

# The Cowl



SINCE 1935

Vol. LXXXVI No. 5 | October 7, 2021 | thecowl.com

## Confronting Change With Curiosity and Love

### An Interview With the College's First Resource Coordinator for LGBTQ+ Inclusion

by Nicole Patano '22  
Editor-in-Chief  
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Head Copy Editor

LISTENING TOUR

*This article is part of The Cowl's Listening Tour, a series aiming to amplify the voices of marginalized members of our community and bring awareness to social justice initiatives on campus.*



The only way to describe Erin Corry's start at Providence College is divine.

In her second semester of freshman year at Wheaton College, Corry was asked to be president of the Christian Fellowship—a position she held for the next six semesters. During her time at Wheaton, Corry was also a regular member of the school's Gay-Straight Alliance. "I didn't go to evangelize," said Corry. "I went as a friend and as a neighbor, and I went to learn."

Despite the spiritual responsibility with which Corry was tasked, her involvement in ministry and

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

the LGBTQ+ community has only deepened. Corry has been a minister for the past 10 years, most recently with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship in Rhode Island and southeast Massachusetts. In her position as associate director of this region, Corry ministered to students from a Christian lens and dealt with issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the organization. It was in this role that she had the occasion to meet Jackie Peterson, special advisor to the president of PC.

Corry and Peterson did not meet at a conference on institutional diversity, equity, and inclusion. Rather, the women happened to be sitting across the aisle from one another, on what would be the last plane ride Corry would take before COVID-19 shut everything down. Noticing Peterson was doing DEI work, Corry struck up a conversation. The rest of the plane ride was spent in discussion: can institutions of higher education ever truly live out their values? What does it look like to lovingly hold places accountable for their values?

When the College added a new position to the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion—that of a resource coordinator for LGBTQ+ inclusion—Corry was an obvious candidate. Since starting in the position in October 2020, Corry has been able to successfully undertake many projects as part of a "capacity-building process" which she hopes to see to fruition.

However, Corry emphasized that this kind of work cannot be rushed because "we don't know what that [LGBTQ+ inclusion] looks like at Providence College." The College must first acknowledge its past—"how

we as a community have harmed each other, belittled each other, dismissed each other"—before making any substantive changes. Being honest about our history, Corry says, can allow those who have caused harm and those who have had harm done to them to heal.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIN CORRY  
Erin Corry sits in her office in Moore Hall with the portraits of famous queer figures behind her.

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## Music: From the Stage to the Stadium

### A Cappella

by Grace Whitman '22  
A&E Staff

STUDENT MUSIC

On Thursday, Sept. 30, Providence College's three A Cappella groups, Special Guest, Strictly Speaking, and Anaclastic, competed head-to-head in their annual Riff Off. Hundreds of students packed into McPhail's, with standing-room only starting 30 minutes before the Riff Off began. Hosted by Board of Programmers' Olivia Lescinskas '22, the event started off with a spin of a wheel containing three song categories, one for each of three rounds: "TV Show Theme Songs," "Love Songs," and "Throwbacks." The winner of each round was to be determined by which group earned the loudest cheer from the audience in McPhail's.

The contest was not quite held exactly how it was in the Pitch Perfect movies, which provided the inspiration for the event. In the films, different groups interrupt one another with different songs, joining the last word of one song with the first word of a new song. At the McPhail's event, in contrast, PC's A Cappella groups were given each round's category and asked to perform a song in that category.

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### Pep Band

by Jack Downey '23  
A&E Co-Editor

STUDENT MUSIC

This past weekend was quite an exciting time to be at Providence College. From the festivities held for the class of 2020 to the arrival of many parents for the weekend, it was vibrant and exciting on campus. One major event that had many people in good spirits was the first men's hockey game of the season, versus the United States Military Academy, also known as West Point. With the Friars set to face off against Army in Schneider Arena, the line to get in stretched as far as the eye could see. Light-up cups were handed out for a light show between periods, and, of course, the PC pep band returned to perform.

This was particularly exciting because of the lack of action the pep band experienced last year. Thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were few publicly-attended sports games, meaning that the pep band did not get many chances to shine. They only played once or twice during the spring semester. However, now that the Schneider Arena is open to spectators again, the pep band has reclaimed their spot in the stands as people began filing in.

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## Uptick in Violent Crime Against PC Students

by Brooke Rioux '22  
News Guest Writer

CAMPUS NEWS

This past weekend, Oct. 1-3, was Homecoming Weekend for the Providence College community. However, with the festivities and family gatherings came a series of unfortunate events: a spike in violence against students, namely assaults, robberies, and intrusions. PC students and their families alike have been left shaken and unnerved by recent events.

Three dormitory buildings have been the sites of intrusion incidents: Meagher, McViney, and Aquinas Halls. Meagher and McViney are all-female, underclassman buildings, and Aquinas is a co-ed sophomore building. In Meagher, a "suspicious male" was reported to have been seen in the building but had fled by the time security arrived. In McViney, an intruder peeked under a stall while a student was taking a shower. He then entered Meagher before finally departing campus. At Aquinas, another suspicious male was reported to have been peering into the windows. He was detained by PC public safety officers and was

determined not to have been the McViney intruder.

Off-campus students especially are on edge as most of the violent crime has occurred in the neighborhood in which seniors reside. A few of the incidents occurred on Oakland Ave., Pinehurst Ave., and Radcliffe Ave. Off-campus incidents included physical and verbal assaults and robberies.

A Johnson & Wales University student who attended a college party in the area was robbed and even knocked unconscious by his attackers. One victim was riding a scooter and was struck from behind by a car and then struck on the head. This incident was categorized as a felony assault by the Providence Police. Another victim was knocked unconscious by five young, male attackers and robbed of his Rolex and iPhone. Another two students were jumped, assaulted, and robbed by a group of six hooded and masked males. Some female students were verbally accosted and then physically assaulted, and a final case as presented by the Providence Police Department detailed yet another attack-and-rob incident by a group of young males.

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## UNDER THE HOOD

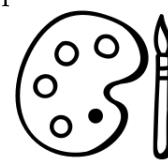
Providence College's Student-Run Newspaper Since 1935

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<b>Sports</b>
Dean Sears dethroned. Read about how Fr. Humbert won bragging rights at the Friar 5K.
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<b>Opinion</b>
Find out how to engage with the art on Providence College's campus and in the Creative Capital of Rhode Island.
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<b>Portfolio</b>
How can you protect yourself from getting sick at school? Doctors Tiff and Earl have an answer for you!
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## Listening Tour

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A significant step the College must also take is articulating its alignment with Church teaching. Corry notes that this will be countercultural because, as with other religious institutions, “our values are founded upon things that require grace, require the Holy Spirit’s wisdom to discern and to live out, and is complex to codify in policies and practices and institutional life.”

Mission and Ministry and the Office of IDEI have been charged with this task “under the auspices that doing LGBTQ+ work out of DEI without mission is going to fail at PC and doing LGBTQ+ work out of mission without IDEI is going to fail at PC.” A team out of these offices has been developing a document in order to clarify some of the College’s theological stances, which could be used in the future. This includes Father

*“When you have a strong and existing culture and begin to pursue these things, you cannot diversify without the very place changing.”*

James Cuddy, O.P., vice president for Mission and Ministry; Robert Pfunder, associate vice president for Mission and Ministry; Dana Dillon, associate professor of theology; Peterson, and Corry.

This team is evidence that LGBTQ+ work and Church teaching are not incompatible. Corry asserts that this is the case in the most conservative and liberal readings of Church teaching. “The Church reminds us that primarily we are made in God’s image, every single person,” said Corry, “and that especially those who are marginalized are deserving of sensitivity, respect, [and] nondiscrimination.” A lot of the pain and harm inflicted upon LGBTQ+ people results from the misapplication and weaponization of Church teaching, against which, Corry vehemently asserts, the Church has spoken out.

This marginalization is further exacerbated by the daily mental health struggles that LGBTQ+ young adults face. According to the Trevor Project, “Lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth are more than four times more likely to attempt suicide than their straight peers, and nearly half of all transgender people have attempted suicide — many before the age of 25.” LGBTQ+ youth continue to struggle to be members of the community because of the discrimination and prejudice they face, that is consequently reflected on the mental health struggles so many experience.

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One of Corry’s personal goals is that “we do not see members of our community as a threat to others.” She attributes this fear to lack of proximity and our tendency to reduce the conversation of LGBTQ+ identity and the Church to two sides. Corry believes that proximity is important because “the further we get disconnected from the people on the other side of our ideologies and theologies, I think the more inhumane we can be.” When we lack proximity to LGBTQ+ people in particular, Corry stated, we are culpable to “not even being able to see the gifts and joys and goodness in these

communities.”

Corry hopes that the legacy she leaves at PC is one of love, not fear. She wants us to confront change with curiosity and love because “if we as an institution move towards an openness to learn about experiences that differ from ours, we can progress towards becoming the Beloved Community we encourage.”

As part of her work at PC, Corry has had the opportunity to interview LGBTQ+ alumni, whose stories she describes as “heartbreaking, precious, and inspiring.” She finds these conversations, as well as the daily interactions she has with students and her colleagues, to be the most rewarding part of her work.

Corry plans to create connections between students and faculty who identify as LGBTQ+ because of how important intergenerational community is, especially for historically marginalized persons; “to be able to see your story in someone in a totally different season of life can be very encouraging, especially when media depictions of LGBTQ+ folk are often stereotypes primarily focused on people in their teens and twenties,” she explains.

Through these connections, she is hoping to take some of the burden off of students to be experts



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIN CORRY

**Corry has been an essential resource for the PC community.** on sexuality and gender at PC while also trying to figure out their own identities. “We’ve relied on students to train those in authority over them on how to respect and extend dignity and sensitivity to LGBTQ+ identities through safe-space training,” stated Corry.

However, Corry acknowledges that it is because of the work and advocacy of students that the position of resource coordinator for LGBTQ+ inclusion even exists: “Me being here is the result of decades of faithful student activism supported by faculty and staff activism and ultimately supported by administration.” The importance of both student work and administrative support in creating change cannot be overstated, though Corry stresses, “We all have to be open to change to do this well together.”

Corry was “impressed by and attracted to” the College’s commitment to diversity, equality, and inclusion; however, she stated, “When you have a strong and existing culture and begin to pursue these things, you cannot diversify without the very place changing.” This does not mean that the College must completely forsake Church teachings on matters relating to gender and sexuality. The trap many people fall into when it comes to conversations about LGBTQ+ identity and Church teaching is the “either/or” approach. Corry promotes “both/and” thinking at the College: that we can both support the members of our community who identify as LGBTQ+ and abide by the Church’s teachings on these matters.

For Corry, “both/and” thinking allows her both to listen to and believe people and to be honest about how power changes our relationships with one another. “I follow Jesus and his demonstration

of laying down his power for the sake of the other,” Corry avers, “and I want to see that happen here.”

PC, because it accepts students and faculty of all backgrounds and identities, is a space where conversations about LGBTQ+ identity and the Church can occur between Catholics and members of the LGBTQ+ community. It is also pertinent to add that at a predominantly white campus, the experience of Black, Indigenous, and students of color who also identify as LGBTQ+ may be even more alienating and incur more harm the more intersecting and historically marginalized identities one holds. This is why it felt prudent for Corry to set up her office in Moore Hall, a space that highlights, celebrates, and educates all of PC on the lived experiences of our historically marginalized and excluded communities. While the classroom is not always conducive to these conversations, Corry is a resource for students regardless of whether they identify with the LGBTQ+ community.

*“If we as an institution move towards an openness to learn about experiences that differ from ours, we can progress towards becoming the Beloved Community we encourage.”*

Corry hopes to expand her position to include human sexuality, gender, and relationships for LGBTQ+ and straight students. She emphasized, “All of us are going to make choices that deviate from Church teaching in our life, and we need support.” She also wants to help students navigate instances when they may feel violated or do not know how to name their boundaries. “An unfortunate byproduct of the way that Christians talk about sex,” Corry stated, “is that we don’t talk about sex.” This creates a “culture of silence around sex and sexuality and desire and certainly gender.” The culture of silence has the potential to create a culture of sexual violence, which Corry wants to eliminate at the College through these conversations.

Since she began at PC a year ago, Corry has learned that “we know a lot of what we can’t do.” While this is necessary for setting realistic goals, Corry recognizes that it can also hinder progress. “I want to talk about what we can do,” said Corry. “And I want us to do it.” Being such a strong advocate for the sexual and emotional health of PC students, Corry’s position in creating a more inclusive environment for LGBTQ+ students makes her an essential resource to cultivate a more accepting campus, for many years to come.

## Campus Resources

Personal Counseling Center – (401) 865-2343;

After Hours (401) 865-1333

Office of the Chaplain – (401) 865-2216; After

Hours (401) 865-1333

Student Health Center – (401) 865-2422

Office of the Dean of Students – (401) 865-1782;

Slavin 102

Office of Residence Life – (401) 865-2392

Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity and

Inclusion: (401) 865-2836

Jacqueline Peterson, Special Advisor to the  
President Direct: (401) 865-2878 Office: Harkins  
312 jpeter14@providence.edu

Title VI Coordinator: Dr. Quincy Bevely, Assistant

Vice President, Office of Institutional Diversity

Direct: (401) 865-2889 Office: Harkins 312

qbevely@providence.edu

# PC Community Shaken by Surge in Crime

## Students Unsatisfied With Public Safety, Police Response

### Campus Crime

Continued from front page

In response to these events, students have been seeking acknowledgement and assistance from the PC administration as well as taking safety measures and precautions of their own. Feeling unsafe in their own homes and neighborhood, students have been purchasing cameras for their off-campus homes, driving to class instead of walking, carrying pepper spray, and even sleeping with baseball bats in fear of being attacked.

Many PC students have criticized the administration for largely remaining silent about the crime and violence thus far. However, Student Congress hosted an open forum with the Office of Public Safety and the Providence Police Department for students to address their concerns this past Tuesday, Oct. 5. The administration stated in this forum that they have taken some preventative measures, including assigning undercover officers to foot patrol on weekends, designating extra patrol officers on campus each night at 11 p.m., a third party security detail in McVinney Hall to monitor entrants, and dedicated camera and video review at the entrances of each all-female dormitory.

A recurring theme throughout the forum was addressing the lack of accountability held by both the Providence Police Department and PC's Public Safety handling of the reported on- and off-campus crimes. Various students had proposed initiatives throughout the



There has been a recent surge in on and off-campus crimes around PC.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR.COM

night to increase the safety of off-campus students, with little reception from either officers. As of Oct. 6, Public Safety has released new initiatives, with no known implementation date, to ensure the safety of all members of the PC community.

Some of these initiatives include: the formation of a Safety and Security Task Force, Friar Nite Ride, a late-night shuttle service for students on-campus and in the surrounding neighborhoods, and self-defense classes.

A major issue throughout the forum was the lack of proposed policies that

specifically pertain to off-campus students, where the majority of the more serious criminal offenses had occurred last weekend. As stated in Public Safety's email, the Providence Police Department will increase the number of police officers assigned to weekend police details, and there will be an increase in the undercover PPD officers patrolling the surrounding neighborhood.

While there is no feasible solution that can prevent all crime and violence, the PC community believes that the responsibility ultimately falls on the

shoulders of our local police and administration to implement measures that actively seek to keep the students and residents of the area as safe as possible. PC students must also be as diligent as residents, so that we can keep ourselves and the surrounding neighborhood out of harm's way.

In the event of witnessing or experiencing a crime, be sure to call the police immediately at either 911 or the Providence Police Department at 401-272-3121.

# Don't Wait, Job Opportunities Are Great

## Fall Career Expo Takes Place In-Person Since Pandemic

by Eileen Cooney '23  
News Staff

CAMPUS

After weeks of anticipation—preparing resumés, researching companies, and finalizing formal business attire—this year's career expo kicked off in the Peterson Center on Wednesday, Sept. 29. While primarily catered towards business majors, forty-nine companies and organizations from Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and the greater New England area attended to share information with Providence College students about potential career opportunities in a wide variety of career fields.

Though it is a bi-annual event, taking place in both the fall and spring semesters, this year's expo was especially memorable because it was the first in-person exhibition in more than a year and a half. Both the Fall 2020 and the Spring 2021 career expos were held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The career expo is a popular event, offering students not only the precious opportunity to try and obtain a possible future internship or job but also the valuable chance to network with other business professionals in a formalized setting. Developing a network is an incredibly helpful tool as one moves forward into their career, making events like this invaluable to students.

In the weeks leading up to Wednesday's event, the career center had been sending out preparatory steps students could take to put their best foot forward at the exhibition. Eileen Wisniewski, director of the Center for Career and Experiential Education, even shared a short "quick tips" video for students to view before attending the event.

