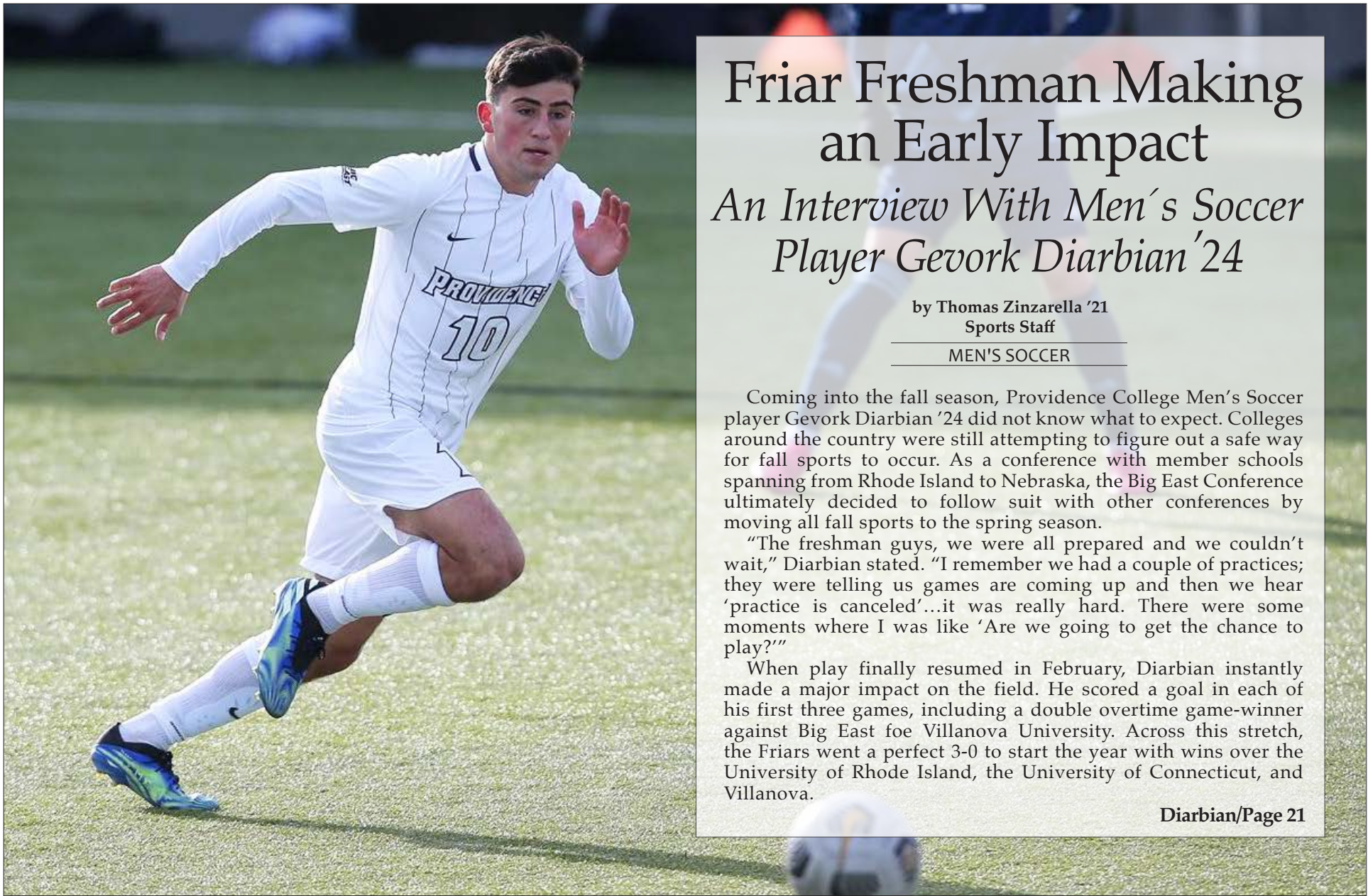


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Friar Freshman Making
an Early Impact

An Interview With Men's Soccer
Player Gevork Diarblian '24

by Thomas Zinzarella '21
Sports Staff

MEN'S SOCCER

Coming into the fall season, Providence College Men's Soccer player Gevork Diarblian '24 did not know what to expect. Colleges around the country were still attempting to figure out a safe way for fall sports to occur. As a conference with member schools spanning from Rhode Island to Nebraska, the Big East Conference ultimately decided to follow suit with other conferences by moving all fall sports to the spring season.

"The freshman guys, we were all prepared and we couldn't wait," Diarblian stated. "I remember we had a couple of practices; they were telling us games are coming up and then we hear 'practice is canceled'...it was really hard. There were some moments where I was like 'Are we going to get the chance to play?'"

When play finally resumed in February, Diarblian instantly made a major impact on the field. He scored a goal in each of his first three games, including a double overtime game-winner against Big East foe Villanova University. Across this stretch, the Friars went a perfect 3-0 to start the year with wins over the University of Rhode Island, the University of Connecticut, and Villanova.

Diarblian/Page 21

PHOTO COURTESY OF STEW MILNE

Female-Fronted Bands
Making Great Music in
Rhode Island

by Jack Downey '23
A&E Staff

MUSIC

Women have had a difficult time in music. Whether their music is relegated to being a "guilty pleasure," they are paid less than their male peers, or they are subjected to sexism and sexual harassment, a lot of female musicians face a higher mountain to climb than their male counterparts.

This is a shame because there are so many fantastic female musicians who deserve far more credit than they get. This goes for all genres of music, ranging from pop (Taylor Swift, Beyoncé) to folk (Joni Mitchell) to metal (Halestorm) and beyond.

Rhode Island is no exception. Throughout the state, female-fronted bands and female musicians are making great music, and many are quickly making a name for themselves.

RI Musicians/Page 14

Embracing the Entrepreneurial Spirit

PC Students Win Big East Startup Challenge

by Hannah Langley '21
News Co-Editor

CAMPUS

Each year, students from Providence College and other schools within the Big East Conference are invited to participate in the Big East Startup Challenge, in which students can create teams to propose product ideas to an experienced panel of entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, and Big East alumni.

After competing against 10 other teams, PC students Jacqueline Ryan '21, Owen Delaney '22, and Faith Linscott '21 took home the first-place prize for "UMeal," an app that allows college students to create their own meal kits at their dining halls based on their preferences. Students can then pick up these kits to make their own meals back in their dorms, suites, apartments, or homes.

Delaney, a finance major and co-president of the entrepreneurship society, began developing UMeal with three other students during last year's

Big East Startup Challenge, but he and his teammates were never able to complete their idea. As Delaney explained, last year's competition was cut short because of COVID-19, but he partnered with Linscott and Ryan this year to complete the work he and his

previous teammates started. "Although my teammates from last year were unable to return," Delaney explained, "I was lucky enough to be paired with Faith Linscott and Jackie Ryan and we worked great together."

UMeal/Page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

Linscott '21 holds a UMeal bag next to a sample menu as part of the UMeal pitch for the challenge.

UNDER THE HOOD

Providence College's Student-Run Newspaper Since 1935

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News

Read a recap of the events held during PC's annual Women's Week celebration.

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Opinion

Katie Belbusti '22 discusses the importance of equitable vaccine distribution.

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Portfolio

Check out this week's Listomania topic: "Signs that it's spring at PC."

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Celebrating Women and Feminism for 110 Years *PC Holds Events to Honor International Women’s Day*

by Katherine Morrissey ’22
News Staff

FEATURED

Over the duration of March, the Providence College community has been simultaneously celebrating women’s achievements and raising awareness of women’s and gender issues in light of International Women’s Day.

International Women’s Day takes place annually on March 8. According to the International Women’s Day website, it is a global holiday dedicated to “celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.” It also marks a call to action for accelerating women’s equality.

International Women’s Day has been celebrated ever since 1911 and has continued to gain support and attention over the years. This year, IWD celebrated its 110-year anniversary.

PC students were quick to become involved with IWD by dedicating a whole week to celebrating the holiday. This was evident through a variety of clubs on campus organizing in-person and virtual events, all of which had to do with the empowerment and celebration of women.

PC Democrats, alongside Student Congress, Campus Ministry, and the

Board of Programmers staged events open to all students and faculty. Their goal was to stimulate discussion surrounding the aforementioned topics. One event that was particularly successful was the panel titled “What It’s Like to Be a Woman at PC.”

One notable panelist from the night was Tess Jacobson ’22, an economics major and German minor. On top of her studies, Jacobson is vice-president of Women Will, where she has dedicated time and effort to the feminist cause on and off-campus, as she demonstrated by participating in the panel.

When asked about what motivated her involvement at the College, Jacobson stated, “While I have always been a feminist, I decided to become more involved to better understand what feminism means at PC.” She continued, “I’ve met people at PC who agree and disagree with feminism and heard/seen some events that seemed anti-feminist, so I decided to get involved myself.” Jacobson’s involvement shows how students can be proactive in getting involved and educated about issues they are passionate about on campus. Women’s Week served as an opportunity for both involvement and education.

Regarding the event, Jacobson stated, “I think the event definitely raised awareness about the issues and discrimination women can face on campus. Especially when it comes to

hookup culture, sexual harassment, and sexual assault.”

Jacobson’s sentiments show how events like “What It’s Like to Be a Woman at PC” have the potential to provide awareness of and education on even the most challenging subjects. Topics like sexual harassment and sexual assault are sometimes difficult to discuss, especially in front of faculty and other students, but are nevertheless integral in raising awareness and creating solutions for students on campus. These are real and relevant issues, especially considering the correlation between occurrences of harassment or assault and the prevalence of hookup and drinking culture on college campuses.

Concerning the success of the event, Jacobson remained optimistic but truthful, stating, “There was a good number of students and faculty that attended the event, which was encouraging to see. However, the problem with events like these is it seems to always be the same people that attend. While all attendees are always appreciated, without new faces, events can tend to be an echo chamber.”

While events are gaining more student attention, there is always room for more students to attend and get involved, and especially individuals who know less about women’s issues.

Jacobson also commented on what misconceptions or changes she thinks

might benefit the PC community to support gender equality. “I think first and foremost it’s helpful to stop the stigma that’s sometimes associated with feminism, that it’s a bad word or only a women’s issue. Feminism on a basic level simply means you believe men and women should be equal.”

While stigmas about feminism and its meaning continue to be problematic, events and campus efforts like those associated with Women’s Week promote further awareness and understanding for students. However, some question if these efforts are enough and if change to the campus climate is needed for long-term solutions.

Jacobson mentioned a potential curriculum change when asked about beneficial changes that could be made. “I think encouraging more students to take WGS [women’s and gender studies], or Black studies courses, or any course that promotes diversity is always helpful.”

Although there are many issues facing students on college campuses in our world today, the efforts made by students like Jacobson during Women’s Week demonstrate the ways in which the College is starting to have the important conversations needed to not only raise awareness, but ultimately to reduce the prevalence of gender-related issues on campus going forward.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABY.COM

COVID Campus Updates

by Kyle Burgess ’21
News Co-Editor

CAMPUS

With the arrival of spring comes a renewed sense of hope and excitement in the Friar community. On March 6, a school-wide email from Dean and Vice President of Student Affairs Steven Sears announced that a gradual return to normalcy would be coming in the next few weeks. Some of the major changes that the email highlighted were outdoor and in-person meetings for clubs, the re-opening of club offices and McPhail’s for seniors who are 21 and older, and even hosting school-wide events like a spring concert and Clam Jam.

Another ground-breaking change that students can expect this semester is the ability to remain on campus during Easter break. Typically, such privileges are allotted to student athletes or students who need to travel great distances to return home, but this option has now been offered to all students who wish to remain on campus. Meals will continue to be provided on campus for such students and facilities such as Concannon Fitness Center will remain open for their use as well. Additionally, Friars who stay on campus are welcome to attend Triduum liturgies and take part in Easter festivities. Regular testing and social-distancing protocols will remain in effect during this time.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE PINTEREST

For those students who plan on leaving campus, the College has asked that they share their break plans via the Google form linked in the recent Continuity email regarding Easter break. The College has also encouraged students traveling to limit contact with others over break for the safety of their roommates and the larger PC community.

Lastly, the College has shared their intentions of holding an in-person commencement ceremony for the class of 2021. While this ceremony will not take place at the Dunkin’ Donuts Center, the traditional ceremony site for graduating Friars, an alternative location is to be revealed at some point. Such developments are in line with previous statements made by commencement ceremony planners on Facebook and elsewhere as the College anticipates celebrating the hard work and achievements of both the classes of 2020 and 2021.

Congress Updates

by W. Cole Patno ’24
Student Congress Representative

UPDATES

On Feb. 16, Dean Tiffany Gaffney and Dr. James Campbell came to the Student Congress meeting to answer questions from Student Congress members regarding Title IX.

One member asked about any updates or future developments regarding the Culture of Respect committee, a group working towards stopping sexual violence on Providence College’s campus. Gaffney explained that, due to COVID-19, Culture of Respect meetings have taken a backseat because, given current restrictions, the group’s size prohibits effective meetings. However, they intend to start again when things get back to normal.

When asked if their offices had any initiatives planned for Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April, Campbell and Gaffney said that they would have started planning events sooner in a typical year. Women Will intends to host events with other clubs and organizations, and their offices will partner with them for such events.

Finally, they were asked if their offices would be willing to publish the statistics on Title IX reports. The student said that these quantitative reports would allow people to understand the campus climate better. Campbell and Gaffney said that they would be happy to share that information once they compile it at the end of the academic year. They also expect the numbers

from this year to be lower than years prior due to COVID-19. In regards to the pandemic, Gaffney stressed the importance of remaining diligent in following COVID-19 protocols.

Student Congress thanks Dean Gaffney and Dr. Campbell for taking the time to come to our meeting and answering our questions.

Members of Congress and attendees were also reminded of the Board of Multicultural Student Affairs and Student Congress’ showcase of nominated Black students, staff, and faculty members in lower Slavin for Black History Month.

After announcements, the Mind Over Matter Club presented and was unanimously approved as an official club by Student Congress. The spring elections calendar was also approved, and there was a Student Congress and BMSA Executive Elections Review on March 4, which was mandatory for those interested in running. Legislation regarding allocations for clubs was also given its first reading.

The following meeting on Feb. 23 was much shorter as there was no guest speaker. At this meeting, Student Congress approved the allocations for clubs, and the Friends of Medecins Sans Frontieres Global Health Club gave their first presentation.

