he said the team has been communicating via group chats to keep the team spirit up, and "there is a lot of momentum and motivation towards off-seasoning training." This intense commitment, even in the face of adversity, is a testament to the spirit of D'Ambrosio and the PC club rugby team.

D'Ambrosio says that the hardest part about these circumstances is not being able to practice out on the field with the rest of the team, as his ultimate goal is to keep the legacy of the PC rugby team alive. When asked about the future of PC club sports, D'Ambrosio advised other club team presidents to do whatever possible to keep the team morale high and look ahead. "Don't get caught up in what you can't do; look

at what you can do to push your team forward."

Another challenge with club sports amidst the pandemic is not being able to recruit new players as effectively. Though the team is currently not practicing together, D'Ambrosio says that PC club rugby has no cuts or tryouts, and he encourages any prospective students to reach out to him about what they can do to prepare if they want to join the team when play resumes.

While it is hard to say that a team can grow stronger when they cannot practice together, D'Ambrosio says that this experience will "in the long run create a greater understanding of the importance of practice and off-season training." When he and his teammates do return to the field, D'Ambrosio expects that the PC club rugby team will continue to shine and carry on its legacy.

## Memorializing 19 Years Since 9/11

by Julia Acquavita '22  
News Staff

CAMPUS

This past Friday, Providence College students and faculty commemorated 9/11 with a beautiful memorial service on the lawn in front of the Arthur F. & Patricia Ryan Center for Business Studies. According to Charlie Dumon '21, President of PC Republicans, the club has been hosting this 9/11 memorial at PC every year since the horrific attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

When asked if the PC Republicans have ever considered coordinating an event with the PC Democrats in future memorial services, Dumon responded by saying that his club has not considered hosting the event with the PC Democrats. The PC Democrats are normally responsible for the Veterans Day memorial service, while the PC Republicans are responsible for the 9/11 memorial. However, Dumon made sure to note that "this event isn't political. Our [PC Republicans] club just has the privilege of hosting it [the 9/11 memorial]."

Regarding how PC students, faculty, and staff can continue to remember and honor the sacrifices and lives lost on this tragic day throughout the rest of the year, Dumon stated that each person



Dozens of flags were displayed in honor of those who lost their lives 19 years ago.

HANNAH LANGLEY '21/THECOWL

can choose to honor the lives lost on that day in their own, special way. Dumon explained that one member of the PC community may show their support by "waving at Providence Police and Fire departments as they drive by on Eaton Street,"

while "for another, it could be praying for the families of those lost."

Regardless of how one chooses to honor the sacrifices made on Sept. 11, 2001, the most important thing to remember is to Never Forget.

# Striking a Blow at Systematic Racism

## PC Community Observes Scholar Strike

by Sydney Olinger '23  
News Staff

CAMPUS

On Sept. 8-9, members of colleges, universities, and their surrounding communities took part in a nationwide strike to promote racial justice. These two days were reserved for people to choose to refrain from their duties and spread awareness regarding the racial tensions in our nation. This event was open to anyone and everyone who wants to participate in promoting anti-racism.

The Providence College Coalition Against Racism, along with members of Black, global, Latin American, women and gender studies, sociology, and anthropology, hosted two Zoom calls during the two days of the strike. Over one hundred people joined the call to listen and learn.

During these virtual meetings, guest speakers ranging from PC faculty to young high school students, spoke about their experiences with racial injustice and strategies and actions to make drastic change within both their communities and the country as a whole.

"As we live through a pandemic that has disproportionately impacted people of color, and Black people in particular, and watched as George Floyd and others were murdered in our streets, it has never been more urgent to understand and dismantle racist institutions, and to stop engaging in racist practices," stated Dr. Jessica Mulligan, a professor in the health policy and management department.

Though racism is a significant issue for many reasons, the main focus of this particular strike and discussion was tackling the problem of racism in schools, whether that be elementary, high school, or higher education institutions.

Dr. Anthony Rodriguez, a professor in the elementary and special education department and one of the guest speakers, discussed his observations of racial injustice on college campuses. Rodriguez explained that public safety officers are simply doing

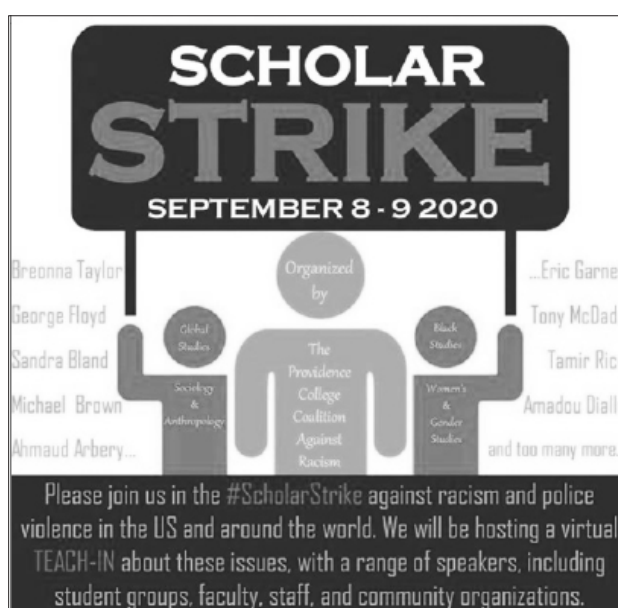


PHOTO COURTESY OF BLAKCATPC

**The Scholar Strike allowed for open conversations about racism and racial injustice.**

their job and following orders from those in higher and professional positions at institutions.

He mentioned that professors call on public safety officers for issues involving Black and Brown students far too often and for things that can be simply dealt with in the classroom. "We as teachers can do better, and to be honest, in the right system, we will do better. But, it should start with the higher education programs that train them. . . We [the higher education programs] plant the seeds of deficit-oriented thinking before they even enter any classroom and have any harm on any student," remarked Rodriguez.

Younger individuals are also recognizing the need to take a stand against racial injustice. Younger generations have come together with their schools and communities to promote this change.

Sixteen-year-old Jaychele Nicole, executive director of Gen Z We Want to Live, based in Providence, is just one example of the many young activists in our

community taking action to change the way school administrators and students view the issue of racism. Gen Z We Want to Live is a youth-run organization dedicated to building a coalition of skilled, young activists prepared to fight for their generation through youth advocacy and political influence.

"As we live through a pandemic that has disproportionately impacted people of color, and black people in particular, and watched as George Floyd and others were murdered in our streets, it has never been more urgent to understand and dismantle racist institutions, and to stop engaging in racist practices"

Nicole proposes three "things to remember" in order to be a successful activist within the PC community, using the acronym FFF: function, funding, and feasibility. Function focuses on whether a solution comprehensively addresses the problem, funding emphasizes making sure a project has the money to run, and lastly, feasibility is important to determine whether a project will be impactful and if people will support it. These are only a few of the powerful speakers who shared their insight, passion, and determination to mend the broken parts of our communities and country.

As faculty and administrators work to improve the education system in which they work, students in the younger generations work diligently to ensure that it is done right. The Scholar Strike lasted only two days, but the issues discussed and progressive actions taken by students and faculty will continue to be not only discussed, but acted upon for years to come.

# Taking on the Presidency During Unprecedented Times

## Congress Hosts Virtual Meeting with Fr. Sicard

by Kyle Burgess '21  
News Co-Editor

CAMPUS

This past Tuesday, Sept. 8, the 71st Providence College Student Congress welcomed special guest Father Kenneth Sicard, O.P., for a virtual town hall meeting over Zoom.

Fr. Sicard succeeded Father Brian Shanley, O.P., as the College's 13th president on July 1 amidst the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and nationwide protests following the murder of George Floyd at the hands of police. Now that students have settled back into the "new normal" of the fall 2020 semester, Student Congress used this opportunity to allow students to submit questions for the new president in a socially-distant environment.

The meeting began with Fr. Sicard discussing his path to the presidency. Originally from nearby Fall River, MA, he moved with his family to Westport, MA at a young age before enrolling at PC in 1974 as an accounting major and first-generation college student. At that time, Sicard had no intention of joining the priesthood; it would not be for another six years after his graduation that he would have a change of heart, joining the Dominican Order while obtaining his M.B.A. at the College.

From there, he spent time as director of the Office of Residence Life and later as executive vice president and treasurer from 2005 to 2019. In his spare



Fr. Sicard addressed recent concerns from the PC community. PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

time, he is an avid cook and often serves his favorite beef dishes to his fellow Dominicans at the priory.

As president of PC, Fr. Sicard recognizes the importance of ensuring the safety of the PC community in the midst of a worldwide pandemic, as well as promoting diversity and inclusion on campus. Regarding the decision to reopen the College for the 2020-21 academic year, he felt having a sense of normalcy would be crucial for the PC community during this turbulent time. "It would have been a shame not to reopen in person," he explained. "And so far, it's been a great success."

He shared that PC has spent \$12 million in preparation for reopening without having to lay off or furlough a single employee of the College. Fr.

Sicard has also taken pride in the College's ability to cover the costs of textbooks purchased through the school bookstore, as one of only two universities to do so across the country, and announced that this initiative would continue into next year.

Many of the submitted questions during this talk also pertained to issues involving race within the PC community. Fr. Sicard stated that more must be done to combat systemic racism present on campus. Specifically referring to the stories shared on the @BlackAtPC Instagram account, he said, "It is hurtful to see how many painful experiences students and faculty have had."

Since his appointment as president, Fr. Sicard has taken multiple steps to

improve what he and his predecessor had begun under the previous administration, most notably by establishing a board committee for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Fr. Sicard also encouraged the student body to provide suggestions about what further actions the College should take, claiming he is "willing to work with any organizations" to improve the experiences of BIPOC students at the College.

Many students who attended the talk are optimistic about future changes during Fr. Sicard's tenure. "I appreciated his candor and willingness to acknowledge that PC's got a lot of room for improvement," said Sean Gray '21, executive vice president of Student Congress. "Our school is in good hands with him at the helm. PC's success in reopening and containing the virus so far is a testament to his leadership."

Senior Class President Malik Washington '21 echoed Gray's praise, claiming that "Fr. Sicard is someone who we, the student body, can trust to take PC to the next level. His genuine desire and concern for students' well-being shines through in his efforts."

Although Fr. Sicard's transition has not been easy, his outreach to the PC community during such tumultuous times has been appreciated by many. He has already had to deal with several issues including the pandemic, race, politics, and other issues. The entire PC community is eagerly looking forward to where he will lead us during these uncertain times.

# Recent Incidents Highlight Race Issues on Campus

## Students and Faculty Speak Out Against Recent Injustices

by Hannah Langley '21  
News Co-Editor

CAMPUS

For several years now, Providence College has put diversity at the forefront of its planning, making it one of the milestones of its PC200 plan. While PC has improved in diversity in some ways, incidents from the past week have proven that the College still has work to do in creating the beloved and accepting community it promotes.

On Thursday, Sept. 10, an email with a safety advisory was sent to the PC community addressed from Koren Kanadian, Chief of Public Safety. This safety advisory addressed potential "suspicious activity" reported earlier that day by a student walking on Admiral Street. As the safety advisory states, the student claimed they "had been approached by a light skinned male, with a heavy build, who was operating a grey minivan." It was then stated the "operator pulled over to the curb but stayed in his vehicle" and then "motioned the victim towards the car while attempting to communicate in Spanish."

This email was sent at 10:17 a.m. Nearly 30 minutes later, a series of emails were sent out by Kanadian, stating that he would like to "recall the message." Later that afternoon, Kanadian addressed the PC community, stating the advisory was

"premature, incomplete, and, most importantly, as worded, racially and linguistically insensitive."

Father Kenneth Sicard, O.P., sent an email the following day stating Kanadian will be taking a 60-day leave of absence and will be taking diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) training during this time. The email also addressed steps PC administration will be taking going forward to help eliminate bias and profiling on campus.

Many students, clubs, and organizations spoke out about the wording Kanadian used in his safety advisory. The Organization of Latin-American Students (OLAS) released a statement on their Instagram account, stating the safety advisory was "harmful for the Latinx community and local Providence community," as it "perpetuates the systematic racism and discrimination actively present at Providence College." OLAS followed this statement by inviting the PC community to attend their Zoom meeting to discuss the matter further.

This was not, however, the only

incident that became a large point of discussion on campus. Information about Dr. Spencer Klavan, a guest speaker invited to discuss Homer's Iliad as part of the Humanities Forum series, became quite the controversy.

It was made apparent that Klavan wrote controversial statements on his social media in regards to topics such as race, gender, and sexual orientation. These remarks, many students believed, did not reflect the PC community or its values, leading many students and faculty to protest Klavan's invitation to speak at the Forum.

In response, Dr. Sean Reid, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, sent an email stating, "The speaker was invited as scholar of the Classics, not because the College or the Humanities Forum Committee endorse the comments he makes on social media."

Dr. Raymond Hain, the Associate Director of the Humanities Forum Committee, defended Klavan's

presence at the Forum, saying, "it is nevertheless worth keeping in mind that it has always been our practice to invite a broad range of viewpoints to the Forum, including conservative political voices. I believe it is unavoidable that a speaker series that strives to maintain a robust and diverse range of perspectives will at times trouble members of our community, and my hope is always that the proper response is robust intellectual engagement and discussion."

This incident also led to many students, faculty, and staff within the PC community to speak out against Klavan's invitation and the defense behind continuing to allow him to speak despite the protest. To learn more about the student backlash surrounding this article, including responses by the PC community, read "What is the Purpose of a Humanities Forum?" by Savannah Plaisted '21 and The Cowl's Letters to the Editor in this issue.

These incidents come to PC during an already tumultuous and uncertain time. In his address to the PC community following the safety advisory, though, Fr. Sicard recognized the need for change, saying, "what happened [Sept. 10] provided yet more evidence of how far we are from achieving our goal of being a beloved community." As a PC community, let us strive to do as Fr. Sicard implores and create "concrete steps to address the systematic racism that exists on our campus."

