

# The Cowl

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## A Champ in and on the Court Providence College Names Val Ackerman 2022 Commencement Speaker

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BREAKING NEWS

Just as the entire Friar community welcomed the Big East regular season champions after the Providence College Men's Basketball Team defeated the Creighton Bluejays last month, the class of 2022 will be welcoming their very own Big East champ on May 22: Val Ackerman, the current commissioner of the Big East conference.

When Ackerman was appointed the Big East conference commissioner in 2013, she became the conference's first female commissioner ever. Long before she set foot in the conference's Providence office and before the Big East conference had even been founded, Ackerman was already making strides. The passage of Title IX in 1972 meant that Ackerman went from trying out for the cheerleading team, the only sport available to girls at her junior high, to becoming a three-sport athlete all four years of high school.

Despite it being Ackerman's first time playing organized basketball, she made varsity her freshman year, was named an all-county player her sophomore year, and took her team to the state semifinals her junior year. When Ackerman graduated as salutatorian of her class in 1977, she left behind the high school record for points scored by boys and girls with 1,755—a record which still stands today.

Such an impressive resume earned Ackerman an athletic scholarship to play on the University of Virginia Women's Basketball Team. While the UVA women's basketball team was a fairly new program that needed to be built up, Ackerman did not let that deter her. She became a 4-year starter, three-time captain, and two-time Academic All-American for the Cavaliers' women's basketball team. She was also the first 1,000-point scorer in UVA women's basketball history.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BIG EAST

Val Ackerman has been a trailblazer in the world of sports for nearly 50 years.

Ackerman graduated from UVA with high distinction with a degree in political and social thought in 1981. Following her graduation, she played one year of professional basketball in France before earning a law degree from the University of California Los Angeles in 1985.

In 1988, Ackerman combined her love of basketball with her law career by joining the National Basketball Association as a staff attorney. She remained with the NBA for eight years, serving as special assistant to NBA commissioner David Stern. When Stern pitched the idea of a women's basketball league, he saw Ackerman at the helm. Thus, in 1996, Ackerman became the first president of the Women's National Basketball Association.

From 2005 to 2008, Ackerman served as president of USA Basketball, leading them to an overall competitive record of 222-23 and gold medal performances by the U.S. men's and women's basketball teams at the 2008 Olympics. She served as a USA Basketball Board of Directors member for 23 years, during which she saw the U.S. women's team win gold medals at the 1998, 2002 and 2010 FIBA World Championships and the 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games.

In 2013, the same year she became commissioner of the Big East conference, Ackerman was named the recipient

of USA Basketball's Edward S. Steitz Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions in international basketball. In 2018, Ackerman was recognized as the Conference Administrator of the Year by the Board of Directors of Women Leaders in College Sports. She has been inducted into numerous halls of fame, including the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. In 2016, Ackerman received the Women's Sports Foundation's Billie Jean King Contribution Award for significant contributions to the development and advancement of women's sports.

Dr. Mario DiNunzio '57, an emeritus professor in the history department, has dedicated 65 years of service to Providence College. After graduating from PC in 1957 with an English degree, DiNunzio attended graduate school at Boston College and then Clark University in Worcester, MA, where he earned a Ph.D. Attending graduate school led him to consider a career in higher education, so he returned to the College as a professor of American history in 1960.

To this day, DiNunzio continues to teach an honors section of DWC despite having been retired for over 10 years. He is a piece of institutional history, having been elected the second president of the Faculty Senate just as the College began considering co-education. He also played

a significant role in making the DWC program the central element of PC's academic curriculum.

Robert G. Driscoll, Jr. recently announced his retirement, effective June 30, 2022, as Director of Athletics at Providence College. A beloved member of the PC community, Driscoll's 21-year career at PC ushered in one of the most successful eras in Providence College Athletics history. Maintaining a focus on student-athletes' success in the classroom and in the community as well as in their athletic endeavors.

Under Driscoll's leadership, the College has seen the construction and renovation of several athletic facilities, including Lennon Family Field, Concannon Fitness Center, Glay Field, Chapey Field, and Ray Treacy Track. Driscoll's contributions to athletics at Providence College have been immeasurable.

John W. "Jack" Flynn '61 has been a valuable member of the Providence College community for decades. A member of the College's Board of Trustees, chair of the College's Annual Fund, a member of the Providence President's Council, a member of the School of Business Advisory Council, and a member of the College's Liberal Arts Honors Leadership Council, Flynn is one of PC's most generous and loyal alumni.