Additionally, the career center offered time

slots for students to sign up and take professional LinkedIn profile photos. In the digitized age that we live in, virtual networking via web applications like LinkedIn has become exponentially more important, and having a proper, professional profile ensures that possible employers will take a student and their profile seriously. Programs such as those aforementioned have helped set students up for success, further demonstrating the immense dedication PC's career center has towards the student body in finding internship and career opportunities both at PC and beyond.

Christina Meucci '23, a management major and finance and sociology double minor, and Morley Pace '23, a management major, both attended the Fall 2021 career expo. "It was such a great event, allowing students to network with professionals as well as learn more about specific companies and the jobs that they offer college graduates. I definitely gained a lot from the experience,"

Meucci said.

Pace reiterated Meucci's points, while also adding how grateful she was that the event was back in person. "I am so happy the pandemic did not force this year's entire expo to take place online. Being able to make in-person connections with employers, grab business cards, or just exchange a handshake was incredibly valuable and a breath of fresh air after the tough virtual year we have just emerged from," Pace said.

After the in-person portion of the expo, students were also given the opportunity to sign up for one-on-one appointments or group sessions via Handshake with specific employers. Additionally, the college's major/minor fair took place with the expo on Wednesday. This was another great opportunity for students to learn about the vast majority of minors and majors available to them and what jobs or careers are made possible by these areas of academic study.



Students made in-person connections with employers at the Fall Career Expo. PHOTO COURTESY OF CAREER-EDUCATION-CENTER.PROVIDENCE.EDU

# PC Announces New Communication Minor

## *Latest Academic Opportunities Arise for Students*

by Olivia Coletti '24  
News Staff

CAMPUS

Many would argue that communication skills are invaluable to individual success, so why not consider picking up the minor? Providence College has recently announced that they would be offering a Communication minor. It is designed to provide students with an interdisciplinary course of study that engages written, oral, visual, and mediated communication, past and present.

The top three majors paired with Communication minors are marketing, political science, and English/creative writing. Although any PC student is open to enroll, these majors could use a Communication minor to complement their studies, as it will give them the comparable skills necessary to supplement their majors.

The most significant characteristic of communication is that it is valuable in anything you do, from handling customers to day-to-day interactions with family and friends. Life is coexisting and being able to communicate effectively is the key to success. So, a Communication minor, regardless of one's major, could be something to consider.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment in media and communication occupations is projected to grow 14 percent from 2020 to 2030, faster than the average for all occupations, and will result in about 151,500 new jobs."

Typical post-graduate careers include editors, announcers, public relations, news reporters, and authors. But with a Communication minor containing such a multi-faceted curriculum, there are various career paths and directions one can take with such experience.

Some notable Friars in the field of Communication include Doris Burke '87, an analyst for NBA on ESPN;



Providence College announced the addition of a Communication Minor earlier this month.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE.EDU

John O'Hurley '76, an actor most notably known for appearing on Seinfeld; Peter Farrelly '79, an academy award winning producer; and Mark Ockerbloom '85, an Anchor for Boston 25 News.

Dr. Andrea McDonnell, director of the program, is an interdisciplinary scholar with a background in American Studies, Communication, and Gender Studies. Her areas of expertise include U.S. celebrity culture, gender, politics, and the media.

Dr. McDonnell will be teaching COM 100, the minor's gateway course, in spring 2022. This course will be open to all students, regardless of whether they are declared Communication minors.

The class introduces students to the practice of media literacy, the history of media technologies, and critical theories and methods within communication and media studies.

The minor also includes a variety of courses in the subjects of oral and visual Communication, as well as rhetoric. In addition, the minor will offer several upper-level electives such as Media & Society; Mass Media & Politics, and Women; Mass Media and Popular Culture, 1800 to the Present; an internship or independent study; and a senior capstone.

As the minor is introduced, admission to the program is by application only. The application process is open to first, second, and third-year students who have already declared a major. To apply, students should complete the application available at <https://academics.providence.edu/communication/>. The application will be open until Oct. 12 and will reopen again in the spring 2022 semester.

## Congress Updates

by Caitlin Ariel '24  
Student Congress Representative

CAMPUS

On Sept. 28, Student Congress invited Megan Smith, a member of the Board of Trustees and chair of the Alumni Development subcommittee, to speak and answer questions posed by members.

Before answering questions, Smith spoke about Friars Give Day and the importance of giving back to the school that gives so much to students. She also emphasized how the donations of new alumni are just as important as the donations from those alumni who have settled down.

No members had any questions for Smith.

Student Congress thanks Megan Smith for her time and looks forward to Friars Give Day in the Spring of 2022.

Following the discussion with Megan Smith, one new piece of legislation was introduced, and two pieces of legislation were discussed. The new piece of legislation regarded the establishment of a chapter of the American Chemical Society, or ACS, at Providence College.

The legislation regarding the allocation of funds via the Student Activity Funds was passed. The recommendation for the relocation of commencement to campus for the graduation of the class of 2022 was tabled until the Oct. 12 meeting.

## Volcanic Eruptions in Hawaii, Canary Islands Prompt Concern

by Juliet Menz '24  
News Staff

WORLD NEWS

La Palma's Cumbre Vieja volcano, located in Spain's Canary Islands, erupted on Sept. 19 and is becoming "much more aggressive," scientists warn. So far, an estimated 80 million cubic meters of molten rock has spewed from the volcano destroying more than 600 homes and causing 6,000 of La Palma's 85,000 citizens to be evacuated as authorities continue to record multiple earthquakes in the surrounding areas. Fortunately, no deaths or injuries have been reported thus far.

According to the Associated Press, on Sunday Oct. 3, Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez announced an aid package of €206 million, approximately \$238 million. However, President of the Canary Islands, Ángel Víctor Torres, said the cost of damage is around €400 million (\$466 million), and the activity coming from Cumbre Vieja does not show signs of slowing down any time soon. Two additional fissures, nearly 50 feet apart, opened Friday. Local media reported that the north side of the volcano had collapsed late on Sunday sending a faster flow of lava toward the ocean.

Earlier sea-bound lava spills resulted in residents sealing their doors and windows to block the toxic gas that is created when lava hits the ocean. La Palma officials who have continued to monitor air quality confirmed an increase in sulfur dioxide levels. According to the Associated Press, the levels were not yet a health threat to residents.

The Canary Islands Volcanology Institute has been monitoring the eruptions and announced on Sunday morning that explosive activity was intensifying. By Sunday afternoon, effusive activity had already increased.

Prior to this year, the last eruption on the island took place in 1971 and lasted for more than three weeks. Unfortunately, the Canary Islands Volcano Institute estimates that the eruptions could last for another 24 to 84 days.

In the meantime, Hawaii's Kilauea volcano, located on the southern end of the Big Island, began erupting



La Palma's Cumbre Vieja volcano erupted last week.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA.ORG

on Sept. 29, when USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory detected a glow from its webcam at Kilauea's summit. This glow indicates a lava eruption at the Halema'uma'u crater, a pit crater nestled in the much larger Kilauea crater. The eruption is sending lava and thread-like pieces of volcanic glass called Pele's Hair into Hawaii's skies. As a result, the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory elevated Kilauea's volcano alert from "watch" to "warning," and its aviation color code from orange to red, warning pilots of possible ash emissions.

These are the highest warning levels, meaning "a major volcanic eruption is imminent, underway or suspected, with hazardous activity both on the ground and in the air," according to the USGS.

The current eruption is the most recent of a long string of volcanic activity at Kilauea. At an elevation of 4,009 feet, the volcano has a magma-pumping system that extends more than 37 miles below Earth according to the USGS. Kilauea has erupted 34 times since 1952, and it erupted almost continuously from 1983 to 2018 along its East Rift Zone.

## Getting to Know the Creative Capital *Taking Advantage of Providence's Rich Artistic Culture*

by Julia McCoy '22  
Opinion Co-Editor

SOCIETY

Providence is often dubbed "The Creative Capital," giving the relatively small city something to brag about. But how often do we, as students in the city, interact with art? Or, rather, how often do we notice that there is art all around us?

There are many ways that Providence College students can choose to interact with art, whether on campus or in the city, and it is certainly encouraged throughout the school. The Board of Programmers has sponsored trips to the Providence Performing Arts Center in the past, and students are offered discounted tickets to take part in the trip.

Students are also given free passes to the Rhode Island School of Design Museum with their PC ID cards, which is often overlooked by most students, if they are even aware of it. If they are lucky, their professors will incorporate a trip into their course or encourage students to go for extra credit, but otherwise, it is often gone unnoticed in students' careers here.

Whether it is for a project or just a fun way to fill a Saturday afternoon, the RISD Museum is truly a hidden gem in Providence and a way to explore art right outside our campus. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken away so many opportunities to explore, whether locally or globally, so why not take advantage of what we have at our fingertips now that things are open

again?

PC also offers galleries in Hunt-Cavanaugh and Smith Halls, displaying different shows each year. Oftentimes speakers are invited to the school to discuss their pieces and to further engage with students. Even just a stroll through these galleries is certainly worthwhile.

But art is not limited to the museum, theater, or gallery. Being in the Creative Capital, you are bound to see art around every corner. There are murals on every available brick wall in the city, making an everyday stroll downtown much better. The Providence Flea Market hosts local artists and designers each Sunday to present and sell their products. If we do not constrict ourselves to thinking about art as belonging only in specialized buildings, we are bound to see it far more often in our daily lives.

Even our own campus is full of art in places you would not expect. Walking to a class in the Ruane Center for the Humanities, students are not often thinking about much besides upcoming assignments and homework. But, it would be worthwhile to look up from our phones every once in a while to see all the work that PC puts into the campus.

All throughout Ruane visitors will notice reproductions of famous work, including Botticelli's "Birth of Venus," and even some original pieces from students and faculty. The artwork notably relates back to the Development of Western Civilization program; whether it's an image you discuss in class or something that relates to the program, students will

understand the context of these pieces if they take a second to consider their context. The building itself, with the stained glass window in the Fiondella Great Room and the gorgeous exterior, transport students to a different era upon entry. PC carefully crafted its building to reflect the learning that's done inside.

It is not something we think about

often, but engaging with art in our community, whether on campus or in the city, is a great way to stay connected to the culture around us. Art can be anything from a drawing on the sidewalk to a Picasso in the RISD museum; if you do not limit the possibilities of what it can be, you will see its value far more frequently.



"Three Waves for Coastway," a mural by Amy Bartlett Wright, stands in downtown Providence for all passersby to take in.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIA MCCOY '22

## The State of the Supreme Court *Should We Reconsider the Way We Structure the Court?*

by Gabriel Capella '25  
Opinion Staff

POLITICS

The idea of putting term limits to Supreme Court Justices has long generated debate in American politics, with liberals being the ones pushing for such change. This has been the case especially since the death of the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in September of 2020. This event opened the door for another conservative appointment to the Supreme Court as Republicans controlled both the White House and the Senate at the time of her passing; President Trump was able to nominate judge Amy Coney Barrett to fill the vacancy.

The nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to replace Justice Ginsburg in the Supreme Court was one of the most opposed replacements in American history given its proximity to a presidential election. Liberals argued that since the process of electing a new president had already begun, the people had the right to choose what president would make an appointment to fill the vacancy.

On the other hand, conservatives knew they had to take advantage of this opportunity: confirming a conservative Justice would give them a 6-3 majority in the Court. If they achieved this, their strong majority would have the potential to last for decades. So, they acted quickly. President Trump

appointed Judge Barrett to the Supreme Court, and in a matter of weeks she was confirmed by the Republican-controlled Senate.

This stable conservative majority in the Supreme Court has mobilized Democrats to make a push for a fundamental change: they propose either putting term limits to Justices or expanding the bench of the Court. This proposal is something they want to achieve while Joe Biden is President and Chuck Schumer is Senate Majority Leader,

as it would open the door for liberal appointments/confirmations to the Supreme Court.

However, putting term limits to Supreme Court Justices would mean fundamentally changing the Court, which is

extremely difficult to achieve.

When the Founding Fathers were writing the Constitution, under Article III, Section 1, they included: "The judicial power of the United States, shall be vested in one Supreme Court...The judges, both of the supreme and inferior courts, shall hold their offices during good behaviour." These last two words, good behavior, have long been interpreted by

scholars as meaning a lifetime tenure for Supreme Court Justices. If the Constitution says that Supreme Court Justices shall serve for life, how do Democrats plan to change this and put term limits to Justices? The only legal change is a Constitutional Amendment, which, in order to be ratified, would need the approval of 2/3 of each house of Congress and 3/4 of the states.

The likelihood of this happening is low, as Republicans in Congress will likely oppose such an Amendment and less than 3/4 of states will approve of it. However, there is a second option for Democrats: expanding the number of Supreme Court Justices. This option would be slightly less difficult for Democrats to accomplish. Legal scholars have almost reached consensus on the constitutionality of Congress increasing or decreasing the number of Justices. However, in order to do this, both Congress and the Senate need to pass the legislation. Given the Senate's Filibuster rules, a bill expanding the Supreme Court bench would have no chance of passing.

This debate, if analyzed from the most nonpartisan angle possible, is absurd. However, the Supreme Court holds an immense amount of power over the laws of the United States: it often decides if something is constitutional. Historically, the Court has made crucial decisions that have impacted social issues, the economy, and even the result of a presidential election. This has led politicians to politicize the Supreme Court, which, in the eyes of the Founding Fathers, was supposed to be the body of government free from political intervention. Unfortunately for liberals, the SCOTUS will retain a strong conservative majority until one of the conservative Justices retires or passes away.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FREE SVG

# The Pandemic Isn't Over Yet

## Professors Should Still Offer Remote Classes

by Sydney Gayton '23  
Opinion Staff

CAMPUS

While college is still certainly strange compared to those of us who experienced it prior to March of 2020, this semester is starting to feel a little more "normal." Providence College has resumed fully in-person classes, and has brought back many of the events we all know and love, such as Homecoming Weekend, Board of Programmers' Provapalooza, and re-opening McPhail's. With all of these events, we almost forget that we are still in the midst of a global pandemic.

Although 97 percent of undergraduate students and 96 percent of faculty and staff are vaccinated as of this week, we are still not out of the woods. Students are still at risk of being exposed to and contracting COVID-19, and to add to this stress, they face falling behind in classes, as professors are no longer required to offer a Zoom option or record lectures.

It is definitely nice to be back in the classroom and have the ability for face-to-face interactions, something that a lot of people missed last year. The general census of students not just at PC, but at other schools as well, is that it was harder to learn in a dorm room with roommates and other distractions, instead of a classroom where it isn't an option to turn off cameras or lay in bed. When a professor is looking at you in person while asking a question, it's much harder to conveniently lose wifi and get disconnected from Zoom.

The main argument against recording lectures or offering a remote option for classes this semester is that students will take advantage of them when they don't have a valid reason to not show up to class. The

administration and professors' qualms of providing remote options for classes are understandable, but what about the students who test positive for COVID-19, were in close contact with someone who did, or are experiencing symptoms that could either be COVID-19 or just the "freshman plague?"

Students in these circumstances are put in the difficult spot of potentially exposing others to the virus, or risk hurting their grades and ability to learn now that they are unable to participate in classes or listen to online lectures. Samantha Smith '23 faced this dilemma the second week of the semester after being in close contact with someone the day before they tested positive. Although the school has loosened its contact tracing and close contact protocol, she decided to go home to wait for her two negative tests to avoid potentially infecting those

around her. Smith missed a full week of classes and although her professors provided her with the notes she missed in class, she was not able to get the full learning experience that comes with being physically in the classroom or listening in on the lecture.

On the College's website, the school released a statement saying, "Unlike the 2020-2021 academic year, students may not have remote access to classes while in isolation or quarantine," underneath their other COVID-19 protocols.

One other aspect the school has failed to take into consideration is how difficult isolation is for students' mental health. Katherine Cleary '23, who was isolated in the Marriott last year after being deemed a "close contact," says, "Having online classes was extremely helpful, as they not only alleviated my anxiety and stress emanating from my having to miss

class, but they also offered a useful distraction and a way to spend my seemingly endless amount of time [in quarantine]." While quarantine is difficult and lonely already, not having the ability to attend online classes to receive any sort of human contact or provide a distraction seems terrible.

While it may require more effort from professors, is it that difficult to send out a Zoom link to students with a documented reason as to why they cannot come to class? If this pandemic has taught us anything, it is how to adapt to nonideal circumstances and be flexible and understanding. If the College and its faculty want their students to thrive, they should change their current protocol to allow students with extenuating circumstances to attend class via Zoom or at least have access to a recorded lecture for social and academic purposes.