PHOTO COURTESY OF PNGIO.COM

# Off-Campus Students Await Quarantine Update

## COVID-19

Continued from front page

The email contained another directive for mandatory testing the following morning as well. The only instruction given by Sears was that all off-campus students were to report to the Peterson Recreation Center between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sept. 16. This caused widespread panic amongst off-campus students, who all rushed to the testing site that morning, resulting in extremely long waiting times beginning as early as 7:30 a.m. and lines that wrapped all the way around the parking garage below Lennon Field.

Many seniors expressed anger at the lack of organization of the mass testing process. Waiting in an enclosed parking garage for an hour or longer with other students who could potentially test positive was a widespread concern among students.

"I definitely felt anxious waiting in line," said Katrina Aucello '21, who visited the testing site around 10:30 Wednesday morning. "The people behind us were close

to us, which made me feel uncomfortable given that it felt like anyone off-campus could be positive right now and not even know it."

Students expressed that there seemed to be many other ways the College could have organized the testing to make the procedure safer not only for the students waiting in the garage, but also for those working in the testing site. Suggestions included creating time slots based on alphabetical order or by the street on which students reside. "If the College had come up with a more efficient and organized plan for testing today, I think that the long lines could have been avoided, which would have made everyone feel safer," said Aucello.

One member of the senior class said, "Although I recognize the school's efforts in trying to prevent further spreading of the virus, this was the completely wrong way to go about this. Having all the students collect in one area over a five-hour period of time (not to mention with non-thorough cleaning and not enough enforcement of social distancing) is just another opportunity for exposure to the virus."

In response to the long lines today, Dean Sears said, "The long lines were just a snapshot in time of everyone

showing up at one time for testing. My hope is that we have all negative results from our testing today." While these are optimistic hopes, one student reported that another student standing behind them in line received a call notifying them of a positive test result while in the garage. It is incidents like this that have made students feel uneasy about how testing went yesterday, and where events and procedures might go in the coming days.

Many students have begun to express concerns about the College's level of communication and transparency with students, given that the only positive cases on the dashboard since the start of the week were five on Monday, Sept. 14. "I would like to see an increased level of communication and transparency from the school going forward," said Aucello, "especially because students are hearing a lot of conflicting information from their friends, peers, and professors at any given moment."

Another concern amongst students is with the lack of discipline from some students who have been ordered to quarantine. Dean Sears addressed these concerns in another email to all off-campus students on Wednesday night. Explaining that he had received photos of parties off campus, complaints about roommates not following COVID-19 regulations, and reports that off-campus students did not return immediately to their homes as advised following testing Wednesday, Sears said, "I appreciate how difficult this is and I really do sympathize, but let's be the community we are meant to be, make good decisions, and keep our Friar family together. This is not a request, or a plea. It is an expectation and our community deserves it."

Dean Sears concluded his email with a reminder about quarantine protocol, and offered students support, saying, "The College will continue to provide support as you navigate the coming days, and we are here for you if there are things you need. We are at a critical juncture, and it will take all of us to get through it successfully, working together."

As the College continues to test more students, contact trace, and track down the results of any tests performed off-campus, students, especially those off-campus, await the results from Wednesday's mass testing, news about when quarantine will end, and any updates to the College's coronavirus data dashboard. Now, the fate of the semester remains as unclear as ever, and the coming days will prove a test of students' willpower, the administration's ability to respond to an outbreak, and the resilience of the PC community as a whole.



Off-campus students attended mandatory testing before beginning quarantine.

BRIANNA COLLETTI '21/THECOWL

# Candidate's Corner: Mail-In Voting Concerns

by Nicole Silverio '22  
News Staff

POLITICS

With the 2020 presidential election less than two months away, the nominees are preparing to enter the final stages of their campaigns. Democratic nominee Joe Biden and Republican nominee President Donald Trump have both officially selected their running mates; Biden will be on the ballot with California Senator Kamala Harris, and Trump will be on the ballot once again with Vice President Mike Pence.

Although Election Day is on Nov. 4, early and mail-in voting are available options in many states. Early voting begins as early as September in several states, including Minnesota, South Dakota, Illinois, and Michigan. Many other states open for early voting in October. In addition to early voting, the majority of Americans are eligible to vote by mail.

To vote by mail, the United States Postal Service (USPS) recommends that voters request their ballots by Oct. 19 in order to ensure that they are delivered on time. Some states, however, have earlier deadlines for voters to request their ballots (including Rhode Island, which has a deadline of Oct. 13). Specific deadlines and guidelines for early and mail-in voting for individual states can be found online at states' websites or at Vote.org.

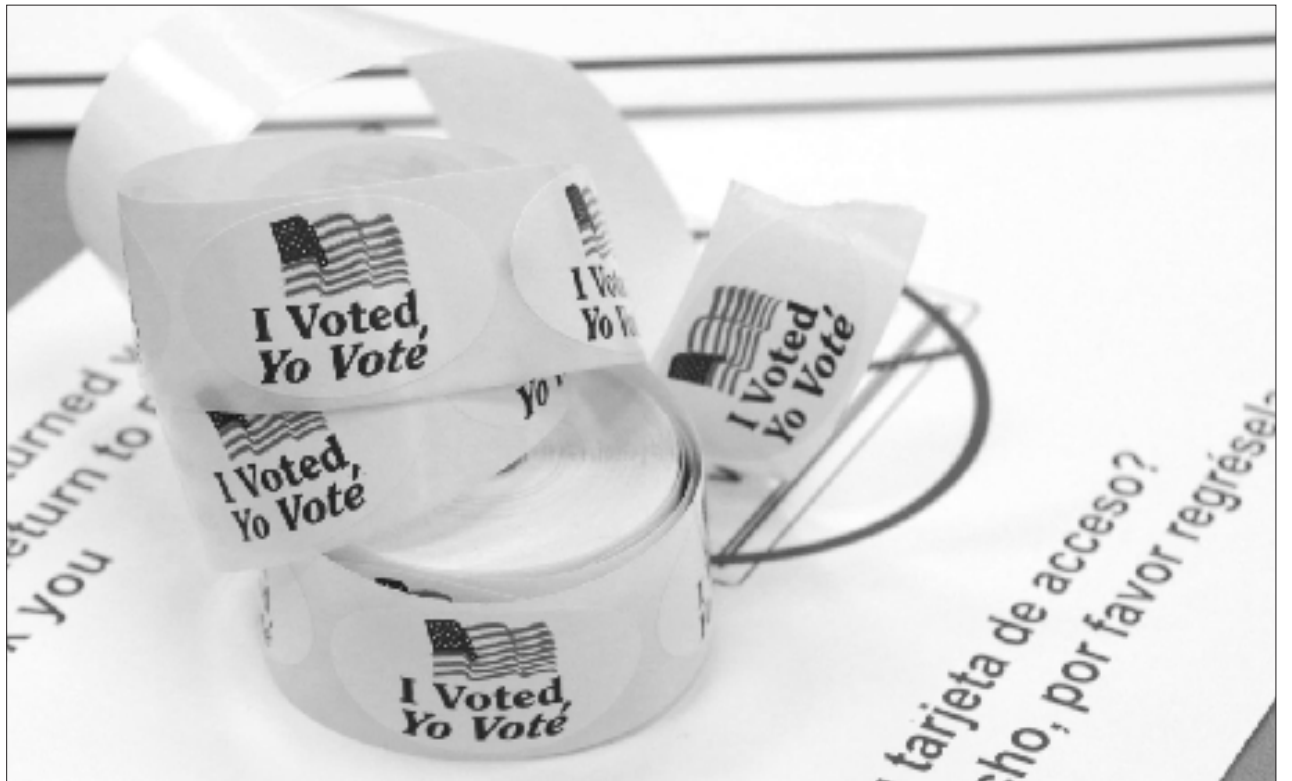
There has been some national discourse on the validity of mail-in voting. President Trump has raised concerns about the security of the process, tweeting: "With Universal Mail-In Voting (not Absentee Voting, which is good), 2020 will be the most INACCURATE & FRAUDULENT Election in history. It will be a great embarrassment to the USA. Delay the Election until people can properly, securely and safely vote???" (July 30) and "There is NO WAY (ZERO!) that Mail-In Ballots will be anything less than substantially fraudulent. Mail boxes will be robbed, ballots will be forged & even illegally printed out & fraudulently

signed. The Governor of California is sending Ballots to millions of people, anyone..." (May 26).

Despite these concerns, the evidence seems to show that mail-in voting does not tend to lead to or allow for more fraud. The USPS and several other independent organizations, including the New York Times, NPR, and the Associated Press, have released findings stating that mail-in voting is largely safe, secure, and valid. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, states with the highest rates of mail-in voting report low rates of voter fraud. Judd Choate, director of elections in the Colorado Department of State, says, "There's just

very little evidence that there is more than a handful of fraudulent (vote-by-mail) cases across the country in a given election cycle."

The COVID-19 pandemic has complicated the voting process for many Americans. With widespread uncertainty on the safety of in-person voting due to the pandemic, the demand for safe and secure early and mail-in voting is far higher than it has been in previous elections. While submitting votes might be more complicated this year, the country has still made voting accessible to all people regardless of the circumstances, giving all Americans the ability to vote this upcoming November.



Voters should request mail-in ballots by Oct. 19 to ensure timely delivery.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KUNR.ORG

## Bursting the PC Bubble

### U.S. Concerned with Fueled Tensions Between China and Hong Kong

by Addison Wakelin '22  
News Staff

WORLD NEWS

In late August, 12 activists were caught by Chinese officials trying to flee to Taiwan and are now detained with little known of their whereabouts. The arrests came in a growing crackdown on pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong, as more protests in Hong Kong are being targeted by China's new

national security law.

The 12 activists were seized by speedboat in the South China Sea. Little is known of the activists' well-being and safety, outraging both pro-democracy Hong Kong people and one of Hong Kong's most prominent allies, the United States.

The detainment of the 12 activists comes in a slew of anti-democratic actions taken by Hong Kong, instigated by an increasingly impatient China to obtain complete autonomy of the region. In early

August, prominent Hong Kong media personality and critic of China and the Chinese Communist Party, Jimmy Lai, was arrested. As Chinese officials state, Lai was arrested on suspicion of "foreign collusion" under China's national security law, which was passed this summer to stop the pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong and the growing criticisms of Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

On Saturday, Sept. 12, the relatives of the detained activists came out and pleaded for their family members to be granted the right to hire their own lawyers, rather than be represented by lawyers appointed by Chinese authorities. They argued that China is violating the activists' legal rights and that their relatives deserve fair legal representation.

In a recent press statement, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo expressed his growing concern over both Hong Kong's and China's handling of the activists. Pompeo cited particular worry about the lack of information reported on the protesters and their safety. In regard to Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam and her leadership, Pompeo stated: "We question Chief Executive Lam's stated commitment to protecting the rights of Hong Kong residents, and call on authorities to ensure due process."

China has been in a contentious relationship with Hong Kong, as it continuously attempts to control the economic and political affairs of the region. The U.S. has also encouraged Hong Kong's independence from China's growing power over the

region. However, China has slowly been garnering more legislative and judicial power. This has resulted in growing resentment by Hong Kongers against mainland China.

Having initially been a British colony, Hong Kong was able to remain semi-autonomous once they gained their independence. However, the passing of China's national security law is one of many instances in which China has tried to maintain and expand its power in a postcolonial Hong Kong.

Tensions between China and Hong Kong have increased to international notoriety, with many Americans even boycotting Disney's new live-action remake of *Mulan*. Last week, the hashtag #BoycottMulan was trending on Twitter following the release of the remake of the acclaimed '90s classic.

The outrage came as the lead actress, Liu Yifei, stated in a message on Weibo, a popular Chinese social media platform, "I support Hong Kong's police, you can beat me up now." The public outrage comes as Hong Kong police continue to clash with pro-democracy protesters, engaging in violence to control the mass protests in the region.

The detention of the 12 activists is only a recent instance of China utilizing their far-reaching legislative power to engage in suppressing pro-democracy Hong Kong protestors.

The whereabouts of the 12 detained activists are still currently unknown, meaning increased protests against Chinese political intrusions into Hong Kong are a likely possibility.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong have attracted international attention.

## Humanities Forum Offensive to Many *Speaker's Hateful Social Media Draws Campus-Wide Attention*

### FORUM

Continued from front page

As word spread on Friday about Klavan's Twitter, a number of students began emailing the Humanities Forum Committee members, calling for the cancellation of the Humanities Forum scheduled for later that afternoon. Additionally, a number of professors and departments expressed their discomfort in allowing the Forum to continue as planned.

Dr. Abigail Brooks, the director of the women's and gender studies program, said in a statement alongside Dr. Zophia Edwards, director of the black studies department, "The WGS and BLS Programs strongly condemn this decision." Dr. Erin Schmidt of the theatre, dance, and film department, and a Humanities Forum Committee member, wrote, "I think it is important that I state, for the record, that I, too, would like to see the Forum cancelled with Mr. Klavan."

Despite this, the Forum went on as planned on Friday at 3 p.m. Student activism, condemnation from three members of the Humanities Forum Committee (including Dr. Schmidt), and calls to cancel the event from multiple professors were not enough.

Dr. Hain indicated that the Humanities Forum Committee does not vote on speakers; rather, he himself has the final say on the selection process. "The Humanities Forum Committee works collaboratively," he said, "but [it] does not vote on each semester's schedule or on particular events."

What, then, is the purpose of having a committee full of professors? If these events are put on for the advancement of student knowledge, should students not have a say in picking speakers? Dr. Hain stated, "Now that the Forum is part of the Humanities Program, I hope eventually to include one or more students in the Program in the work of the Forum committee." This, however, is part of a long-term plan, so there is no indication of

when students might be included.

Sean Reid, the Provost, issued a statement just minutes before the end of the Forum, explaining that the problematic nature of Klavan's Twitter had been brought to the College's attention on Wednesday, Sept. 9. Yet, despite the fact that this discovery was made far enough in advance to have cancelled the Forum, the College made the determination that Klavan's rhetoric was not hateful enough to cancel the event, and concluded that a cancellation would "set a bad precedent for the expression of diverse viewpoints and for the possibility of open debate."