He retired from Fleet Bank in 1990 as their Chief Financial Officer after a 20+ year career, and joined the faculty at Providence College as the Fleet Bank Executive in Residence, Adjunct Visiting Distinguished Professor from 1993 – 1999. In addition, Flynn and his wife established the George P. and Anna M. Flynn Endowed Scholarship benefiting Rhode Island area students in financial need.

Mother Olga of the Sacred Heart, a native of Iraq, is the founder and mother servant of the Daughters of Mary of Nazareth. While living in Iraq in 1995, she established the order of Marth Maryam Sisters- Missionaries of the



Above from left to right: Val Ackerman, Dr. Mario DiNunzio '57, Robert G. Driscoll, Jr., John W. 'Jack' Flynn '61, Mother Olga of the Sacred Heart, Dr. Sally Thibodeau '66G, Judge O. Roger Thompson, and Justice Maureen McKenna Goldberg.

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## The Friar Family Walks the Walk PC Prepares for First Relay For Life Event in Two Years



Colleges Against Cancer is preparing for another Relay for Life at PC.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

by Madeline Morkin '22  
Opinion Co-Editor

CAMPUS

For the first time in two years, PC's Colleges Against Cancer will be hosting an on-campus Relay For Life event set to take place at Ray Treacy Track Sunday, April 10 at 3 p.m.

In 2020 and 2021, COVID-19 hindered CAC from entertaining any in-person Relay For Life event. The Relay For Life movement has been deemed "the world's largest peer-to-peer fundraising event dedicated to saving lives from cancer," but the club's inability to host a communal Relay impeded much of their fundraising efforts, as nationwide legal mandates and campuswide restrictions kept groups from gathering (American Cancer Society).

While COVID-19 abruptly interrupted Relay events, it also stripped cancer patients and families of experiencing the sense of community that it strives to provide. During this hectic period, families and individuals immunocompromised by cancer themselves were left to face their cancer battles without the comfort of personal outreach.

PC's CAC president, Giulia Pugliese '22, touched on COVID-19's impact on the club saying, "After two years of not getting to do this, I don't want it to just fade away. We lost club members. We lost a lot of interest and support. So it has been really hard coming back. I don't want this to just die out after we graduate. So, I'm hoping that we can

make it special enough for students to really want to put in the effort to carry it on, forever really."

In 2020, PC's CAC hosted a virtual Relay For Life via Facebook in which club members compiled pre-recorded videos explaining their cancer stories. Last spring, CAC took a more intimate approach in their Relay efforts amidst COVID-19. A Luminaria mass was held at St. Dominic's Chapel in memory of all the lives taken by cancer. Supporters donated luminarias honoring a specific person, and these decorated luminaria

*"After two years of not getting to do this, I don't want it to just fade away. We lost club members. We lost a lot of interest and support. So it has been really hard coming back. I don't want this to just die out after we graduate. So, I'm hoping that we can make it special enough for students to really want to put in the effort to carry it on, forever really."*

bags were illuminated in front of the chapel's altar.

While CAC did what they could to move forward despite COVID-19, the pandemic robbed individuals of joining together to form the intimate connections that past Relays had allowed. Health policy and management professor and two-time cancer survivor, Louis Pugliese, spoke on the importance of the on-campus Relay For Life, saying, "I think it's important to let people know that we need as much support as we can get, not only for the monetary side of it

but also to let people know what each other's journeys are and what kinds of things they go through, not only personally but in terms of how their journeys also affect their loved ones, their families, their friends, in my case, their students."

Professor Pugliese shares his own cancer stories with his classes as a mutually beneficial way for students to learn from him and vice versa. He said, "As a result of hearing someone else tell their story, people are encouraged to do the same thing. I personally find

sharing my story and my experiences therapeutic, because this journey is something that I never want to forget."

This academic year, CAC members have been working strenuously in their efforts to reach a \$20,000 goal to support the American Cancer Society. So far, PC's Relay For Life has raised over \$11,300 by hosting fundraisers both on and off campus, allocating the earnings towards PC's Colleges Against Cancer Relay team. CAC members and students unassociated with the club have also created their own Relay teams to aid in

the campus's fundraising efforts.

Giulia Pugliese mentioned the personal impact PC's 2019 Relay had on her, saying, "I was honored to meet alumni who were survivors, especially one couple who had met and gotten married at PC. The woman was diagnosed at an early age, fought and beat the disease, and with her husband returned to campus for the Relay. Two-time cancer survivor Professor Pugliese was another person I met on that special day three years ago. His story inspired me and many others, and I made it a priority to take one of his classes before graduating. Now, every Thursday I am fortunate to watch him teach the next generation of healthcare leaders as he shares his inspiring stories."