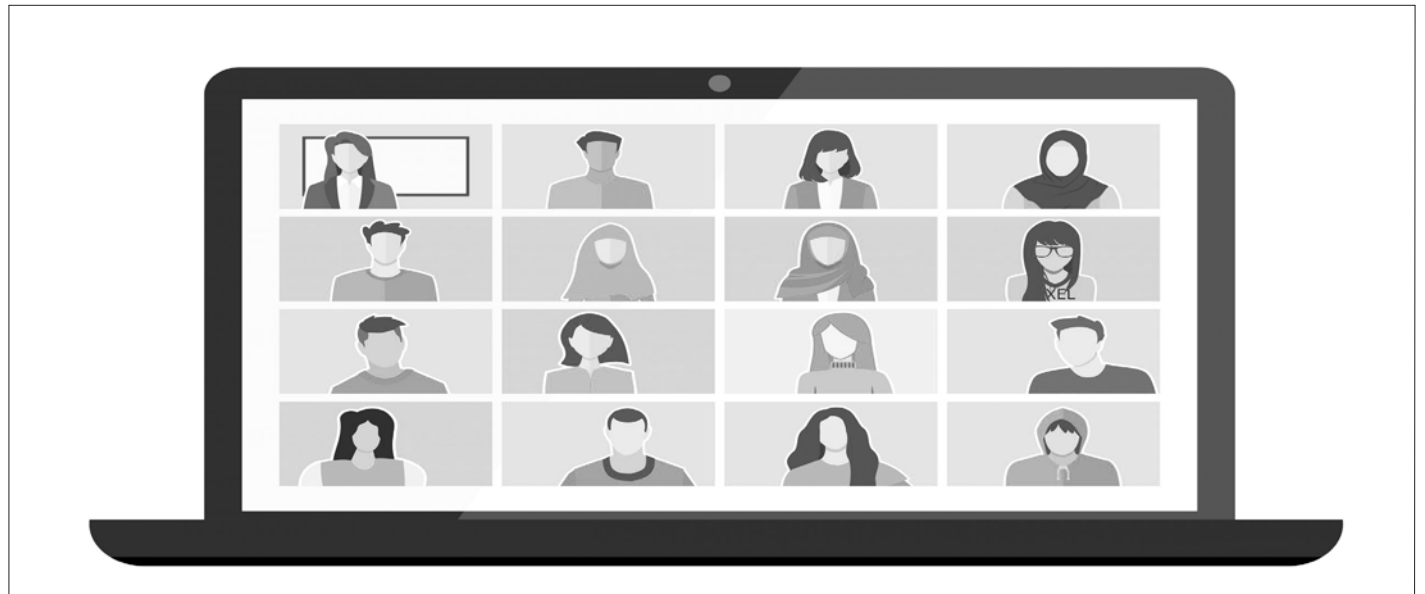


PHOTO COURTESY OF BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Though most students and professors want Zoom classes to be a thing of the past, it is still a viable option for those students who are feeling any symptoms of COVID-19.

# Technological Teaching

## Online Reading Puts Providence Schools at a Disadvantage

by Ashley Sheldon '24  
Opinion Staff

SOCIETY

The pandemic has undoubtedly transformed how teachers instruct, and technology has become embedded into school curriculums more so than ever. Upon entry into a seventh grade classroom, it becomes obvious that the students use their ChromeBooks and Google Classroom for all of their assignments, perhaps to accommodate the virtual students. During their class reading sessions, the teacher would ask the class whether they would like to read the book aloud or listen to an audiobook and follow along. Every time the students opted for the audiobook. This practice can certainly have its benefits when you have a hard time concentrating or want to highlight parts of the text in college. However, introducing a reliance on audiobooks and e-books as early as middle school is bound to be detrimental on the ways students develop in the classroom.

This produces an array of questions on how schools groom children to rely on technology for reading. How will these students approach different texts as they get older? What does this mean for future English teachers? Before these technologies were introduced into the classroom, there was far more interaction with the novels read in class. Students would have paperbacks available leading to more engagement, including "popcorn reading" where each student reads a small passage. With audiobooks or e-books available, the options for classroom engagement are limited.

This change has been made especially evident in the switch from remote to in-person learning that occurred in the past year. Students would read from e-books, as paperback options from the library were not available during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, when returning to in-person classes, students still choose to interact with online texts during silent sustained reading time. This means that a majority of students are reading picture books or comics, and some are even opening new tabs on the computer and becoming distracted by TikTok or online games. This would not be possible with a paper book.

Providence schools use websites like Clever.com, which are helpful to educators because they track the students' reading levels based on colors and supply the student with books for that reading level. However, it is also easy for kids to select simpler books that are below their reading level. It's difficult for one teacher to monitor an entire classroom reading at once; this is an excellent resource to help supplement instruction, but it shouldn't be the main way elementary and middle school students are taught to read, mainly because the Providence school district has the most multilingual learners in the entire state. They represent 29 percent of their school district, as reported by Rhode Island in 2019. The students should be reading aloud or in their heads and trying to connect their primary language to the nuances of the English language. If these children are forced to rely on online systems to read the books back to them, that puts them at a disadvantage in the future. A Stanford study reveals that "Researchers at Stanford's Graduate School of Education say reading fluency suffered dramatically, especially among second and third-grade students," (ABC7news).

Researchers also found that a year later, that gap has not improved. Now that schools are entirely in-person, teachers need to ditch the screens and bring kids back to real books. Multilingual learners now have to overcome the gap from COVID-19 last year in addition to the language barrier. For native speakers, it is still ultimately easier to be distracted by a screen and the internet versus using a physical book. It would be naïve to say that technology usage should be discouraged in classrooms completely, but when it comes to critical skills like reading, students should begin by taking more traditional routes to establishing fundamental skills.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC DOMAIN PHOTOS

Given the choice between physical books or their online counterparts, children are often choosing the latter. This could cause some significant issues in the long-term future.

# Snapping the Style Status Quo

## *Personal Standing Does Not Equate to Personal Style*

by Olivia Bretzman '22  
Opinion Staff

CAMPUS

Walking around Providence College's campus on any given day and you will find a plethora of Lululemon, Urban Outfitters, and Nike wearing students traipsing around with North Face backpacks or perhaps the occasional designer, "different" school bag.

While some students defy these norms, there is an overwhelming majority that "sticks to the status quo" of trendy fits on a day-to-day basis. Overall, there is a general lack of personality and individuality within students' sense of style.

Many people do not comprehend the idea of personal style as something more than just looking "put together" or buying the newest trend. Allyson Giso '22, explains: "To me, style means creativity and confidence—no matter what it is one wears, as long as it makes you feel your best, that is your style. It does not necessarily mean you have to follow a 'main-stream' vibe, but it can also mean that too!"

Personal style develops over time and takes many forms. It is different for everyone. While it can incorporate trends, it could totally defy them as long as someone feels comfortable in the way they are presenting and representing themselves.

Style should be a window into their real, emotional depth.

At PC, there are quite a few reasons why personal style is stunted. Giso explains, "It can be limiting. There is a pressure to have a certain style. There is a connection between social groups and style. For example, for senior ring weekend, everyone is stressed out because they want to look 'unique,' but also want to have a cohesive look—

presentable, formal, and trendy, when in all reality all those things mean something different to everyone. In the end, everyone will end up buying their dresses from most of the same places anyways."

Madigan Farrell '22, Secretary of PC Fashion Society comments on PC students' personal style, stating, "Although the culture at PC allows for an array of different styles, I have noticed there is a line that typically is not crossed. When I venture off-campus and observe students at Brown or RISD, I notice that they are more diverse with their style and wear outfits that I would not expect to see at PC. Despite the supportive community we have on campus, I do wish that students felt comfortable enough to go beyond the existing fashion norms and freely express themselves through their style without fear of looking different."

There is no question that PC has a very cliquy atmosphere—oftentimes

that can determine the way one dresses and acts. If one's style dramatically changes from the norm, that person runs the risk of judgement or even just standing out.

Many people relate style and impressions with one another. While this makes sense, PC students continually hold onto the idea that their clothing or accessories will determine how a person thinks of them from the get-go.

Farrell elaborates on this point by stating, "I believe that the predominant barrier when facing personal style is conformity. There is a perceived obligation to develop your personal style within the boundaries of what is acceptable."

Pressures from peers, academic expectation, and a general lack of diversity, all bar PC students from feeling empowered to try out something different.

Now, obviously, these statements are generalized. Not everyone dresses the same, and some are often appreciated

when dressed differently.

Trends are not all bad. They are an expression of current events and culture, but there is a definite lack of individuality that many people fall into on PC's campus due to the pressure to feel accepted.

Oftentimes, too, trends can really bar someone from dressing like themselves because of social media trends. Farrell explains, "A term that has circulated through social media, particularly TikTok, is 'cheugy,' a term that refers to a trend being out of style, and no longer trendy. When a trend becomes known for being 'cheugy,' it is difficult to continue to wear this trend without feeling ridiculed and embarrassed."

In all reality, everyone is capable of dressing themselves based on their uniqueness and genuine expression of beliefs. While perhaps that is simply expressing trends or one's athletic status, PC really does lack reality in this sense.

To emphasize this point, Farrell added, "We belong to a generation of digital natives who spend a significant amount of time connected through social media. Though this has its pitfalls, it provides us with a multitude of avenues to connect with others through our style.

The age of social media and influencers allows us to keep up to date with upcoming trends and provide us with not only inspiration, but we can develop the confidence to branch out and wear more unique styles."

Outside of PC, there are billions of styles that color the world in all its variability and beauty in different ways. PC students should not be afraid to live, act, and dress true to themselves and their personal style.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

Students on campus should feel comfortable expressing their personal style, regardless of it is considered trendy or not.

# Facebook's Effect on Mental Health

## *Social Media Megalith Hides Concerning Details*

by Zach Rossi '23  
Opinion Staff

SOCIETY

Facebook hid their knowledge of Instagram's harmful effect on teenagers' mental health, according to The Wall Street Journal. The story broke as a part of the Journal's investigative series titled "The Facebook Files," where they have published multiple pieces exposing the secrets of the social media giant. Although all of these stories are significant, the relevancy of Instagram makes puts this one among the most pressing to address.

The report notes how Facebook conducted an internal investigation into the matter of teenagers' mental health issues relating to the use of Instagram. In 2020, at the conclusion of the investigation, they found that not only social media but Instagram in particular, causes an increase in anxiety, depression, eating disorders due to body image concerns, and suicidal thoughts among teenagers. The internal report was presented to CEO Mark Zuckerberg last March, yet at the request of Senators to release their findings, the company gave evasive excuses as to why they would be keeping them quiet. With 40% of Instagram's users being 22 years of age and younger, it is understandable why profits are prioritized.

That is the most egregious aspect of the entire story: not that Instagram is harmful to teenager's mental health, but that Facebook was aware of

the harm and actively tried to hide the truth in order to keep their bottom lines in tact.

This is not to say there was no action taken by Facebook. Instagram adopted new features such as the ability to hide the "like" count on pictures, since most teens have reported that the amount of likes they get is a major source of anxiety. But not only was this feature found to be ineffective when used, it was a voluntary measure to begin with. Including this feature on posts is not exactly a "norm" when using Instagram, so why would anybody use it? It seems more counterproductive to solving the problem when this social aspect is considered.

Regardless, whatever "efforts" made by Facebook were intentionally minimal: to fix the problem entirely would mean altering their source of immense profit which is clearly not a risk they are willing to take.

If Facebook is not going to solve the problem, then it is up to the users of Instagram to rethink how beneficial being active on the platform really is. By having users utilize the app as it was initially designed and currently operating, they become part of the problem. The current state of the platform has been proven, by the owners of the platform themselves, to be extremely harmful to young people's mental health and well-being. Therefore, it is only logical to think that the users themselves are encouraging the current structure of the app by their unofficial endorsement through their participation.

Everyone has bought into Instagram as a habitual part of their social lives, but it is time

to address the elephant in the room: the general negativity the app can create. People were aware of the application's harm, even before this concrete evidence by the Journal was published, yet everyone kept going back.

Although no solutions to the problem will be offered in this piece, hopefully a conversation will be started among Instagram users as to where the social media platform fits in their lives, and whether or not it is really worth it.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MISS MALINI

In light of the recent information released about Instagram, many of the app's users might consider deleting their accounts or taking a break.

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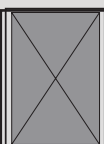
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# From "How?" to "Why?" To Prevent Crime, We Must Understand Crime



by Nicole Patano '22  
Editor-in-Chief  
EDITOR'S COLUMN

In the Office of Public Safety's most recent community notification, sent to students and faculty on Oct. 1, students were encouraged "to be alert

and aware of your surroundings," "to walk in groups and in well-lit areas," and "to secure your valuables and always lock your doors and windows."

What does it mean to take actions which make it more difficult for others to harm us without addressing the reasons why the harm is being done in the first place? Sure, if you're walking with the entire men's basketball team, you'll probably be left alone. If you park in a garage, your car probably will not get broken into. You and your property are safe, but that may not be the case for a girl walking by herself or a person who has to park on the street. If we do not address the reasons for crime in our community, then crime will continue to occur, regardless of how alert we are.

Instead of asking how crime occurs and attacking (for lack of a better term) it on that level, we must ask why crime occurs and look to solve that answer. The responsibility falls to our community leaders, who are notorious for asking, "How did this happen?" We hear, "Were you

under the influence when you were attacked?" "What were you wearing?" "Did you try to run or fight back?" These questions do very little for an investigation and our understanding of the event.

When we ask the person who committed the offense why they did it, they will probably offer up the superficial answers we expect. Yet, when we probe deeper, we can see that these answers typically revolve around the person lacking something.

Take a robbery, for example. The "why" seems obvious: the individual needs money. The line of questioning could, and often does, stop here. But we need to know why the individual needs money. What is it about their circumstances, not their identity or the victim's behavior, that caused them to steal? If we can address and replenish what is lacking, we can prevent crime much more effectively than we currently are.

The best, though long-term, approach is understanding crime as a product of societal neglect: that begins with asking the right question.

## TANGENTS & TIRADES

*Worse than Parallel  
Parking*

*Let's Push Back  
Landscaping*

*Printing Help  
Desk*

Those who attended the Homecoming festivities this past weekend understand the difficulties of navigating Providence College by car. Parking lots quickly fill while numerous drivers opt for parking tickets on Providence streets. CVS and Target are highly inaccessible for those without a car. After recent public safety announcements, many students might have concerns about walking to these locations. Decreasing the need to walk to off campus locations would put students at ease.

The College has multiple options regarding the transportation issue. With the rising cost of Uber and the unreliability of the RIPTA, offering a student shuttle run by the College on a regular basis would be incredibly helpful for those without cars. Thayer Street, Providence Place, and CVS would be excellent locations for students to get takeout food, necessities, and hang out with friends.

The second response to the issue would be to increase the amount of parking available on campus. Huxley Avenue has become difficult to traverse, with cars parking up to the stop sign near Admiral Street. If seniors who live off-campus take their car to reduce walking time, a parking space should be available for them. Additionally, the current commuter garage at Anderson stadium is only two levels, with the tennis courts on top. Relocating the tennis courts and adding more levels of parking could also alleviate the strain.

Nevertheless, PC must do more to increase transportation and parking options on-campus.

—Christina Charie '25

Imagine you stayed up late studying or doing work, and when you finally go to sleep, you are woken up only a few hours later to a leaf blower right outside your window. While some may be able to continue sleeping with this disruption, the majority of students on campus will find they have no choice but to get the day started.

During the week, we all would like to take advantage of a few extra minutes of sleep before we need to get up and start the day. However, when we find that we are woken earlier than necessary because of lawnmowers, leaf blowers, and other gardening tools, it can be frustrating.

On a college campus where sleep and education are placed as the highest priority, landscapers should not be allowed to start until at least 10 a.m. This might seem late, but in reality it would allow for the majority of students on campus to ensure restful sleep without being disturbed earlier than necessary.

If sleep production goes down, so will grades, involvement, and other tasks that students are responsible for, on which the College thrives and depends.

While, yes, it is important to keep the campus looking its best, it is also important to ensure that the students and their well-being are being considered at all times.

—Erin Garvey '22



PHOTO COURTESY OF NOUN PROJECT

Have you ever been charged for printing 30-plus pages for class and only received two sheets: one being the title page and the other saying "error"? Well, me too!

At times, it is hard to finish a large number of readings from a computer. Instead, it might be easier to follow along if those documents are printed. However, this becomes frustrating when one is constantly stricken with the fear that their printing balance will be lowered each time they print something.

What makes this anxiety even worse is when one is charged for documents that were not able to be printed. Often, when this situation happens, it is assumed that the money will be restored into the account, and this is where the problem lies.

Depending on one's major, readings are assigned for almost every class, and some students rely on printing hard copies of those readings. Due to this reliance, the printing system should be treated with an equal amount of importance.

While you can be refunded for printing errors at the HelpDesk in the library, the process of doing so is a bit tedious. Especially on the occasions of last-minute printing, this process will be an inconvenience.

Simply receiving a warning about an error or being refunded through a faster method would make printing at Providence College a better process. It is important to note that this is not a complaint, rather a request for change.