Is it not more important to vet such individuals before inviting them to campus to ensure that their public statements are in line with the values of the College and not offensive to members of the Providence College community? Dr. Hain wrote in his explanation to the Humanities Forum Committee, "I believe the best response is to include a broad range of views rather than to exclude individuals who do not agree with one or more political perspectives."

However, racism, homophobia, and sexism must not be considered political perspectives; they are human rights issues. While some of Klavan's rhetoric on Twitter does express his political affiliation, the issue at hand is the blatantly hateful statements made in several tweets. Statements to which several members of the PC community took offense.

Dr. Hain explained later that in order to vet the candidates for Forums "we look into their professional experience and published work." Klavan's tweets were therefore overlooked completely. Inviting a speaker to campus involves endorsing the whole person—racist, sexist, transphobic, and homophobic tweets included. The very fact that he was invited to speak only on the Iliad is no excuse for giving him a platform.

It is also notable that Dr. Hain responded to the allegation of homophobia on the part of Dr. Klavan with: "Dr. Klavan himself is married to a man, and therefore the



One of Klavan's offensive retweets in relation to members of the BIPOC community.

accusation of homophobia should at the least be more nuanced than it appears in the messages critical of his visit."

Internalized homophobia is defined as "the type of homophobia occurring in a homosexual person, often associated with self-loathing, self-censure, and self-censorship," (Medical Dictionary). In other words, individual members of the LGBTQ+ community can be homophobic, in the same way that a female can be sexist. Being part of a community does not exempt one from being discriminatory against said community or its members. Dr. Hain's comment in no way excuses the obvious homophobia displayed in Klavan's tweets.

remained on, the only people who were able to see the questions asked were the hosts. Thus, no public statements could be made by students or staff.

Dr. Hain reported that this format was put into place in August when decisions for the Forums were being finalized. Yet, earlier in the week, a teach-in event that was open to the entire student body and staff, was not censored and allowed for all participants to share their voices. Dr. Hain stated, "The Zoom webinar format allows for a couple different ways to take audience questions, and we decided to experiment with written questions since this was our first Forum Zoom event."

Censorship is extremely harmful

**"I honestly feel like Dr. Hain missed the point of students trying to get it cancelled."  
-Kaila Jean-Charles '22**

Dr. Hain addressed student concerns about the Forum, saying, "We have three events scheduled this fall that, I hope, those critical of today's guest will be glad to see on our schedule: a two week series devoted to the consideration of John Lewis, and a conversation with Thomas Chatterton Williams in November."

It is also absolutely no consolation that the future forums were cited. These planned events will not make up for the racism expressed by Spencer Klavan in his tweets and endorsed by the College via his invitation to speak.

Kaila Jean-Charles '22 stated on the matter, "I honestly feel like Dr. Hain missed the point of students trying to get it cancelled. I believe the response was inadequate and invalidated the opinions of the majority. It rested too much on assumptions and honestly felt like a slap in the face."

As a form of protest against this event, students and professors alike intended to change their profile pictures on Zoom to either screenshots of Klavan's tweets or a Black Lives Matter fist with a rainbow. While the Q&A function

to the practice of "respectful discussion and the representation of a diverse range of viewpoints," which is what Dr. Hain claimed is always the goal of the Humanities Forum Committee. All future Humanities Forums must be completely open Zoom lectures in order to properly hear all viewpoints and engage in discussion.

The lack of proper vetting on the part of the Humanities Forum Committee, the censorship of the event itself, and the unfounded and ill-informed "justifications" for allowing the event to continue as scheduled all serve to put PC, yet again, at odds with its student body, specifically members of the BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities. It comes as no surprise that students are left leading the charge towards legitimate change on campus.

Students are exhausted from bearing the burden of the College's inaction, but they nonetheless are willing to take on leadership responsibilities in the Humanities Forum Committee, and similar institutions. Such student involvement is much needed and well-deserved. Crumbs are not the same thing as a place at the table.



Evidence of Klavan's hateful rhetoric directed towards the LGBTQ+ community.

# Letter to the Editor

## Does Freedom of Expression Have a Place on Our Campus?



by Sean Gray '21  
Executive Vice President of the 71st Student  
Congress-Guest Writer

I found the Provost's decision about the Humanities Forum with Dr. Spencer Klavan last Friday, in a word, disappointing. While Dr. Klavan's topic was not controversial, as he spoke about the *Iliad*, his social media presence certainly is. Aside from being a classicist, Dr. Klavan is an internet provocateur who often tweets harshly and hatefully about issues of race, gender, and even the COVID-19 pandemic. Anyone who takes a few minutes to look through his Twitter can find plenty of remarks that do not align with the College's Catholic and Dominican values. The College has barred many speakers and events

for that reason before, but they did not employ that rationale in the case of Dr. Klavan. I am bothered that the administration seems to apply this standard only selectively.

I can respect the arguments Dr. Raymond Hain and Provost Sean Reid made in an email on Friday afternoon. They expressed fair concerns about academic freedom, censorship, and the irrelevance of Dr. Klavan's inflammatory remarks to his topic at the Forum. To conclude, Provost Reid wrote, "As a College committed to free expression of diverse viewpoints, cancelling speakers who express beliefs with which we may disagree sets a dangerous precedent." Fair enough. As an academic institution, we *should* bring in diverse and even controversial speakers. The exploration of different, even challenging, ideas is central to the growth of any college-aged individual.

But the College's track record of censorship tells a much different story than Dr. Hain or Provost Reid presented. In practice, Providence College has not been committed to a "free expression of diverse viewpoints" at all. Proposed student events and speakers across the political spectrum—everything from the Vagina Monologues and PC Proud to Guy Benson and Ben Shapiro—have been rejected, cancelled, or obstructed because an aspect of that event or that speaker's history allegedly did not align with the College's mission.

Take, for instance, a recent proposal from the Board of Programmers. BOP attempted to bring in a group called "Speak About It" to present about sexual assault and the importance of consent. The group's website lists Planned Parenthood as one of many resources in a guide about sexual health, however, and because of that, the Office of Mission and Ministry denied BOP's proposal. Planned Parenthood had nothing to do with the topic at hand, but the mere affiliation apparently warranted a rejection. This is only one example of

a long list of speakers and events, often from liberal or progressive groups, that the College has rejected not for the content of their presentation, but rather the character, history, or affiliations of the proposed speaker.

Given a rigorous standard like that, one might hope that the Office of Mission and Ministry would step up and say that a hateful speaker like Dr. Klavan has no place on our campus, no matter the content of his presentation. But they did not. They said nothing, and the College permitted Dr. Klavan's event to carry on. The Provost is new to our community, only taking up his post in July, so I do not fault him for his ignorance of our College's history of selective censorship. But if he is truly committed to making PC a place that allows the "free expression of diverse viewpoints," I strongly urge him to investigate how the College has historically ignored the value of free expression.

Our choice is simple. Either we can hold every speaker and every event to the high standard of aligning with Catholic and Dominican values and allow no one who challenges those ideals to speak on our campus, or we can truly commit ourselves to freedom of expression and the exploration of diverse views. The administration has repeatedly demonstrated they cannot do the former fairly or consistently. It is time to try the latter. We need to dismantle the College's extensive, inconsistent system of censorship. We must give student groups the freedom they deserve to celebrate diverse voices, explore challenging ideas, encourage important debates, and pursue Veritas in every aspect of their lives. Only then could we say in earnest that Providence College is "committed to free expression of diverse viewpoints."

I look forward to working with the President, the Provost, other members of administration, and the student body at large to make this possible.

# Letter to the Editor

## What Is the Purpose of the Humanities Forum?



by Dr. Raymond Hain  
Associate Professor of Philosophy  
and  
Associate Director of the  
Humanities Program

The controversy over Dr. Spencer Klavan's visit offers us an opportunity to reflect on the vision of the Humanities Forum. Let me note first, however, that I speak solely for myself as founder and director of the Forum, and readers should not presume that my views are shared by all or any of the members of the Humanities Forum planning committee (indeed, the committee was divided last week on whether or not we should cancel Dr. Klavan's visit).

I founded the Humanities Forum in the fall of 2015 with one purpose: to provide regular extracurricular opportunities for the entire campus

community to consider important and diverse themes in the humanities. Integrated into the DWC periodization schedule as well as the Humanities Reading Seminars, we have held over 80 events, including a wide range of guest speakers from on and off campus, film screenings, musical performances, and panel discussions. Since its founding, the Forum has received support from over 25 departments, programs, and offices, and has established itself as a regular part of campus life.

The Forum has always found a way to include a wide range of views, both scholarly and political. We have hosted many guests one might associate with the "left" (such as Kwame Anthony Appiah, whose essay "There is no such thing as western civilisation" has since been integrated into the syllabi of some DWC teams) as well as the "right" (such as R. R. Reno, editor of *First Things*, who recently wrote a scathing critique of federal and state responses to the pandemic). We hosted Nikole Hannah-Jones, the founder of the New York Times' "1619 Project." This fall we will host Thomas Chatterton Williams, whose more centrist views on race and race relations are important current contributions to public debate. And I hope we will welcome Glenn Loury to campus in the near future to reflect on similar issues from a more conservative perspective.

This vision was tested last week. Dr. Klavan, a classicist educated at Yale and Oxford, was invited to speak on Homer's *Iliad*. He also maintains an active social media presence with comments critical of numerous movements on the left, including Black Lives Matter. In light of these comments, a number of students and faculty demanded that the Forum cancel Dr. Klavan's visit. We miss the forest for the trees if we focus on whether and to what extent these comments are as

bad as his detractors claim. The deeper and more pressing question for us as a community is whether we must prevent those who disagree with us on important matters from sharing in our intellectual life as an institution of higher learning.

So-called "cancel culture" asserts the proper response to those who disagree with us in profound ways is to prevent them from speaking. And so the movement last week to cancel our event was not one of critical engagement but an attempt to prevent it. I believe this is very dangerous to our community and to democracy more broadly. A friend of mine recently said that in the past, his ideological enemies sought him out for debate; now, they simply want him to disappear.

This past summer Thomas Chatterton Williams spearheaded an important and controversial open letter in *Harper's Magazine*. "The free exchange of information and ideas," he wrote, "the lifeblood of a liberal society, is daily becoming more constricted. While we have come to expect this on the radical right, censoriousness is also

spreading more widely in our culture: an intolerance of opposing views, a vogue for public shaming and ostracism, and the tendency to dissolve complex policy issues in a blinding moral certainty." There are many dangerous implications of these new developments. Perhaps the most important is that they drive us apart from one another, into our own homogenous communities, communities that look across at each other with puzzlement, then dislike, and finally hatred. As an institution of higher learning, Providence College owes it to our students, and to the society of which we are a part, to model, teach, and encourage a different way of engaging those with whom we disagree.

These are uncertain times. I do not know if the vision I have tried to outline above can continue to animate the Forum here at PC. But as long as I am director it will be the vision that guides my editorial choices. And this means that there will be more opportunities to recommit ourselves either to the open exchange of ideas, or to associating only with those who already agree with us.



Image courtesy of Creazilla

# Using Power for Evil

## *The Dangerous Ignorance of Trump's Diversity Training Ban*

by Kelly Wheeler '21  
Opinion Co-Editor

POLITICS

On Sept. 4, the Trump administration issued a directive prohibiting all executive branch agencies from using government funds to hold diversity training for their employees. In a nation that is flooded with racial tension, this decision is extremely harmful and runs counter to everything that our country desperately needs to establish justice and harmony. The directive demonstrates ignorance of the problems plaguing American society, and, as a result, works to block any progress toward amending them.

According to Russel Vought, director of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget for the Trump administration, diversity training is problematic because it "seeks to undercut our core values as Americans and drive division within our workforce." Given how diversity training aims to educate groups of people about each other's differences so they can work better alongside one another, this statement is both concerning and misguided. Diversity training is not designed to create division—it is designed to bring people together by enhancing



Per a recent directive issued by the Trump administration, Executive branch agencies are now forbidden from holding diversity training for their workforce.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

people's understanding of others' perspectives and experiences. Moreover, values such as respect, cultural awareness, and unity are central to diversity training—so in opposing diversity training, the White House is vehemently opposing these values as well.

In defense of the Trump administration, some research has found that diversity training can be ineffective or even counterproductive at times. However, if the President and his team are basing their directive on this

research, they would know that these negative effects can be overcome if training sessions are made voluntary (which eliminates the backlash that sometimes arises when people feel forced to attend mandatory training), or if diversity training is accompanied by other diversity-focused initiatives (creating employee resource groups, mentorship programs, etc.). Yet, the Trump administration has decided to forgo all diversity training without offering any alternative efforts that would promote a positive attitude towards diversity and inclusion

within the executive workforce. Instead, the memo offers an empty statement that the President "intends to continue to support all Americans, regardless of race, religion, or creed," neglecting to identify any specific ways in which he will do that.

Diversity training can be extremely uncomfortable, as it requires its attendees to have difficult conversations; however, whether it is talked about or not, racism and prejudice exist in our society. By preventing executive branch employees from having these tough discussions, Trump is effectively choosing to ignore racial issues, which, in turn, prevents any improvements from being made. For the Trump administration, it is much easier to avoid discomfort by prohibiting discussions about white privilege and the critical race theory (both terms which the memo refers to using quotation marks, suggesting they are fictitious concepts).

Banning training that educates people about racism, discrimination, and prejudice allows these societal issues to go unaddressed. These issues are a part of our nation's past and present. Unfortunately, thanks to our current leadership, it seems as though they will continue to be a part of our future as well.

# Every Vote Counts

## *Why It is Important to Focus on Smaller Elections*

by Julia McCoy '22  
Opinion Staff

POLITICS

There is no doubt that this year will be defined by politics and governmental elections. Much of the attention in the media and conversation is focused on the presidential race that is to come on Nov. 3. While this is obviously a significant election, it is not the only ticket on the ballot. State and local elections, as well as congressional races, are just as impactful as the presidential election in terms of the effect they have on policy and law.

Though these smaller elections are always important, the recent events shaping today's political climate have heightened the need for more media attention. For example, the Black Lives Matter movement has organized protests in large cities across the country. It is within the jurisdiction of state and local governments to determine how to deal with these protests. Responding to and meeting the demands of the protests falls within the jurisdiction of state and local governments, and they have the ability to create real change on this front.