The Relay For Life movements' ideology is "Cancer doesn't stop, so neither do we." Beginning at 3 p.m. on April 10, all of PC's Relay teams will join together in walking Ray Treacy track with at least one member from each team participating in the walk throughout the entire duration of the Relay. Snacks, raffles, and entertainment will also be present for all attendees.

April's upcoming event is significant to PC's sense of unity and support for one another. While this is a CAC organized event, it will be open to all students and faculty as well as anyone in the surrounding community interested in joining the campus's Friar family.

Join the Friar Family on April 10 in CAC's Relay For Life. To create a Relay team in support of PC's fundraising efforts or to aid CAC in reaching their \$20,000 fundraising goal, students can

### Commencement

Continued from front page

Virgin Mary, the first order for Religious Sisters in the Assyrian Church of the East in 700 years.

In 2001, Mother Olga came to the US and earned a master's degree in pastoral studies from Boston College. She went on to become involved in campus ministry at Boston University from 2002-2011. She was received into the Roman Catholic Church in 2008 in the Archdiocese of Boston. In 2009, Mother Olga started a new apostolate on the Boston University campus called the Nazareth House, and in 2011, she established a new religious community of sisters in the Archdiocese of Boston called the Daughters of Mary of Nazareth.

Mother Olga was named Religious Sister of the Year at the 2008 Boston Catholic Women's Conference, was presented with the Cheverus Award for her service to God and to the

people of the Archdiocese of Boston in 2015, and has received numerous other honors and awards for her service and ministry.

Dr. Sally Thibodeau '66G is one of the most important figures in the history of women at Providence College. As one of the first women to ever graduate from Providence College and the first female dean at the College, Dr. Thibodeau played an enormous role in the development of co-education at PC.

In 1970, she was appointed to the President's Task Force on Coeducation, which addressed the enrollment of women, and its impact on many areas of the College. She was named chair of the Women's Liaison Committee in 1971, a committee that provided vital input to the president's office regarding the needs of female students on campus. Throughout her career, Dr. Thibodeau improved the day-to-day lives of countless women at Providence College.

Ojetta Rogeriee Thompson is the first African-American and the

second woman to serve as a First Circuit federal judge. Appointed by President Barack Obama in 2009 and confirmed by the Senate in 2010, Judge Thompson is a legal and judicial pioneer. After growing up in South Carolina, Judge Thompson came to Rhode Island to attend Pembroke College, then the women's college of Brown University. She graduated from Brown after the colleges merged in 1973 and then graduated with a degree in law from Boston University Law School.

After starting her career in private practice, Judge Thompson served as the city of Providence's assistant city solicitor, an associate judge in Rhode Island District Court, and an associate justice in Rhode Island Superior Court. In addition, she helped to establish Rhode Island's first-ever Office of Court Interpreters assisting non-English speakers in properly understanding court proceedings, ensuring that everyone in the state could access fair and quality legal representation regardless of language

barriers.

The commencement ceremony for the class of 2022 will take place at the Dunkin' Donuts Center on May 22. A separate ceremony for graduate students and graduates of the School of Continuing Education will take place in the Peterson Recreation Center on May 20. Rhode Island Supreme Court Justice Maureen McKenna Goldberg '73, '09Hon will be the featured speaker at this ceremony. Justice Goldberg was one of the first women to graduate from PC, going on to receive a law degree from Suffolk University in 1978.

In 1990, governor Ed DiPrete appointed Justice Goldberg to the Rhode Island Superior Court. She was appointed by governor Lincoln Almond to a lifetime term on the Rhode Island Supreme Court in 1997. She served as acting chief justice on the Supreme Court from 2008 to 2009. Justice Goldberg is a member of the National Association of Women Judges and the Rhode Island Women's Bar Association.



# Setting Aflame Courage and Faith

## PC Hosts Mother Olga, Holds Talk on the Importance of Catholic Faith

by Emma Strempler '24  
News Staff

CAMPUS

On Monday, Mar. 14, '64 Hall was abuzz as Providence College students, faculty, parents, and community members gathered to sit and listen to a talk given by Quincy Mayor Tom Koch and Mother Olga, titled "Courage and Faith Under Fire." PC's largest lecture space was packed, with standing room only.