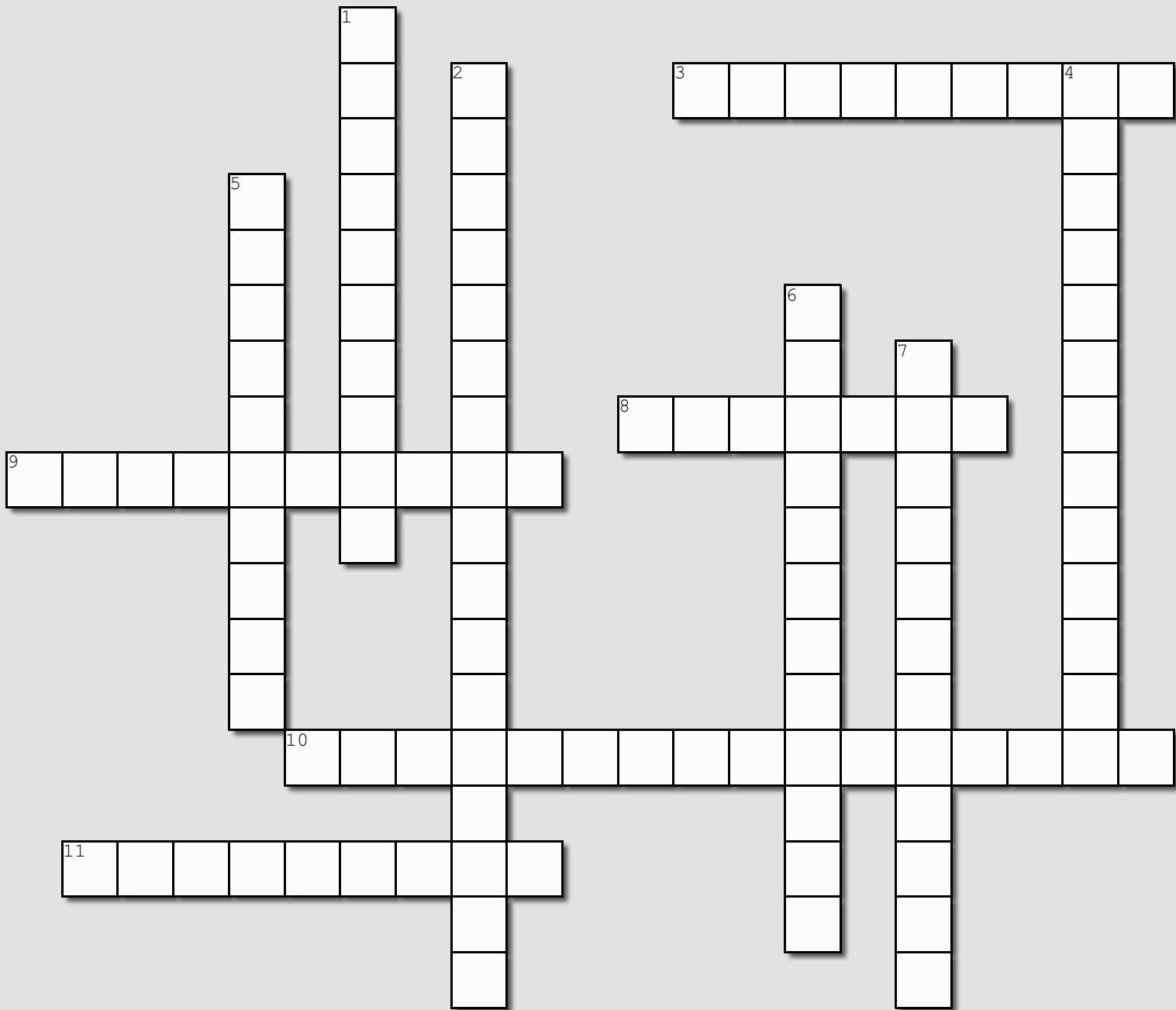
—Jezel Tracey '24



PHOTO COURTESY OF ICONSCOUT



# Events We Missed Because of COVID-19



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

### Across

- 3. An exclusively sophomore formal held each year by the school.
- 8. This lawn bash is named after a shellfish and is hosted every spring by PC's Board of Programmers.
- 9. This DJ duo was set to headline the 2020 Spring Concert.
- 10. The annual introduction to the Men's and Women's Basketball team that is followed by a concert.
- 11. The event in which students gather around a fire and scream following the completion of their DWC courses.

### Down

- 1. The week in which many students finish their classes, but many are faced with an immense workload.
- 2. The PC-coordinated dance that involves the entire student body and is held every winter in Peterson Gymnasium.
- 4. The starting point guard of the PC Men's Basketball team was leading the Friars into March Madness in 2020.
- 5. The week in which students hang out and do fun activities one last time before graduation.
- 6. This end-of-the-year event, in which certain students receive their diplomas, was canceled and moved to this past weekend.
- 7. The annual Division I College Basketball tournament which includes 68 teams.

### Last Week's Answers

#### ACROSS

- 2. CRANBERRY
- 3. PEZ
- 4. GAZPACHO
- 5. GLAZED
- 6. CHICK-FIL-A
- 7. POTATOES
- 8. JOEY CHESTNUT
- 9. COTTON CANDY
- 12. APPLE SAUCE
- 13. GUY FIERI
- 14. TOMATO

#### DOWN

- 1. FROOT LOOPS
- 3. PRETZELS
- 7. PENNSYLVANIA
- 10. CAKE BOSS
- 11. IDAHO

## The Riddler's Rotunda

What can you hold in your right hand, but never in your left hand?

What can you catch, but not throw?

When is a door no longer a door?

What belongs to you, but everyone else uses it?

What begins with an "e" and only contains one letter?

# mental health matters.

BOP and PC Democrats Present...

## Celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day

COME UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF CELEBRATING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE HISTORY OF THE LAND WE LIVE ON

THURSDAY OCTOBER 7 AT 7PM  
RUANE 105



If you are a person with a disability and require an assistive device, service, or other accommodation to participate in these events, please contact the Central Reservations Coordinator (401-865-2070) well in advance of this event.



Want to have a hand in preserving Providence College's history?

Join the *Veritas* staff and help create the yearbook for the class of 2022!



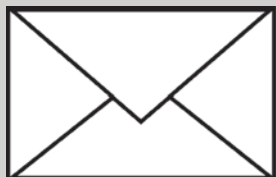
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Providence College  
Department of English

## DUAL BOOK LAUNCH

*Hao* by Chun Ye and *Mad Prairie* by Kate McIntyre



Wednesday, October 6th  
7:00pm - 8:00pm

[https://wpi.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_5hhN0DFERg2hQq\\_tT3\\_Lfw](https://wpi.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5hhN0DFERg2hQq_tT3_Lfw)



## NEED WRITING HELP?

Virtual appointments can be made via phone at 401.865.1286 or online.



Scan the code with your smart device.

# PHOTOGRAPHY

October 7, 2021



RYAN TWOMEY '23/ THE COWL

**LEFT:** The Providence College Women's Hockey Team defeated Boston Pride 3-2 in an exhibition game on Oct. 1 in Schneider Arena. Caroline Peterson '22 skates with the puck beside a Boston Pride opponent.

**BELOW:** Providence College kicked off PC Homecoming with the Friar 5K on Saturday, Oct. 2. Alumni, families, and students participated in the race that started at Harkins Hall.

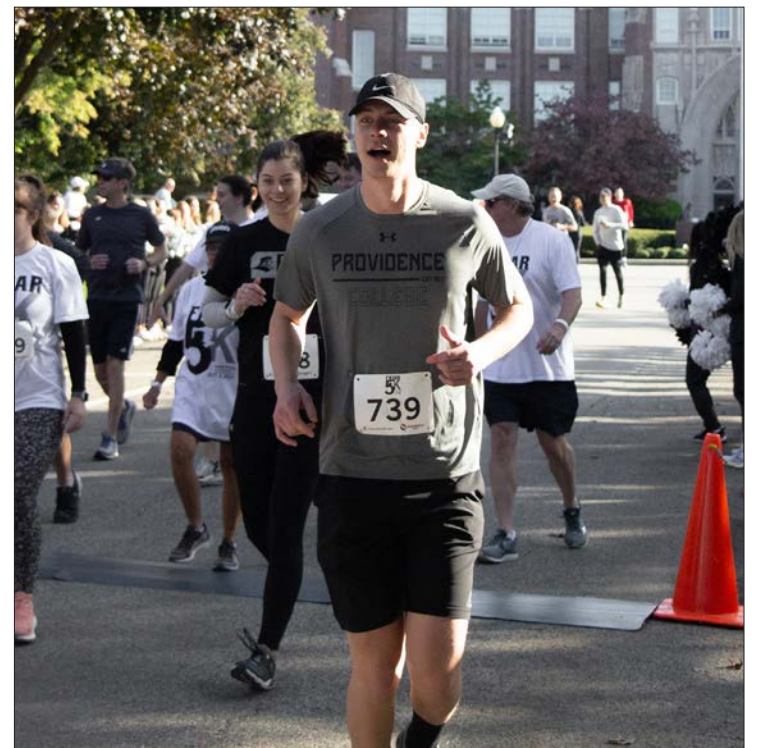
**BELOW LEFT:** Board of Programmers presented the "Bob Ross Paint Night" on Oct. 5 in McPhail's. Students painted while watching a Bob Ross tutorial.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** The PC Pep Band performed for the first time this year at the Men's Hockey game against Army on Oct. 2 in Schneider Arena.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** A Friar family brought their Golden Retriever puppy to PC Homecoming this weekend. The Friar puppy spent time on Slavin Lawn on Saturday, Oct. 2.



AMELIA TARDIF '23/ THE COWL



LILLIE HUNTER '22/ THE COWL



JACK DOWNEY '23/ THE COWL



MAYA MIGNANO '22/ THE COWL

# ROVING PHOTOGRAPHY

*If you could swap lives with a person for one day who would it be?*



**"Steven Spielberg."**  
Izzy Riven '24



**"Paul Rudd."**  
Diana Matarazzo '23



**"Will Smith."**  
Ernest Frimpong '22



**"Kevin Hart & Camille Kostek."**  
Diego Garcia '25 & Hailey Zabko '25



**"The Bucket List Family."**  
Katie Barton '23 & Aileen Deegan '23



**"Taylor Swift."**  
Ani Ouligian '22



**"My 30-year-old self."**

**- Jenna Rink**

PHOTO COURTESY of Playbill and Smooth FM

Photos by The Cowl Staff Photographers

## PC's A Capella Groups Face off in a Riff Off *Pitch Perfect-Inspired Event Draws Music Fans to McPhail's*

### Pitch Perfect

Continued from front page

Special Guest hit the stage first, belting out the theme song from *Phineas and Ferb*. It was a funny way to start off the night, with the crowd singing lyrics like "Come on, Perry!" back at the group. The next song came from Anaclastic with their rendition of "Leave it All to Shine," a mashup of the *iCarly* and *Victorious* theme songs. Although the audience certainly enjoyed both renditions, the clear winner of the first round was Strictly Speaking with their performance of The Rembrandts' "I'll Be There for You," more commonly known as the *Friends* theme song, led by Sorieba Fofanah '22.

After a quick break, during which the audience snagged some Insomnia Cookies, the show was back for the second round, which was dedicated to love songs. It opened with Anaclastic performing "Love Story" by Taylor Swift. Next, Strictly Speaking sang "Isn't She Lovely" by Stevie Wonder.

While both groups finished to raucous applause, it was the all-male group, Special Guest, that slammed the door shut on the competition with their rendition of Silk Sonic's "Leave the Door Open." Christian Willett '24 and Nolan Donato '22 brought Bruno Mars' suave to the stage and the rhythm and beat created by the rest of the group had the audience enthusiastically voting for them to win that round.

The final round was dedicated to "throwback" songs. In a clever homage to *Pitch Perfect*, Strictly Speaking sang Kelly Clarkson's "Since U Been Gone"—much more eloquently, however, than the auditioners in the movie performed it. Special Guest's final song, "Mambo No. 5," was led by

Dougie Schettino '23. "Mambo No. 5" was the perfect song for Special Guest to showcase their vocal abilities and pull the audience into the performance. Indeed, what sets Special Guest apart is their ability to get a crowd excited about their performances and about A Capella in general.

Anaclastic closed the Riff Off with a throwback to 1996. Their performance of "Wannabe" by the Spice Girls, led by Maddie Rich '24 and Caleigh

Lynch '23, earned the loudest applause of the final round, resulting in a revote for the entire event.

Although there were certainly loud cheers for all the groups and it was hard to truly measure how much applause each received without a decibel meter, Strictly Speaking was crowned the winner of the 2021 A Capella Riff Off.

Be on the lookout for more events hosted by the A Capella Club this semester, including their fall concert.



PHOTO COURTESY OF @PC\_STRICTLY\_SPEAKING

Strictly Speaking, the winners of the A Cappella Riff Off event held in McPhails on Sept. 30, pose for a group photo at the end of the night to celebrate their victory.

## Providence College's Pep Band Rallies Once Again *The Group's Triumphant Return to Schneider Arena*

### Pep Band

Continued from front page

Helmed by long-standing leader Jeff Hoyer and newly-minted student conductor Joe Genest '22, the band played a few tunes as people took their seats, and a sense of anticipation grew. After a while, the pregame practice concluded. The pep band proceeded to blast a lively take of the classic "When The Saints Go Marching In." No other tune could have felt like such a fitting beginning to the hockey season. The atmosphere in the arena was full of joy.

Soon the game started and within a minute the Friars scored, taking an early lead. In response, the pep band played some upbeat anthems, such as Taylor Swift's "Shake it Off." Genest dutifully conducted the band, occasionally also playing guitar. Hoyer also played along with the band, alternating between trombone and keys. Throughout the rest of the game, the band continued to provide an excellent backing track to the proceedings as the men's hockey team won, destroying Army 7-0.

While this game was certainly a memorable one for PC's men's ice hockey team, it perhaps had even more significance for many of the



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACK DOWNEY '23

The pep band celebrating a Friars' goal.

musicians in the pep band. Current sophomores were able to truly experience the electric atmosphere that permeates Schneider Arena, something that they had missed last year. Learning so many songs only to not showcase them to anyone was undoubtedly a frustrating experience, so it must have been exhilarating to

finally get the chance to play them at last weekend's game. This game also reminded people why the pep band is such an important part of PC's campus. Without them, so much of the excitement that comes with attending PC athletic contests would be lost.

There are many more games to come this season, and it will be

great to hear the sounds of the pep band at them. Perhaps even more exciting is the prospect of returning to the Dunkin' Donuts Center for basketball games, especially for the younger members of the pep band who have not experienced this yet.

# A Change of Scenery for the 2021 Governors Ball

## The Iconic Music Festival Celebrates Its 10th Birthday at a New Venue

by Riley Coyne '24  
A&E Staff

MUSIC

The Governors Ball is back and better than ever for its 10th anniversary. In previous years, the three-day music festival took place on Randall's Island in New York. However, this year, it was held at Citi Field. Despite fans' excitement to see their idols perform live, they could not help but wonder: why the change of venue?

It seems as if the organizers knew that there would be questions regarding their decision to change the location when they decided to make the switch. The GovBallNYC YouTube channel posted a video titled "New Venue, New Experience" to explain why Citi Field would make for a great live music experience. Organizers also published a lighthearted statement on their website: "Besides, you're not a real New Yorker if you haven't moved a couple times ammiright?"

Despite the jokes, one of the major reasons for the location switch-up is because Citi Field is much more accessible via public transportation. The subway and Long Island Railroad stop right outside of the stadium, and it is only a 14-minute ride from Penn Station. When the festival was held at Randall's Island, the only way to get there was by ferry, car, or bus. Public transportation makes it much easier if there are any emergencies or weather complications, like that of 2019,



PHOTO COURTESY OF INSIDER.COM

Billie Eilish takes the stage at the 2021 Governors Ball.

when unexpected thunderstorms led to an immediate evacuation of Gov Ball and festival-goers scrambled to find a way to get home.

One of the most notable changes in the festival in its new location is that the stages were set up in a 360-degree layout to prevent sound bleeds from occurring. Attendees also had to show either proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test to be admitted into the venue. Organizers certainly took safety protocol very seriously this year, especially after having to cancel the event last year due to the pandemic, to make sure everyone could have an enjoyable and safe experience.

Despite the change of venue, the 2021 Gov Ball experience was just as much of a hit as the event has been in past years. The iconic New York festival encompasses music, art, and food all in one.

The art itself at Gov Ball is enough to motivate people to purchase tickets. The colorful signs, décor, and even the outfits were totally Instagram-worthy.

Gov Ball is also well-known for the delicacies that the food and beverage vendors have to offer. Milk & Cream Cereal Bar, Big Mozz, and Sweet Chick are just a few of the delicious options to choose from at the festival.