In some states this year, President Trump chose to deploy the National Guard as a way to "protect" cities from protests that he personally deemed too violent. Since the policing of the protests was happening on a local level, governors were able to effectively reject this deployment and continue to handle the situation on their own.

When considering the ongoing stress of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to remember the unique nature of states and the fact that they are often quite different from one another. COVID-19 was more prevalent in some areas of the country than in others, and it affected local economies differently. In this case, it is more rational to look at state and local-level guidance than to turn immediately to the national stage.

With these pressing issues in mind, it is important to remember to stay involved and attentive regarding state and local elections. The people on those ballots are the most likely to directly impact the state or locality in which you live.

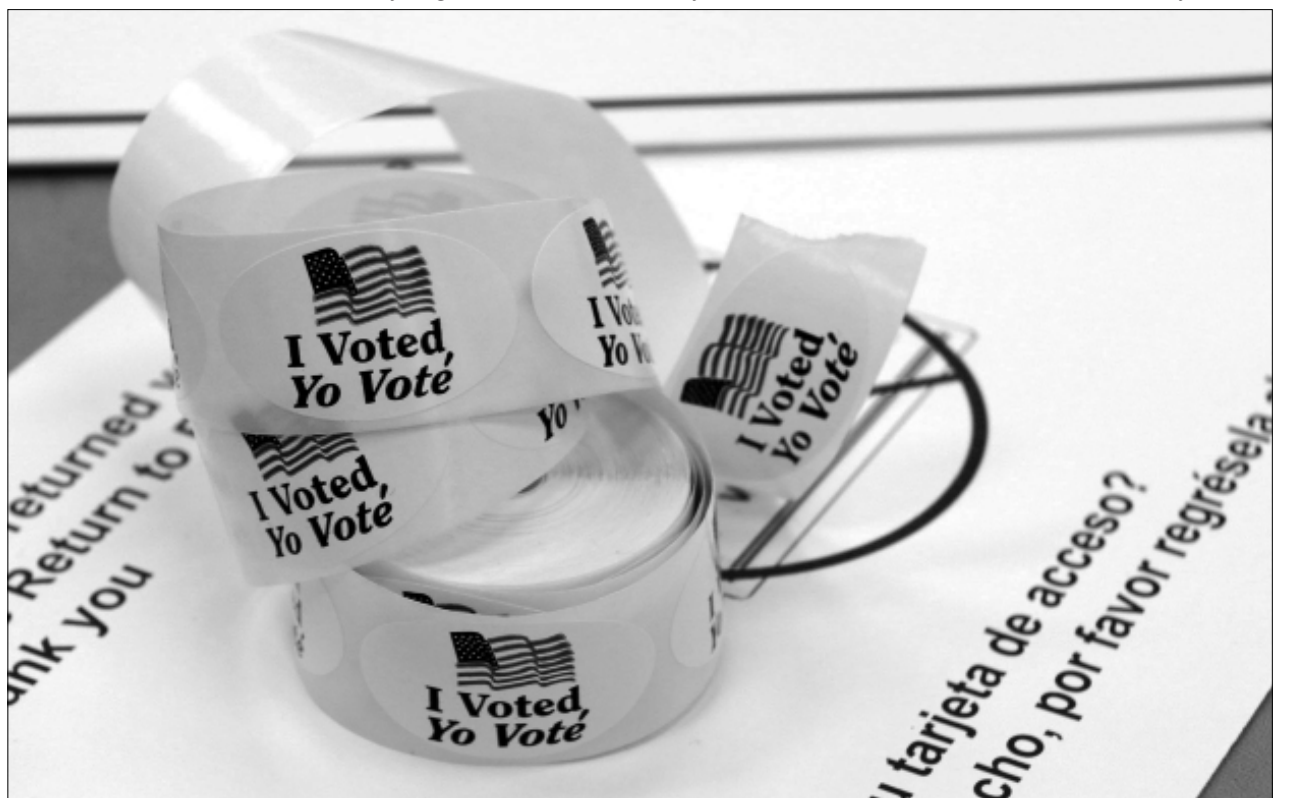
In addition, some congressional seats are up for election this year. On a national level, Congress controls the debate and passage of every single law that goes through Washington, D.C. Though bills must ultimately be signed into law by the President, this avenue is incredibly important and often shapes the language of our laws.

Currently, there is a Republican-run Senate and a Democrat-run House of Representatives. Oftentimes this leads to endless debates and little room for compromise. 35 out of 50 seats in the Senate and all 435 House seats are up for election come November. If more voters participate and pay attention to these elections, the landscape of the Capitol could drastically change, regardless of which party takes control.

These elections are incredibly significant when

considered alongside the Presidential election. The current congressional situation is split, but one race could change it to be in favor of one party or the other. Because the White House is also in an election year, there is always a possibility that one party emerges victorious with control of both the legislative and executive branches.

It is, of course, important to remain focused on the issues surrounding a presidential election. Presidential elections only happen once every four years and they certainly have an effect on the landscape of our country and our political climate. The presidency, however, is not the only elected office that can impact the laws of our government. To stay up to date on smaller elections, which often have a direct impact on our lives, we must stay involved, be informed, and vote locally.



While great emphasis is often placed on voting in the upcoming presidential election, the importance of voting in state and local elections is often overlooked.

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## Some Classes May Be Virtual, But Your Professor Is Not

by **Madeline Morkin '22**  
Opinion Staff

CAMPUS

While students lament a less social, more uncertain semester at Providence College, they need to realize that campus is different for everyone, especially their professors. Most of our professors were here long before us and will remain long after we are gone. During this strange and uncertain time, we all need to empathize with and appreciate the people who got us back to PC this semester, and accept that the necessary campus-wide changes that have been implemented affect them as much as they do us.

Just because our professors are respected adults does not mean that they are settled into the current situation themselves. Like us, they have never been through anything similar to this. For example, Dr. Richard Barry IV said he struggles with his face mask. He said, "I feel this slight sense of panic throughout class as if I have this sort of drowning response."

Similarly, Dr. Margaret Reid, chair of the English department, indicated that she also has concerns brought on by COVID-19. She said, "Many of us care for older relatives who are at risk. So, just like students, we have complicated lives! But you know, 2020 isn't what any of us signed up for."

Perhaps Dr. Barry captures what is missing with online teaching best. He said, "It's so weird at the end of a Zoom lecture you just click off and then you're all completely alone. It's like the most alone feeling. You're pouring it out, your heart, and then all of a sudden everyone's gone."

As college students, we rarely think about the energy and friendliness of PC

as the same characteristics that attracted such great professors to teach and stay here. But, as Dr. J.T. Scanlan of the English department points out, Friar friendliness has fallen. "There is a lot less noise, there is a lot less comic chatter. People are all masked up and relatively silent, kind of waiting for something to happen."

So often, we focus exclusively on our own personal lives, but in doing so, we leave others, including our professors, to deal with their stress, their fear, all alone.

During such a time of confusion, loneliness, and heartache, we must all learn to smile with our eyes, project "thank you" beneath our masks, hold doors open with Clorox wipes, and appreciate every single day we have here. As Dr. Robert Reeder of the English department said, "It's amazing that this [in person direction] is happening at all."

Our faculty, made up of individuals with their own concerns, fears, and experiences related to COVID-19, spent an inconceivable number of hours in preparation for the irregular reality that has unfolded before all of us this fall semester.

Dr. Scanlan suggests that "reality is unyielding, and reality has ways of making plans obsolete very quickly." So, for the time being, he suggests that we all "have to

be loose, and to be nimble, and to be able to change at a moment's notice. Otherwise, there's just needless tension."

Through small acts of kindness, a stronger effort towards patience, and an understanding of our professors' own stresses, we can ease tensions and find new ways to show Friar friendliness. Professor Janet Letourneau of the marketing department brings attention to this by saying, "I don't care what anyone says, people remember kindness. And people remember how they felt when they were misunderstood."

While empathy may seem impossible during a time when smiles and words are masked, students should remember to reciprocate the hard work and open communication that their professors are exemplifying so strongly.

Perhaps Dr. Scanlan provides the best guidance: "Most of us are hoping that our better angels will lead the way. We are all trying to do the best we can, and we should all give people a little extra room, you know? A little extra space to try to find those better angels."

This semester, give your professors a little extra space, let's say six feet or so, but do not forget to smile at them with your eyes.



Some professors are conducting classes in outdoor classrooms this fall. JACK DOWNEY '23/THE COWL

# TANGENTS & TIRADES

## Preparing for the "Real World"

"College will prepare you for the real world." This is what teenagers hear from the time they enter high school to when they walk across the stage at commencement as adults. Why, then, is it that so many college students enter the real world with no idea how to adequately exist in it? Sitting behind a desk in an office is not the real world, even if you can see the real world from your skyline view.

College students would be remiss thinking that a career is the real world. If you have a free elective or need to fulfill a core curriculum requirement, take a course on contemporary social issues, like Dr. Kara Cebulko's immigration course. Or learn about historically marginalized communities with a course like Race and Politics in the Americas or Race and Racism. Maybe study abroad for a semester to learn about African, Asian, or Latin American cultures.

Do not do it simply to satisfy a core curriculum requirement. Do it so that you are prepared for the real world. Do it so that you know how to respect your coworkers of different ethnicities. Do it because your future child's best friend could be undocumented. Do it so that your five-dollar bills go into an empty hat on the sidewalk instead of an empty glass at the bar. This is the real world: you could be the richest attorney, accountant, or engineer in America and still not know how to make a fat cat well-rounded.

—Nicole Patano '22

## The Novelty of Masks

Looking around one's house, you are likely to come across items that were once exciting or important to you, but no longer are.

All of that Reebok CrossFit apparel you bought when it was popular in 2014 collects dust in the basement next to the treadmill you seldom use. Stuffed in the back of your kitchen cabinet is that once-trendy soda machine thing you bought from Bed, Bath and Beyond.

It is becoming apparent that another item, while not a discretionary one, is facing a similar fate and going out of style. Masks on campus are visibly being worn less and less, as the novelty of wearing them is quickly waning.

Students who were presumably nervous about disciplinary consequences for not wearing masks were surprised to see that you can get away with neglecting to wear one. However, the important question is not whether you can get away with not wearing masks, but why you should wear them.

Providence College has invested large amounts of time, energy, and resources in order to prevent outbreaks on campus.

Thousands of disinfecting wipes, reconfigured class release times to stagger the departure of students from buildings, and even a website dedicated to informing students about COVID-19-related updates has been created.

All of these efforts are monumental in respect to the simple act of wearing a mask, yet these efforts are all for naught if masks are not worn.

—Joseph Kulesza '22

## Treat the Pandemic with Sensitivity

The loss of a loved one is no joking matter. In this time of unrest for so many, Providence College students, faculty, and administration need to recognize the immense burden the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on everyone's personal lives. We must strive to foster a community of compassion, self-awareness, and consideration.

Hundreds of thousands of families have lost loved ones to COVID-19; it is sad, but true. Recently, however, many people have made COVID-19 the subject of memes. There seems to be a palpable disconnect between these memes and the fact that death is serious and the virus that runs so violently around us can take hold of anyone at any second.

Although you may not have been personally impacted by the pandemic, it is insensitive to assume that your experience is universal. It is a privilege to be able to say that COVID-19 has not significantly impacted your life beyond having to follow new guidelines and take classes over Zoom.

Simply put, everyone on PC's campus needs to take a step back, realize their place in the grand scheme of our world, and recognize that words and actions can affect others so much more powerfully than they assume.

—Olivia Bretzman '22

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Presented by The Office of Alumni Relations & The Office of Student Activities and Cultural Programming



ENJOY FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN ROOM

**Paint & Sip**

SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2020 | 7:00PM ZOOM

This event will take place virtually on Zoom. All participants who payed the registration fee of \$10 and has registered online must pick up their art set outside of the Concannon Atrium.

Registration ends Thursday, September 17th at 12:00PM.

The link to RSVP will be in the morning mail!

Please pick up your paint set in front of the Concannon Atrium at 6:30




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# PHOTOGRAPHY

September 17, 2020



BRIANNA COLLETTI '21/ THE COWL



BRIANNA COLLETTI '21/ THE COWL



JACK DOWNEY '23/ THE COWL

**ABOVE:** Students attended the “Grab & Go” event hosted by Student Activities and Cultural Programming on Sunday, Sept. 6, where everyone could make fun decorations for their dorm rooms. PC Republicans organized the annual 9/11 Memorial on Friday, Sept. 11. Students gathered in prayer and assisted in creating the flag display on the lawn in front of the Arthur F. and Patricia Ryan Center for Business Studies to honor those lost 19 years ago.

**LEFT:** Colin Fulmer '24 and Corinna Gilmore '24 attended the first BOP event of the year on Saturday, Sept. 12. Students at the BOP Kick Off enjoyed music and merch, while hanging out together on Slavin Lawn.

**BELOW:** The Motherland Dance Group held outdoor dance classes on Saturday, Sept. 12 on Slavin Lawn. The President, Joleen Owusu-Sekyere '21, and Vice President, Anne-Deyssa Victor '21, instructed attendees and taught them some new moves that we may see in the group's next performance!