Mayor Koch spoke first, reminding the audience more than once that he was "simply the opener for Mother Olga." He tells the audience about his journey as a politician and the ways in which he was tested and rewarded. Mayor Koch comes from a political family; he remembers that not one politician was elected in eastern Massachusetts without visiting his father's house first.

Growing up in a Catholic household, family, faith, and service have been his pillars in both his personal and professional life. In 2007, he challenged the incumbent mayor of Quincy. The task was enormous and on a summer day just before the fall election; he not only worried about whether he would win, but if he would be able to do the task well if he did. He was disillusioned, but he received an unexpected phone call from a priest. To Mayor Koch, this call was an intervention by God and he believes that if he did not have that conversation on that day he would have not finished the election with such strength.

In the years Mayor Koch has held office, Quincy has faced challenges. In 2008, the nation was thrown into a financial crisis, 2010 brought some of the worst rain flooding ever seen in Quincy, in 2015 record snowfall demanded \$15 million in snow removal, and 2020 brought about the pandemic and civil unrest in many American cities.

On June 2, 2020, an organized march was planned from the city hall to his home. Days earlier, there was violence in Boston and Mayor Koch worried for the city of which he had spent so many years in service. Big decisions rested on his shoulders as he managed the safety of his city and stood against racist police violence, managing both a local and national narrative. He tells the audience that there are many things to be done in public office to ensure a decision



Mother Olga has made a transformative impact through her faith.

is sound: "Take advice, do your homework and really know the problem, but pray and listen, and God will tell you what to do."

That day, there was a nun coming to see Mayor Koch at city hall.

This is where Mother Olga comes into the story. She takes the microphone, not standing at the podium but rather holding it in her hand, walking around the room drawing close to those in the front row and those in the aisle seats.

She tells her life's story to a captivated audience. She was born in Iraq and unlike most children, she "had no dreams growing up because all [she] knew was war." At 10, she remembers running to the basement for safety as the walls of her home shook. At 16, she was tasked with preparing and burying the bodies of soldiers.

She was the first and only child of her family to attend college, and in her first year of medical school, the first Gulf War began. She remembers, "I would hide my head under a pillow and clutch my rosary praying to mother Mary to save my family."

Mother Olga grew up Christian, not Catholic. She was inspired by an order of Dominican sisters who she knew as a teenager and wanted to emulate. Her father did not want her to become a nun, but eventually, Mother Olga convinced him. In exchange

for transporting her younger brother to the safety of Lebanon, her father would allow her to join the order. The night before she was to leave, she learned that waiting in Lebanon was a man with whom her father had arranged a marriage for her. She went to the airport, stood at the gate, and then she went and hid in the restroom until the plane had taken off.

Mother Olga's eyes welled up with tears, clearly reliving the moment in the airport as she stood in '64 Hall. She was incredibly fearful that day, and with good reason, as her father turned her away entirely after that, and she became homeless. But, she had courage in the face of the fear. She knows that if she had taken the flight she would have never put on the habit. She embraces the difficulty she faced, claiming, "It was important for me to struggle in my vocation, to fully accept direction from God."

She came to Boston in 2001. She studied at Boston University to learn English, which itself is an incredibly hard task.

She was asked to start an order in Boston, the Daughters of Mary of Nazareth, and once again Mother Olga was filled with fear. However, it has been a success. She is a mainstay in the Catholic community of Boston, visiting, speaking, and praying with people in their times of need.

On June 2, 2020, she walked through the protests in Quincy. A small woman in a blue habit, she was not like most in the crowd. She was bringing communion to Mayor Koch. She spoke with many people that day and was grateful that she was able to bring love to some. Although she seemed to be on her own, singularly in the crowd, she told the audience that "I was not going alone, I was going with Jesus."

Today, Mother Olga still has fears. She recently was asked to pray with a six-month-old infant suffering from brain damage. The parents of this child were so happy to see Mother Olga arrive; she had given them hope. At that moment she thought, "What would happen if this child took his last breath while I, a nun, was with him?" She did what she was compelled to do and held the baby, knowing that God would be present if she was able to give him love through touch. She says of that moment, "I know nothing of what is to come, but I know the one who does."

To both Mother Olga and Mayor Koch, courage is not living without fear, but living through the fear and strengthening one's faith at every turn.

## No More Waiting at the Library

### Phillips Memorial Library Unveils New Study Space Technology

by Addison Wakelin '22  
News Co-Editor

CAMPUS

This past week, Providence College's Phillips Memorial Library announced the implementation of their latest technology that tells students how busy spaces are before they go to the library through a free mobile app called Waitz. The app makes it possible for students to know where crowds are at any time during the day or night through space density technology.