These are all part of the experience of Gov Ball, but most attendees come to see live performances from their favorite artists. This year's headliners included Billie Eilish, Megan Thee Stallion, Post Malone, and many other talented artists.

Notably, well-known rapper DaBaby was supposed to perform but was dropped from his record label for making homophobic comments about HIV and AIDS on his Twitter account. As a result, he was removed from the Gov Ball lineup

as well as that of Lollapalooza, another major music festival.

While fans of DaBaby were certainly disappointed, those of A\$AP Rocky and Rihanna likely felt the complete opposite. Rumors of the pair dating have been swirling around the media for quite some time now. Their relationship was officially confirmed, however, when he referred to her as "the love of my life," in a recent interview with GQ. To the delight of many Gov Ball attendees, sources speculate that Rihanna was present at the festival when A\$AP Rocky winked at someone backstage during his performance of his song "LSD."

One of the most memorable moments of the festival was when 24kGoldn came out onto the stage and performed his hit single "Mood" featuring Iann Dior.

It was one of the final guests at the Friday night section of the festival, Billie Eilish, who gave the most memorable performance. Eilish recently released a new album, *Happier Than Ever*, and fans were eager to see some of the new songs live for the first time. When she sang the title track of the album, the audience screamed along with her on the iconic lyrics, "Cuz I'd never treat me this s\*\*\*\*y / You made me hate this city." Eilish's powerful show, as well as the amazing performances from her fellow musical artists, made the 2021 Gov Ball one to remember.

# Global Citizen Live 2021 Combines Music and Social Justice

## Musicians, Activists Come Together for a Good Cause

by Madison Palmieri '22  
A&E Co-Editor

MUSIC

On Saturday, Sept. 25, hundreds of today's most talented musical artists from all genres, as well as a smattering of celebrities, donated their time to come together for Global Citizen Live 2021—even though they were not all in the same place.

The festival took place across six continents over the course of 24 hours with the intent of raising awareness for worldwide issues such as poverty, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic. It was scheduled to coincide with the UN General Assembly and G20 Climate Meetings. These are two important gatherings whose participants' decisions have the potential to impact the issues Global Citizen is concerned with.

The organization was founded in 2008 with the goal of eradicating the most extreme forms of poverty by 2030. This year, however, it has focused on its "Recovery Plan for the World," which seeks to end the pandemic through governmental and private sector aid that creates an "equitable global recovery."

The concerts were held in venues including The Great Lawn in New York City's Central Park and Los Angeles' Greek Theatre. Other notable locations included London and Paris. At each venue, attendees were treated to unique, memorable performances from their favorite artists.

In Central Park, Camilla Cabello took the stage to perform "Havana" before her boyfriend and fellow singer Shawn Mendes joined her for a swoon-worthy rendition of their duet, "Senorita." Billie Eilish dazzled fans with a set comprised of songs from her new album, *Happier Than Ever*. She also brought out her brother and frequent collaborator,

FINNEAS, to perform a duet of "Your Power."

In between the musical performances, celebrities took to the stage, calling for social and political activism. The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, for instance, expressed the need for vaccine equity across the globe.

While the evening was filled with many outstanding performances, the most magical moments came during Coldplay's set. They first performed their perpetually-tear-jerking hit "Fix You" with Eilish and FINNEAS in the twilight before inviting Cabello and Mendes back onstage to sing "Yellow," another one of their classic tunes. For the grand finale, BTS appeared in hologram form for a bilingual performance of their new collaboration with Coldplay, "My Universe."

In L.A., fans were treated to 5 Seconds of Summer's first live performance in almost two years, opening with their 2014 smash hit, "She Looks So Perfect" and closing with their more recent chart-topper, "Youngblood." Demi Lovato and Adam Lambert performed a rendition of "Mad World" and H.E.R.

joined Stevie Wonder for a duet of "Superstition."

In between sets, members of the Los Angeles Fire Department came onstage to share their harrowing personal experiences fighting wildfires in the hopes of raising awareness of how climate change leads to these devastating fires.

To close out the night, One Republic brought everyone back to the early 2010s for a crowd-pleasing rendition of their hit "Counting Stars."

Across the pond, acts such as Duran Duran and Kylie Minogue performed in London; Ed Sheeran, Elton John, Black Eyed Peas, Doja Cat, Charlie Puth, and others took to the stage in Paris.

At all these venues and others, concertgoers, performers, and guest speakers alike were overjoyed to be back together in person. With the awareness generated by Global Citizen Live, hopefully they will soon be able to celebrate advancements in the social, political, economic, and environmental movements that Global Citizen champions.

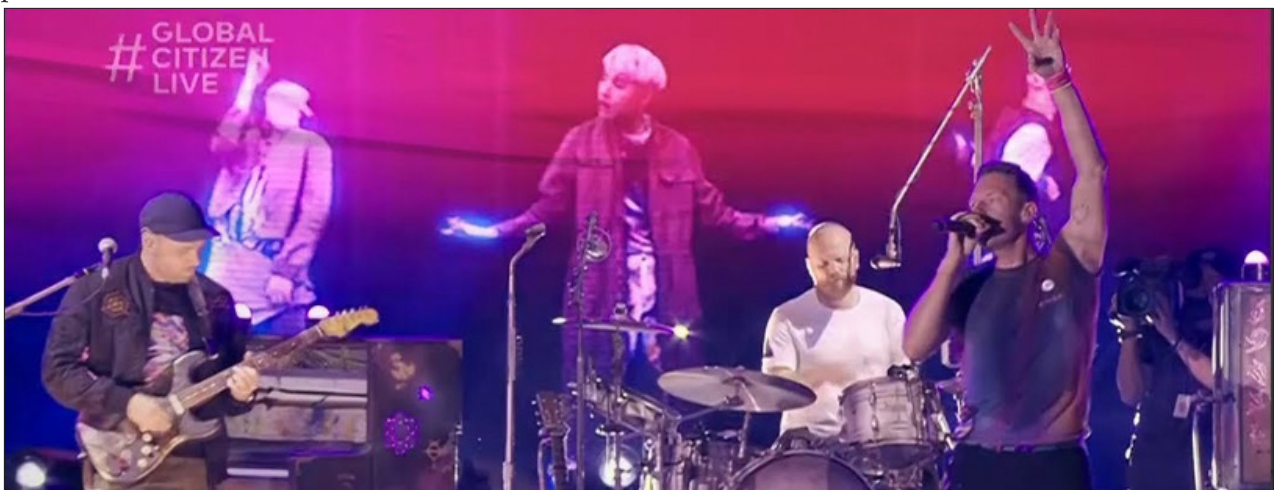


PHOTO COURTESY OF YOUTUBE

Coldplay performs "My Universe" with holograms of BTS at Global Citizen Live 2021.

# The 2021 Tony Awards Celebrate the Return of Live Theatre

## Tina and Moulin Rouge! Among the Night's Notable Winners

by Kate Picone '22  
A&E Staff

THEATRE

On the night of Sept. 26, 2021, the 73rd Tony Awards were held at the Winter Garden Theater in New York City. This event celebrates the greatest accomplishments in theatre. Unlike other award shows that applaud performances on the small screen and the silver screen, the Tonys are all about onstage performances. At this year's ceremony, many outstanding productions and people were nominated and received awards, but among the most notable were *Moulin Rouge! The Musical* and Adrienne Warren for her role in *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical*.

*Moulin Rouge! The Musical* won the Tony for Best Musical, Aaron Tveit won the award for Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role for his part in the production, and Alex Timbers won Best Direction of a Musical for his guiding vision of the show. This musical is one of the most popular offerings on Broadway, and has been for quite some time because of its catchy songs, beautiful costume work, and eccentric themes. After a long season of COVID-19 halting all Broadway performances, it was the perfect musical to reignite the Broadway scene. The cast and crew's exhilarating performances and tremendous efforts, some of which were featured at the Tonys, rightfully won them the aforementioned awards.

Another notable musical featured at the Tonys was *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical*, especially because of Adrienne Warren's inspiring performance as Tina Turner. To say that she embodied the role of the famed singer is an understatement, as she worked extremely hard to capture her in both an entertaining and respectful way. The actress said in a CBS interview, "It feels like a blessing,

and I'm happy to be able to do what I love."

In the CBS interview, Warren also remarked that she felt a lot of pressure to do right by Turner and Turner's fans with this production. The musical tells the story of Turner's life, spanning from her turbulent childhood and being "discovered" to her treatment in show business and her terrible marriage to Ike Turner. Warren additionally expressed that the famed singer has always been an inspiration to her, explaining, "I've looked up to her for as long as I can remember...And I had never seen another woman sing rock'n'roll that looked like me."

While the performance was outstanding, the production took a lot out of Warren physically. She had to train and work out so much that it resulted in injuries to her ankle and knee, as well as a herniated disc. The show began to consume her life, especially since she was onstage for nearly the entire production, performing 24 numbers.

The role also required a lot of emotional energy. Warren felt a responsibility to represent Black women in show business, not only through Turner's experience, but also with regard to what Black women in theatre face today in 2021. She wanted to shine a light on Black performers and force the industry to notice them.

In striving to do so, her performance as Turner allowed Warren to find herself. For the first time in her career, she felt that she had accomplished the representation she and other Black creators deserved. Indeed, *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical* has definitely gotten the attention and recognition it deserves, not only through the awards it received at the Tonys, but also through the range of emotions viewers feel while watching the production.

It is such powerful viewing experiences as these that make live theatre so meaningful, and that make the Tonys such an important event.

### 2021 Tony Winners

#### Best Play

*The Inheritance*

#### Best Musical

*Moulin Rouge! The Musical*

#### Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Play

Andrew Burnap - *The Inheritance*

#### Best Performance by a Leading Actress in a Play

Mary-Louise Parker - *The Sound Inside*

#### Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Musical

Aaron Tveit - *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*

#### Best Performance by a Leading Actress in a Musical

Adrienne Warren - *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical*

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MADISON PALMIERI

# Nothing Good Starts on a Getaway Scooter

## 59 Year-Old Man Convicted in Theft of Van Gogh and Hals Paintings

by Claudia Fennell '24  
A&E Staff

ART

On Friday, Sept. 24, a three-judge panel met in the Netherlands and came to a verdict that sentenced an unnamed 59-year-old man—identified as Nils M.—to eight years in prison and ordered him to pay a hefty fine. Indeed, the court condemned his wrongdoing as a serious crime, determined to make him pay the price for his actions by sentencing him to the maximum possible imprisonment for his actions.

What was this man convicted of?

The Dutch car repairman is charged with stealing expensive and historic paintings. He left behind two pieces of DNA evidence, one at each of the two crime scenes. These traces have led prosecutors to apprehend him for the thefts of a Vincent van Gogh painting and a Frans Hals painting.

In March 2020, the van Gogh painting titled "The Parsonage Garden at Nuenen in Spring," painted in 1884, was stolen from the Singer museum in the Netherlands. This painting is valued at \$2.9 million. The thief used a sledgehammer to break the two doors, giving him access to the museum. He also used explosives to open another door. However, he failed to think of everything—part of a broken frame left behind



PHOTO COURTESY OF DUTCHNEWS.NL  
"The Parsonage Garden at Nuenen in Spring," the Van Gogh painting recently stolen from the Singer museum in the Netherlands.

at the museum contained his DNA.

In August 2020, the painting titled "Two Laughing Boys with a Mug of Beer," painted in 1626 by Frans Hals, was stolen from the Netherlands' Museum Het Hofje van Aerden. This painting is valued at \$17.6 million. In this robbery, the thief broke the museum's back doors and left DNA evidence on a tension strap that he used to lower either the painting or himself. As a car repairman, he had access to these straps, and they were found present in the garage that he worked in. He claims, however, that he did not know how they ended up at the crime scene.

In addition to the matching DNA at both scenes, the robberies that occurred in May and August were similar in that the museums were broken into at about the same time, with force used to enter, and the criminal drove away with a partner on a scooter to escape after stealing both pieces of artwork.

The DNA and behavioral evidence at the crime scenes led detectives to the Dutch car repairman, whose DNA was already in their database because of a previous arrest for the theft of 17th-century antiques for which he spent five years in prison.

The Netherlands courts, as well

as the public, expressed that these paintings have cultural and historical significance for them. When speaking to the Independent, the court said, "That is why, and given the criminal record of the suspect who is, according to the court, an incorrigible and calculating criminal, the court considers the maximum sentence to be appropriate." The Netherlands courts want to set an example by giving this man the maximum sentence possible for his thievery to discourage others from attempting the same crimes.

While the police have not been able to recover the stolen paintings, they did find over 10,000 ecstasy pills at the criminal's house, which could validate their theory that his art thefts were tied to the drug world. When speaking to the New York Times, Arthur Brand, a private art detective, said that he "believes there is demand in the Dutch underworld for artworks. People accused of drug crimes could think that a stolen artwork could potentially be surrendered to the authorities in exchange for a lesser sentence." Apparently, the demand for stolen art has risen, and the Dutch car repairman decided to supply it. Although he still claims his innocence in the crimes, he will now spend eight years in prison for that decision.

# Another Documentary, Another Major Milestone

## Controlling Britney Spears Released as Court Makes Decision on Conservatorship

by Nikki Idelson '22  
A&E Staff

MUSIC/FILM

The New York Times' new documentary, *Controlling Britney Spears*, offers new insight into the oppressive conservatorship singer Britney Spears has been placed under for over a decade.

What is a conservatorship? According to the BBC, a conservatorship is "granted by a court for individuals who are unable to make their own decisions, like those with dementia or other mental illnesses." Spears' conservatorship was put in place "in 2008 when she faced a public mental health crisis."

As the years have passed, Britney has proven that she is in a much better place now than she was when the conservatorship was put into effect, yet this controlling mechanism is still in place. As a result, Spears lacks freedom and the right to make her own decisions.

Recently, Spears has spoken out about the conservatorship, claiming that not only has it been oppressive in itself, but also that her father, Jamie Spears, who is the conservator, is to blame for the conditions she has been forced to endure.

According to The New York Times, "as early as 2014, in a hearing closed to the public, Ms. Spears' court-appointed



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA.COM

Britney Spears on the red carpet.

lawyer, Samuel D Ingham III, said she wanted to explore removing her father as conservator." Spears believes that her father has a drinking problem as well as other issues that prevent him from being a just and effective conservator.

Earlier this year, The New York Times produced a documentary that helped to shed light on how Spears found herself in this conservatorship and how it has affected her life. This documentary, *Framing Britney Spears*, has been eye-opening in terms of understanding the true details of this conservatorship, especially what it was like for Spears to live under its control.

Over the summer, Spears was given her first opportunity to reveal how truly oppressive and controlling the conservatorship had been for her. The New York Times reports, following her testimony, "key insiders have come forward to talk publicly for the first time about what they saw."

This milestone in Spears' struggle for her freedom led The New York Times to release a second documentary about her life and conservatorship, *Controlling Britney Spears*, on Friday, Sept. 24. This sequel documentary focuses on the experiences that people close to Spears had with working with her, as well as with her father, while she was under this conservatorship.

Every person that is featured in the documentary has worked with Britney in some capacity and has seen how both Jamie and the conservatorship have been an oppressive force on her life. In one scene, Spears' former assistant, who was very close with her, describes how she always supported and advocated for her, which Jamie and the team did not like. This tension led Spears' team to turn the singer and her former assistant against one another. This is just one example of many that demonstrate how controlling Jamie and the rest of Spears' team have been to her.

Another former employee, Alex Vlasov, who worked for Spears' security team for years, also discusses his experience working with the Spears in the new documentary. According to The New York Times, Jamie instructed the security team to "run an intense surveillance apparatus that monitored [Spears'] communications and secretly captured audio recordings from her bedroom, including her interactions and conversations with her boyfriend and children." Vlasov expresses how he felt uncomfortable with having to

do this, as it was a complete invasion of Spears' privacy. According to The New York Times, he revealed that "it really reminded me of somebody that was in prison. And security was put in a position to be the prison guards essentially." This new documentary has been imperative to shedding even more light on what the conservatorship was truly like for the singer.

Following the release of the documentary, Spears had a court hearing on Sept. 27, which marked another major milestone in her quest for freedom. According to NPR, "at Los Angeles Superior Court on Wednesday afternoon, Judge Brenda J. Penny decided to suspend Jamie Spears as the conservator of his daughter's estate." This decision removes her father as conservator, which is a major step in the right direction to freeing Britney from her extremely controlling conservatorship.

This ruling does not completely free her for the time being as "John Zabel, a certified public accountant, will step into that role for now," but he is only serving as the conservator temporarily until Spears has her next hearing. According to NPR, this hearing is "scheduled for Nov. 12. At that point, the judge plans to terminate the conservatorship—freeing the 39-year-old star." After a thirteen-year battle, Spears will hopefully finally be free from her controlling conservatorship.

*Controlling Britney Spears* is now available to stream on services including Netflix and Hulu.