Finally, Student Congress announced that we would be teaming up with PC Democrats and PC Republicans to spotlight outstanding women in the PC community for Women’s Week in Slavin starting March 3.



Embracing the Entrepreneurial Spirit

PC Students Win Big East Startup Challenge

UMeal

Continued from front page

Linscott, a psychology major, and Ryan, a history major, both have business and innovation minors, which is how they got involved with the challenge. Students with the business and innovation minor at PC are required to take a capstone their senior year in which they use their skill sets to make a mock entrepreneurial business, making this challenge a great fit for Linscott and Ryan. “I loved working on UMeal because I felt like a real entrepreneur,” said Ryan.

Their capstone professor, Dr. Eric Sung, associate professor of photography and director of the minor, recommended the two take on this project with Delaney. Megan A. Chang, assistant professor of voice and diction in the department of theatre, dance, and film; Rebeka Mazzone, a member of the adjunct faculty in finance; Dr. Kathleen A. Cornely, professor of chemistry and biochemistry; and alumni Paul Bachman ’90, Mark Ruggeri ’93, and Christopher Walker ’86 were also involved with the group in various ways.

For the competition, the students developed a prototype for the UMeal app and created a five-minute video about the product, which was then judged by a panel of professionals. With the help of Providence College Television, the group was able to create what they considered to be a fantastic video. “We were extremely



Friars Jacqueline Ryan '21, Faith Linscott '21, and Owen Delaney '22 took home first prize.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE PINTEREST

lucky to have PCTV join us and help us create an incredible video,” said Delaney. “They took our ideas and script and turned it into a piece of art.

The team had a great time working on this project together, saying that they learned a lot through the process. “Participating in the competition was fun and educational,” said Linscott. “A key takeaway from the competition is that it takes a cohesive team effort to create a presentation to be proud of; I am happy about all the hard work everybody put in and proud of the result.”

Delaney also commented that despite many obstacles along the way, the team was able to persevere. “During the crucial weeks leading up to the competition, me and Jackie both got COVID-19,” he said. “However, we persevered and were able to get a lot done over our Zoom meetings and do some filming on our own in quarantine.”

Delaney also hopes that this competition will inspire others, like himself, who have an interest in entrepreneurship. “I hope that winning this competition inspired

other people just like me to continue your passion of entrepreneurship even if it is not what you officially study in school,” he said.

The teammates thanked one another, their faculty advisors, PCTV, alumni mentors, and all others who helped them in the process. “I believe that we were so successful because of the support we received from such passionate people,” said Ryan.

The team hopes that this is not the end for UMeal, and they are excited to see what the future holds for their startup.

Featured Friar: Abby Kiernan '21

Teaching and Persevering Through the Pandemic

by Kyle Burgess '21
News Co-Editor

FEATURED

As the world acknowledges the one-year anniversary of a life in lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many have considered the past 12 months as a time for isolation and removal from group settings to ensure the safety of others. However, social-distancing measures have not prevented many members of the Providence College community from continuing to make impacts on the lives of others around them. Such is the case for Abby Kiernan '21, who strives to make a positive impact both on the children she educates as a student teacher and on her residents as head resident assistant of Meagher Hall.

Kiernan's path to PC began when she was in high school in Brockton, MA. As a member of her school's choir, she became friendly with the choir director, a PC alumnus, who suggested that Friartown would be a perfect fit for her. “My freshman year, [my] choir director said to me, ‘You are definitely a future Friar,’” Kiernan explained. “As senior year approached, I decided to apply to Providence because I knew how excited Mr. Cunningham would be

to write a recommendation.” One campus tour on accepted students' day was all it took to convince Kiernan that her choir director was right all along.

In the years since her first visit to PC, Kiernan has kept herself busy between her involvement in the Office of Residence Life and student teaching. In particular, the challenges that COVID-19 restrictions have presented for resident assistants on campus has been a real learning curve. “Everything I learned last year about being an RA I had to relearn during the pandemic in a more demanding and higher leadership position as an HRA,” she said. “Not only do I support the community on my floor, but also amongst my staff and the entire Residence Life staff. Because of the many COVID-19 guidelines and policies at Providence College this year, I have had to learn many different ways to build community but also to support my residents in these difficult times.”

Despite this, Kiernan embraced her new role with open arms and feels that her student teaching background has certainly helped her adjust. “Because of my teaching background, I am usually pretty good with names and love to stop and chat in the hallway. Being there for others and filling others' buckets are what makes my heart happy!”

Kiernan is also thankful for the opportunity to attain her dream of becoming a teacher despite the new challenging classroom environments created by the pandemic. Following in her mother's footsteps, becoming a teacher has been Kiernan's goal since she was young. She believes that teaching in person and virtually for students at school while studying remotely has demonstrated the importance of being resilient and being able to think on her feet. “Not only have I been dealing with being a college senior during a pandemic, but I have also been supporting a diverse group of elementary-age students with many different needs during this time. Student teaching is a time for me to learn how to take over and manage a classroom with the help of my supervisor and cooperating teacher. This experience has been unique in the fact that all of us are learning how to teach during the pandemic.”

Looking ahead beyond graduation in May, Kiernan will work as a graduate assistant while pursuing a master's degree in urban teaching. She hopes to eventually return to her hometown to work within the Brockton public school system as a teacher and potentially work in Boston afterwards. No matter where Kiernan's career takes her, she will always be thankful for the



PHOTO COURTESY OF ABBY KIERNAN '21

Kiernan '21 has fun teaching her students, even with a mask on.

opportunity to change the lives of others while at PC, even from six feet away.

Attempting to Get Vaccines and Stimulus Checks for All

Biden Administration Plans on Rapid COVID Relief

by Sydney Olinger '23
News Staff

NATIONAL NEWS

March 11 marks the one-year anniversary of the nationwide shutdown that was enacted due to the rapid spread of COVID-19. A year ago today, no one could have predicted that our country would still have increasing cases and harsh COVID-19 regulations. In his first prime-time address to American citizens, given on this one-year anniversary, President Joseph Biden announced that he will direct states to make all adults vaccine-eligible by May 1.

This directive will hopefully mark the start of our country's return to normalcy, but Biden noted that not all adults will be vaccinated by May 1. Therefore, some COVID-19 regulations, such as mask-wearing and not gathering in large crowds, need to be maintained.

The federal government is in control of distributing the vaccine to each state, but states are given discretion in deciding who is eligible. Most states have been consistent in deciding who receives priority for the vaccine, but some have different guidelines for which groups are eligible first. According to Biden, all adults should be able to get in line for their first dose of the vaccine by May 1, as long as the country has enough doses and rollout goes successfully.

On the same day as this prime-time address, Biden signed a \$1.9 trillion



PHOTO COURTESY OF FIERCEPHARMA.COM

President Biden hopes to get the vaccine administered to all adult Americans by May 1.

COVID-19 relief package into law. The intent of this bill is ultimately to help Americans who are struggling financially. The bill also aims to stimulate an American economy that has been facing major challenges for the last year, as countless businesses have shut down or reduced capacity in order to limit the spread of the virus.

Biden's plans for returning the country to some semblance of

normalcy offered a sense of hope to many people and businesses in the country. With the increased distribution of vaccines to all adults willing to get the vaccine, Biden hopes that we will be able to have as close to a normal Fourth of July that we possibly can. "By July the Fourth, there's a good chance you, your families and friends, will be able to get together in your backyard or in your neighborhood and have a

cookout or a barbecue and celebrate Independence Day," said Biden.

Despite the fact that Biden hopes we will be able to enjoy a fairly normal holiday, he is still encouraging people to not gather in large crowds. As vaccine rollouts progress in the coming weeks, the CDC will also update guidelines regarding travel, work, and gatherings. Depending on the number of cases as well as deaths, the first holiday we should be able to celebrate fully with people outside of immediate households will be Independence Day. "After this long hard year. . . [we] will make this Independence Day something truly special where we not only mark our independence as a nation but begin to mark our independence from this virus," stated Biden. Though we should remain hopeful that we will return to a sense of normalcy soon, we must also continue to follow the safety guidelines set by the CDC.

Biden also asked Americans to do their part to help the country make it to the other side of the pandemic. "A lot can happen," Biden said. "Conditions can change. The scientists have made clear that things may get worse again. As new variants of the virus spread, we've got work to do to ensure that everyone has confidence in the safety and effectiveness of all three vaccines." Throughout his speech, Biden expressed empathy and compassion for the lives lost during the pandemic both within our country and across the world, while also offering hope to the nation that we will overcome the virus and all of the pain it has brought.

Looking Back on BLM One Year Later

Recent News on Breonna Taylor and George Floyd's Families

by Hannah Langley '21
News Co-Editor

NATIONAL NEWS

On March 13, 2020, Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old Black woman from Louisville, KY, was shot and killed by police officers while asleep in bed. Taylor's death, along with the deaths of other Black people, such as George Floyd in May 2020, contributed to the Black Lives Matter movement protests against racial injustice and police violence that swept through the country in the spring and summer of 2020.

Taylor's family is still waiting for the police officers who killed Taylor to be held accountable. Her mother, Tamika Palmer, has been fighting for the past year for charges to be brought against the men who killed her daughter.

While Palmer has not seen any actions taken yet, she says she will not give up. "I'm still out here, I'm still doing what I need to do to get justice for Breonna to make sure that people do right by her," Palmer said in an interview with CNN.

Palmer has recently filed internal affairs complaints with the Louisville Metro Police Department in the hopes that the three men who raided Taylor's home a year ago will be

held accountable for what they did. "These internal affairs complaints," Palmer's attorney said, "were filed to get answers, explanations and accountability."

In other news, nearly one year after Taylor's passing, the family of George Floyd received a settlement from the city of Minneapolis, MN for \$27 million on March 12.

Floyd's family members, including his brother Philonise and sister Bridgett, commented on the settlement. His brother thanked the city of Minneapolis, saying, "I know that [George is] with us, and he's standing up, right now, knowing that we have the opportunity to be able to fund low-income, African American communities."

In addition to the settlement, there have been developments in the trial against Derek Chauvin, the police officer who killed Floyd. A jury was in the process of being selected for Chauvin's trial several weeks ago; however, on March 15, Eric Nelson, Chauvin's defense attorney, called for a delay in the trial because of the city's settlement with Floyd's family. Nelson asked the judge to consider a change-of-venue motion, believing the settlement will create a more biased jury pool from the city's residents.

According to CNN, Nelson asked that the jurors already selected "at



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA.ORG

Outrage over the deaths of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd have caused widespread protests.

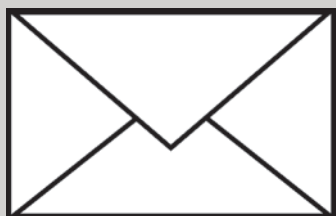
least" be called back to see if they had heard the news and could remain impartial.

Nelson stated that the announcement of the settlement during the middle of Chauvin's trial was "disturbing to the defense" and criticized the Minneapolis City

Council and Mayor Jacob Frey.

According to The Washington Post, Judge Peter A. Cahill has said he will take the defense motions into consideration while proceeding with the jury selection and has also agreed to call back the current jurors closer to March 29 when the trial begins.

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Vacations vs. Vigilance

How Making Your Own Spring Break Concerns the PC Community

by Julia McCoy '22
Asst. Opinion Editor

CAMPUS

It is without question that students at Providence College, and people around the world, are waiting for life to get back to normal. But, while the COVID-19 pandemic remains a threat, it is important that people do not rush to return to their old lives. For college students in particular, this involves staying at school when you would usually be on spring break.

Spring break is an exciting time for college students to get a well-deserved break from their otherwise stressful and busy schedules. Year after year, students pack their bags and fly to various warm destinations for a week to destress. In an attempt to keep coronavirus infections low on campus this semester, PC decided to forego spring break. So, for the sake of the PC community, it is important that students do not ignore the College's plans by making trips of their own.

Instead of a week-long traditional spring break this year, PC gave students four mental health days that are scattered throughout the semester. While these days do not allow students to fully enter "break mode," they do provide for some extra relaxation during a busy semester.

Regardless of what the College has given, some students are still choosing to take advantage of the

Zoom feature of their classes by taking classes remotely from a tropical destination for a week. They have essentially made their own spring breaks.

This is incredibly detrimental to the progress that our campus has been making because those students are then reentering the College's campus without having quarantined. They can go back to classes and the dining hall without anyone knowing that they may have just been on a plane the night before. This is dangerous for their fellow students, professors, and staff that work all across campus.

No one is denying that college

students need a break. It is painfully clear that Zoom fatigue—the exhaustion that comes from online classes—is an unwelcome addition to the usual mid-semester stress that comes even in a COVID-free environment. Although mental health days provide some time off, many students spend that time doing homework or studying for exams. It is a bit difficult to see the relaxation aspect of the day off when it falls in the middle of an otherwise busy week. However, that does not mean that students should be taking it upon themselves to insert a spring break into their semester as they please. This could easily make the

COVID-19 situation at PC harder to control and more likely to get worse.

Every student on campus this semester made the decision to adhere to the College's rules and plans to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. This absolutely included an understanding that spring break would not take place in the same way that it once had. As such, making the decision to go on a vacation and come back without quarantining for the appropriate amount of time is endangering fellow students and other members of the campus community that might not have the means to protect themselves.

With vaccine rollouts improving and the country looking ahead to a much safer environment, the end of the pandemic is more in sight than ever before. For members of the PC community, this could include, as the President's Office addressed on March 10, in-person classes for the fall 2021 semester. With this in mind, people are beginning to hope for a more normal reality in the near future. However, this is only going to happen if everyone remains vigilant in their efforts to stop the spread of the virus.

Of course, all students would love to go on a vacation to Florida or Aruba right now. Who wouldn't? But given the situation that our campus and the rest of the world are in, it is better to sacrifice island time until it is deemed safe to travel without endangering your peers.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PXHERE

Providence College has canceled spring break this semester for the sake of stopping the spread of COVID-19, so it is imperative that students do not go against this by making their own travel plans.

The Great Vaccination Race

Why PC Students Must Patiently Wait Their Turns

by Katie Belbusti '22
Opinion Staff

CAMPUS

Almost a year after the outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States, the nation continues to work to stop the spread of the disease in a variety of ways—the most promising being the creation and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine.

While distribution of the vaccine across all states starts with older populations and those most at risk for getting COVID-19, is it fair to place college students in a priority vaccine spot after those vulnerable populations are vaccinated?

In Rhode Island, healthcare workers, first responders, and all persons 65 years and older are currently eligible for the vaccine. However, in other states, communal living constitutes eligibility to receive the vaccine. The very environment of college and dorm-style living makes the spread of illnesses easier, especially the ultra-contagious COVID-19.