SAMANTHA BUTTITTA '23/ THE COWL

# ROVING PHOTOGRAPHY

Page 12

September 17, 2020

*What is the most embarrassing fashion trend you have rocked?*



**"Sparkly velour tracksuit pants."**

Shay Toohey '21



**"Wearing socks too high."**

Jonathan Laduke '24



**"Lululemon headbands."**

Kendall Terchek '24



**"Nike Pros."**

Declan Mulholland '23



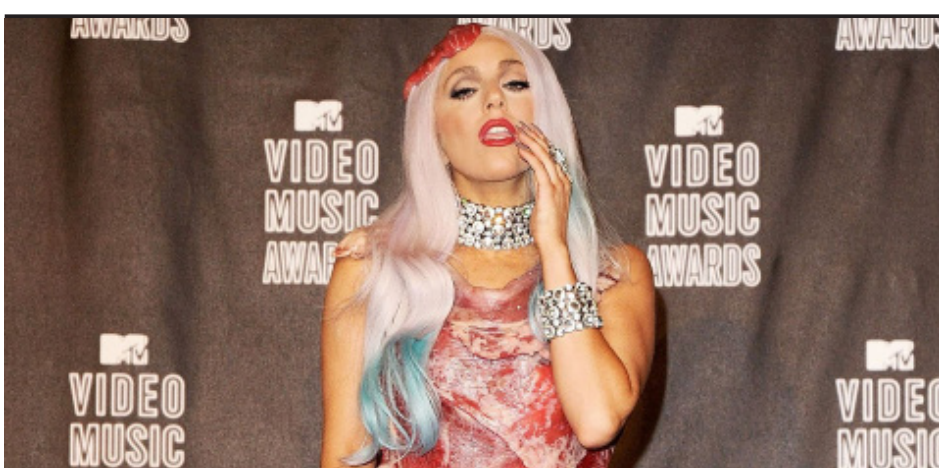
**"Camouflage crocs."**

Jared DiBella '22



**"Monochrome outfits."**

Audrey White '22



**"Raw meat."**

- Lady Gaga

PHOTO COURTESY OF MTV

Photos by Aislinn Hoover '21, Staff Photographer

September 17, 2020

## The 2020 Venice Film Festival: A New Normal *Female Directors Make History Despite COVID-19*

by Daniel O'Neill '21  
A&E Staff

FILM

As the first international film festival during the era of COVID-19, the Venice Film Festival ran for 10 days and showcased 18 films. This year, a new record was established as eight films by female directors won top awards in the main competition. Filmmakers and actors alike traveled to Venice from all over the world, showing that going to the movies can be done successfully if COVID-19 guidelines are followed. Due to the impact that the pandemic has had on the United States, many highly anticipated films did not make it to the festival.

As the disease spread rapidly throughout Europe, Asia, and North America, many major film festivals decided to outright cancel their events. The Venice Film Festival organizers eventually decided to go through with the festival, since Italy managed to slow the rate of infection after a strict lockdown period. At a time when the world is filled with uncertainty, the Venice Film Festival managed to act as a symbol of international solidarity in the arts. The festival allowed both fans and creators to celebrate the expertise, creativity, and dedication of filmmaking during these harrowing times.

The film that came out on top at the conclusion of the festival was *Nomadland* from the United States. Frances McDormand stars in the film, which takes place during the 2008 global financial collapse. The director of this film, Chloé Zhao, attended the festival virtually with Frances McDormand. They won the Golden Lion, the top award at the festival. The previous year, the Golden Lion was awarded to Todd Phillips who directed the film *Joker*. Zhao is the first female director since Sofia Coppola in 2010 to win the Golden Lion.

The film resonated with many critics, with the

storyline following McDormand as a struggling nomad after the global financial crisis in 2008. Many see the plot to be symbolically representative of the decline of the United States in recent times.

While the world struggles to recover from the pandemic, the organizers of the Venice Film Festival showed that it is still possible to appreciate the arts through strict social distancing rules and guidelines. Even though the presence of Hollywood talent was much lower this year compared to previous years

due to travel restrictions from the United States to Europe, the United States was represented well by directors and actors. The jury for the festival consisted of President Cate Blanchett, along with Joanna Hogg, Christian Petzold, and Ludivine Sagnier.

The Venice Film Festival can set a precedent for how other festivals may proceed with the correct social distancing requirements. The winner of the Golden Lion, *Nomadland*, will be released in United States theaters on Dec. 4.



Frances McDormand stars in *Nomadland* which received the Golden Lion award.

GRAPHIC BY PATRICK FULLER '21/THE COWL

## The Show Must Go On: The Virtual VMAs

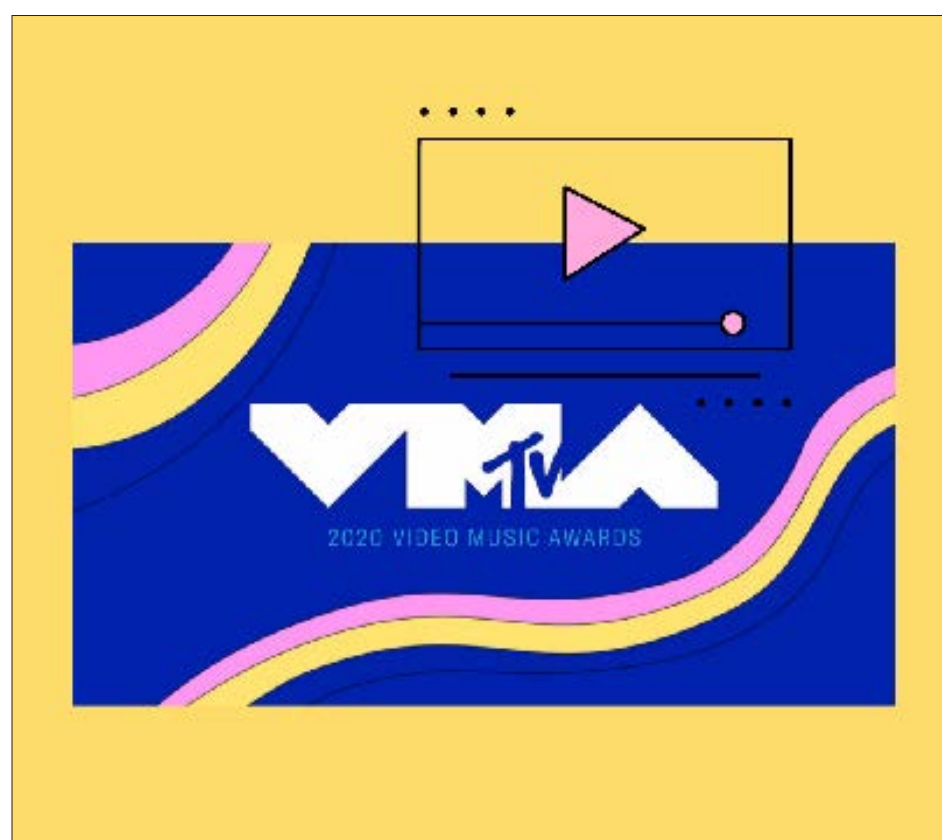
by Madison Palmieri '22  
A&E Staff

MUSIC

On Sunday, Aug. 30, the MTV Music Video Awards, or the VMAs, were not held with their usual packed crowds and live performances, but rather with few spectators and pre-recorded outdoor performances. Hosted by Keke Palmer, the program made reference to many important topics. These topics ranged from the 2020 presidential election, with Palmer encouraging viewers to continue fighting against systemic racism, to the global COVID-19 pandemic and the recent passing of actor Chadwick Boseman. The award show's virtual set-up stands apart as the defining component of this year's ceremony.

The VMAs combined what the *New York Times* described as "disparate, green screen-heavy segments, piped-in crowd noise and soundstage performances" with Palmer's timely commentary and the winners' speeches in a format that has become increasingly familiar over the past six months, as many aspects of everyday life have shifted to virtual settings.

Although largely unwelcome, this change led to the creation of two new categories for the 2020 VMAs: Best Music Video from Home and Best Quarantine Performance. The former prize was awarded to Ariana Grande and Justin Bieber for their collaboration "Stuck With



GRAPHIC BY SARA CONWAY '21/THE COWL

MTV's annual VMAs adjusted to COVID-19 regulations by having the ceremony virtually and adding pandemic related award categories.

U" and the latter prize was awarded to CNCO for "Unplugged at Home." For the sake of normalcy, hopefully there will be no need for these categories next year, but it is a testament to the dedication and talent of such artists as they have adapted

their craft to these challenging times. The work of these talented and dedicated musicians was recognized through other nominations, with some artists receiving multiple awards. Among these artists were Lady Gaga,

who received the MTV Tricon Award, the Artist of the Year Award, and whose collaboration with Ariana Grande, "Rain On Me," won the VMAs for Song of the Year, Best Collaboration, and Best Cinematography; The Weeknd, who received an award in the Video of the Year and Best R&B categories for "Blinding Lights"; and lastly, BTS, who won VMAs for Best Choreography, Best K-Pop, Best Pop, and Best Group for their hit "On." Winners in some of the other competitive categories were Doja Cat for Push Best New Artist, Megan Thee Stallion for Best Hip-Hop with "Savage," Taylor Swift for Best Direction with "The Man," and Coldplay for Best Rock with "Orphans."

The show also honored "Everyday Heroes," or medical personnel working on the front lines of the pandemic whose musical renditions, shared via social media over the past six months, have been a source of comfort, hope, and inspiration.

This human element was much-needed. As USA Today explains, "The pumped-in fake crowd noise and the creepy cartoon silhouettes of clapping audience members were a little too 'Hunger Games'...not to mention the faces (of viewers? fans?) that were projected onto animated skyscrapers and billboards." Although the digital audience eerily resembles that found in video games or in the television show *Black Mirror* and may be disturbing to some, it was perhaps the clearest indication of how rapidly everyday life has changed in 2020, for better or for worse.

# Educating through Music: A Black Lives Matter Playlist

## How Artists are Using Their Platforms to Fight for Justice

by Grace Whitman '22  
A&E Staff

MUSIC

2020 has been a year of surprises and new experiences for everyone all over the world. With that said, one thing that has not changed is the need to fight for racial equality in America.

Since the death of George Floyd at the hands of police in late May of 2020, millions of Americans have taken to the streets to protest against police brutality and the killing of Black people by police officers.

Over the past few months specifically, Black artists have used

their platforms to fight for racial equality. In the music industry, Anderson .Paak released an impactful protest song entitled "Lockdown," which was released on Juneteenth, a holiday that celebrates the liberation of slaves on June 19, 1865. Based on his own experiences at protests this year, .Paak speaks his truth about police brutality and the importance of the Black Lives Matter movement. One lyric reads, "Sicker than the COVID," alluding to the idea that America is facing two deadly viruses—COVID-19, which impacts Black Americans at significantly higher rates than white Americans, and racism.

In June, H.E.R. released a heart-wrenching song called "I Can't Breathe," a reference to the deaths of George Floyd, Eric Garner, and many other Black lives. When asked about the inspiration behind her song during the iHeartRadio Living Room Concert, she said, "I think music is powerful when it comes to change and when it comes to healing and that's why I wrote this song, to make a mark in history. And I hope this song does that." H.E.R.'s lyrics are genuine and inspiring, which can be seen when she sings, "Because we do not seek revenge. We seek justice."

Lil Baby also released a song called "The Bigger Picture," which details

his experience with police brutality, racism, and actively standing up for change. The song opens with news reports about the protests from this year and progresses into a fast rap about concentrating on the bigger picture. All proceeds from "The Bigger Picture" will go to The National Association of Black Journalists, Breonna Taylor's attorney, The Bail Project, and Black Lives Matter.

Additionally, Spotify compiled an official Black Lives Matter playlist that showcases anthems of the Black Lives Matter movement over the past few years including Childish Gambino's "This Is America," which won the 2018 Grammy song of the year.

Several prominent musicians have used their platforms to create change, but other sections of the artistic community have also used

the Black Lives Matter movement as inspiration. After the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, large murals were created all over the country, including one on Fifth Avenue in front of Trump Tower with the words "BLACK LIVES MATTER."

From George Floyd's hometown of Houston, Texas to Brooklyn, New York, and all over the world, artists have channeled the power of music to communicate their message. There is a clear link between graffiti and activism, as murals give artists and common people alike a place to make their voices heard.

In order to enact necessary social and institutional change in our country, we need to continue the conversations surrounding racism and oppression. Art from a plethora of genres serves as a creative reminder to keep fighting for what is right.

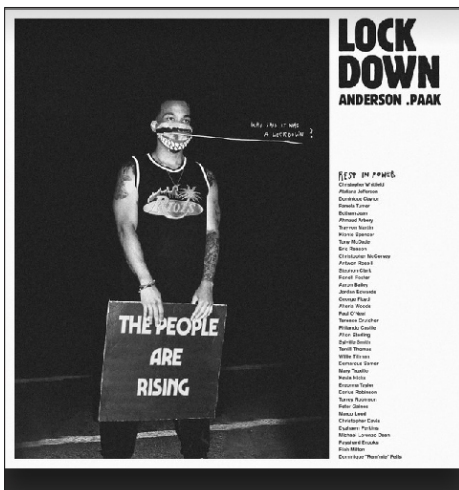


PHOTO COURTESY OF SPOTIFY



A few songs from Spotify's Black Lives Matter playlist.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SPOTIFY

# A Writer's Recommendations

## Getting through Quarantine with TV

by Grace O'Connor '22  
A&E Staff

TELEVISION

Being stuck in quarantine offered ample opportunity to watch new and exciting shows. On July 31, Netflix released the second season of *The Umbrella Academy*, an intriguing show that explores a dysfunctional family with superpowers. The show is an adaptation of the comic book *The Umbrella Academy* and has the original author, Gerard Way, and artist, Gabriel Ba, serving as executive co-producers. 43 infants with superpowers are born to random women who show no sign of pregnancy. Seven of these children are adopted by Mr. Hargreeves who turns them into the "Umbrella Academy." Their task is to save the world. *The Umbrella Academy* highlights the characters' teamwork dynamics' as the siblings share more differences than similarities.

*Dear White People* is another new release on Netflix, which follows several students of color at an Ivy-League-type institution discussing issues related to social justice. The first season was released in 2017, and it is now in its final season. The students shed light upon the underlying tensions and issues that surround the predominately white school they attend. The first few episodes of season one are told from different characters' perspectives in 30-minute increments. The show explores each student's story and perspective.

The Netflix series is based off of the 2014 film with the same title. The film's writer and director, Justin

Simien, wrote and directed Netflix's *Dear White People* as well. This show is extremely important, now more than ever, as it presents people actively fighting against societal inequalities. These issues should not be ignored, and *Dear White People* forces viewers to acknowledge them.

*Euphoria* is an American teen drama television series created by Sam Levinson which premiered on HBO in 2019. The show is based on high school students and their experiences, especially regarding their identities and social lives.