# Album Review: Lorde's *Solar Power*

## The Personal Growth of the Artist and Her Listeners

by Talia Rueda '23  
A&E Staff

MUSIC

Lorde came into the music industry in 2013 in full force. She offered a distinctive music style to the world of Tumblr-lovers while also being highly relatable. Her first album, titled *Pure Heroine*, gave listeners the iconic singles "Royals" and "Ribcage" that still evoke the utmost emotion today, even after fans have graduated from the grunge-Tumblr era. Lorde's first album did exactly what it was meant to do as she entered the industry, which was to make her mark as a blossoming artist. She was young, and so were her listeners, who were displaying their emotions on social media for the first time. Indeed, in several ways, the artist and her listeners have grown up together.

This was certainly evident with Lorde's second album, *Melodrama*, which blessed listeners' ears in 2017. Fans saw a new chapter of the singer's life, one with a less innocent point of view. The album's title was a superb fit for its content, and the artist successfully appealed to listeners' emotions. Something was different this time around: Lorde was growing up and learning to navigate the brutality of being a young woman.

So, what stage of life are Lorde and her fans at with her third album, four years later? Its title offers a clear indication of the answer to this question.

*Solar Power* was released on Aug. 20, 2021. Listeners were anxious to see what Lorde was going to make them feel this time. What many have probably found, though, is that Lorde did not have to make them feel anything; they were already on the same page.

The album demonstrates a significant amount of growth from her last release four

long years ago. This did not come as a surprise. Not only had Lorde taken four years to release a new project, but she also removed herself from the grid in the meantime, disappearing from both social media and the public. Avid followers know that she took time to reflect, perhaps on her grief as shown on *Melodrama*, or maybe on climate change as she traveled from New Zealand to Antarctica.

One thing is clear from her new release—Lorde seems truly content and untroubled. In a departure from her past albums, her lyrics and production have a new sense of freedom, and she seems to

want her listeners to feel the same delight she has been experiencing. For instance, *Solar Power*'s second single, "Stoned at the Nail Salon," contains lyrics expressing a carefreeness that seems so different from the intensity of *Melodrama*. These lines read, "Cause all the music you loved at sixteen, you'll grow out of / And all the times they will change, it'll all come around / I don't know / Maybe I'm just / Maybe I'm just stoned at the nail salon again."

These lines seem to perfectly capture Lorde's internal growth. Indeed, "Stoned at the Nail Salon" in particular discusses how her mindset has changed from when she was 16 years old. She also acknowledges that it is okay to grow apart from the habits and interests of one's youth.

In addition to the lyrical differences between the artist's earlier work and her latest release, the production of *Solar Power* takes an easier approach. The music itself is much more simple and reserved in its organization. Lorde even allows some harmonies from other artists on this album, including iconic indie singers Phoebe Bridgers and Clairo. In these and other aspects of the album, from lyrics to harmonies, it is clear that Lorde has become significantly lighter and seems glad to share this radiance with listeners.

Lorde's newfound perspective, as expressed on *Solar Power*, embodies the new chapter of life that she is in. After years of privacy and remoteness, she is back to showcase how she has healed.

Many of Lorde's fans have felt the emotions expressed on her highly personal first and second albums, drawing connections between her life and theirs. Her listeners have always been on the same page as her. *Solar Power* is different, though. If fans did not already feel a connection to the relief that Lorde has experienced, they will after listening to the album. The artist has chosen to nurture healing and peace in her own life, and the album's therapeutic softness may do the same for listeners.

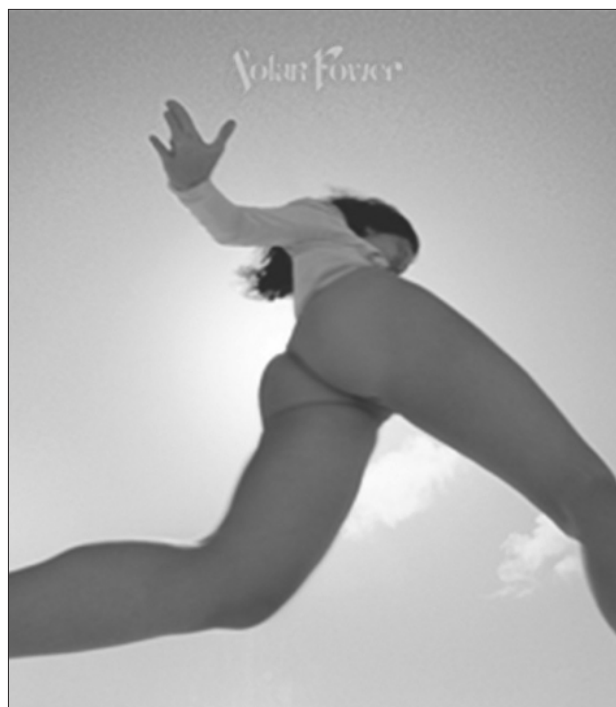


PHOTO COURTESY OF DAILYIOWAN.COM

The cover of Lorde's new album, *Solar Power*.



# American Horror Story Returns With “Double Feature” Hit Show Promises to Scare Viewers in More Ways Than One

by Olivia Riportella '25  
A&E Staff

TELEVISION

It has been two years since the hit series *American Horror Story* brought a new tale to the small screen. The much anticipated 10th season finally premiered earlier this year on Aug. 25 on FX and Hulu.

This season, producer Ryan Murphy has taken on yet another unique *American Horror Story* narrative. The season is split into two separate storylines—hence its name, “Double Feature.” While not much was known about the new “story” for quite some time, trailers teased the appearance of sirens and aliens, and viewers have seen these elements appear in the new season.

Many of *American Horror Story*’s most beloved cast members have returned this season. Sarah Paulson, Evan Peters, Finn Wittrock, Lily Rabe, Frances Conroy, and Leslie Grossman are some of the familiar faces that appear in its first part, “Red Tide,” which “takes place by the sea.” Many of them are also speculated to make an appearance in “Death Valley,” the second half of the season that takes place “by the sand.”

Interestingly, Macaulay Culkin, most famously known for starring in *Home Alone*, is making his *American Horror Story* debut in “Red Tide.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF HITC.COM

The official poster for the new season of *American Horror Story*.

While Culkin is perhaps the most well-known addition to the cast, there will certainly be other new faces appearing on screen in this new season as well.

The first part of “Double Feature,” “Red Tide,” takes place in New England. It is set in Provincetown, Massachusetts, and follows struggling writer Harry Gardner (Finn Wittrock) who moves his pregnant wife Doris (Lily Rabe) and daughter Alma (Ryan Kiera Armstrong) to the beach town of Cape Cod to seek inspiration. Harry quickly discovers that there has been a series of disturbing murders in Truro, the next town over. Soon enough, the culprits, who are some of the town’s more chilling residents, begin to make an appearance.

It is speculated that this part of the season is inspired by true events that have taken place in New England. For instance, one of New England’s most famous serial killers, Antone Charles “Tony” Costa, committed numerous murders in Truro, the town referenced in Red Tide. Costa was dubbed the “Cape Cod Vampire” because he left bite marks on each of his victims. Similarly, in “Red Tide,” the Truro victims are left dead in seemingly animalistic ways. Such real-life horror stories make this season of *American Horror Story* all the more sinister.

The second part of the season, “Death Valley,” takes a turn into a 1950s black and white timeline, where President Dwight Eisenhower

is confronted with an alien invasion and subsequent tests on the strange new species. Part two also depicts a group of present-day college students that is faced with the recurrence of these horrors decades later.

Although it has yet to air, the ending of “Double Feature” will certainly be jam-packed, since part two is restricted to just four episodes. The final episodes of the season will be released in the upcoming weeks of October, with “Inside” airing on Oct. 6, “Blue Moon” on Oct. 13, and “The Future Perfect” on Oct. 20. The season finale, whose title has yet to be announced, is set to be released on Oct. 27, so *American Horror Story* fans will have something spooky to watch right before Halloween.

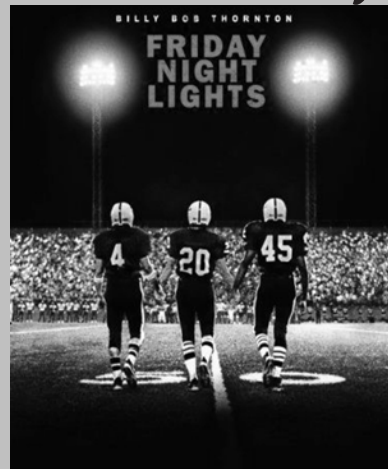
## A&E Editors’ Picks: The Best Movies to Get You Excited for Autumn



*Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*



*Knives Out*



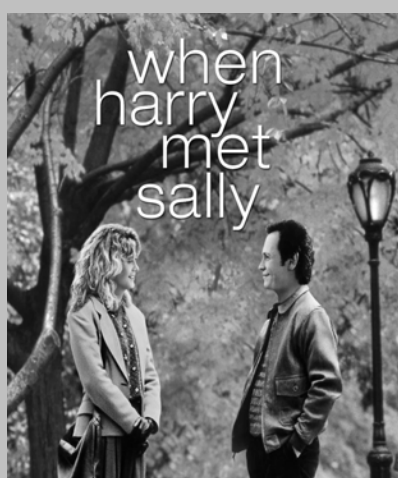
*Friday Night Lights*



*Clue*



*Dead Poets Society*



*When Harry Met Sally*



*Silver Linings Playbook*



*You’ve Got Mail*

## *When Were; You and I: A Hedge Stone among the Graveyard of Artistic Demise*

by Max Gilman '25  
Portfolio Staff

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POETRY

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Tell them tales,  
Entwine them with snaring literary truths,  
Yet they slip through,  
They,  
Slip through the spiked thorns amongst them,  
And,  
Carry on,  
And so begins the cycle again,  
Yet the outcome is the same,  
But now,  
They,  
Are experienced in slipping through the thorns,  
What is it man truly yearns?  
Truth?  
No,  
Denial of truth,  
Until,  
Substance is needed,  
What does it mean,  
To run alongside the sun?

Tap, tap, tap,  
Strokes from my hand hit the sides of the metallic desk,  
With a pencil,  
Barely sharpened,  
They listen with thoughts,  
Tap, tap, tap,  
Wandering elsewhere,  
They, the blue people,  
Living blue lives,  
Under blue rays,  
Who never leave the box they exist in,  
Tap, tap, tap, tap,  
I decide to join them,  
In my mind's blue disillusion,  
Distracted by purposeless truths,  
Those of inconsequential value,  
And there I observe moments of elation,  
Tap, tap, tap, tap,

Blank your mind,  
Make a fool of art,  
For realism's sake,  
What they say is of no importance,  
They seek truth published by man,  
Constructed in a factory,  
Of partisan labor for the victimized workers,  
Sealed with the blood of the author's eye,  
And cleansed with the tears of a marginalized citizenship,  
That is the truth they seek,  
And so they live their blue lives now,  
As it has come in accordance,  
Down the line of succession,  
So they take their seat,  
Upon a throne engulfed in blue light,  
Hypnotized by the denial of art,

Tap, tap, tap,  
Oh,  
Quickly I lost control of the pencil,  
As it fell to the ground,  
And embedded itself inside a crack,  
That ran through a spiderweb of cracks,  
And I became entranced,  
Hypnotized by the art,

But what did they see,  
Not art, no,  
Instead they noticed the ground,  
And its need for repair,

Years have passed since,  
The air has grown stale,  
But not a bad stale,  
More like a stale you smell in an old closet,  
With jackets from your older family,  
I stand up from the library steps and walk,  
Strolling down the street I call to you,  
With both hands shuddered away in pockets,  
And ask you to meet me,  
By the entrance to the graveyard,

You thank me for the offer but leave me,  
And so I come to the graveyard alone,  
With a notebook,  
Full of drawings,  
Mostly incomplete,  
But they express how I feel,

I sit by a fallen tree,  
In the moist morning air,  
As the fog rises just above my line of sight,  
As my hand accidentally touches a patch of moss,  
I dust off my palm and open the notebook,  
To see pictures of me running with the sun,  
Sketches I made during class a long time ago,

I look to the sun,  
And wonder how long I must wait,  
Before our cosmic dance together,  
I must wait here as always,  
And reside among the blue people,  
But I too will not prove to be blue,  
No,  
I seek a truth I do not understand,  
For it is not made by man,  
But by truth alone,  
An artistic truth,  
A belief in love,

So accordingly,  
I proceed to flip a new page open,  
And begin to draw,  
What it is I want to see,

Oh,  
But I have forgotten a pen,  
And so I lay down in the graveyard,  
Accompanied by the dead,  
Those who have escaped the blue light,  
And weep,  
For art's demise,  
And its people,  
Who appreciate it not,

Blue can only go so far,  
And so I pursue life,  
Through a ballad of different colors,  
All wonderful in their own regard.

# me, eric, layla, & a brick wall

by Marelle Hipolito '22  
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

Music seeps through the brick wall  
"It's too loud!" I bang in response.  
Music grows louder and louder  
My patience shrinks smaller and thinner  
and it's back and forth for a while.  
Monday Tuesday Wednesday,  
*bang bang bang*  
I'm drowned out by the music!  
I have no choice,  
I learn to live with the noise.  
I numb it out, until one specific day  
when in the music through the brick wall  
I hear Eric's voice:  
"What'll you do when you're lonely?"  
I drop my pen, my work put to the side

It's been years since I heard that song  
it brought back memories and turned back time.  
I listen to Eric beg, as he drops down to his knees  
he sounds as desperate as when I asked you not to leave.  
"Like a fool, I fell in love with you"  
since you played Layla on the piano & turned my whole life upside down  
the chords sting, it's rooting me in place  
my tears are in vain, and they make me sing along and cry out.  
*bang bang bang*  
"you're too loud!" they yell in response  
as the music gets quieter and quieter  
the absence of you gets stronger and louder,  
but we have no choice  
like Layla like Eric  
we have to live with the noise.

PHOTO COUTESY OF PEXELS.COM

# A Woman Named Camilla

by Taylor Maguire '24  
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

I moved to Boston during a very epochal phase of my life. The studio I came upon by chance and moved into last November was nestled in between coffee shops and boutiques that sold jewelry more expensive than my rent; it was a complete hidden gem. It had the occasional mouse and squeaky pipes, but it kept me warm during harsh New England storms. The building housed a group of eclectic characters, but the biggest anomaly of the building was the woman who lived on the third floor. Maybe it was the many layers of snow keeping me locked in that New Year's Eve that made my interest in her grow, but curiosity did end up killing the cat. I found myself standing in front of her door. What was known about the woman was that she was a fortune teller, or at least all the tenants believed so. My bald landlord Larry murmured a word of caution after he helped carry in my bookcase saying, "Avoid the witch upstairs."

When I knocked on her door that day, it flung open quickly as if she was expecting me. Her hair was feather gray and coiled around her waist. She had big turquoise earrings that mirrored your own reflection, and wore a deep violet turtleneck with lace along the sleeves. She gave me a quick glance before speaking.

"It's always a pleasure to

meet new tenants. Please come in," she said.

Her apartment was flooded with winter sunlight that poured in through her stained glass window. She had a big table in the middle of the room and two big, emerald green sofa chairs surrounding it.

"Would you like some tea?" she had offered.

"Oh no, that's all right—" I began but she was already pouring us each a cup. The mug she handed me was tall and had yellow chrysanthemums painted all around it.

"Remind me of your name," she had said.

"Maeve," I replied.

"I am Camilla. When did you move in again?" she had asked.

"Two months ago," I replied.

"I've been here around forty years now," she said, leaning back in her chair as she spoke. "And in that time, I have seen a collection of faces that weave their way in and out of this building, similar to when one watches a deck of cards get shuffled. Much like the Kings and Queens of the deck, there are some faces that jump out of the bunch with more intensity, but others slip by briefly and with no remembrance." She held my gaze for a while and

only turned away as a giant cat suddenly jumped onto the table.

"That's just Romeo. He's an old soul, but eats pastries like nobody's business," she chuckled as he made himself comfortable beside a record player. Romeo's fur was gray like the fog that lingers around the Golden Gate Bridge, and he had a peculiar dent in his right ear.

"Have you always lived on the third floor?" I asked.

She rubbed the rim of her tea cup with her arthritic fingers.

"Not quite. A while ago when I was in love, I lived on the ground floor in apartment A, beside the boiler room. I married a man when I was seventeen—the entire world looks so shiny and new at seventeen. In high school, he would dog-ear pages of poetry he thought I would like, and push my hair behind my ears when I would paint. I truly thought he was my person. But, eventually when we moved to Newbury Street, the world became progressively rotten. Our relationship no longer revolved around poetry books and the little acts of kindness. The love morphed into the stacks of bills that would sit on our coffee stand or whether or not I had cleaned the bathroom that day. And the resentment just con-

tinued to spiral. So I moved upstairs."