While Providence College has focused their efforts more on testing students and faculty as the premier way to determine the spread of the virus and contain it as quickly as possible, perhaps the Continuity Task Force should focus on what obtaining the vaccine would look like for PC.

Dr. Jessica Mulligan, an epidemiology professor at PC for almost 12 years, was willing to speak to *The Cowl* about the COVID-19 vaccine, including what it would entail for PC to try and vaccinate students. Mulligan is proud and grateful for the arrival of the COVID-19 vaccine, as well as the

"potential that vaccines bring for helping us get back to some semblance of normalcy, or a 'new normal.'"

When asked about vaccine distribution, Mulligan stressed, "It's important to distribute the vaccines in a way that furthers the goals of health equity, especially because of the specific health disparities around COVID-19 impacting communities differently. COVID-19 has intensified and magnified health disparities, so it's important that our prevention and treatment programs are based on principles of health equity."

In short, it is best to focus on vaccinating those who still face a higher risk of getting COVID-19, rather than students. Surrounding communities in Rhode Island should have access to the vaccine before the students at Rhode Island colleges are prioritized.

In an ideal world, PC students would be able to get the vaccine through the College, but the nature of the situation requires us to wait our turn until all adults are eligible for the vaccine, which is now expected to be May 1, according to President Joseph Biden.

As the COVID-19 vaccine distribution continues, and the most high-risk and high-priority individuals receive the vaccine, Mulligan believes that determining who is eligible after that is the question most up for debate. Until more vaccines are distributed to those who are most in need and more vaccines become available, the best any PC student can do is recognize their own impact on stopping the spread of this virus.

As much hope as the COVID-19 vaccines have brought us, until the country reaches a point of herd immunity, it is essential that we continue to

follow the protocols recommended by the CDC such as social distancing and mask wearing.

Luckily, PC has remained in close contact with the Rhode Island Department of Health to ensure that being in person at the College can be safe, and it seems to be working. Classes, dining, and now select outdoor sporting events can all be attended in person, and it is because of the Friar family's commitment to keeping each other safe.

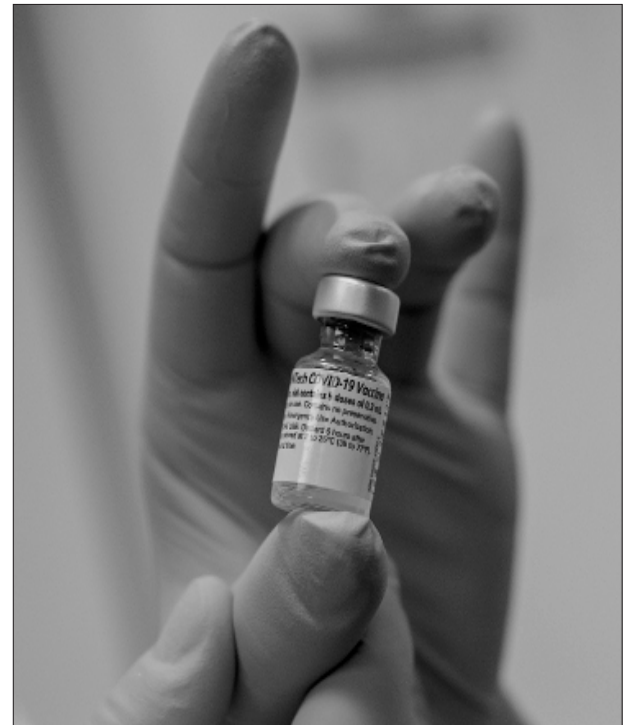


PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Although PC students are anxious to get the vaccine, they must remain patient for the sake of health equity.

Allowing Remote Attendance

Professors Should Respect Students' Wishes to Zoom Into In-Person Classes

by Madeline Morkin '22
Asst. Opinion Editor

CAMPUS

While many Providence College students are on campus, all were given the opportunity to study remotely for this semester, just as they were last semester. With COVID-19 outbreaks still occurring worldwide as well as on campus, an option for online attendance is entirely necessary for students who need to be at home full-time, in isolation if they contract the virus themselves, or in quarantine if they are a close contact of a student who tests positive for COVID-19.

This opportunity for students to attend classes remotely through Zoom has left professors to figure out how to deal with the difficult issue of split classrooms—students attending class in person and online simultaneously.

While professors should be given some slack when it comes to the inevitable imperfections and malfunctions of the split classroom, professors should also understand that some students who are not fully remote or in isolation or quarantine may feel the need to attend class remotely from time to time.

It should be noted with gratitude that professors have experienced intense stress while attempting to maintain any bit of possible normalcy inside the classroom and on campus during the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, it should also be understood that students are still figuring out their own routines with this new normal.

With it now being over one year since COVID-19 entered and took control over the country, the majority of PC students have now experienced much irregularity and discomfort, including the serious illness and loss of acquaintances, friends, and family members. The proper and well-deserved grief which should follow such experiences is not only unlikely but also often impossible to attain during a time of isolation and



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY

Although students may not be registered as fully-remote, professors should be lenient about allowing them to attend class via Zoom.

six-feet-apart mandates.

For these reasons, it may be difficult for any student to attend a particular class in person. Oftentimes, though, professors become irritated with the fact that students who have the ability to attend class in person are not doing so because this disrupts the potential for normalcy in the classroom that professors are trying so hard to maintain.

PC's on-campus outbreaks have left many students hesitant to leave the comfort of their dorms or houses. Illnesses and losses over the past year have pushed students into less stable mental states where they may feel irregularly emotional or uncomfortable inside a classroom full of students. Increased testing on campus and a decreased desire to be forced into quarantine have pushed students to stop showing up in person.

For these reasons, among many others, professors should understand that the potential of on-campus normalcy might not be necessary or

possible at this time.

While professors and students alike long for the same sense of normalcy that they were once able to exhibit thoughtlessly when teaching and attending classes over a year ago, it is currently not an option. Professors and students should equally respect each other's needs during this time.

Students living on campus do not necessarily imply by their mere presence that they feel secure enough to attend classes in person. What their presence on campus does mean is that they felt ready to step outside of the homes which they were stuck inside for months during the nationwide quarantine mandates that were provoked by COVID-19's initial entrance into the U.S. over a year ago.

Students' presence on campus means that they thought or once felt that they were ready to see other students and professors six feet apart. Their presence on campus should not imply that attending classes in person is always an option for them mentally.

Professors should not be disappointed on days when an on-campus student's name pops up virtually on Zoom. Attending class online is still attending class, regardless of the reasons for choosing to be online.

So, while PC's professors and students lament a more normal campus life, there should be a mutual understanding of each other's needs on any given day. While this mutual understanding will benefit campus life for now, it is also important that the College recognizes such stresses and discomforts for the fall 2021 semester.

PC should continue to offer a fully remote option for students who may not feel mentally or socially ready to attend classes in person even once the vaccine is more widely distributed. The COVID-19 pandemic was unexpected for everyone, and the College needs to be continuously understanding and intentional when considering the healthiest options for the members of its community.

Mirages of Perfection

Meghan Markle Proves We Never Know What Occurs Behind Closed Doors

by Olivia Bretzman '22
Opinion Staff

SOCIETY

Ever since Oprah Winfrey's interview with Meghan Markle and Prince Harry, the world has been questioning the morality of one of the longest-standing, traditional families in Western culture.

Not only was this unveiling of truth bound to occur, but it happened in a moment when many people are realizing that celebrities' lives may not be as perfect as they seem.

To many people, the British royal family has seemed like the epitome of perfection until Markle, a biracial, American actress, graced the family with her presence. She fell into the category of atypical compared to the other royals—particularly Kate Middleton, an already wealthy, high-class, British woman who married into the family who everyone seems to adore.

However, the royals' highly esteemed presence fell short as soon as Markle became a target in tabloids and newspapers alike for no apparent reason.

One would expect Markle to fit in considering her platform, beauty, countenance, and moral standards. However, the opposite occurred after the couple's marriage in 2018, and Markle's mental health has deteriorated ever since.

In the interview with Oprah, Markle explained the hierarchy



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Earlier this month, Oprah Winfrey led an interview with Meghan Markle and Prince Harry that revealed the couple has been struggling with a lot behind palace doors.

of the royal family and the power imbalance between the family itself and the "institution" that runs the family.

Markle told Oprah the institution "silenced" her. She was practically living in a prison disguised as one of the country's wealthiest palaces. Her life was reduced to false interviews and news, making Markle feel very unstable.

Along with all the fake news against which she could not defend herself, Markle claimed that the race of her future children was questioned in an incredibly racist manner. Moreover, she felt attacked by the

British press and the institution.

Her mental health crumbled and reached a breaking point at which she could not live her "normal," fake life anymore.

She felt suicidal. She asked for help, but no one would listen nor aid her. One would think that the royal family could afford decent mental health services or health care in general, but they simply decided that Markle was not their problem.

Moreover, Markle's life as part of the royal family was full of deception and likely a lot of prejudice against her rank, race, and nationality. Although neither she nor Harry

could share everything, the details they did provide, including those regarding the aftermath of their split with the family, seemed enough to charge the royal family with neglect in terms of security for the famous couple and their child.

Although this reality seems far off from what students at Providence College face, it stands as a perfect reminder of the fact that no one knows what happens behind closed doors. Even the most extravagant mirages of perfection and refinement are oftentimes tinged with weakness and blemishes.

More than ever, in this time of isolation, family issues and mental health crises are rampaging. One must become hyper-aware of their neighbors and friends. We must not be too quick to judge others nor hold anything against someone.

This fact does not stand true only now, though. Every single person has problems in their personal lives that many do not see. Oftentimes this is covered up by the fact that many students, faculty, and staff live and work in a similar environment and would then be assumed to be in similar situations. This is not the case.

Everyone is going through something. If anything, we can be the biggest support system for each other.

We can create the loving and care-filled environment that every person deserves, and that Markle never got.

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A Year of Life in the Pandemic Reflecting on Hope, Nostalgia, and "Normalcy"



by Andrea Traietti '21
Editor-in-Chief

EDITOR'S COLUMN

In a way that felt almost a little too poetic, last week I ended my isolation period after testing positive for COVID-19 on the very day that marked a full year of the pandemic.

On March 13, 2020, former President Donald Trump officially declared COVID-19 a national emergency. Two days earlier, on the same day that Providence College announced that it

would transition to remote classes, the World Health Organization declared it a pandemic. Those announcements led to lockdowns and stay-at-home mandates across the country, and as we all know, they would alter our lives drastically—even a year later.

The one-year mark was a milestone that many of us attempted to process last week as we reflected on a year of life in the pandemic, which at times has seemed like a strange time warp.

Personally, my 10 days in the Marriott made me feel a sense of desperation mixed with hopefulness mixed with nostalgia—a sort of cocktail of emotions that I hadn't felt on such an extreme level since the early days of the pandemic, when everything suddenly became uncertain and scary, but it also seemed, at least initially, like things would make a speedy return to "normal."

The essayist and novelist Leslie Jamison wrote about this range of emotions in her article "This Year Has Taught Me a Lot About Nostalgia," which was published by the New York Times last week as part of their series "The Week Our Reality Broke," a collection of articles reflecting on a year of living in the pandemic.

Jamison made two points in particular that struck me as I read her piece and reflected on my own experiences during the past year: she contextualizes the

difference between restorative nostalgia and reflective nostalgia, and she highlights that our longing to return to "normal" can oftentimes blind us to our privilege.

"Restorative nostalgia wants to create an idealized past," she writes, while "reflective nostalgia interrogates the very image it longs for." So many of us are longing for life to return to what it was like before the pandemic. We want things to go back to "normal," and rightfully so.

But Jamison points out that the pandemic itself, which has affected people of color disproportionately, along with the social justice movements that have played out in the midst of the pandemic, should prove to us that we have to think about what "normal" was to us before the pandemic—and what it will be like after.

She asks us not to ignore our feelings of nostalgia for pre-pandemic life, but rather to analyze them, "to reckon with certain abiding American fantasies about our past, our nation and our very different experiences of normalcy."

So, as we finally begin to see some light at the end of the tunnel with the rollout of the vaccine, we should look at the one-year mark of pandemic life as an opportunity to pause and reflect, and as a reminder to channel our nostalgia and our hope for "normalcy" into sustainable action for the future.

TANGENTS & TIRADES

Dr. Seuss Ban: Racism Has No Place in Children's Literature

A couple weeks ago, Dr. Seuss's estate decided to pull six of the late writer's books from stores, citing concerns with their racist imagery. The move ignited a firestorm of backlash, with some saying the decision is an example of "cancel culture."

While some aspects of cancel culture can be concerning, the removal of children's books featuring racist caricatures is not.

The audience of Dr. Seuss's books are young, impressionable children who experience the complexities of society through forms of media. By continuing to read books with outdated stereotypes, children are taught implicit biases that become reinforced as they grow older, thus continuing the cycle of racism.

This is not to say that all books featuring racism should be banned—for example, learning about the *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* in high school with a dialogue about the history of racism and its current state in our society is crucial to education.

The banning has also been compared to Cardi B's song "WAP," which includes sexually explicit lyrics and celebrates sexuality; if kid's books are banned, why is this song popular on streaming platforms?

This argument compares apples to oranges. "WAP" is a song written by adults for other adults, whereas Dr. Seuss books are written for the consumption and enjoyment of young children—the intended audience of media and its potential ramifications of said media's content separates these two works.

It is the unique audience of children's books that makes the Dr. Seuss estate's decision so critical. Disney has made similar moves in light of this issue, pulling movies like *Song of the South* from its streaming platform.

While banning racist images from books will not end racism, it is a first step in raising the next generation to have open minds, free from racial biases. If cancel culture enables the erasure of implicit biases from children's learning, we should welcome it.

—Elizabeth McGinn '21



De-Cluttering Your Mind and Your Space

With midterms fast approaching, college students have a lot of stress on their minds.

There are many ways to deal with this stress, such as taking a walk, watching a movie, or practicing meditation. However, a lot of these activities seem too time-consuming for busy students who want a quick break before getting back to their work.

College students should use cleaning as a de-stressor because it is a quick and easy way to clear one's mind and physical space.

One technique to cleaning that has circulated around social media is the "five-minute" rule. Whenever you need a break, you take five minutes to pick up or neaten anything that is cluttering your physical space. College students should use this technique to take a step away from work for just five minutes.

A clean space also helps you to be more productive because when your work and your notes are organized, so is your mind.