Popularity surrounding *Euphoria* has picked up significantly over the past few months. The characters each fight their own battles, and the beauty of the show is the authentic portrayal of said battles. *Euphoria* is one of the first shows to tackle many different issues that teenagers struggle with daily, including substance abuse, cyberbullying, relationship violence, and mental illness. These issues are not frequently discussed, and the show portrays struggles that many go through that are not always obvious. By bringing awareness to these issues, it reduces the stigma surrounding them.

*Outer Banks* quickly became a favorite on Netflix following its release. It has rapidly gained popularity since season one was released on April 15 and season two was just recently announced. The show follows a group of four close friends known as the "Pogues," who are on a mission to find treasure that is linked to the missing father of one of the main characters, John B. The Pogues, who are disdained by the "Kooks," the

wealthy and superior group, overcome many obstacles throughout the show that strengthen their overall bond.

The show tackles the idea of social inequality through the Pogues and the Kooks. In today's society, social inequality is a prominent issue that impacts a large majority of individuals. *Outer Banks* reels viewers in by adding mystery into the mix of these issues. The loyalty between the Pogues is clear and makes the audience feel closer to them. Season one ended on a cliffhanger, leaving the viewers wanting more and looking forward to the next season. The creators of the show, Josh and Jonas Pate, expect *Outer Banks* to run for four to five seasons.

*Love is Blind* is a new show that was released in early 2020. This series explores the distinction between emotional and physical attraction. *Love is Blind* brings together men and women who have never met prior to the show. These individuals get to know each other by speaking through pods but are not able to see each other. The intent behind this is so that couples can establish an emotional connection before a physical one. *Love is Blind* emphasizes the idea that many missed emotional connections may happen when people only focus on physical looks. It also highlights the fact that both are equally important in a relationship.

Whether you wanted to escape the COVID-19 pandemic with a show about connecting emotionally with others like *Love is Blind*, or immerse yourself into the quirky dynamic found in *The Umbrella Academy*, these Netflix shows offered something for every mood during quarantine.



*The Umbrella Academy*  
PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB



*Dear White People*  
PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB



*Euphoria*  
PHOTO COURTESY OF TV GUIDE



*Outer Banks*  
PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB



*Love is Blind*  
PHOTO COURTESY OF TMZ

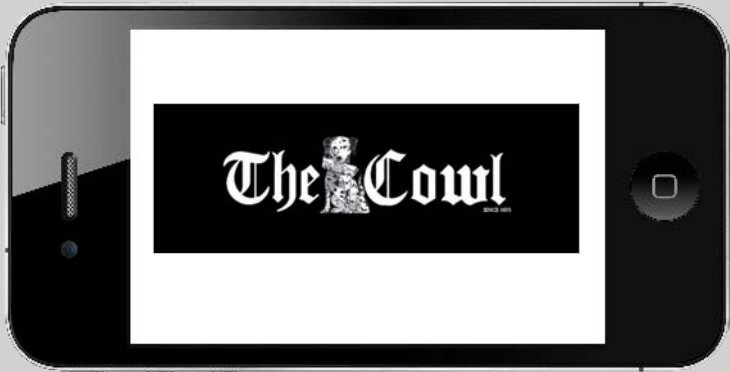
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- Wear a mask at all times, indoors and outdoors
- Keep 6 feet of distance between you and anyone who does not live in your household
- Sign up and show up for COVID tests on campus
- Avoid social gatherings of more than 15 people
- Follow quarantine guidelines directed by the state and the College
- Wash and sanitize your hands

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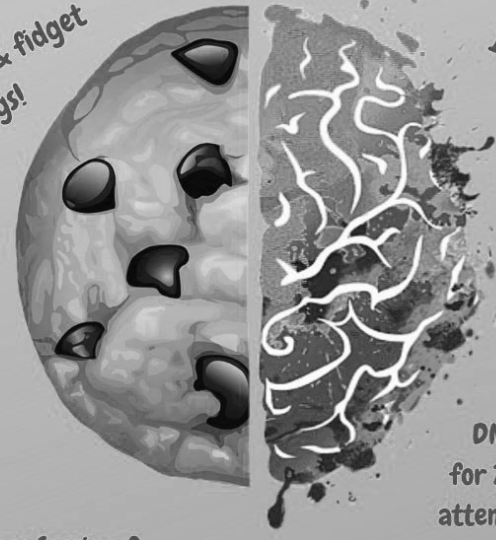
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(and cookies)**

Sunday September 20th  
4-5 PM on Smith Lawn

Stress balls & fidget  
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Insomnia cookies!



Mindfulness Session &  
Guided Meditation  
with instructor Dana Asby



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in person attendees  
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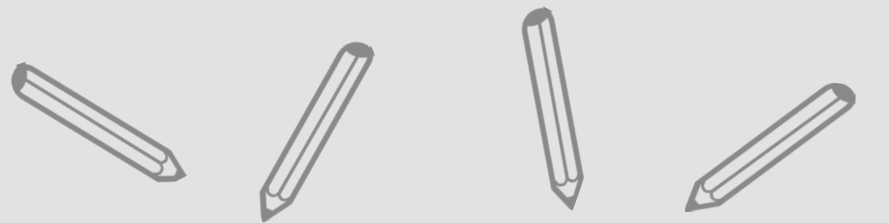
September 26th, 2020  
Zoom Sessions at 3pm and 6pm

ACCESS CODE: GOFRIARS

Join us by painting a Friars themed wooden board! Chose your stain color and one of four Friars themed designs! Presale is live, only 40 spots available so act fast!



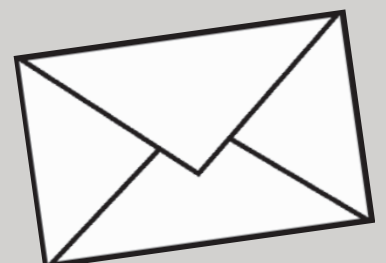
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## *Cómo Se Dice*

by Mariela Flores '23  
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

Today my Spanish was more broken than my English.  
The words did not fit in my mouth.  
Between every attempt was the phrase *cómo se dice*.

The two oceans inside me clashed,  
two lives being forced to merge into one coexisting life form.  
My palms were sweaty as the round vowels of the language I love began to slip  
in between the gap in my front teeth, and I could not bite down fast enough.

The words felt heavy,  
sitting in the back of my throat, begging to be let out,  
I just could not remember how.

It was betrayal.  
My tongue was left bruised.  
Beaten time and time again with consonants that are too loud.  
I had spent so many years whipping it into shape  
using words to mask the slight lilt of an accent.

English was supposed to be my savior.  
Instead, like any colonizer, it set up camp and did not leave.  
It took things from me; I did not realize I had to miss.

There are cracks in my Spanish I am desperate to fill,  
so, I write songs with the first words I ever heard.  
I paint with the colors I see when my mother sings her favorite songs,  
and I laugh with the same laugh my father has when he makes a joke.

I put a band-aid over my Spanish, and I promise them I won't forget.  
My children and their children will know my Spanish the same way I did.  
They will fall asleep to the sounds of *Mi niña tiene sueño, bendito sea, bendito sea*  
they will call me mamá in the same little voice I once knew.

Today my Spanish was more broken than my English  
But tomorrow this too will heal.



# Forever and Every Day

by Marelle Hipolito '22  
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

I have heard the story, almost two decades old  
Where were you when it happened, who did you call?  
Moment of silence every year on this day  
Eight forty-six, bow your head and pray

Gray clouds rose in the summer sky  
Fire and ash took away air and sight  
Darkness overwhelmed the light  
Three thousand were taken, with no kiss goodbye

I have heard the story, almost two decades old  
Where were you when it happened, I ask her, Who did you call?  
A moment of silence, before I hear her say:  
I was there that morning. I lost everyone that day

Gray clouds ruled the sunny sky  
Fire and ash stole my lungs and sight  
Darkness cast out all our light  
I was not able to kiss them goodbye.

This is my story, I've lived it almost two decades long  
I miss them all! My loves, my lives — I will never let go  
My heart breaks every moment, every year, every day  
It is eight forty-six, please bow your head and pray:

For the innocent souls, both young and old  
We will never forget, we will never let go  
Moments of silence, we honor and pray  
Never forget September 11, forever and every day.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PEXELS.COM AND PIXABAY.COM

# The Etiquette of Regret

by Samuel Ward '21  
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

*One misstep now I'm missing time.  
My sun just rose but I'm losing light?*

That pie's halfway done  
and under baked,  
I'm overwhelmed?  
What's the answer if I question myself?

The force that animates life only moves forward.  
So, salute the skies like a kite soldier.

Rest or unrest, it's all entropy.  
So, trust or don't trust your own recipe.

A kept tongue is a slit throat  
'Cause your wisest thoughts are never spoke.

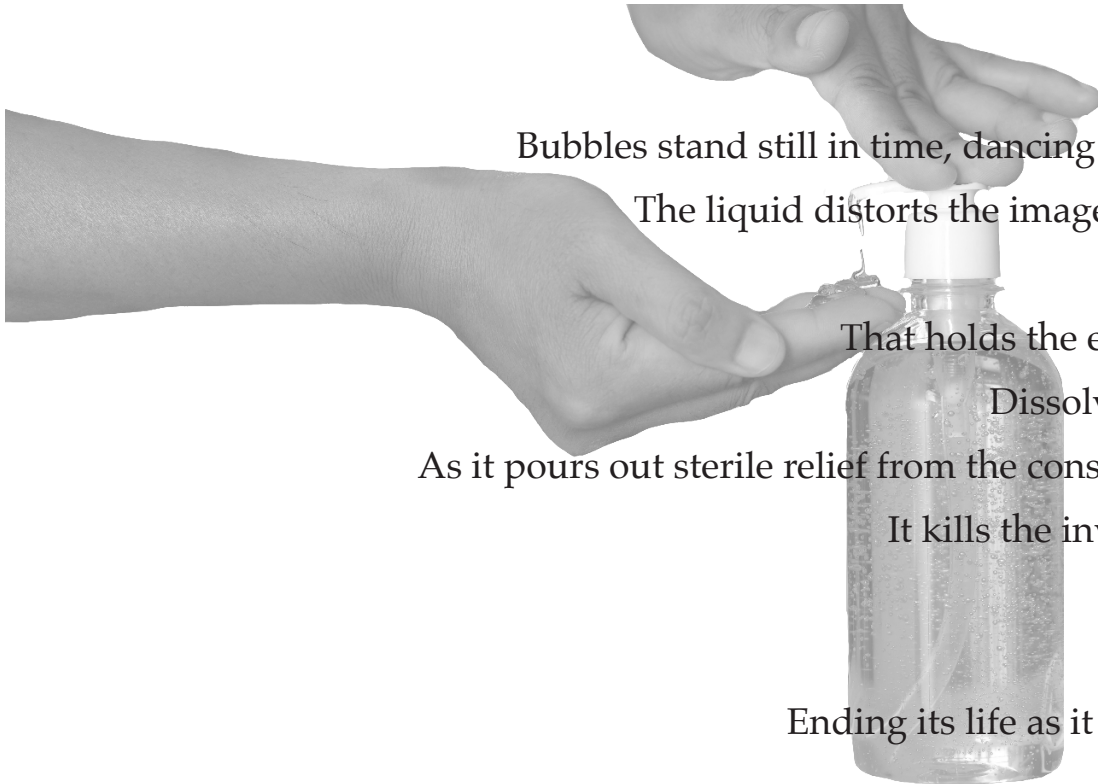
*One misstep now I'm giving time.  
The sun just rose but I closed my eyes.*

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PIXABAY.COM

# Sterile Relief

by Grace O'Connor '22  
Portfolio Staff

POETRY



Bubbles stand still in time, dancing through the pressure of the push on the plastic  
The liquid distorts the image in front as it pushes against the molded bottle  
The only release is the tiny white nozzle  
That holds the exit to freedom and confinement that lies below  
Dissolving is its purpose leaving behind its clear path  
As it pours out sterile relief from the consistent light push of the thumb and index finger  
It kills the invisible particles that creep between the crevices  
With just one dot and intertwining of fingers  
It buries itself behind objects until it is needed  
Ending its life as it dries slowly, obliterating everything in its path

PHOTO COURTESY OF PEXELS.COM



# Found

by Kate Ward '23  
Portfolio Staff

FICTION



As he took in the city view from the twentieth floor of his apartment building, the lights flickered and dimmed. Methodically, as if there was someone going through a circuit breaker, each building went from a warm glow to cold darkness. This wasn't something new to Thomas. In fact, it happened almost every Friday night, and things stayed like this until early Monday morning. It gave the other species their own time to come out and do their business.

The society Thomas lived in was split between humans and an animalistic human hybrid called Gorcs. Well, at least that's what everyone called them because they were failed lab experiments. The Gorcs would occasionally have extra limbs, wings, horns, various skin tones on one body, scales—anything was possible. The odd-looking were forced to stay inside until the lights were dimmed. It was not because of humans' distaste for the other species; it was because of how sensitive the Gorcs'

bodies were to sunlight.

Thomas watched from his window as the streets began to crawl, seething with Gorcs who were slowly emerging to make deals and slip into stores that had no vendors. He turned away and walked to his kitchen, preparing a late meal. Humans were allowed to go out at night but no one wanted to disturb the fragile peace that had been achieved after the 10 Years' War that had erupted in the olden days between the Gorcs and humans. Tensions high among some factions of Gorcs and humans, especially those who were poorer.