"Why would you stay in the building? Why wouldn't you leave?" I asked.

"Love is a funny thing. Every morning I make toast, feed Romeo a pastry from the bakery down the street, and I open the door expecting to see a poetry book with dog-tagged pages just waiting for me on my welcome mat. There's always the hope of things working out that seem to tether you to a fantasy. But it's just a fantasy. You can keep the mug. It's riddled with bad memories for me. But maybe it'll answer whatever you came to my door looking for," she said.

I left shortly after that.

When I went back downstairs, I looked over the cup with more intensity. Inscribed on the handle was a vow of love with Camilla's name, and the name Larry in script beside it.



PHOTO COUTESY OF PEXELS.COM

# Dying Shades of Blue and Green

by AJ Worsley '22  
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

I've been here for about six...ish days now. It's dreary and anxiety inducing. My mother always told me that hospitals should be considered a safe place because if anything were to go wrong with your health, who's going to address it faster than doctors in a hospital? Better to have a heart attack in a hospital bed than your actual bed. But it wasn't. I've been here for sixish days and I barely see any nurses stop by. They swing by my room less and less; they're no longer concerned about me—at least, that's how it seems. Surely they're busy tending to other patients who are in more dire need of their attention. I am just lonely.

As bizarre as it sounds, I can't even remember why I am here. Anytime I ask someone in scrubs why I have to stay here, they express a look of concern, type something really fast into their chart, and proceed to say, "We're just monitoring a few things, you should be out of here in no time." Then, another day passes.

Eventually one of the nurses communicates to me that I came in for an extreme fever of 102.2 and no matter what they

have done to try and lower the fever, nothing has worked. No amount of liquid hydration, ibuprofen, or cooling cloths lowered the fever. Ironically, it seems the more efforts we make to lower the fever, the more it actually rises. I came in with a 102.2 and fiveish days later I was up to a 103.8. I know why they are keeping me here now. The fever is gradually, but steadily, rising. As it turns out, they are monitoring my pulse and blood pressure to find out why it is rising. The memory loss is a direct result of the high fever. However, my body reminds me why I'm here just after the nurse does. The hot flash comes and won't go away. This causes a coughing fit. I can't sit comfortably in bed. The sheets touching my skin make me even warmer. One of the nurses comes in to check my temperature.

"Open your mouth." I open it.

A minute passes by. The thermometer reads 105.7.

It's rising faster. The nurse exits the room.

I assume the nurse is going to get something or someone to help me, but I am once again

left alone with my thoughts. Time passes and the sun goes down, but there is still plenty of heat in my body. I watch outside the door of my room. People in scrubs and pure white lab coats down to the midpoint of their thighs walk by my room. One after another, not a single person peers into my room.

"H-hey!" I yell out, muffled by the sound of their footsteps.

"Hello!" Louder than the last time, but they continue walking.

"HEY!" I scream. Nothing. Staring at the alert device on my bed, I press the nurse call button to urge them into my room. I smile, assuming that this has to work, but to no avail, I remain unheard.

*Why are they ignoring me? I feel like I'm dying and they're just walking right by me! Maybe I already am dead and they're walking by me because they can't save me...*

Sweat tickles my upper lip and I lick it away. I close my eyes and try to calm down. Pleading is effortless and it is wasting the little energy I have left.

I get up and walk slowly out of my room and towards

the nurse's station, where they will meet with me face to face, unable to ignore me. Without hesitation I start screaming, pushing a nearby cart down the hall, which I eventually hear bang into the wall as I wipe the counter of the nurses' office clear of any paperwork.

"SIR!" a nurse yells at me.

"Oh, why hello! You mean to tell me you see me? DO YOU HEAR ME?"

"Yes, we hear—"

"I AM DYING AND NONE OF YOU CARE," I plead. "YOU ONLY NOTICE ME NOW BECAUSE I'M BEING DESTRUCTIVE."

A needle enters the area near my neck. A sedative.

A voice calls out "Earth, time of death—"

*No, I'm not dead, I'm alive, how else would I be hearing you? No, no, no, no, I'm not dead! You can't call time of death for a man who is conscious and coherent! I'm alive! And if I'm not, it's your fault! You all ignored me every time I tried to ask for help! You killed me! There's blood on your hands!*

PHOTO COUTESY OF PIXABAY.COM



# Pre-K Church

by Kate Ward '23  
Portfolio Staff

FICTION



Over the past two years I have been engaged in a long-winded legal battle. A decision was finally made and I have lost my church building as a result. Now it's up to me to find a new place for my congregation to meet, and even worse: It's Saturday and I haven't thought of anything. My phone rings—it's one of my regulars, and I don't have the heart to tell them I have no idea where we're meeting. I ignore it, jump on my laptop, and head to the hub of all activity: Facebook. I troll the various groups where no one is offering up a space to worship. I close my laptop with a sigh, scoot back in my chair, and rub my face before getting up and walking to my living room where my cat, Cornelious, is watching one of my favorite films, "Field of Dreams." I look at him, into his tired-looking orange eyes. "Corn, what would

happen if my congregation and I chopped down a cornfield in order to worship?"

He replies with an unenthusiastic meow, so I continue, now pacing my living room. As the idea strikes me, I hurry back to my laptop and reopen Zuckerberg's lair. I pull up a textbox and begin to type, my fingers flying furiously as the idea swells in my brain. After five long minutes I rock back and reread it:

*Greetings!*

*I regret to inform you all that we have lost our church building and now I have had to get creative for our meeting place. As we know, we can worship anywhere, but I know a lot of you loved our church building, as did I. I am here to propose an idea. We have been talking about trying to attract new, younger members and I think I have solved that problem along with the problem of finding a new*

*place to worship. It hit me: A Baseball League of Worship. A Field of Scripture, if you will. Tomorrow we'll be meeting at the field at the center of town. Bring sneakers and a glove if you have it. Can't wait to see you there!*

I smile and hit send, closing my laptop once more. I join Corn on the couch and scratch him behind the ears before impatiently pulling out my phone, refreshing Facebook repeatedly until the night grows dark and I get my first reply, a smile with hearty eyes. I sigh, content with my work for the day. As I got ready for bed, I packed my baseball bag and hit the hay, mind whirring.

I dressed the following morning in my usual clothes, substituting my loafers for sneakers. Driving off to the baseball field, I noted as I parked that there were many more minivans than usual. I quickly realized that

there was a little league game going on, and I got out of my car, holding my text to my chest as my confused congregation moseyed alongside me like puppies following their mother. I realized I was going to have to be a lot more creative in choosing a new meeting place other than the baseball field. Maybe I could use the small outdoor part of the neighboring pre-K school? I walked to the pre-K and knocked before being let in by a kind older woman who joyously granted us 20 tiny chairs and an equally tiny table. We huddled around the small table, eating Goldfish as our knees hit the table. Before I started, I couldn't help but laugh at my traveling band of friends.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PEXELS.COM AND PIXABAY.COM

# Beware the Ides of Career Fair



by Aidan Lerner '22  
Portfolio Staff

CREATIVE NONFICTION



I think the career fair would have been a great place to croak. I mean, kick the bucket in a dramatic fashion.

*I walk in there wearing the stylish, pressed suit my dad picked out for me. I am dressed to the nines, with perfectly styled hair and an aroma of cologne lingering around my shoulders. I enter Peterson with my stack of resumes, grateful, for once, to be wearing a mask. It will hide my nervous half-grin and totally disheveled beard. Also, did I even brush my teeth today? As I approach the firm of my dreams, ready to inquire as to how to break into their industry as a post-graduate, I am ready to present myself as a human being who knows exactly what they are doing and how to do it. In five minutes, my future will be secure. Suddenly, I clutch at my heart, searching for breath. I fall to my knees, and I pass away tragically.*

Oh, man. That would have been a *fantastic* way to go. My friends would have bawled, and my professors would have surely given me posthumous A's. There has to be a provision in the school handbook that a premature death boosts your

GPA. It may have put a slight damper on Homecoming weekend, but far be it for me to judge those who want to indulge in food trucks on Smith Lawn. Go nuts.

Do I genuinely wish I had perished at the career fair? No, of course not. Being alive in Friartown is one of my top three favorite things, behind only soccer and pretending to be Spider-Man. I am simply arguing that my demise at the career fair would have had its advantages. Chief among them, I cannot miserably fail in my post-graduate life if I have died.

You see, at my funeral, everyone will assume that I would have been a massive success. Eulogies will drone on and on about my "bright future" and how I was "destined for greatness." After all, look at me. For that matter, look at all of us. We are students at Providence College, and that is no small feat. It points to a track record of success in education or sports or extracurriculars. But, post-graduate life is the question mark that has been waiting for

me these past 22 years. Where do we go from here?

As an extremely heartwarming film once said, "Get busy living or get busy dying." I think I will circle option "A." Potential is not something to be valued. No one ever got paid because they told a pawn shop that they might mine some gold at some point. So, you take the lessons you learned in Providence, you go out there, and you try. I tried to go to the career fair, and I *still* do not know what my future holds. Only thing left to do is accept that, believe in myself, and then lie to everyone I see about how awesome post-grad life is going to be. Kidding, sort of.

I do not know if they will say I was a "smashing success" at my funeral some day, but I hope they say, "Damn, that guy did what made him happy." Also, quick side note: I hope I live until I am 101 because then I will have been alive in three different centuries.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PIXABAY.COM AND FREESVG.ORG

## Tiffany & Earl

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

Dear Tiff & Earl,

How do I protect myself from contracting the PC Plague? Everyone has walking pneumonia and keeps lifting their mask in the middle of class to cough and sneeze.

Sincerely,

Dear At Least It's Not COVID,

Believe you me, I know it's hard when you're the only sane one left in a world of pleasure-loving, self-centered geese, but you cannot control others' actions, only your own, and so your instinct to protect yourself is spot on. Preventative measures are the college student's best friend. In defense against the common cold, the secret lies in two things: protein and aromatics. For the first, try a meat-heavy diet. Slim Jims are cheap and Vienna sausages are cheaper. For the second, fill a cheesecloth bag with herbs and spices, heavy on the cinnamon, light on the cloves, and wear it around your neck day in and day out. Now brave the wheezing, spitting world. You'll feel almost as strong as you smell.

Cheers!

Tiff

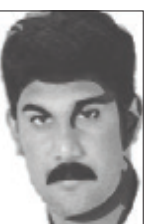


Dear At Least It's Not COVID,

As long as you follow basic personal hygiene protocols, you should have nothing to be concerned about. You'll want to make sure you're wearing at least five masks at all times, even in your dorm room. Even though your professors will ask you to speak up in class and your friends will complain that they can't hear a word you say, you can rest assured that not a single germ will break through that impenetrable barrier. Not a single smell, either, so for your own sake, make sure to use a breath mint before slipping your masks on.

Don't forget to wash your hands,

Earl



## Listomania\*

### Who Should Perform at Late Night Madness?

- Strictly Speaking
- Special Guest
- Anaclastic
- Friar Dom and Huxley as a duet
- The Yodeling Kid (Mason Ramsey)
- The Wiggles
- Dixie D'Amelio
- Trisha Paytas
- Lil Nas X's baby
- The PC Pep Band
- Father Shanley
- Alabama sorority girls
- Fifth graders doing the Whip and Nae-Nae
- The Hype House

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

## Sports Shorts

by Joseph Quirk '23  
Sports Staff

PC ATHLETICS

### Field Hockey:

The Providence College Field Hockey team had a rough week, dropping a Big East game at the University of Connecticut this past Friday before losing a home game to Virginia Commonwealth University on Sunday Oct. 3. The Friars were shutout in both games, meaning they have now been shutout in three straight games. After the two losses, the Friars dropped their record to 5-7 overall and 1-2 in conference play. They lost the game Friday in Storrs, CT by a score of 3-0 and the home tilt Sunday 1-0. The Friars next play Friday, Oct. 8 at home vs. Temple University.

### Men's Ice Hockey:

The Providence College Men's Ice Hockey team kicked off their season at Schneider Arena this past Saturday, Oct. 2 against the United States Marine Academy, also known as Army West Point. The Friars won their home opener in routing fashion, beating the Black Knights by a score of 7-0. Goals were scored as soon as a minute into play and six different Friars put the puck into the net. Sophomore Brett Berard '24, a New York Rangers draft pick, led the scoring notching two goals himself. The Friars next take on Merrimack College to open their Hockey East play at home Thursday, Oct. 7.

### Women's Ice Hockey:

The Providence College Women's Ice Hockey Team also began play this weekend with an exhibition this past Friday, Oct. 1 at home against the Boston Pride. The Boston Pride is an LGBTQ+ hockey organization that creates a supportive environment for people of different sexual/gender orientations to have fun and play hockey. The Friars won the game 3-2, when Hunter Barnett '22 scored the game winner with only 13 seconds remaining in regulation. The Friars were out-shot 23 shots to 31 in favor of the Pride. The Friars open Hockey East play this Friday, Oct. 8 at home against the University of New Hampshire.

### Men's Soccer:

The Providence College Men's Soccer team tied a Big East game against Marquette University this past Saturday, Oct. 2 in Milwaukee. The score ended tied at two goals apiece and sent the Friars record to 6-1-2 overall and 2-0-1 in conference play. Both teams scored their two goals in the second half of regulation play and would remain scoreless throughout the overtime period. Providence held the edge in shots and corner kicks while Marquette fared better in the saves and fouls categories. The Friars' next game is Wednesday, Oct. 6 in Queens, NY to face St. John's University.

## Recapping the Friar 5K *Fr. Humbert Triumphs Over Dean Sears*

by Liam Tormey '21  
Sports Co-Editor

FRIAR SPORTS

As the annual Providence College Homecoming was just getting underway, so too was the Friar 5K, a tradition continuing to be a massive hit.

The race has become a staple of Homecoming, a weekend which is already filled with so many great events for students, families, and faculty to be a part of the community.

Students, alumni, parents, family members, faculty, staff, and even the public were all invited to run or walk the 3.1 mile race. Racers were allowed to sign up individually or as a team to get in on the action.

Before the event, whoever pre-registered was given a free cotton race t-shirt. The event directors were also looking for female graduates or those running in honor of one to support the school with a donation towards the National Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. Each runner who made an additional gift received an upgraded t-shirt to celebrate 50 years of women at PC.

Every runner of the 5K received a ticket for a complimentary beverage at the Homecoming Friar Fest, an outdoor party held on campus which offered food, drinks, and a place to catch up and meet fellow Friars.

At Friar Fest, awards were handed out to the overall male and female winners along with the top three male and female finishers in each age category.

A wide range of ages spanned the runners of this year's event. The first group was 18-years-old and under. The second was 19-29, the third was 30-39, the fourth was 40-49, the fifth 50-59, all the way to group eight: those 80 years old and above.

The Friar 5K, which occurred on Oct. 2, courses around the PC community. The race begins right in front of Harkins Hall, travels through Eaton Street, up Enfield Avenue, down Naples Avenue, then turns down Sharon Street, goes back through Eaton Street, turns back onto the campus, and finally finishes at the Ray Treacy Track at Hendricken Field.

To amp up the runners, the organizers of the event in recent years have set up a Friar 5K Spotify playlist, giving everyone who is running a chance to listen to

past artists who have performed at PC and other popular hits to help motivate runners while they up their heart rates.

Starting at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning, every racer was blessed with perfect weather for the event: sunny and neither too hot nor too cold.

This great event allows friends and family to connect over fitness and an enjoyable time. It is not often that all members of the Friar family are able to get together at once, but this race offers the perfect opportunity, and the chance to settle long rivalries.

Back in Nov. 2020, Dr. Steven A. Sears was named Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students. Dean Sears wanted to take on an "unwavering commitment to [PC] students and their well-being" when he accepted the role. He has shown nothing but love and support to the PC community since he took over.

Sears, a U.S. Air Force veteran, isn't shy of competition, and neither is Father Humbert Kilanowski, O.P., an Assistant Professor of mathematics at PC. Since the moment the two met and discovered each other's running ability, they have fostered a runner's feud.

This year's 5K was no different, but there was a clear winner. Fr. Humbert came out victorious and said Dean Sears was not even close to him: "I never even saw him. He was behind me the whole time." Fighting words to say the least.

Fr. Humbert credits much of his success to Ray Tracey, Providence College's distinguished Cross Country and Track and Field coach. Coach Tracey inspired Fr. Humbert to pick up running and gave the Friar his personal training regimen. "I couldn't have done it without him."

The rivalry between Fr. Humbert and Dean Sears has been gaining traction within Friartown. Commenting on the race, Fr. Cuddy stated, "Dean Sears has consistently beaten really fast runners half his age. But sadly it seems that the one foe he can't outrun is Father Time."

Fr. Humbert decided to continue the running feud by sending an email to his good friend Dean Sears, congratulating him on "winning his age group." So, as all can tell, this rivalry runs deep.