"I like to have all of my notes and books laid out neatly on my desk. It helps me to stay focused and be productive," Maddie Guth '22 said.

There are a lot of great ways to take a break from schoolwork and studying. But cleaning, or using the five-minute rule, is the most effective way to step away and come back even more productive.

—Emily Ball '22



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PIXY.ORG AND PIXABAY

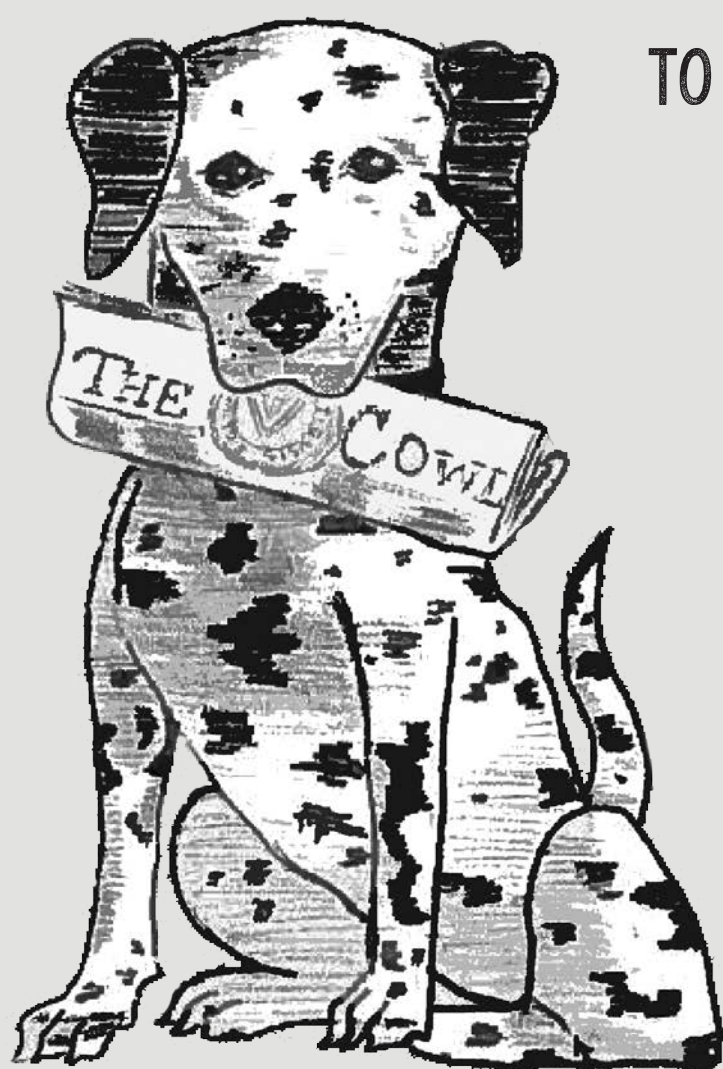
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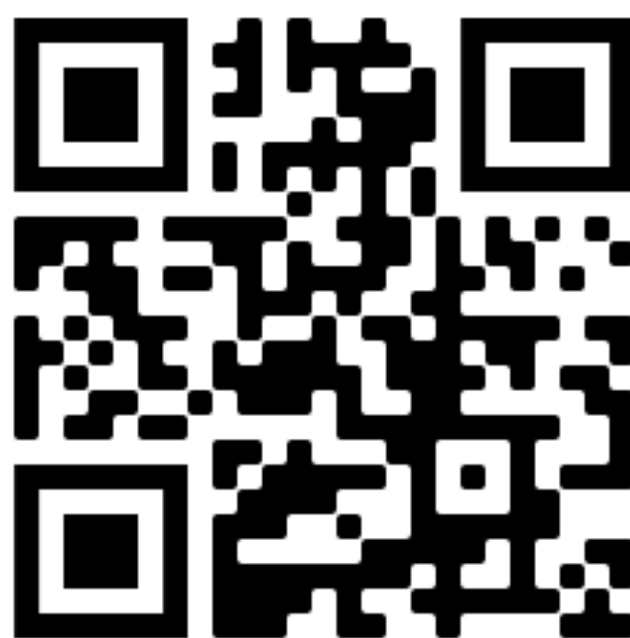
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The Cowl

Questions? Contact Andrea Traietti, Editor-in-Chief at atraiett@friars.providence.edu.

Puzzle Page

Friar Scramble: Places PC Students Eat

RTABELFAD YCMAOPN _____ SABAJ _____

THWIE CETERLCI _____ MOZOA _____

MINUAL _____ NKNDIU SUNTOD _____

LLLAASE KYBREA _____ IGB YSNT0 _____

ANSWERS: FLATBREAD COMPANY, BAJAS, WHITE ELECTRIC, ZOOMA, ALUMINI, DUNKIN DONUTS, LASALLE BAKERY, BIG TONY'S

Answers to last week’s puzzle:

James Gatz's new identity, with The	▼	G	Where you will find a Rhodes Scholar	NY train agency	Make a mistake	Desert refuge	Weekend — Bernie's	Say yes without words	▼	I	French thought	The sideways planet	Chute's partner	AL Mule Day Parade host	One, to Hans	David Guetta hit			
The Bard's famous duo	▶	R	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	D	J	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼			
Foot anomaly	▶	E	X	T	R	A	T	O	E	Half diameter, plural The Little Engine, modal	▶	R	A	D	I	I			
People living in the Horn	▶	A	F	A	R	S	Self-indulgent	▶	D	E	▼	C	A	D	E	N	T		
— Kill a Mockingbird	▶	T	O	Lessened	Freud's impulse The Village People hit	▶	I	D	Birthplace of the USA, colonial	Bocelli, informally	▶	A	N	D	R	E	A		
What the movie was not actually about	▶	G	R	E	Y	S	Concert location Time, in the morn	▶	V	E	N	U	E	Dr.'s partner QWERTY, for one	▶	R	N		
First man Alien, for short	▶	A	D	A	M	12-step program Luau staple	▶	A	A	Steve Irwin's wrestling opponent	King of Bollywood	▶	S	R	K	Impossible, for Tom Cruise	I		
▶	E	T	Icky residue Thin crust or Neapolitan	▶	S	C	▼	U	M	Atomic # 48 Stingy, to Pierre	▶	C	D	Volcano with an ironic name	Flightless bird Mom's sister, to you	▶	E	M	U
Laurie Halse Anderson's bestseller	▶	S	▼	P	E	A	K	Tico's locale	▶	C	R	Amy Farrah Fowler, irl What ice does	▶	M	A	Y	I	M	
Auction activity	▶	B	I	D	"You should invite me."	E	Jacuzzis Aang, to the airbenders	▶	H	O	T	T	U	B	S	"Orinoco Flow" singer	▼		
▶	X	Y	Z	The study of cancer, abbr.	▼	I	Like an alga and fungus in a symbiotic relationship	▶	L	I	C	H	E	N	O	S	E		
The end, alphabetically	▶	▼	Gemini or libra, e.g. — and behold!	▶	Z	O	D	I	A	C	Achieve, as a goal Simile word	▶	A	T	T	A	I	N	
▶	S	▼	L	A	N	G	Camilla's beau	▶	S	H	▼	A	W	N	Walt's older brother	▶	R	O	Y
Hip speech	▼	O	Wife of a count, Italiano	▶	C	O	N	T	E	S	S	A	What we're made of	▶	D	N	A		



AIDAN CASTRICONE '24/ THE COWL

ABOVE: The office of Student Activities and Cultural Programming celebrated Pi Day on March 14 by handing out mini pies in the Slavin Atrium for students to enjoy outside by the fire pits on Slavin Lawn.

RIGHT: There is no better place to enjoy hot cocoa and cookies with friends than at the fire pits on Slavin Lawn. The office of Student Activities and Cultural Programming hosted “Fireside Cookies and Cocoa” on March 10 for students to get cozy on a chilly afternoon.

BELOW: The Board of Programmers were back at it again this week with another goodie bag giveaway on March 13 in the Slavin Atrium with their “Cake and Coaster” event. Will Flanagan '23, Marelle Hippolito '21, and Sorieba Fofanah '22 gave out mugs and coasters for students to decorate while enjoying a freshly baked mug cake.



ISABELLA BAFFONI '22/ THE COWL

ABOVE: BOP celebrated International Women’s Week on March 4 with their “Choose Your Challenge” event. In addition to giving out bracelets, there was a photo installment throughout Slavin to honor the achievements of women in the past and present from different backgrounds and cultures.



JACK DOWNEY '23/ THE COWL



LILLIE HUNTER '22/ THE COWL

ROVING PHOTOGRAPHY

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March 18, 2021

*What would you want to find at the
end of a rainbow?*



"An Aston Martin DB5."
Lukas Mullaney '23



"My taste and smell."
Sinead Martin '23



"A credit card that I never have to pay the bill."
Jaclyn Coppinger '23



"Lots of chocolate."
Alex Sateriale '24



"World peace and happiness amongst all."
Mike Arrigg '23



"Chick-fil-A sandwiches."
Melissa Paugh '21



"A Grammy."

-Post Malone

Women Win Big at the 63rd Grammy Awards

Taylor Swift and Beyoncé Lauded With Awards and Records

by Grace Whitman '22
A&E Staff

MUSIC

When Harry Styles opened the 63rd Grammy Awards performing a slow rendition of “Watermelon Sugar” in a tight leather suit, we all knew that the night was going to be one to remember. Although the COVID-19 pandemic took away many of the things that we love this year, music was there to unite the world. After a long year without live musical performances by our favorite artists, this year’s Grammy Awards was full of versatile performances by artists including Dua Lipa, HAIM, and Post Malone. Additionally, Silk Sonic, composed of Bruno Mars and Anderson .Paak, made their debut television performance with their song “Leave the Door Open.” One of the most unforgettable moments of the night was DaBaby’s remixed version of his hit “Rockstar.” A major switch from their original version, DaBaby and Roddy Ricch offered a dramatic rendition of their viral hit, complete with violins and backup singers in choir robes. Other memorable performances included Dua Lipa’s medley of “Levitating” and “Don’t Start Now” and BTS’s virtual performance of “Dynamite.”

The Grammys’ telecast has always been known for their performances rather than the award announcements, but this year some history was made. Four women won the most prestigious awards of the night, including Taylor Swift, who became the first female artist to win Album of the Year three times—Swift’s albums *Fearless* and *1989* won in 2010 and 2016, respectively. Her album *folklore* was written entirely in quarantine and helped heal fans of the



heartbreak we all felt during 2020. The other three major awards—Best New Artist, Song of the Year, and Record of the Year—went to Megan Thee Stallion, H.E.R., and Billie Eilish, respectively. Beyoncé also made history by becoming the

most decorated woman in Grammy history with 28 awards. She earned four more gramophones, including the Grammy for Best R&B Performance for “Black Parade.” In her acceptance speech, Beyoncé said, “As an artist, I believe it’s my job, and all of our jobs, to reflect time, and it’s been such a difficult time.” As she always does, Queen Bey and several other artists used their platform and the Grammys’ stage to speak out about racial inequality. In a powerful performance directly referencing police brutality against Black people, Lil Baby performed his song “The Bigger Picture.” His musical performance was backed by scenes depicting the realities of life for so many Black people in this country. Also highlighting racial inequality, Mickey Guyton performed an absolutely heart-wrenching yet inspirational rendition of her song “Black Like Me.” The chorus features the lyrics: “If you think we live in the land of the free / You should try to be, oh, black like me.” Spreading this important message to viewers all across the country, Guyton asks listeners to see the United States through her eyes. As one of the first major award shows taking place in person without Zoom cameras projected onto television screens, music’s biggest night of the year brought a memorable show to viewers, which was exactly what we needed. There is a light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel, and the 63rd Grammy Awards brought us a little closer to it.

Let’s Rant: The Low Strategies of the Grammys

Manipulating BTS and Their Fan Base Helped Drive Views

by Sara Conway '21
A&E Co-Editor

MUSIC

Let’s talk about the Grammys. Specifically, about BTS and the Grammys. The septet was nominated for Best Pop Duo/Group Performance, their first nomination as a group, which came with priceless reactions from the members. It is no surprise that the members of BTS have had their eyes on the Grammys for some time; with each year, the seven crept a little closer to the stage and a nomination. Rapper Suga (Min Yoon-gi) is well-known for voicing these dreams, as he did during an interview with Jimmy Fallon in 2018. A year later, the group presented



H.E.R. with the Best R&B Album award, while their album *Love Yourself: Tear* was nominated for Best Recording Package. In 2020, they performed “Old Town Road” with Lil Nas X—another step forward. At this year’s Grammys, BTS were both nominated for a Grammy (which they did not win) and performed their own music on the award show’s renowned stage. “Dynamite,” their only song sung completely in English, received the honor of a Grammy nomination. I will be the first person to tell you that “Dynamite” is a far cry from showcasing BTS’s strengths and skills as artists. They are talented musicians, and their hard work cannot be doubted. Have you listened to the final verse of “Outro: Tear,” where J-hope tears through his lyrics, the backing orchestra rapidly hurtling towards the emotional breaking point of the track? Have you ventured to take a peek at the complex storyline of their *The Most Beautiful Moment in Life* and *Love Yourself* eras? Have you seen the verses their rappers have written, like RM’s lines from “Spring Day”: “Holding your hand, I go to the other side of the world / I wish to end this winter / How much longings must fall like snow / before that spring day arrives.” And for goodness sake, their debut song “No More Dream” is about the intensity of the South Korean



BTS performed their hit song “Dynamite” on a recreated Grammy stage in South Korea.

educational system and challenges listeners to dream. In the face of what BTS has created in their seven—almost eight years together—“Dynamite” barely scratches the surface. No, strike that. “Dynamite” stays at the surface, or more notably, stays at the surface geared towards the standards of western pop (mostly its radio). I am not frustrated because BTS did not win the Grammy. It is that the Grammys used the group’s clout—a.k.a. their massive fan base named ARMY—to promote the award show, pushing BTS’s performance forward to capture more attention. In the end, however, the Grammys relegated the announcement of Best Pop Duo/Group Performance (among other higher profile categories) to the pre-show livestream on YouTube, an odd choice considering this category is

usually presented at the ceremony. What the Grammys said with this decision is that BTS is not worth more than what their popularity and their fans can bring in views. And, boy, did the views come. 12.6 million views on the livestream, to be exact. Oh, and BTS’s first Grammy performance was dead last, closing the show. There are promises of the Grammys becoming more “diverse” and more “inclusive,” but time and time again, stunts like this are pulled. “Work harder, and you will be rewarded,” they say. “Work harder and prove to us that you are worthy of our attention, and then we will talk.” Yet this “award” that is just out of reach and given by a predominantly white (and American) standard is just an illusion. So, Grammys. I’m seriously “sick of all your trash.”