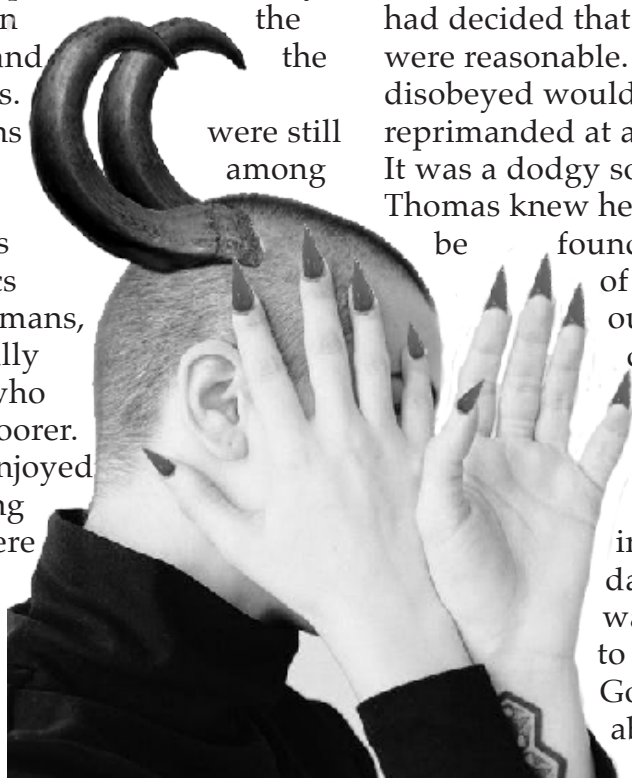
He enjoyed knowing that there was no

governing body. It had dissolved after the war since the humans did nothing but kill their own and hoard money, jewels, and property. The two species had settled their own rules directly after the war at a meeting that had been declared by the two captains of each side. The rules were as follows: no light after 7 p.m. on Fridays, no fighting in the streets, and no attempt to rise to power. After the 10 Years' War, people had decided that these rules were reasonable. Anyone who disobeyed would be swiftly reprimanded at a town hall. It was a dodgy society, and Thomas knew he could never be found out for fear of being thrown out or verbally destroyed.

As he ate, he watched the foot traffic move in the inky darkness. It was satisfying to watch the Gorcs move about freely.

He knew what it was like to be an outcast, knew what it was like to have to live inside day in and day out. Finishing up, he piled his dishes in the sink and shuffled to the bathroom, staring at the mirror. The splotches had begun to pop up more and more, this time on his neck, face, and shoulders, all spots that would be more and more difficult to hide under clothing. If he was found out to be a Gorc playing a human, it might be bad enough that another war would begin. Taking off his shirt and trousers, more and more patches of greasy, oil-slick skin appeared. No one could find out. No one. He had kept it this way since he was a child, his parents helping and teaching him how to hide, how to act normally, how to navigate society. Thomas sighed and nodded, beginning to brush his teeth. As he spit a wad of toothpaste in the sink, he heard the distinct click of a camera shutter.

He had been found.





## Wish You Were Here: Separation Struggles for Desks and Chairs Everywhere

by Lil Wit '21  
Portfolio Staff

SATIRE



The only thing worse than getting picked last for the kickball team in your middle school gym class is being picked to be a blocked-off seat in classrooms during the pandemic. Accommodations for physical distancing have left many seats empty and purposely blocked off or removed. These chairs have only one job: to support the students and provide functionality as they pursue their academic endeavors. But since the virus has led to fewer seats in a room, many desks and chairs find themselves without purpose, abandoned, singled out, and forgotten. The left-handed desks are taking things especially hard because they usually feel left out, underappreciated,

and like they only get picked by mistake or because someone walked in two minutes too late. One desk that formerly sat in Feinsein 116 but is now buried in the back corner of a storage closet requested that we publish this statement so its voice can be heard: "Being a left-handed desk is already enough of a struggle. Very few people can actually use me, and now the pandemic has made me feel even more useless. The only thing that kept me going was knowing that I could make some left-handed student happy by giving them a place to rest their arm while they write and make them feel special about their left-handedness. I like to think that I make a

difference on this campus, but apparently it's not noticeable enough to get me out of this black hole of forgotten chairs and broken dreams. One day, I hope to see the outside world again." The College has done the best it can to accommodate everyone while going above and beyond with safety regulations, but unfortunately the administration cannot please everyone. PC chairs and desks are tough, though, and they will not give up hope that someday they will be able to repopulate classrooms to their full capacity.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PIXABAY.COM

## Listomania\*

### New PC Intramural Sports :

- Cleaning your apartment or dorm
- Socially distanced three-legged race
- The Masked Singer
- Going up stairs in a mask
- People-dodging
- No-touch football
- Screen time olympics
- Best COVID-19 test swabber
- Guess who's behind the mask
- Looking presentable from the waist up on Zoom
- Putting on jeans
- TikTok dances
- Adjusting your position during Zoom so your body doesn't go numb

## Tiffany & Earl

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

Dear Tiff and Earl,

I passed gas on my Zoom call and my video went on speaker view. How do I recover?

Sincerely,  
Mortified Morty

Dear Mortified Morty,

There's no way to reverse engineer the damage that has been done. The only good thing is that if this were an in-person class, you definitely would have turned up some noses or killed the grass around you. But anyway, my best suggestions for the future are to keep a whoopee cushion nearby (for comedic relief), lay off the beans, and KEEP YOUR MIC ON MUTE IF YOU FEEL YOUR TUMMY A-RUMBLING. I must say, this seems like an easily prevented issue, but I suppose we all need a little extra help these days.

Fragrantly,

**Tiff**



Dear Morty,

Drop the class. Now, this may seem like an overreaction, but remember, you have a personal brand to maintain. No teacher has ever written a grad student recommendation for the student who excelled at passing the most gas. Perhaps try to pick up a woodworking class instead. The noise will cover up any further mishaps.

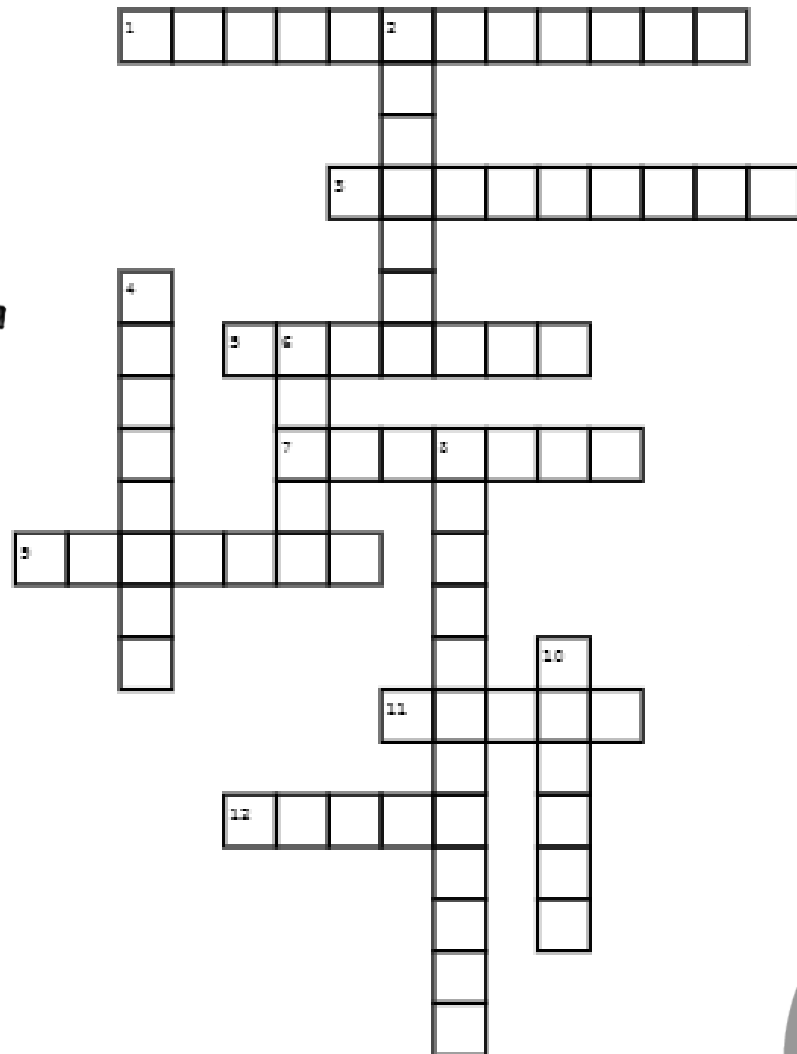
Sneakily,

**Earl**



\*Listomania and Tiffany & Earl are both satirical pieces that do not reflect the views of Providence College or The Cowl.

# All Things Fall



**Down:**

- 2. it's this type of clothing weather again!
- 4. even though PC doesn't have this team, watching other colleges or professional games is still fun
- 6. go to the orchard with friends and pick these
- 8. whether you like this trend or not, this flavor comes back around every year
- 10. these start to change colors

**Across:**

- 1. celebrate this holiday with some turkey and stuffing
- 3. October 31st... BOO!
- 5. go on one of these at your favorite orchards (or even a haunted one!)
- 7. fun to carve before Halloween
- 9. that lumberjack aesthetic though
- 11. get this apple beverage cold or hot
- 12. time to swap your flip flops for this type of footwear

GRAPHICS COURTESY OF PINTEREST AND KINDPNG  
CROSSWORD PUZZLE MADE WITH EDUCATION.COM



## Catching up with Keasel

### Former PC Goalkeeper Talks Soccer Career and New Interests

#### Keasel Broome

Continued from front page

Broome had his best season with the Friars that year, posting a career-best 1.10 goals against average to go along with eight shutouts. He ended the season being named to the Big East All-Tournament Team and getting picked by the San Jose Earthquakes in the third round of the MLS Draft, not to mention leaving PC with a degree in hand.

The fans who watched Broome in person during the late season run saw one of the best goalkeepers in college soccer doing his job and giving his team a chance to win every game. What many missed is Broome's journey to become the starting goalkeeper and the challenges he faced during his college career.

Broome came to PC back in 2010 when the Friars still played their games on the grass field outside of Guzman Hall. The two schools who recruited him were PC and Penn State University, but once Broome visited campus, it was clear PC was where he would continue his career.

"I felt right at home," Broome said. "The coaches made me feel really good. I loved the campus and how it was small."

Despite being the No. 2 ranked recruit out of Delaware with an opportunity to play right away, Broome did not see any game time during his first two years at PC, taking a redshirt year to get an extra year of eligibility. Even though he did not get to play in a match for the 2010 and 2011 seasons, Broome committed himself to work every day during the school year and summer to get ready for the chance to get into the game.

Going into the 2012 season, Broome was primed for the starting goalkeeper spot. Unfortunately, he separated his shoulder during a preseason game, causing him to miss the first game of the season. Just as he worked himself back into the starting spot, Broome pulled his quad in another game. He once again rehabbed and worked back into the starting spot.

Broome managed to play in 14 games that season, though he had a 1.42 goals against average and the team only posted a 3-8-2 record in the games he appeared in. Still,



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEASEL BROOME '14RS

Broome made 11 saves and allowed two goals in three games during the Big East Tournament.

Broome had two more seasons at PC and was going to keep improving. It looked like all his hard work would pay off.

That was before he got the text.

In December of 2012, Broome was in Las Vegas with family when he got the text that his father was diagnosed with stage IV pancreatic cancer that had spread to his liver. He immediately locked himself in the bathroom and started to cry. Millions of questions raced through his head.

"Never in a million years did I think someone close to me would be affected by cancer. I didn't know how to react. I didn't know what to do next."

Over the course of the next semester he would split his time between living at PC and at home. During the week, he took classes and worked out at PC, then drove five hours home to Delaware on the weekends to spend time with his father. Broome's schedule was so packed that he was on "auto-pilot" up until spring break.

"There came a point in time I couldn't sleep anymore. There was too much going on in my head; anger, frustration. I couldn't sleep naturally."

While it was tough to see his father sick, Broome learned to be his dad's biggest support system, just like his dad had been for him.

"It wasn't easy to watch someone you love struggle, but the thing I kept reminding myself was that if he wasn't complaining, I'm not complaining."

Getting to spring break was tough for Broome, who was trying to keep up with his normal schedule as a student-athlete while also taking care of his father. Fortunately, around the break, it was announced that the 2013 Big East Tournament was moved to Philadelphia, a short drive from Broome's home in Delaware.

Broome's father had only once seen his son in action for the Friars, and playing near home would have been a special moment for both of them. Broome and his teammates' new goal was to get to the semifinals that season to give Broome's father one last chance to see him play.

Sadly that chance never came. In the final weeks of the semester, Broome's father's health took a turn for the worse. The cancer had spread aggressively and his blood sugar began to drop. Broome's family began to make phone calls to friends, family, and former co-workers to have them say their final good-byes. Soon, the hospital room became so packed that his father's roommate had to be moved in order to accommodate the amount of visitors. Broome's father passed away shortly after with Broome right at his side.

While Broome was devastated about losing someone so close to him,

he focused on the special moments he had with his dad and appreciated the time they spent together. That season, the Friars improved to 12 wins, with Broome starting in 22 matches despite dealing with shoulder injuries. The Friars managed to make it to Philadelphia in the tournament, and Broome's family made sure to pack the stands. That night Broome played one of his best games, leading PC to a 1-0 win over Georgetown University in penalty kicks to head to the finals. From the moment he stepped onto the field, he knew that it was going to be a special night.

"That night I felt him [my dad] with me. I felt his presence next to me protecting the net."

After his breakout season, Broome continued to push himself. He spent more time at PC during the summer to get better. Everything came together for him and the Friars in 2014. It was a monumental season that changed the direction of the College's soccer program.

After getting drafted, Broome bounced around several American soccer teams in hopes of eventually making it to Major League Soccer. Even though he was drafted by San Jose, Broome made his professional debut for the Harrisburg City Islanders in 2016. Unfortunately, injuries began to pile up and he struggled to stick with any team. His last appearance was in 2017 in a game for the Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC in the United Soccer League.

In June of 2015, Broome made his debut for the Barbados National Team, shutting out Aruba in a World Cup qualifying match. Since his father was of Barbadian heritage, Broome was able to apply for citizenship and represent his family on the big stage. Playing for a national team gave him the opportunity to travel the world and play against some of the greatest soccer players. One of his favorite memories playing for the team was traveling to El Salvador and playing in front of 40,000 passionate fans.

Now, Broome has a job in sales and continues to coach on the side. His newest endeavor is making his own podcast called "Keepin' It Real w/ Keasel." With each new episode, he shares his life experiences in hopes that they can help people get through struggles similar to those he faced. Some of his themes include: dealing with adversity in sports, relationships, picking the right college, and being thankful for the things we have in life.