Dean Sears responded that Fr. Humbert has been "aiming for me since the day he arrived at PC."

He also says there might be an



PHOTO COURTESY OF FR. HUMBERT

Fr. Humbert poses as he celebrates finishing 20 seconds ahead of Dean Sears.

obsession on Fr. Humbert's part in wanting to beat him so badly. "Fr. Humbert has been training so hard for the past year to beat me, asking regularly 'how fast are you running?' 'What is your 10K and 5K time?' It seemed to be an obsession." Dean Sears seemed shocked at how much Fr. Humbert really wanted to beat him.

The Friar community knows how much Dean Sears loves everything that has to do with PC, and he wanted nothing more than to make Fr. Humbert happy. "I felt kind of bad so I decided to hang back this year so he could win," Dean Sears added.

"Watching him ahead of me was the greatest gift in this year's Friar 5K. I really enjoy seeing others happy. This was his one Friar 5K that I will allow this to happen."

In short, this victory may just be the start of an even deeper friendly competition between the two. Fellow Friars may see Dean Sears in the Concannon Fitness Center, or Fr. Humbert running along campus or in the streets, and no one should be surprised by Friars putting the work in.

Dean Sears also has a comment to make about future events: "I will have his name on the back of my shirt next year so he can see it while he is behind me. It may help him finish at a faster pace. It's on!"

Word is spreading throughout the PC community that next year's race should bring even more drama and that Dean Sears is determined to prove the 2021 race was only a fluke. Nick Braz '23, who was in attendance that Saturday morning and knows the Dean well, declared, "insider sources tell us Dean Sears is training harder than ever for next year's race. If you ever see him on campus, give him a thumbs up or a wave! Next year is your year!"

Either way, this year, Fr. Humbert got the better of Dean Sears. For the student body and everyone associated with PC, the Dean Sears and Fr. Humbert Rivalry may be going on for years to come and may be a part of many Friar sports rivalries.

The Friar 5K is an opportunity for everyone to come together and show their love for PC. For some, it is the sparking of a rivalry that may only just be getting underway. Whether you are a new runner or a seasoned competitor with a longstanding rival, the Friar 5K is a fun and relaxed way for the Providence College community to come together as one. Go Friars!



PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

The Friar 5K has been a hit at Homecoming weekend each and every year. Now that the rivalry is heating up, every year should get better and better.

# Who Will Win the 2021 World Series? Providence College Investigates: MLB

## San Francisco Giants

The best team in Major League Baseball is, without a doubt, the San Francisco Giants. The Giants were the best team in the regular season, which concluded this past Sunday with a dominant record of 107 – 55. The Giants' +210 run differential is second in the league to their rival division opponent, the Los Angeles Dodgers, who have a +269 differential. Finishing second in the league in Team Earned Run Average (ERA) 3.24 and Team Home Runs (HR) 241, it is clear that the San Francisco pitching staff is more than capable of handling its own and that the players can hit the long ball with ease. Throughout the second half of the year, the team put together winning streaks of 6+ four times, and their longest losing streak was four and only occurred once. Being able to string along winning streaks of that stature is a necessity in the postseason, and avoiding losing streaks is equally important.

Sitting at (+450) odds to win it all, the Giants are the second in betting favorite, just behind the Dodgers at (+350), according to oddshark.com. San Francisco has no "star player" who carries the team; instead, they rely on the entire team to produce. One could raise the argument that shortstop Brandon Crawford is the "star player," seeing that he leads the team in every offensive category other than home runs, and he is still third on that list. Brandon Belt leads the team with 29 HR and nine other players have 10+ HR, which ties none other than the Dodgers for most players with 10+ HR.

Having this type of offensive production out of so many players is key to having prolonged success in the playoffs.

However, one cannot only rely on offense. Even though putting up almost five runs per game is key, pitching and fielding are also aspects of the game San Francisco have down. The team has seven pitchers on the team that have 50+ innings pitched with an ERA less than 3.00. The pitching staff holds opponents to batting a measly 0.229 average, and only allowing three runs per game will stifle almost any opposing offense. The Giants are clean and efficient in fielding, ranking second amongst playoff teams in fielding percentage. Specifically, outfielder Mike Yastrzemski ranks third in the league in fielding percentage as an outfielder, and Brandon Crawford ranks fourth amongst shortstops in the league in the same category.

Statistics are all great measurements of where a team ranks and how much they produce compared to the rest of the league; however, the only statistic that matters is how many games they win. The San Francisco Giants are the winningest team in baseball, and they will carry that momentum into the National League Division Series and eventually through to the World Series. They will take on the winner of the Dodgers and St. Louis Cardinals.

-Justin Bishop '24  
Sports Staff



## Los Angeles Dodgers

When looking at the group of talented teams assembled this year in the Major League Baseball playoffs, there are several with superior pitching, hitting, and defense. However, one team stands out from the rest: the Los Angeles Dodgers, the 2020 World Series Champions.

The Dodgers started the 2021 season as the favorite to go back-to-back and win it all again. Since then, their President of Baseball Operations, Andrew Friedman, has improved the team even further, making several significant moves at the trade deadline. They added starting pitcher Max Scherzer (15 Wins, 2.46 Earned Run Average) and middle infielder Trea Turner (27 Home Runs, 32 Steals, .328 Batting Average) from the Washington Nationals. Both have formed an integral part of the Dodgers' success down the stretch. Having starting pitchers who go deep into games and keep runs off the board is essential for winning playoff games.

The Los Angeles Dodgers lead the MLB in earned run average and earned runs allowed with a 3.02 ERA and 486 earned runs, allowing a significant 38 runs fewer than the next best team. This feat is primarily achieved by the work of their outstanding starting rotation, which is arguably the best in the league. Led by Max Scherzer, Walker Buehler (15 W, 2.49 ERA), Julio Urias (20 W, 2.96 ERA), and Clayton Kershaw (10 W, 3.55 ERA), the Dodgers' pitching

rotation strikes fear into the eyes of any hitter. Furthermore, their bullpen led by Kenley Jansen (2.22 ERA in 69 games, 38 Saves) and Blake Treinen (1.99 ERA in 72 games) is equally as strong as their starting pitching. The Dodgers are ready to ride the arms of their aces all the way to The Commissioner's Trophy. If that is not enough, their lineup is stacked with power hitters and players who excel at getting on base. The Dodgers are fourth in both home runs and on base percentage in the MLB with 237 HR and a .330 OBP.

Moreover, Los Angeles is a team known for sparing no amount of money in order to get to the World Series. Their monetary flexibility allows them to go big on many players that other small market teams cannot afford to sign. They lead the MLB with the highest payroll in 2021, which is an astounding \$194,839,000. Their ability to sign the best players in the league is a huge advantage that will pay off in the postseason. Small market teams can only hope to compete with the prowess of the 2021 Los Angeles Dodgers. Their financial ability combined with their spot near the top of almost every statistics category will bode well for the Dodgers. At the end of the MLB postseason, The Commissioner's Trophy will once again find its way to Los Angeles.

-Stephen Foster '22  
Sports Staff



## Women's Soccer Update

by Ben Bilotti '23  
Sports Staff

PC ATHLETICS

The Providence College Women's Soccer team is having a very nice season so far. Since the start of the season, the team has improved their record to 6-3-1. This amounts to a winning percentage of .650. The team has been especially successful at home, winning five of their six games.

The Friars' most recent win came against the Creighton University Blue Jays. This marked Providence's first win in Big East Conference play. The Friars won the match with a score of 1-0.

Kyla Gallagher '23 scored the winning goal in the 94 minute of the match. Goalkeeper Emma Bodmer '24 earned her third shutout of the season. In the match she had four saves. Creighton's goalkeeper Keelan Terrell had four saves of her own. However, the one goal against would ultimately decide the match and send the Friars home victorious.

Creighton University is currently 6-5-2 on the season and in preseason play looked to be one of the top teams in the Conference. However, in Conference play this season, the Blue Jays are 0-3-1. The Blue Jays' lone tie in conference play came against Georgetown University, who is currently sitting on top of the standings with a record of 2-0-2.

Providence College took on #23 Georgetown University on Sunday, Oct. 3, drawing 1-1. They did well to silence Hoya junior Gia Vicari, who entered the game having seven goals coming on 11 shots on goal. The Hoyas also had a talented goalkeeper Allie Auger, who has 34 saves and only seven goals against. Friar forward Gillian Kenney '25 was able to slide one past Auger in the second half to equalize against the Hoyas, only nine minutes after Georgetown took the lead in the second half. The game would end level and was not a bad result on the road against a talented opponent.

The Friars have one of the top goalkeepers in the Big East in Emma Bodmer. Bodmer was named to the

Big East Weekly Honor Roll on Monday, Sept. 27. For the week Bodmer posted a save percentage of .889. Opponents averaged fewer than one goal against the junior, averaging a 0.48 goal against percentage. In one week, she had eight saves and only one goal allowed. While Bodmer has three shutouts in the short season, her shutout against Creighton University was her first individual shutout performance.

This season, Bodmer has a save percentage of .793. She has made 46 saves: only allowing 12 goals in 10 games played. While Georgetown goalkeeper, Allie Auger, has allowed fewer goals against, Bodmer has 12 more saves on the season.

Bodmer has been a very big part of the Friars' success. She is averaging 1.19 goals against. So far, the sophomore has only allowed more than one goal against twice. The only time this occurred was against No. 5-ranked Wisconsin and No. 22-ranked Rutgers. It's safe to say when the Friars score two or more goals, they achieve a win with Bodmer in net.

Meg Hughes '24 and Kyla Gallagher '24 have been another crucial key to Providence's success. Hughes has six goals and two assists on the season. Her best performance came against Monmouth University on Sept. 5., where she led the charge with two goals. The Friars won the match 3-1. Gillian Kenney '25 also scored her first collegiate goal that match. Gallagher has four goals, and one assist on the season so far. The sophomore's best performance of the season came against Creighton when she scored the game-winning goal late in the game. Gallagher and Hughes are Providence's leading goal-scorers thus far.

Providence heads to Villanova, PA to take on the Villanova University Wildcats on Thursday, Oct. 7. In conference play this season, Villanova has come up short with a record of 0-3. The Friars will most certainly look to capitalize and gain some ground in the Big East standings.

After their matchup with the Villanova Wildcats, the Friars will take on Marquette at home on Oct. 10. Then they head to Indianapolis to take on the Butler Bulldogs. Both Butler and Marquette currently sit atop the Friars in the standings. Butler is tied for first



PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

The Providence College Women's Soccer team has defended home turf well this season, winning five of six games at Chappy Field.

along with Georgetown and St. John's, who all have a conference record of 2-0-2. Marquette sits one place ahead of the Friars with a record of 2-1.

These will be two tough matchups for the Friars. However, do not count them out. Although the team is currently 1-1 in conference play, they showed early that they are a competitive team and are never out of a match.

After their two matches against Marquette and Butler, Providence travels to Queens, NY to take on a tough opponent in first place, St. John's University. St. John's looks like they are one of the top teams in the Big East. Like Providence, they play extremely well at home with an overall record of 3-0-2.

The top of the Big East is strong with heavily competitive teams. Strength of schedule does not favor the Providence Friars in the middle of their season. Over their next five matches, the Friars will go up against four of the top teams in the conference. However, the Friars have proven they are a strong and capable squad.

Be sure to mark your calendars for Oct. 21 when the Friars will be playing their Pink Out Game against the University of Connecticut.

# A Look Around Friartown

## Men's Soccer:

10/2 at Marquette University, tied 2-2  
10/6 vs. Saint John's University, win 1-0

## Upcoming:

10/9 vs. DePaul University  
10/13 vs. Georgetown University

## Women's Soccer:

9/26 vs. Creighton University, win 1-0  
10/3 at Georgetown University, tied 1-1

## Upcoming:

10/7 at Villanova University  
10/10 vs. Marquette University

## Women's Volleyball:

10/1 at Seton Hall University, loss 3-2  
10/2 at Saint John's University, win 3-1

## Upcoming:

10/8 vs. Marquette University  
10/14 at University of Connecticut

## Women's Field Hockey:

10/1 at University of Connecticut, loss 3-0  
10/3 vs. Texas Christian University, loss 1-0

## Upcoming:

10/8 vs. Temple University

## Men's Hockey:

10/2 vs. Army West Point, win 7-0

## Upcoming:

10/7 vs. Merrimack University  
10/9 vs. American International College

# PROVIDENCE

## Big East Basketball Preview

by Will Murphy '23  
Sports Staff

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

The Big East is perennially one of the best conferences in college basketball, and this year's Conference looks very deep from top to bottom. Villanova University figures to be a title contender between their experienced group of returning upperclassmen and their strong class of freshmen. In particular, look for fifth-year guard Collin Gillespie to lead the team and potentially play his way into an All-American selection. If the Wildcats can stay healthy, they should be a legitimate Final Four threat.

In their second year since their return to the Big East, University of Connecticut is a team that could challenge Villanova for the top spot within the conference. Despite losing star guard James Bouknight to the NBA, the Huskies have room to improve on last year's strong showing. A trio of freshmen, led by top 50 recruit Samson Johnson, should be able to replace a good chunk of Bouknight's production, while the returning upperclassmen, like R.J. Cole, are allowed to step up and shoulder more of the playmaking responsibilities.

Seton Hall University, led by head coach Kevin Willard, is another team that is consistent atop the standings in the Big East. Look for Bryce Aiken to take a big step forward in his second year at Seton Hall, as he will be one of the strongest guards in the conference, and form a formidable backcourt pairing with Syracuse transfer Kadary Richmond.

A team that could surprise some people with a top-three finish in the conference this year is Butler University. Last year, Butler had one of the youngest rotations in the country, and their star point guard and leader, Aaron Thompson, battled injuries all year. With Thompson returning for his fifth year, alongside sophomore guard Chuck Harris, the Bulldogs should bounce back from last year's disappointment.

Another solid team that may be a top three finish is Providence College. The Friars return one of the best big men in the country in Nate Watson '21GS, who should be able to dominate in the post and on the glass. One thing to look for is the potential addition of a more reliable jumper for Watson which would make the already imposing big man nearly unstoppable. The X-Factor for Friars should be Brycen Goodine '23, a sharp-shooting guard with serious bounce. If Goodine can break out for Providence and Watson takes a step forward with his jumper the Friars could be poised for a run into the NCAA tournament.

The Xavier University Musketeers is another team that should be battling for a position in the middle of the pack in the deep Big East. The Musketeers return their top seven scorers from last year's team and are hoping that experience can give them an edge this year. Zach Freemantle is a strong forward with the ability to grab rebounds, score, and facilitate offense for his teammates out of the post. If Paul Scruggs and Freemantle can stay healthy Xavier is another team with realistic NCAA tournament aspirations.

Georgetown University's run at the end of last year has many people questioning if it was a fluke or not. Led by head coach, Patrick Ewing, Georgetown was



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HARTFORD COURANT

Coach Ed Cooley will hope to return to winning ways as the Friars have missed three consecutive NCAA Tournaments.

a talented bunch, but they did not put it together until the Big East tournament last year, where they rattled off four consecutive wins to win the tournament and secure a bid into the NCAA tournament. This year's team is looking to build off that positive momentum, despite the departure of their top four scorers from last year. If the Hoyas can have a solid year, it will likely be Dante Harris, a sophomore point guard, stepping up to lead the squad with his ability to get to the rim and create easy offense for others. Another player to watch for Georgetown is freshman Aminu Mohammed, who is projected to be a first-round pick in next year's NBA Draft. Mohammed will be relied upon to replace a large portion of the scoring that was lost from last year's squad.

St. John's University is another team that will be of great interest this year. Head coach Mike Anderson likes to play at one of the fastest paces in the country and relishes speeding other teams up with their high-pressure full-court press. Leading the charge for St. John's will be Julian Champagnie and Posh Alexander, each of whom should be candidates for the Conference's player of the year. University of Vermont transfer Stef Smith should provide some much-needed three-point shooting off the bench for the Red Storm.

Creighton will be an intriguing team to watch this year as well, after losing their entire starting lineup from last year. Expect them to struggle early in the year, but considering they have the top-ranked freshman class in the Big East they could put things together as the year progresses. Arthur Kaluma should lead the bunch with his physicality on the defensive end and ability to guard multiple positions. Marquette University could be in line for a bounce-back year following their acquisition of Shaka Smart as head coach. They are going to have to rely heavily on the four transfers that they picked up, namely Darryl Morsel, the reigning Big Ten defensive player of the year. DePaul University should struggle again this year after losing their best player, Charlie Moore, from a team that was unable to find success last year. On the bright side, the Blue Demons do have a promising freshman in Ahamad Bynum, whose versatile skill set should allow him to make an impact immediately.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

Brycen Goodine '23 may be a key player this season for the Friars. The Syracuse transfer showed glimpses of potential and could provide much needed perimeter shooting, something the team has lacked in recent years.