Let’s Rant: Student Teaching Music COVID-19 Challenges and Growth

by Liam O’Hara ’21
A&E Staff

LOCAL MUSIC

Music teaching has not been the same during the pandemic, specifically for those in the K–12 world. While many music educators have been feeling down during this past year, since there was not a lot of music being made in the classroom, there really is quite a lot to reflect on and a lot to be hopeful for in the years to come.

In lieu of ensemble rehearsing in K–12 school systems during COVID-19, there is a larger focus on using digital audio workstations such as Soundtrap, GarageBand, Logic Pro X, and Pro Tools. Although students cannot play live music like they could before the pandemic, they are learning more about professional music and being a music producer, which is something that did not happen as much before in K–12 music learning. These are now the tools of teaching to help students be more creative and productive in their music learning.



Some school bands have resorted to performing over Zoom.

One other thing to note is that children nowadays are obsessed with technology, and the availability of GarageBand on their phones or tablets has led them to veer away from learning how to play physical instruments. If children are enjoying themselves while on their devices, would it not be a good idea to care for children’s interests and to teach them more about music technology and what tools they can use to make music on their devices? Certainly, the more the classrooms are catered to the students’ interests, the more the children will enjoy themselves.

Although COVID-19 has created challenges for music teaching in K–12 systems, teachers have found new ways to adapt and help their students learn about the music world in innovative ways.

63rd Grammy Award Highlights

- Record of the Year**
“Everything I Wanted,” Finneas O’Connell, producer; Rob Kinelski and Finneas O’Connell, engineers/mixers; John Greeman, mastering engineer (Billie Eilish)
- Album of the Year**
folklore, Taylor Swift
- Song of the Year**
“I Can’t Breathe,” Dernst Emile II, H.E.R. and Tiara Thomas, songwriters (H.E.R.)
- Best New Artist**
Megan Thee Stallion
- Best Pop Solo Performance**
“Watermelon Sugar,” Harry Styles
- Best Pop Duo/Group Performance**
“Rain on Me,” Lady Gaga with Ariana Grande
- Best Pop Vocal Album**
Future Nostalgia, Dua Lipa
- Best Rock Album**
The New Abnormal, The Strokes
- Best Rap Album**
King’s Disease, Nas
- Best Dance/Electronic Album**
Bubba, Kaytranada
- Best Alternative Music Album**
Fetch the Bolt Cutters, Fiona Apple
- Best Rap Song**
“Savage,” Beyoncé, Shawn Carter, Brittany Hazzard, Derrick Milano, Terius Nash, Megan Pete, Bobby Session Jr., Jordan Kyle Lanier Thorpe and Anthony White, songwriters (Megan Thee Stallion featuring Beyoncé)

Women Bring Strong Voices to Local Music Scene Leading Groups to Explore New Sounds Fearlessly

R.I. Musicians

Continued from front page

An example of one of these bands is Late Night Trip. Formed in the fall of 2019, LNT is an indie rock/shoegaze five-piece based out of the University of Rhode Island. The band is composed of Gwen Babalato, vocals and guitar; Karla Gonzalez, bass and vocals; Kenzie Waters, guitar; River Cabot-Dobson, keys; and Lili Klayman, drums. The band has made a name for themselves by creating a swirling cloud of brilliant melodies and groovy songs that shimmer and glow. Their sound is hypnotic and entrancing while at times slower and wider, seen prominently in their single “Auntie Orca.” The guitars wave in and out, conjuring an image of looking into a moonlit pool. The keys ascend and descend in the background, creating an atmosphere that brings to mind sitting on a porch on a quiet evening in the suburbs. This peace is enhanced by the gentle drums and the melodic bass, with the vocals gliding over the instruments like a bird across the sunset. Aside from the songs that they have on SoundCloud, LNT have an EP titled *Unfurnished* that is scheduled for release soon.

Another Providence-based band, The Benji’s, is also fronted by a woman. Based around the main duo of Maryssa Morse

on keys and vocals and Philip Geronimo on guitar, the band brings the washed-out, dreamy vibes of California’s music scene to the East Coast in a refreshing way. Geronimo’s reverb-soaked guitars perfectly compliment Morse’s silky voice and atmospheric synths. Their songs invoke a feeling of summer no matter the tone. The song “Sure I Can Stand It” off of their 2015 release *EP 1* is a perfect example of this. At first, the song sounds almost menacing, with Morse’s vocals slithering over a rumbling bassline. However, once the drums and guitars kick in, the sun bursts out from behind the clouds and the listener is transported right to the beach. With their deft and talented approach to surf and indie rock, The Benji’s stand out in Rhode Island’s rather landlocked music scene.

Local legends grizzlies. also deserve a mention. Featuring Cynthia Munrayos on vocals, Emily Iwuc on keys, Josh Zenil on guitar, Mike Villani on bass, and Harrison Reed Dolan on drums, grizzlies. is an absolute powerhouse. Munrayos’s vocals command attention. Her smokey and expressive voice perfectly complements the band’s jazzy indie rock, which grooves and rocks along in mysterious and enticing ways. “Ain’t Even A Thing,” the lead track off of their 2019 EP *hibernation.*, exemplifies this perfectly, featuring passionate vocals from Munrayos and excellent musicianship. At 2:18 in the song, the



Late Night Trip at Jefferson Bear Cottage. From left: Karla Gonzalez (bass, vocals), Lili Klayman (drums), Gwen Babalato (guitar, vocals), Kenzie Waters (guitar). River Cabot-Dobson (keys) is off-camera.

music transitions from a funky, rolling indie rock tune to a ballad in 6/8 time. While all the instruments are shining here, the guitar solo from Zenil and the drumming from Dolan both stand out, with the former’s dual guitar harmonies and the latter’s polyrhythms on the ride cymbal creating a truly emotional experience. Grizzlies.’ music takes risks without coming across as self-indulgent, and that is truly something to respect.

These are only a few of the many female-fronted bands doing amazing things in Rhode Island. However, hopefully this shortlist provides even just a glimpse of some of the talented women musicians so close to Providence College’s own campus.

Nickelodeon Announces Development of Avatar Studios

Production of New Avatar Content by Original Creators

by Dave Argento '21
A&E Staff

TELEVISION



PHOTO COURTESY OF PINTEREST.COM

After 16 years since the premiere of *Avatar: The Last Airbender*, and six years since the finale of *The Legend of Korra*, Nickelodeon’s February 2021 announcement of Avatar Studios has reinvigorated excitement surrounding what content the highly popular animated world will yield. Although *The Last Airbender* was tremendously popular and *The Legend of Korra* saw rather strong ratings as well when these series were originally released, fans of the fantasy franchises had lost hope in ever seeing more of the magic that original creators Micheal DiMartino and Bryan Konietzko

produced. With Nickelodeon’s support for Avatar Studios, the two will now have the greatest financial backing and creative freedom that they have had yet to dive deeper into the lore-rich world of *Avatar*.

Many Netflix subscribers are likely to remember the booming *Avatar* fandom that formed in the spring of 2020 when *Avatar: The Last Airbender* became the most watched title on the platform as of May 22, 2020. Between the original fans that grew up with protagonists Aang and Korra and the new binge-watchers engaging across social media, the hype surrounding the two shows set the stage for this announcement.

DiMartino and Konietzko have had a long and rather difficult history with licensing agreements and creative restrictions failing to do the franchise justice. Henry St Leger of TechRadar writes, “There was an ill-fated, whitewashed and universally-panned live-action movie of *The Last Airbender*, directed by M. Night Shyamalan—originally intended to be a trilogy of films, but scrapped due to the poor reviews and low profits of the first film.” This comically bad film left a sour taste in the mouths of dedicated fans, casting doubt on whether or not a quality remake would ever come. Lacking the original *Avatar* creators, the film was almost doomed from the beginning.

In 2018, Netflix announced its own plans to make a live-action TV series based on *The Last Airbender*, but internal difficulties regarding creative differences caused DiMartino and Konietzko to depart from the project. The status of the Netflix series remains unclear following the implied conflict behind the scenes, as there has yet to be an official release date two years after the initial announcement of the project. The two original animated series are still on Netflix, but the longevity of the ties between Nickelodeon’s licensing of the titles and the Netflix platform is not likely to persist in the long-term.

Nickelodeon’s announcement of Avatar Studios coming shortly after DiMartino and Konietzko’s departure from Netflix may imply that any new *Avatar* content would

be released on Paramount Plus, the new streaming platform of Nickelodeon’s parent company, Paramount. Julia Alexander of The Verge writes, “The new streaming service will have more than 30,000 TV episodes and films from across its various brands, including BET, CBS, Comedy Central, MTV, Nickelodeon, and Paramount Pictures, alongside some aspect of live sports and news.”

This new support and new platform provide DiMartino and Konietzko with the best tools for success they have seen since *The Legend of Korra* years ago. Although the specifics surrounding the future of the *Avatar* world still remain rather unclear, fans that have patiently waited for new content from the original creators will have releases to look forward to in the relatively near future.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THEDESK.MATTHEWKEYS.NET

Why You Need to Watch Booksmart Right Now

A Close Look at a Timely, Feminist Coming-of-Age Story

by Nikki Idelson '22
A&E Staff

FILM

In a society that continues to be dominated by white men, female success in film is often overlooked. However, in the past decade, women have started to gain recognition for their accomplishments. Hopefully one day, society will reach a point when women are honored every day, rather than just one month a year. The film industry boasts talented women in all roles which deserve to be celebrated no matter the time of year. In the past couple of years alone, female directors have not only entered the picture but have dominated the scene. One of these directors is Olivia Wilde.

Olivia Wilde is an up-and-coming director in addition to being a seasoned actor. In 2019, her big directorial break came from her film *Booksmart*. The film centers around two friends, Molly and Amy. They are in their senior year of high school

and at the top of their class. In the beginning of the film, they criticize their classmates who spent their high school years partying. However, they soon come to learn that these classmates have actually done well in school and are still attending good colleges. Molly and Amy realize that they missed out on much of the social aspect of high school, leading them to go to a party with their fellow classmates. They end up having an insane night that results in learning and coming to terms with various truths about themselves. Although *Booksmart* appears to be another coming-of-age tale about self-discovery, its impact is much deeper.

For one, the film features two female actors as leads. Typically, in all types of films, especially coming-of-age ones, the leads are men. Molly is a fiery young woman who has no fear of telling any person, especially men, exactly what she is thinking. According to BuzzFeed, in one of the early scenes in the film, Molly has “photos of Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Michelle Obama plastered on the walls of her room.” The incorporation of these two influential women is essential to the movie’s message, as it helps to bring positive awareness to women in politics, which is a field where women are not always taken seriously. By incorporating these powerful women into the film as individuals to be looked up to, the film helps to show that young girls and teenagers can, and should, look up to leaders such as these.

Amy’s character is much quieter, yet she is still a leader. According to film critic Monica Castillo, the film goes much further than simply showing two women in lead roles: “it was just as refreshing to see it set in a high school that’s full of diverse students, different sexual orientations and gender expressions.” Amy represents the much needed acceptance and normalization of LGBTQ+ characters in film. This representation can be seen in her crush on a girl named Ryan and then her later hookup with a character named Hope. Amy’s crush and eventual hookup are never



PHOTO COURTESY OF LALIGNENYC.COM

Olivia Wilde, the director of *Booksmart*.

made a major deal and are depicted as normal. In a way, *Booksmart* celebrates the LGBTQ+ community with the same passion as LGBTQ+-genre films, albeit with an extra push towards casually integrating it into mainstream cinema.

Overall, *Booksmart* is a film that every person must see. It not only shows two powerful women as leads, but also touches on the true realities of growing up. It incorporates a diverse cast, which in prior years has typically not been the case. This film has helped to break down barriers in the representation of women in lead roles. However, these advances are just the start. Film needs to not only represent the voices of white women, but also the voices of women of color. Women belonging to the BIPOC community need to not only be cast in side roles, but also given voices as leads.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OMAHA.COM

A still from the film featuring Molly and Amy.

The Time Capsule

by Sarah Kirchner '21
Portfolio Co-Editor

FICTION

It came too soon. Every year, it came too soon. It caused a sense of anxiety in the hallways. It lingered in every conversation. It was hard to avoid, but also a necessity we all knew we needed to keep. A tradition to help our future. Our children.

"Don't look so worried, Lozzie," Jack said and kissed my forehead. He smiled, as always, keeping that upbeat attitude alive during this weary time. "It's our last year. What are the odds it could be one of us? Or anyone we know for that matter?"

The chances were one in five hundred, actually, but I wasn't going to remind him of that, so I nodded instead. I slipped my hand into his and we began our walk down the school hall. "I just don't know what I would ever do if they called your name."

"You don't ever have to fear that. It's me and you versus the world. God knows I couldn't do this life thing without you." He winked at me, and for a second I was able to let the worries slip away.

The school was decorated for the big event. Glitter covered the floors, gold and silver balloons floated at the ceiling, and white streamers ran above our lockers. The school did its best to make the event seem livelier. A day for celebration, but it was hard to view it as that each year.

Our friends were most likely already waiting for us in the auditorium. Penny and Liam were never worried. They saw it as just another day for them, but an unfortunate day for one poor soul. I tried to ask Penny how she really felt about it. It always seemed like Liam forced her to see it as a minuscule thing. He reassured her, just as Jack did

with me, but Liam acted as if it was ridiculous for anyone to see it as a real threat. Penny wasn't like that, though. Before they started dating, she worried about it each year, too. We would make pacts about what would happen if either of us were chosen. But I hadn't heard her mention our pacts in over two years now. It was good that this was our last year, then.

"Happy Capsule Day!" One kid shouted behind us. A bunch of boys joined in with cheers. I noticed Jack crack a smile

The pit in my stomach grew.

"Lighten up," Jack said. We turned the corridor into the auditorium, and suddenly I couldn't stop myself from shaking.

"Lozzie, seriously." Jack stopped walking. Around us, kids murmured curses, annoyed we stopped in the middle of the entrance. People were anxious to get into the room, anxious to get the day over with.

"Take a deep breath," Jack instructed and held on to my other hand as well. Together, we took a few deep breaths staring at one another. For the moment, my heartrate calmed again, and the shaking stopped. I knew he was right that our chances of being chosen were low, but they weren't nonexistent. There was still that tiny chance—that point two percent chance.