"Over the past couple years, whenever I got together with my friends I could talk about any topic for hours. My friends told me I should become a motivational speaker or start my own podcast."

Since he has gotten plenty of positive feedback, Broome is not worried about the direction of where the podcast is heading in the future. His goals may be different from when he was in college, having shifted from running goalkeeper reaction drills to working on building his professional network, but no matter what the goal, Broome has the resilience to tackle any obstacle in his path.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

# Providence College Investigates: Who Was the MVP in the NBA Bubble?

## Damian Lillard

The conclusion of the NBA regular season saw some breakout performances from players such as Devin Booker, T.J. Warren, and Michael Porter Jr. The playoffs have also brought some iconic performances, including Luka Dončić's game-winner against the Los Angeles Clippers and Donovan Mitchell's 57-point game against the Denver Nuggets. Any of these players are worthy of being considered the bubble's best player, but the NBA got it right when they gave the award to the Portland Trail Blazers' Damian Lillard.

Even though the Trail Blazers were eliminated from the playoffs in the first round, Lillard's performances reigned supreme and were the best in the bubble. In Orlando, Lillard averaged 33 points, eight assists, and 4.8 rebounds. Most importantly, he was able to lead his team into the eighth seed after entering the bubble 3.5 games out of the final playoff spot.

After missing two key free throws against the Clippers in their fifth game, Lillard not only stepped up his game, but became the best player in the league. Needing to win out to have any chance at making the 8/9 seed play-in game, the Oakland native dropped 51 and 61 points in his next two contests. Lillard channeled one of his many nicknames, "Logo Lillard," as his shooting became automatic from everywhere on the court.

He came up clutch against the Dallas Mavericks in his 61-point game, hitting

an insane high-bouncing three-pointer to bring Portland level in the closing moments and then seized the victory with crucial plays on both ends of the court. He followed that up by scoring 42 points while leading Portland to a crucial come-from-behind one-point win against the Brooklyn Nets to seal their place in the Western Conference play-in game. Lillard then had 31 points and 10 assists against the Memphis Grizzlies to secure Portland's spot in the playoffs.

Lillard's most iconic moment came in Game one of the opening round against the top-seeded Lakers. With the score going back and forth all game long, it became "Dame Time" for the last seven minutes of the fourth quarter. Lillard started knocking down contested threes from way downtown. The game began to shift in Portland's favor when Lillard buried a deep three to tie the game at 87 with five and a half minutes to go. After that happened, Lillard was locked in, and the Blazers never looked back, taking the first game 127-119 over the top-seeded Lakers.

Although the Blazers lost their next four games and got knocked out of the playoffs, Lillard's performances were incredibly memorable. No individual player on any team made more of an impact than Lillard did on the Blazers in the bubble.

-Leo Hainline '22  
Sports Staff

## Devin Booker

The NBA bubble is a unique circumstance which the league has never seen before. With a high demand for the return of sports, it also provided a big stage for a lot of players to break out and establish themselves as dominant forces. No one took advantage of this opportunity more than Devin Booker.

In the 2015 NBA draft, the Phoenix Suns selected Booker, a freshman at the University of Kentucky, with the No. 13 overall pick. This selection has turned out to be one of the smartest decisions in the history of the Phoenix Suns. Over his career, the 23-year-old shooting guard has averaged 22.5 points and 4.7 assists per game, while shooting 44.8 percent from the field and 35.4 percent from three. Booker also scored 70 points in a game against the Boston Celtics, making it the 11th game in NBA history where a single player scored 70 points or more in one game. He is one of only six players to do so and the most recent since the late Kobe Bryant.

At the end of an abysmal 2018 season, Booker famously stated, "I'm done with not making the playoffs." Unfortunately, Phoenix missed the playoffs in 2019 and 2020 as well. However, this season felt different. Booker had a career year, with averages of 26.6 points, 6.5 assists, and 4.2 rebounds per game on shooting percentages of 48.9 percent from the field and 35.4 percent from three. Booker had one of his more efficient seasons as well, mainly because he could play off the ball

more with the addition of point guard Ricky Rubio. He also had advanced floor-spacers in Kelly Oubre, Jr. and rookie Cameron Johnson, and strong bigs in Deandre Ayton and Dario Saric.

Indeed, the Suns were winning games and in striking distance of a playoff spot. When the bubble teams were announced, the Suns made the cut and made the best of their opportunity. Booker averaged 31 points, six assists, and five rebounds on efficient shooting splits while earning an All-Bubble First Team nod. He would lead the Suns to the only 8-0 record in the bubble. The stretch included wins over talented playoff teams like the Dallas Mavericks, Los Angeles Clippers, and Indiana Pacers.

All in all, Booker has put in a superhuman effort, elevating both his individual game and his team's overall performance. The only reason the Suns missed the playoffs was because the Portland Trail Blazers, the team just ahead of them, won a game on a last second missed buzzer-beater.

Certainly, an argument can be made for other players to be named bubble MVP such as T.J. Warren and Damien Lillard, but Booker took the Suns to a new, unexpected level. He showed up when it mattered and beat some of the NBA's best teams, which is why he should have earned MVP.

-Joe Quirk '23  
Sports Staff

# Life without Brady

## The Cam Newton Era Has Begun in New England

by Liam Tormey '22  
Sports Staff

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL

A new era is beginning for the New England Patriots. After 20 seasons and six Vince Lombardi Trophies, Tom Brady decided to end his career with the Patriots and sign a two-year, \$50 million deal with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. It is now the post-Tom Brady era in New England.

So, where do the Patriots go from here? Well, for starters, Cam Newton will be the face of the New England offense after he was named the starting quarterback last week. Newton beat out both Jarrett Stidham and Brian Hoyer for the starting job.

The 2015 MVP of the league has had his issues with injuries over the last couple of seasons. Last season, Newton played only the first two games of the season before being placed on injured reserve for the year with a Pedal Lisfranc sprain. After being released from the Carolina Panthers, Newton found a home in New England on a one-year deal.

The offense will look different this year without Tom Brady behind center, but there are still some familiar faces returning. Newton will be relying on the likes of Sony Michel, Julian Edelman, and N'Keal Harry. After trading for Mohamed Sanu last season in exchange for a second-round pick, the Patriots cut him this past week alongside running back Lamar Miller. Behind Edelman and Harry, Damiere Byrd will start the season



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADDIE MEYER/GETTY IMAGES  
Newton came out hot in his debut, running for 75 yards and two touchdowns while throwing for another 155 yards.

as the Patriots No. 3 wide receiver.

New England's starting tight end this year will be Devin Asiasi, who was the Patriots' pick in the third round at number 91 in this year's draft class. Asiasi enters the NFL after a successful collegiate career at the University of California, Los Angeles. In 2019, Asiasi had 44 receptions, 641 yards, and four touchdowns. After coming out of retirement, Rob Gronkowski, one of the greatest tight ends of all time, was traded alongside a seventh-round pick to meet up with Tom

Brady in Tampa Bay for a fourth-round pick. The Patriots took back-to-back tight ends in this year's draft, selecting Dalton Keene from the University of Virginia Tech in addition to Asiasi. Both will look to fill the massive void left at the position since the departure of Gronkowski.

Due to COVID-19, the Patriots have a league-high number of players who have opted out of the 2020-2021 season. Those opt-outs include tackle Marcus Cannon, linebacker Dont'a Hightower, safety Patrick Chung, tight end Matt LaCosse,

running back Brandon Bolden, fullback Dan Vitale, receiver Marqise Lee, and guard Najee Toran.

On the opposite side of the ball, the Patriots defense will look very different from how it was last year. The Patriots lost Kyle Van Noy, Jamie Collins, and Elandon Roberts to free agency. Each leaves very large shoes to fill on defense. The defensive line will stay mostly intact, however, with Lawrence Guy, Adam Butler, John Simon, and Deatrich Wise Jr. all returning.

The cornerback spot is still a strong spot for the Patriots. Reigning Defensive Player of the Year Stephon Gilmore will feature alongside Jason McCourty, Devin McCourty, and Adrian Phillips in the secondary. With their second-round selection in this year's draft, the Patriots added Kyle Dugger at safety. Dugger should be able to fill the hole left by Chung, as the hard-hitting safety dominated Division II football while playing for Lenoir-Rhyne University in North Carolina.

It is going to be a strange time for New England fans with these new-look Patriots, but with Bill Belichick running the team, and with Newton having something to prove, anything can happen for New England this season.

Indeed, the Patriots started on a strong note this past Sunday against the Miami Dolphins at Gillette Stadium. The team secured a 21-11 victory behind two rushing touchdowns from Newton. They will look to continue their solid start this Sunday against the Seattle Seahawks.

# This Week in Friar History

## Men's Soccer:

*Sept. 16, 2019 vs. Harvard University, Win 1-0*

Tiago Mendonca '20RS powered the Friars to their fourth victory of the 2019 season with a one-timer from the top of the box in the 21st minute.

*Sept. 19, 2015 at Northeastern University, Win 2-1*

Mac Steeves '16RS scored his seventh goal in as many games for the Friars, who pull out their fourth win of the season.

## Women's Soccer:

*Sept. 16, 2018 at University of Arkansas, Tie 1-1*

The Friars battled the SEC powerhouse to a 1-1 tie in double overtime as Shelby Hogan '21RS notched a career best 14 saves.

## Field Hockey:

*Sept. 15, 2007 vs. Georgetown University, Win 5-0*

The Friars started off their 2007 Big East schedule with a dominant showing against the Hoyas, featuring four combined goals from Abby Maguire '08 and Michalagh Stoddard '08.

*Sept. 16, 2018 vs. Long Island University-Brooklyn, Win 8-0*

Six different Friars scored as the team recorded its highest point total of the season. Allyson Parker '19 led the team with two goals and an assist. Corrine Kenney '18GS chipped in with three assists of her own.

## Cross Country:

*Sept. 14, 2013 at Stony Brook University, Stony Brook Invitational*

Highlighted by Shane Quinn's '15 first place finish in the 8k and Emily Sisson's '14 first place finish in the 5k, both the men's and women's teams secured first place finishes overall.

## Volleyball:

*Sept. 20, 2016 vs Bryant University, Win 3-2*

The Friars, led by Megan Onyundo '19, snuck out a win in a back-and-forth match against their in-state rivals, improving to 12-4 on the season.

# PROVIDENCE

# The Art of Broadcasting in a Pandemic

by Thomas Zinzarella '21  
Sports Staff

EDITORIAL

When the sports world came to a halt in the middle of March, my broadcast partners and I were at Madison Square Garden, taking in the first half of the Big East Tournament matchup between St. John's University and Creighton University.

We were awaiting the following game in which the Providence College Men's Basketball Team was getting ready to face off against Butler University. While other college basketball conferences started to shut down their basketball tournaments due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Big East was one of the last conferences to shut down basketball.

As I walked out of an empty MSG and hopped on the Amtrak train back to Hartford, CT, I had no idea what the future would hold. I had no idea that I would be stuck in my house for over two months without any live sports on television. Even worse, I had no idea the next time I was going to broadcast a sporting event. With March Madness canceled and the remainder of winter and spring sports put on hold, I would have to wait for my summer internship where I was slated to work with the Newport Gulls of the New England Collegiate Baseball League (NECBL.)

The first summer collegiate league to go down due to COVID-19 was the prestigious Cape Cod Baseball League, where I had worked the previous two summers with the Orleans Firebirds and the Harwich Mariners. It was the first time since World War II that there would be no summer baseball on the Cape.

With the plug getting pulled on the Cape League season, I knew this did not bode well for the NECBL. However, plans for the NBA and other professional leagues gave me some hope. The Coastal Plain League, another summer collegiate league in the Carolinas and Georgia, provided me with even more hope when teams announced their plan for summer games.

In the late evening hours of May 1, my worst fears came true: the board of directors canceled the NECBL season. Just like many other broadcasters and employees in sports, I was left without a job. As the calendar rolled from May to June, I was planning on caddying at a golf course in Rhode Island.

Scrolling through Twitter one day, I saw a new summer baseball league was formed: the Newport

Collegiate Baseball League. My contact with the Newport Gulls created the new league and enlisted me to be the main play-by-play broadcaster.

The games were to be played at Cardines Field in Newport. There would be four teams who would play an 18-game schedule followed by playoffs. Just like with all of the other professional leagues, COVID-19 regulations had to be followed. Players were required to sit six feet apart in the stands, no fans were allowed into the ballpark, and players on the base paths had to wear masks.

Compared to my previous two summers on the Cape, this summer was drastically different. There was no crowd noise, no sideline interviews, and only local players from Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts were allowed to play. The few players from out-of-state had to stay in houses in Rhode Island. During a normal summer, players would stay with host families, but that was obviously not a possibility this year. Even on the baseball operations side of things, there were limitations. Only a handful of interns were allowed into Cardines Field.

The games were all televised via Twitch and YouTube. Additionally, Cox Television picked up 15 games that were streamed throughout Rhode Island and across the country. Games were played on Thursdays, Fridays, and Sundays. Each weekend consisted of two games: one at 1 p.m. and one at 6:30 p.m.

The level of talent varied as there were players from Power Five schools all the way to some of the best Division III schools in the Northeast. There were players who competed in the NECBL or even in the Cape Cod Baseball League their previous summers. Many of the players hailed from Rhode Island College and Bryant University, but there was still a diverse array of schools. The league started in the beginning of July and wrapped up in the middle of August. Luckily, it was a great success as not a single player or league employee tested positive for COVID-19.

Being able to broadcast for this novel league over the summer made me realize how lucky I was to be back behind the microphone. I not only missed sports, but also truly missed spending a day at the park broadcasting baseball. Still, it was not the same. I could not interact with the players as I used to, nor could I talk with coaches pre-game at the batting cage. As I arrive back on campus, I am holding out hope that we can finally beat COVID-19, and that I will be back broadcasting Big East basketball as we cheer on the Friars at the Dunkin' Donuts Center.



THOMAS ZINZARELLA '21/THE COWL

Zinzarella '21 has spent his last three summers broadcasting baseball games for collegiate leagues. This past summer was a different challenge, as no face-to-face interaction between broadcasters and players was permitted.