"Ready?" Jack asked. I nodded and he smiled. "Good. Penny and Liam already saved us seats up front." He pecked my cheek and guided us down the aisle. The room was almost full; nervous chit chat filled the air.

"Look who finally decided to show up!" Liam shouted as we joined them in the aisle. We were in the third

row, too close to the stage for my liking. Liam and Jack high fived one another, and I offered Penny a smile.

"Exciting day, huh?" Penny chuckled, but I could see past the laugh. She was tense. We all were.

"I'm just happy it's our last year," I said.

Static noise interrupted the chatter. Our attention turned to the stage where Mrs. Gallagher stood at the podium. She smiled, and my skin crawled. "Happy Capsule Day, everyone!" Her voice echoed in the silent room. Next to me, Jack cleared his throat.

"Each year, we are honored that you join us in giving the future a better insight into what life is like today." Mrs. Gallagher paused and let her words sink in. I couldn't help but roll my eyes. It wasn't like we had much of a choice in participating. Everyone who attended Grove High knew about the tradition. The community thought it was all too important for our future generations to have the best artifacts to learn from.

"The yearbook has already been placed into the capsule, along with the wonderful journal entries you each wrote to reflect on a normal day here in Grove."

Liam snickered, "I submitted a blank page." Jack cracked a smile too,

but I only shook my head. It wasn't funny what he was doing. He was ruining the very system that our school and community thrived off of.

"And so, without further ado, we select a name for the lucky participant that will be buried with the capsule tonight." Mrs. Gallagher walked to the computer on the side of the stage. Behind her, a projector lowered. I sucked in my breath. I pitied whoever's name appeared on that screen.

Jack grabbed my hand, and I began to breathe again. He was always able to bring me back from my anxieties. I knew he had a point. It was very unlikely any of us four would be chosen, but I still worried each year. At least after this, we wouldn't have to worry for a while, not until our children were in high school.

"Good luck to you all," Mrs. Gallagher shouted from the computer and then she pressed a button on the computer to generate a name. My stomach knotted and I held on tighter to Jack. Penny released a deep breath next to him. The seconds ticked on, and the name appeared.

Lozzie Cornwell.

Jack dropped my hand immediately, and before I could process another thing, security surrounded me.

Lozzie Cornwell

Lucy

by Ellie Forster '24
Asst. Portfolio Editor

FICTION

Lucy had a talking problem. She was small, but not small enough to not be a bother. So, she did just that. She bothered everyone she met. She pulled on shirts, she asked too many questions, she demanded attention. Lucy was seen and heard. She just wasn't listened to. And that was what she had begun to crave—for someone, anyone, to listen to her. Her older sisters thought she was a pain, her parents thought she was a problem. So, they sent her to the old woman down the street.

Mrs. Hall was a widow, and she smelled like mold. Each of Lucy's siblings had had her as a babysitter at one time or another, and each had come back quiet. Now it was her turn. She walked down the road, a bag with some coloring books slung over her little shoulder. She counted the trees on her way there, and how many ones had leaves that had begun to change colors already. She picked up her favorites from the street. When she got to the door, she knocked but as she did, she dropped the leaves and twigs she had collected;

they spilled out of her arms onto the top step. Mrs. Hall opened the door.

"Young lady!"

Lucy straightened up, shoving leaves into her bag and pushing hair out of her face. She smiled and stuck out her hand, which was smudged with marker and dirt. The old woman shook her head at it and ushered the girl inside. She turned briskly once Lucy was inside and closed the door behind her. It was cold and neat inside her house, but a warm light streamed in from a picture window in the parlor.

Lucy gazed lovingly at the window seat. It had deep red cushions, and books stacked in the shelves beneath it. Her bag fell from her shoulder and she bounded over to it. She laid out on the cushions, bathing in the light. She mused to the woman gawking at her about the warmth and the beauty, asking when her house was built, when it was sold to her and her late husband, and then how did her husband die? And was he a handsome man? What was it that he first did that made her know she loved him? Or did

she never love him? Was there someone else? And—

"Young lady! I daresay you may be the rudest of all your siblings, and that Clara was an ordeal! Take your shoes off immediately and go wash your hands. And that incessant chittering and chattering will stop now. Off with you."

Lucy did as she was told. She was never a disobedient child, just a talkative one. As she left the bathroom, toweling her hands, she asked the woman about that word she had used, "incessant," and what it meant.

"For someone so curious I'm surprised you don't know."

Lucy was quiet.

"Alright, it means constant, nonstop."

Lucy thanked her and sprung to the kitchen, leaving the towel on the ground in the hallway. She began to ask more questions, about the food and what each appliance and utensil was for.

"That's for dicing...well, it's for cutting vegetables very small...I suppose it wouldn't have to be used on vegetables...no, you couldn't use it on candies...well,

they'd get it all sticky...that's a juicer...yes, it is used for vegetables, too..."

The girl then asked her again about her husband. This time she answered.

"Robert was kind. I suppose that is what drew me to him at first...romantic? I dunno if he was romantic necessarily. In the traditional sense. Well yes..."

They sat on the floor of the kitchen talking for the duration of Lucy's visit. When the clock struck six, Lucy jumped up, saying she would be late for dinner. She hugged Mrs. Hall and collected her things. She was halfway out the door, then she asked if she could come again. The old woman nodded, and as she watched the little girl run away, down the street, she picked the towel up off the floor and folded it in her hand.

She made her way to the picture window and sat on it, picking up a leaf from the cushion, and closed her eyes as the sun fell from the sky. She sat and listened to the silence.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY.COM

Tossing

by Sarah Heavren '21
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

After a whole year
Of loss, change, and pain,
There's something we need
To help us sustain.

Days spent in waiting
For the perfect day
To bust out some discs,
Get some friends, and play.

A little rusty
From being apart,
Together again
We practice our art.

To some it might be
A sport or a game,
But in us it sparks
An ultimate flame.

We walk different paths
But they always cross
When one of us asks,
"Do you want to toss?"

PHOTO COURTESY OF COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.ORG

The Pot of Gold

by Taylor Rogers '24
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

Where is my pot of gold?
I walk around the world, hearing the grand stories told,
Stories of new, and stories of old,
All revolving around this mystical pot of gold.

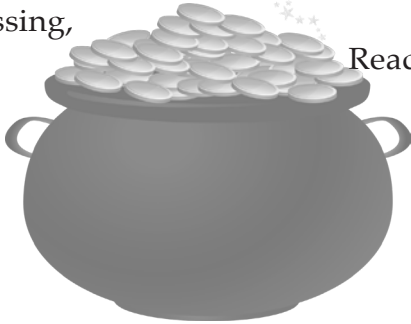
My relatives tell me about their personal treasures,
Bragging to me about these in extreme measures.
When will it be my turn to find this pleasure?
I wonder, how do these people find these treasures?

One day, I stumble along what I think will be a blessing,
And I thank the spirits for my pain lessening.
Finally, I have a pot that might not be depressing.
I open the mystery item, praying for a blessing.

Sadly, my pot of gold has nothing inside,
Reflecting my heart, which has too long been denied.
I have looked everywhere, both in and outside,
Yet this pot is empty, just like my cold insides.

How will I fill this mystery object from above?
Will I fill it with lust, or will I fill it with love?
Now, I can find something that fits in my pot like a glove,
And fulfill the wishes of the creatures above.

Happily, I begin my newest ride,
Ready to find what makes my pot of gold big and wide.
One day, this object will be filled with pride,
And I will have completed my ride.



PHOTOS COURESTY OF PIXABAY.COM



St. Patrick's Day Straitjacket

by Fiona Clarke '23
Portfolio Staff

CREATIVE NONFICTION

It's almost that time of year when I can't tell whether I'm embarrassed or sunburned. Every year, I think, "I won't get sunburned, it's too cold, or cloudy, or I'll only be outside a few minutes," and every year, I find out the hard way that no, I can't stand outside for ten minutes without getting what Gordon Ramsey might call "a beautiful sear" all over. Well, I guess it'll be appropriate to mark St. Patrick's Day with a peeling forehead. (I imagine my ancestors will smile down upon me—eternal rest granted unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them and not scorch them).

I'll probably be spending St. Patrick's Day in some kind of straitjacket, because if I were to hear that (expletive) song "Kiss Me, I'm Irish," well, I don't know what I'd do, but it wouldn't be pretty. I don't mean to be harsh—hold on, what am I saying? Of course I do: Unless you really want a reminder that your blood is in fact red, not green, then keep that song the hell away from me. My blood is boiling just thinking about it.

In case it wasn't clear, I have mixed feelings about St. Patrick's Day. I like it in

and of itself, in fact I love it, but my spine curls around itself like an old phone cord at an overabundance of green glitter, and there are few things I hate more than the cutesification of alcoholism. And that goes for you, "Kiss Me, I'm Irish"—I am here picturing myself in the righteous rage of George Bailey rising up to denounce Mr. Potter and all his flunkies, but they have all painted themselves Kelly green and are wearing a sparkly green top hat that's just begging to be knocked off.

Why the long face? you say. Why such rage? you say.

First of all, three of the lines from the chorus of this benighted song are pilfered from other Irish songs, good songs. I can and will name these songs: "I am the wild rover" is from "The Wild Rover," best done by The Dubliners. "My eyes, they are smiling" is a reference to "When Irish Eyes are Smiling;" Bing Crosby's version is the classic. "I'm seldom sober" is from "Carrickfergus," best done, without question, by The Chieftains & Van Morrison. Now I'd consider the use of any line from "Carrickfergus" a grave

offense, because it is a great song, and as far as I'm concerned "Kiss Me, I'm Irish" is so far removed from the realm of 'good songs' as to be practically dancing the macarena on sacred ground. But the use of that particular line, "I'm seldom sober," just beats all. The line works in "Carrickfergus" because "Carrickfergus" is a sad song, the "sad reflections" of a dying man, and being in a continual state of intoxication is a sad thing. But in "Kiss Me, I'm Irish," it tries to turn something sad and bleak—alcoholism—into something fun and zany, an attribute of someone you'd want to party with. It just doesn't work, because it reeks of untruth.

The other four lines of the chorus are half-assed collages of terms that will together conjure hackneyed images of Ireland, such as "whiskey" and "dancing" and "luck." It's likely that the writers of "Kiss Me, I'm Irish" had no intention to write a great Irish anthem, that they intended the song to be to Irish music and culture what pancake syrup is to maple syrup—that is, a tasteless, sticky mockery of something good. I suppose the counterargument is that that's exactly what makes

it good, that it does what it was intended to do, but I'll be damned if I start believing that art's value lies solely in the intentions of the artist. (No, I don't know what the intentions were of the particular artists behind "Kiss Me, I'm Irish," and no, I don't really care either.)

By the time this issue is published, the day in question will have passed, and I hope you haven't gotten any emails from Public Safety alerting you of brawls between drunk leprechauns and unidentified female students with brown hair, approximately 5'4 (fine, 5'3 and a half). I hope I made it through the day without getting into any brawls with leprechauns. But if I did, I sure hope I won. I probably did.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PIXABAY.COM

Drowning

by Anna Pomeroy '23
Portfolio Staff

CREATIVE NON-FICTION

It’s quite an odd sensation—the quick plunge into the depths of the tundra water. And while I haven’t truly experienced it, I can imagine the freezing temperatures and numb chills being mistaken by the bubbles glistening across every goosebump as they stream up the surface of skin. I would never romanticize the act of drowning, but I do see it like a rollercoaster ride. The extreme panic that overtakes the body as their vision is immediately blinded by the water collapsing on top of their head is replaced in a matter of moments. Drowning, while seemingly a sufferable experience, is over in a matter of a minute. While our body endures the first few seconds of fighting for breath and attempting to reach back up for air, we become so comfortable with the body that it eventually breaks. The battle ends as the lungs allow water to invade the host. I can only imagine the grand feeling of peace that implodes in the disappointment of losing the fight. As the body sinks and darkness creeps across from the periphery, the sensation of peace overcomes it. Facing up, the body falls into the dark, undiscovered depths of the water, leaving all troubles of life left on the shore. It’s crazy how a visual based on escape strips away the glory of existence in just a matter of moments.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PEXELS.COM

Listomania*

Signs that it’s spring at PC:

- The return of the wannabe lax bros
- Playing spike ball on the quad (or any lawn game of your choice)
- The friars are showing their ankles
- Soccer and lax games every weekend
- Everybody bringing back the folding chairs from September
- Country music on the AQ lawn
- Darties
- The smell of trees and grass combatting the stench from Ray
- Midterm madness
- Dogs!
- More fake spray tans
- New Dunkin’ flavors (Irish Creme!)
- Max levels of senioritis
- Daffodils
- Transitioning from hot to iced coffee...never mind, we drank that through the winter anyway

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

Tiffany & Earl

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

Dear Tiff and Earl,

I’m trying to get a leprechaun to join my pod. How should I entice them? Do I sprinkle Lucky Charms for them to follow?

Sincerely,

In Need of a Little Luck

Dear In Need,

Although Lucky Charms are magically delicious, actual leprechauns have higher standards (don’t ask how I know—I just do). You’ll have to become well-versed in making corned beef and cabbage, boiled potatoes, and Irish soda bread. You’re also going to have to do a jig and play a tin whistle in front of the entirety of campus, because leprechauns love humiliation as much as they do mischief (again, don’t ask how I know this). Ironically, you’re going to need a lot of luck to be able to attract a leprechaun, so good luck!

Jiggingly,

Tiff

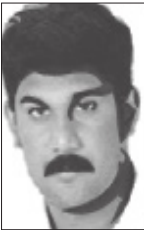


Dear Not-So-Lucky,

Leprechauns are notoriously difficult to entice. Unfortunately, the last thing they want to be fed is corporate propaganda that profits off their own likeness. Nope, they want real, solid gold. Approximately \$20,000 worth. I’ve heard Eaton Street Cafe is selling some if you have Friar Bucks to spare.

Goldenly,

Earl



JUSTIN

BIEBER

GOODY BAG & TRIVIA

FRIDAY
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Sports Shorts

by Ben Bilotti '23
Sports Staff

SPORTS SHORTS

Men's Hockey:

The Providence College Men's Ice Hockey Team faced the University of Connecticut on March 14 in hopes of advancing to the Hockey East Semifinals. The Friars bested the Huskies, beating them 6-1 in dominant fashion. Six different Friars shot and scored. Parker Ford '23 scored first early into the first period. In the second, Uula Ruikka '24 and Nick Poisson '24 scored within 60 seconds of each other to put the Friars up 3-1. Tyce Thompson '22, Brett Berard '24, and Max Crozier '23 each added a goal later in the game to solidify the impressive 6-1 win.

Women's Hockey:

The Providence College Women's Ice Hockey Team fell 3-0 to the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the first round of the NCAA tournament on March 16. This was the second-ever NCAA tournament appearance for the No. 7 Friars, the only other time being in 2005. Goalie Sandra Abstreiter '21 did all she could to will the Friars to a victory, tying her season-high with 41 saves, but the Friars could not get anything going against the talented Wisconsin defense. The loss marked the end of a fantastic season for the Friars, one that also saw them make it all the way to the Hockey East finals.

Women's Volleyball:

The Providence College Women's Volleyball Team played a two-game series against the University of Connecticut Women's Volleyball Team on March 12 and March 13. PC won both games three sets to one and improved their record to 5-1. In game one, Emma Nelson '23 stood out with 14 kills, including a go-ahead kill in the first set. Jennifer Leitman '23 and Elena Leontaridou '23 both had 12 kills. Allison Barber '21 also impressed, accumulating 45 assists and 16 digs. In game two, Barber continued her success with 39 assists and 10 digs. PC looks to continue their hot start to the year against St. John's University on March 19 and 20.

Women's Soccer:

The Providence College Women's Soccer Team hosted Villanova University on Sunday, March 14. The Friars dominated the match, beating the Wildcats 4-0. They improved their record to 5-1-0 on the season: the program's best since 2010. Hannah McNulty '21 shot and scored the first goal of the game. After that, Samantha Adams '24 did not waste much time, scoring 14 minutes later for her second goal of the season. In the second half, Elayna Grillakis '22 scored her first goal of the season before Meg Hughes '24 added the final goal of the game. PC's defense went to work in the match, only allowing two shots on target. The Friars will look to continue their winning ways at St. John's University on March 18.

Friar Freshman off to Hot Start *Diarbian Right at Home in Friartown*

Diarbian

Continued from front page

Diarbian collected seven points in his first three collegiate games and has helped PC rise in the national rankings. The Friars came in at No. 13 in the United Soccer Coaches College Rankings last week following a draw at home against No. 5 Georgetown University. Since then, PC has dropped their last two matches.

Diarbian's performance caught the attention of other Big East schools when he was named to the Big East Weekly Honor Roll on March 1. He was then tabbed the Big East Freshman of the Week the following week, too.

Diarbian's accolades are representative of his teammates' success as well. Goalie Rimi Olatunji '22RS has been honored twice with Big East Goalkeeper of the Week after several impressive shutout performances. Christopher Roman '22 was named Big East Offensive Player of the Week on Feb. 22 following his three-point showing in PC's season opener.

"Ever since I was a freshman in high school, I always dreamed of starting and wearing the number 10 for PC."

It is never easy to please all fans, especially after the performances that Diarbian has put up, but for him, it is the mindset for the future that keeps him going. "For me, always in my mind, I just tell myself to keep going and keep going...the most important thing is us as a team, to stay together and to work as a group to get better." With this competitive mentality, Diarbian looks primed to continue to reach not only his goals, but the team's as well.

In high school, Diarbian wore the coveted number 10 jersey. When he arrived on campus over the summer, the number was available, yet, he was not sure which number was going to



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEVORK DIARBAN '24

Diarbian spent four seasons with the New England Revolution's youth academy team.

be on the back of his jersey. Former captain Danny Griffin '20 had worn number 10 for the previous four years prior. "As a freshman, it's an amazing feeling. Ever since I was a freshman in high school, I always dreamed of starting and wearing the number 10 for PC." He had some big shoes to fill, but so far he is doing so very successfully.

Hailing from Cranston, RI, Diarbian is very familiar with New England soccer. He played a number of years for Bayside FC (the state's premier soccer club), before starting at La Salle Academy, just down the road from PC. Then, he was a part of the New England Revolution Youth Academy prior to enrolling at PC.

His older brother, Azad Diarbian '22, attends all of the Friars' home games along with his parents and other family members. "It's an unbelievable feeling. Without them [my family] I wouldn't be where I am today...just seeing them watching me play, it's an unbelievable feeling," said Diarbian.

Diarbian is one of two local players on the men's soccer roster from Rhode Island, the other being another Cranston native and fellow Revolution

Youth Academy alum Kevin Vang '22.

"You know, for me, it's very good to play with Kevin. He's a great player, a good kid, and I feel I have a good connection with him on the field. For example, he assisted me against URI." On that play, Vang sent a gorgeous through-ball to a cutting Diarbian in the box. Diarbian then beat the keeper with a shot to the top right corner.

"I love to play with him," said Diarbian. "He's great on the ball and very easy to play with because we have known each other for a very long time."

Diarbian also pointed out just how different of an experience it is to play at the college level compared to the youth academy ranks. "It's way different," Diarbian admitted. "When you were there, it felt like a job...you were there every single day training Monday through Friday and then games on the weekend. It was always traveling."

The Revolution Youth Academy would travel all over, competing against fellow Major League Soccer youth academy teams. "The competition...you're playing the best kids in the country. It was good for me, though, to be in that environment. I feel like it helped me as well to show what I can do but also what the other academies do."

It mirrors a similar experience to that of men's soccer head coach Craig Stewart. Stewart spent a number of years as a youth academy player for big English football clubs in Sunderland AFC, Newcastle United, and Everton FC.

One figure Diarbian looks up to as a role model is PC men's soccer legend Julian Gressel '17. Gressel was an All-American at PC in 2016 and led the Friars to the NCAA tournament quarterfinals before they fell to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in double overtime. Gressel currently plays in the MLS with DC United.

Diarbian hopes to one day follow in the footsteps of Gressel and fulfill his own dream of playing in Europe for his favorite football club: FC Barcelona.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PC MEN'S SOCCER TWITTER

Diarbian started his college career better than anyone could expect. The Rhode Island native scored three goals in his first three games for the Friars, including in this one against URI.

Who Will Win Final Four Most Outstanding Player?

Providence College Investigates: March Madness

The Masked Man: Ayo Dosunmu

The Fab Freshman: Jalen Suggs

The Illinois Fighting Illini Men's Basketball Team abruptly appeared on everyone's radar during the 2020-2021 Men's Division I basketball season. This is largely because of one player who has emerged from his shell in his third year as a force to be reckoned with: Ayo Dosunmu. A Chicago native, the 6-foot-5-inch, 200-pound junior guard has created a name for himself by averaging 20.7 points per game and 6.3 rebounds per game, while shooting 48.8 percent from the floor.

Let's recap Dosunmu's freshman and sophomore seasons: in his freshman season (2018-2019), Dosunmu averaged 13.8 points per game, four rebounds per game, and had a field goal percentage of 43.5. He was named to the All-Big Ten Freshman Team and was an Honorable Mention All-Big Ten selection. He was also named Big Ten Freshman of the Week on multiple occasions.

In his sophomore season (2019-2020), Dosunmu averaged 16.6 points per game, 4.3 rebounds per game, and shot 48.4 percent from the floor. He was named to First-Team All-Big Ten while also being named Big Ten Player of the Week on multiple occasions. While Dosunmu's numbers have increased since 2018, why has he all of a sudden been the talk of this year's season?

The answer involves more than hard work and talent. Back in August 2020, a few months before the NBA Draft, Dosunmu was ready and prepared to take his talents to the NBA. But he had a realization that led him to withdraw. In a

video Dosunmu posted on Twitter, he said, "Since [I was] a kid, I've been working, my dream is to play in the NBA. But first I need that national championship."

This energy and determination that Dosunmu displayed many months ago fired up his entire team. Alongside Dosunmu are players like Trent Frazier and Andre Curbelo, who have equally matched Dosunmu's strong desire to win a national championship.

However, the path to a No. 1 seed in the tournament has not been easy. Illinois's most recent game against Ohio State was a tough test. The Fighting Illini beat the Buckeyes 73-68. This was the last regular season game before the start of conference tournaments, and it was also Dosunmu's first game back after suffering a concussion and facial injuries.

Not only was Dosunmu ready to come back with a bang in his last regular season performance, a game in which he scored 19 points, but he was also ready to look the part. He donned a black face-mask, due to a broken nose, for that game and the conference tournament. Dosunmu tells ESPN that he is "into comic books and stuff. I feel like a superhero with a black mask on." This superhero energy will help make Dosunmu the Final Four's Most Outstanding Player as he leads the Fighting Illini on a deep run.

-Margaret Maloney '23
Sports Staff



For the first time since 1997, the NCAA National Championship will come back to the West Coast as the Gonzaga University will complete a perfect season and win the program's first-ever title. In 1997, when the University of Arizona did it, the team was led by five players who would eventually play in the NBA, two of whom had fantastic professional careers—Mike Bibby and Jason Terry. Gonzaga has multiple NBA talents on their own roster, but nobody stands out as a league-ready player like 6-foot-6-inch guard Jalen Suggs.

While he was not named the West Coast Conference MVP, an award that was given to his teammate Corey Kispert, Suggs is the X factor for Gonzaga. He is incredibly well-rounded and has no true weaknesses. His shooting is superb, he has NBA size and strength, he is quick and aggressive, and he can finish in traffic around the rim. If Suggs is on his game, Gonzaga will not only win, but will dominate against any team in the country, even against the other three top seeds.

Earlier in the season, the Bulldogs squared off against the University of Iowa at a neutral location in Sioux Falls, SD in what felt like a potential Final Four preview.

While all the hype leading up to the matchup was about Hawkeye big man Luka Garza, Jalen Suggs stole the spotlight and put on a masterclass performance. He dropped 27 points, seven rebounds, and four assists, and

was seven-for-ten from beyond the arc.

In Gonzaga's most recent game, the West Coast Conference championship against Brigham Young University, the Cougars played a near perfect first half of basketball and had the Bulldogs on upset alert. The momentum of the game changed when Suggs took it upon himself to lead the team to victory. He asserted himself on both ends of the court and BYU's 10-point lead became a 10-point deficit by the end of the game. Suggs' best performances have all come against Gonzaga's toughest competition—the University of Kansas, Iowa, and BYU—teams he may take on deep in the tournament.

Only five freshmen have ever won Final Four MVP, the most recent being Duke University's Tyus Jones in 2017. Suggs has all the individual tools and the supporting cast to become the sixth. Gonzaga is long overdue for a national championship in college hoops, and while the program has produced phenomenal teams in the recent past, this Bulldog roster is the best the school has ever had. Suggs is currently a projected top-three pick in the next NBA draft, but do not be surprised if he becomes the front runner to be selected first after he leads Gonzaga to their first NCAA tournament title.

-Leo Hainline '22
Sports Staff



Four Big East Teams Battle for NCAA Glory

by Luke Sweeney '24
Sports Staff

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

The 2020-2021 NCAA basketball season has been one to remember, for all the wrong reasons. Having to adapt to the many new rules and regulations in place because of the COVID-19 pandemic, teams of every conference had a lot more to deal with than the regular stresses of an NCAA season.

Coach Ed Cooley and the Providence College Friars had a less than satisfying end to the regular season after finishing 13-13 and failing to make the NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Tournament. Getting a favorable matchup in the first round of the Big East tournament looked like a blessing for the Friars, but they were unable to capitalize as they lost to a 5-14 DePaul University Demons. In extremely rare form, coach Cooley stormed off the floor without addressing either team after this embarrassing loss.

With the 2021 March Madness Selection Sunday happening this past week, the NCAA granted four teams from the Big East a spot in the big dance. Villanova University finished the Big East tournament with a 16-6 record on the year after a loss on March 11 to a storied Georgetown University Hoyas, coached by the legendary New York Knick, Patrick Ewing. Villanova has played the month of March so far without their star point guard, Collin Gillespie, who had a season-ending knee injury.

The Wildcats have looked to other leaders on the team to carry Gillespie's load, such as senior Jermaine Samuels Jr., who the team will continue to give bigger roles during the NCAA tournament. Villanova received a No. 5 seed and looks forward to playing the No. 12 seed Winthrop University Eagles in the first round on March 19.

Creighton University represents the Big East in the western side of the bracket at the No. 5 seed and is lined up to face off against University of California, Santa Barbara on March 20. Many are deeming this a trap game for the favored Bluejays as UCSB is hot



GRAPHIC BY JACK BELANGER '21/THE COWL

(From left to right) Jeremiah Robinson-Earl, Marcus Zagarowski, Jahvon Blair, and James Bouknight all led their respective teams in scoring this season and hope to make deep runs in the NCAA tournament.

off a Big West championship win over University of California, Irvine last Saturday. Santa Barbara finished the regular season 22-4 and were led by 6-foot-4-inch senior guard JaQuori McLaughlin, who put up 22 points against Irvine.

This could be a potential upset due to Creighton coming off a devastating loss to Georgetown in the Big East championship last weekend. Hopefully their lack of momentum will not lead to the loss of their season in the first round of the tournament.

The biggest story coming out of the Big East this week is Georgetown, who defied the odds by beating a favored 20-8 Creighton team at Madison Square Garden. The Hoyas had a less than perfect season before the Big East tournament, finishing 12-12 and landing at the bottom half of the Big East rankings. Their miraculous run at MSG was headed by Coach Patrick Ewing. The No. 12 seed Hoyas will have a tough road ahead of them in the tournament, starting

with No. 5 seed Colorado University on March 20.

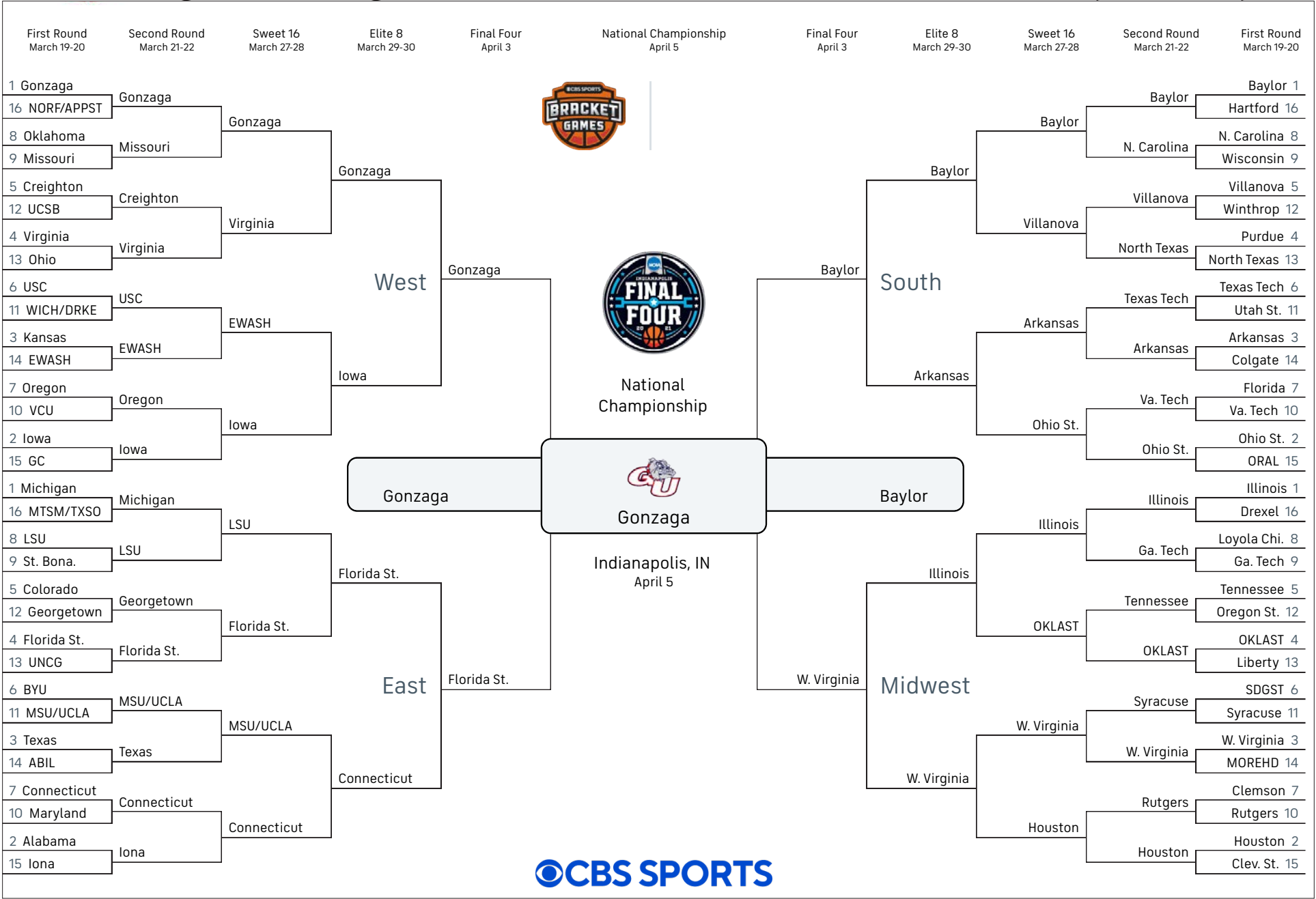
The fourth team invited to the NCAA tournament from the Big East this year is the University of Connecticut, headed by sophomore James Bouknight who had been injured for almost half of the regular season. With Bouknight looking healthy heading into the first round of the tournament, the Huskies hope to dominate the University of Maryland in all aspects of the game on March 20.

Each team's guards match up well against each other, so we should be expecting a deep-ranged shootout to decide the winner.

While it was not the dominating Big East that we are used to seeing this year, Villanova, Creighton, UConn, and Georgetown hope to make their mark on the 2020-2021 NCAA basketball season by advancing into the later rounds of the big dance. Both at the No. 5 seed, Villanova and Creighton are two teams to watch out for.

The Cowl Sports Staff Picks Its Winner

Gonzaga Bulldogs Will Take Home Their First Championship



BRACKET TEMPLATE COURTESY OF CBS SPORTS

by Jack Belanger '21
Sports Co-Editor

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Members of the sports staff put their heads together to come up with the third official The Cowl March Madness bracket. Thanks to Luke Sweeney '24 for his analysis of the South region, Leo Hainline '22 for the West, Ben Bilotti '23 for the East, Joseph Quirk '23 for the Midwest, and to everyone else for helping make the picks. Here is our breakdown of each region, the semifinals, and the championship.

South Region:

In the South region, things should get exciting as the first round boasts multiple strong teams and potential upsets. No. 3 seed University of Arkansas will squeeze by the surprisingly explosive offense of No. 14 Colgate University, before advancing all the way to the Elite Eight.

Villanova University at the No. 5 seed should dominate No. 13 Winthrop University even with all of the Wildcats' injuries, but they will face a tough road in the later rounds. The 8-9 seed matchup will see the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill beat the University of Wisconsin-Madison after what should be a very competitive, high-scoring matchup.

West Region:

Creighton University is one of the tournament's biggest question marks. The Bluejays are incredibly inconsistent but can out-shoot just

about anyone in the tournament if they are on their game. It does not help that the team got embarrassed by 25 points in the Big East Championship and has been dealing with off-the-court issues.

The University of California, Santa Barbara has a star player in JaQuori McLaughlin, but the Gauchos have yet to be tested by elite competition.

The University of Kansas, University of Virginia, and Creighton could all very well pack their bags early this year, but the Kansas Jayhawks are in the most trouble.

Eastern Washington University is a team full of balanced scoring. They have seven guys who all contribute and are a strong free-throw shooting team. Kansas has multiple players returning from COVID-19-related absences and may naturally get off to a slow start. The Eagles will be attacking from the start and will likely grab an early lead.

It is difficult to envision Luka Garza's Hawkeyes struggling with any team before the Elite Eight. The University of Oregon Ducks could be competitive against the University of Iowa in the Round of 32, but Iowa has too much talent both inside and out to suffer an early exit.

When all is said and done, Gonzaga University is simply the most dominant team in the country and will represent the West region in the Final Four.

East Region:

There are several upsets in the East region of our bracket. In the

first round, No. 11 Michigan State University (pending a First Four win) will upset No. 6 Brigham Young University.

From there, they carry their momentum all the way to the Sweet 16, where they will be taken down by the University of Connecticut. The Hoyas will use the momentum from their 73-48 victory over Creighton University in the Big East Championship Game to beat the University of Colorado.

In the end, an elite Florida State University squad gets in the Hoyas' way, as the team, moving all the way to the Elite Eight, will face off against UConn with a trip to the Final Four on the line.

Midwest Region:

The main story in this section is the No. 1 seed, University of Illinois. Illinois is expected to be one of the title favorites. That being said, they may have the most difficult road to the Final Four, facing a loaded side of the bracket.

The Midwest region features a number of threats, some obvious and some more underrated. We, as a staff, have Illinois making it through the gauntlet, beating out teams such as Loyola University Chicago, Oklahoma State University, the University of West Virginia, and the University of Houston.

There should be a number of wildly entertaining games in the first round alone from Loyola vs. the Georgia Institute of Technology, San Diego State University vs. Syracuse University, and Clemson University vs. Rutgers University.

Final Four:

Florida State may give Gonzaga its toughest matchup of the tournament. With a strong interior defense and one of the best teams crashing the offensive boards, the Seminoles are one of the more physical teams this year. The Bulldogs will have to hit their threes early, which is what they have been doing all year. They have proved they can beat top teams this season, and FSU is no exception.

If it were not for Gonzaga, Baylor University would be the best team in the country this year. Taking on an underdog West Virginia team, the Bears should have an easy time making it to the finals. Star players Jared Butler and Davion Mitchell were both named to the All-Big 12 First Team. Mitchell was also named the conference's defensive player of the year. Despite their best efforts, the Mountaineers will not have the defense to stop the Bears.

Championship:

This matchup is perhaps a little anticlimactic, but Gonzaga and Baylor are simply a tier above the rest of the country. The championship game should come down to the final minutes. Both teams are efficient on offense and both have good defenses. Gonzaga came up short a few years ago against North Carolina—that team was good, this team is better. Mark Few is one of the most underappreciated coaches of all time. This is his chance to put his name among the greats. Lottery pick Jalen Suggs will lead the Bulldogs to their first title ever.

A Look Around Friartown

Men’s Basketball:

3/10 vs. DePaul University, loss 70-62
(Big East tournament First Round)

Women’s Ice Hockey:

3/16 vs. University of Wisconsin, loss 3-0
(NCAA tournament First Round)

Men’s Ice Hockey:

3/14 at University of Connecticut, win 6-1
(Hockey East Tournament Quarterfinals)

3/17 at University of Massachusetts-Amherst
(Hockey East Tournament Semifinals), N/A

Women’s Soccer:

3/11 at Seton Hall University, win 1-0

3/14 vs. Villanova University, win 4-0

Upcoming:

3/18 at St. John’s University

Men’s Soccer

3/13 at Seton Hall University, loss 2-1

Upcoming:

3/20 vs. Villanova University

Women’s Volleyball:

3/12 vs. University of Connecticut, win 3-1

3/13 vs. University of Connecticut, win 3-1

Upcoming:

3/19 at St. John’s University

3/20 at St. John’s University

Women’s Softball:

3/13 vs. Creighton University, win 3-2

Upcoming:

3/27 at St. John’s University

3/28 at St. John’s University

Women’s Field Hockey:

3/5 vs. University of Connecticut, loss 3-0

Upcoming:

3/20 vs. Quinnipiac University



Big East Tournament: Hoyas on Top

by Joseph Quirk '23
Sports Staff

MEN’S BASKETBALL

The Providence College Friars were eliminated from the Big East Tournament, and subsequently the NCAA National Tournament, quite early on. That, however, did not stop the rest of the tournament from being oddly exciting and quite unpredictable.

The tournament started off with the No. 8 seed vs. the No. 9 seed, as Georgetown University took on Marquette University. Neither of the teams performed well this past season as both suffered from the loss of key players. Georgetown was expected to finish in the basement of the Big East after losing Mac McClung and others from an already poor squad. Marquette on the other hand had struggled since losing star scorer Markus Howard to the NBA. Georgetown would ultimately come out on top 68-49, a large margin of victory that would foreshadow what was to come later in the tournament.

The next matchup was the No. 10 seed vs the No. 7 seed as Butler University played Xavier University. Butler was not expected to win for a multitude of reasons. For starters, Butler was the significantly younger squad, and it did not help that they were significantly impacted by COVID-19 this year. All of the pauses and cancellations caused by the virus definitely limited the time they could use to develop.

Meanwhile, Xavier, who was a NCAA tournament bubble team heading into the tournament, had something to play for. If Xavier was able to rack up a couple of wins, their odds of dancing in March would greatly increase. However, in an upset that nearly took double overtime, Butler won 70-69.

The final game of day one was the No. 7 seed vs. the No. 11 seed, PC vs DePaul University. The Blue Demons have been at the bottom of the Big East for some time now, and while they do have some weapons, such as guard Charlie Moore, the Blue Demons had only four total season wins heading into the game.

The Friars had swept the Blue Demons in two Big East matchups, but that was one of the few positives about this season for the Friars. The Friars were a preseason top four finisher in the Big East and were expected to make the NCAA tournament. Expectations were high for the squad coming off a scorching hot finish to last season.

Unfortunately, inconsistent play, lack of defense, poor shooting, as well as bad luck derailed the Friars season. The Friars skidded down the stretch, blowing a 15-point lead to St. John’s University before almost blowing a 20-point lead to a banged-up Villanova University team. The Friars would play poorly against DePaul in an embarrassing performance, a microcosm of the entire season, and would lose 70-62.

On day two, Georgetown would continue to gain some traction, beating a Villanova University squad missing some big pieces such as senior guard Collin Gillespie. Georgetown inched out a 72-71 victory and picked up a load of confidence after beating the conference’s number No. 1 seed.

Next came the matchup between St. John’s and Seton Hall University. These teams had swapped expectations

and realities this season. Seton Hall, coming off a year where they were nationally ranked and would have made the NCAA tournament had it happened, were expected to be at the top of the Big East this year. And for a time, they were, but began to struggle late in the season.

St. John’s was expected to be just a middling team this season, but after a huge second half of the season, the Red Storm went surging into potential NCAA bubble range. Powered by a huge jump from All-Big East First Teamer Julian Champagnie, and Big East Freshman of the year Posh Alexander, the Johnnies were looking for a big tournament. Unfortunately, they would fall 77-69 in overtime to Seton Hall, in a hard fought game.

Butler would move on past Xavier to face the No. 2 seed, Creighton University. Creighton, powered by All-Big East First Teamer Marcus Zegarowski, was ranked nearly pretty much all year and was almost a lock for the NCAA Tournament. There was some uncertainty headed into the tournament, however, as head coach Greg McDermont was suspended at the end of the regular season for racially insensitive comments. McDermont would be reinstated for the tournament, and Zegarowski led the Bluejays to an 87-56 win.

DePaul taking on the No. 3 seed University of Connecticut went in a similar manner. The Huskies rejoined the Big East this season and thrived. Due to COVID-19 issues, UConn played less games than other teams, but when star player James Bouknight was on the floor, they could hang with anyone. They would end DePaul’s run with a 94-60 demolition.

On day three, Georgetown would meet Seton Hall in the semifinals. The team was playing motivated, seeing as they were playing for their only chance at a NCAA tournament berth through the automatic bid granted via winning the conference tournament. They were also scorching hot, winning their last two including knocking down No. 1 Villanova. Now they got an easier matchup in the five seeded Pirates, who just barely escaped their first game in OT.

The Hoyas were also playing for coach Patrick Ewing. Ewing, a Georgetown legend who played under recently deceased coaching icon John Thompson, is an NBA Hall of Famer who spent much of his career with the New York Knicks. The Knicks, who play in Madison Square Garden where the tournament was held, have his jersey in the rafters. Yet, he would make news when he told reporters he was frustrated because MSG staff kept stopping him and asking for his credentials. The Hoyas would win 66-58 and advance to the finals where they would meet Creighton, who had just barely squeaked by UConn 59-56 in their semifinals game.

The championship game got boring, very fast. It was the story of two teams, one going through the motions, unmotivated by a Big East title, seemingly just wanting to tune up before March Madness. The other: a red-hot team, playing for their coach, and a chance to make the NCAA Tournament.

When all was said and done, The No. 8 Georgetown Hoyas would dominate on both ends of the floor from start to finish. Creighton could not buy a bucket. The final score was 73-48 and the tournament ended with Ewing winning his first Big East Title as the head coach of his alma mater. Now, the Hoyas are going dancing, and get a chance to extend their miraculous run.



PHOTO COURTESY OF USA TODAY SPORTS

Georgetown (above) celebrates their first Big East championship since 2007, and their eighth overall in program history. They now move into the NCAA tournament as one of the hottest teams in the country.