One of the biggest challenges when going to the library, especially during midterms and finals weeks, is the wasted time pacing the circulating stacks throughout the three floors of the library in hopes of finding an open seat.

Providence College has adopted new privacy-friendly people-counting technology from Occuspace, a company that specializes in space utilization data, that is being used in the library to provide real-time occupancy data to students via the Waitz app.

Waitz shows how busy the library is so students can plan where they want to study before they leave their dorm or off-campus house. The technology even provides predicted forecasts for when library spaces will be busiest each week by the day and hour.

Associate professor and Phillips Memorial Library director Mark Caprio

emphasizes the importance of providing the most beneficial academic services necessary for students within the library. He says, "We know, currently, spaces in the library look more or less the same. But going forward, working with students and leveraging existing and emerging technologies, we aspire to create a variety of learning and research spaces, and spaces that contribute to student wellbeing."

Providence College joins other higher education institutions, including Columbia University, Rice University, Purdue University, and more who are using the technology to make student experiences more convenient on campuses to prioritize academic success.

Head of Accounts and

Communications at Occuspace, Cassie Dono, describes the importance of the company's technology in supporting on-campus spaces and alleviating frustration of wait times. She states, "Students have benefitted from using the real-time data helping them have an easier and frustration-free campus experience. The ability to plan before they go to a potentially busy place, especially during Covid, is incredibly important for not only awareness of where crowds are, but also saves students time trying to find a place to study."

The Waitz app is powered by a company called Occuspace using sensors located around the library. Occuspace is the creator of occupancy monitoring sensors that determine the real-time

occupancy of spaces. The sensors detect WiFi and Bluetooth signals from electronic devices to identify the number of occupants in the building and do not collect any personally identifiable information. The data is made available on the company's free mobile app, Waitz, that students can use to know before they go to the libraries to avoid crowds. Visit [occuspace.io](https://occuspace.io) for more information.

A common misconception about the Waitz app is that it is a violation of the privacy of the individual. But rather, the app scans for both WiFi and Bluetooth signals that does not gather any personal information.

The library continues to be an essential on-campus facet that fosters and prioritizes the academic needs of its students through its availability of resources in all areas of learning. Both the academic and physical capacities of the library, through the implementation of such occupancy technology like Waitz, will further improve the overall student experience at PC.

Caprio continues, "The library exists to support student academic success. This takes the form of providing access to information resources or supporting student learning and research through instruction and consultation."

You can get the Waitz app for free on iPhone or Android to see where crowds are in the libraries at any time. You can also view the dashboard at <https://waitz.io/providence>.

**Waitz Now at Phillips Memorial Library**  
"Know Before You Go to the Library"

**Find places to study that aren't crowded**

Waitz is a free app for students to see how busy the library is at any time.

**Plan where to go and when**

No more pacing the floors to find a seat during busy times. Use the app to find an open place to study or work.

**Improve your experience at the library**

No one likes going to an overcrowded space. Make your next trip more convenient and comfortable using Waitz as your guide.

**Download "Waitz University" on iOS & Android FREE**

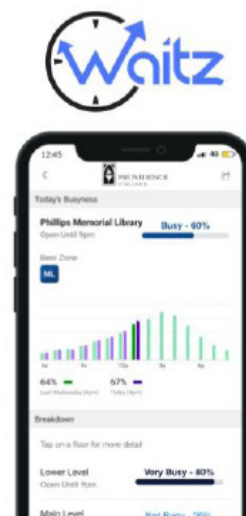


PHOTO COURTESY OF PHILLIPS MEMORIAL LIBRARY



# Confined to Just a Cell

## Group Highlights Harsh Treatment in RI Prisons

by Nicole Patano '22  
Editor-In-Chief

CAMPUS

For the first five days, you may not leave your cell for anything. After that, you have an hour for recreation, hygiene, and socialization. Your last meal of the day is at 3:30 P.M., and you will not be fed again until 7 A.M. the next day. If you keep any food in your cell past 3:30, you will be subject to disciplinary action and can have additional time added onto your sentence. As much as this sounds like life in a dystopian prison state, hundreds of incarcerated men and women throughout Rhode Island are subject to this treatment when they are placed in solitary confinement.

On Thursday, March 3, the sociology and anthropology department and the Black studies and women's and gender studies programs welcomed members of Stop Torture RI to campus to raise awareness of the current conditions of solitary confinement in the state and to introduce suggestions on how to improve the system. Jairson Ascencao acted as moderator during the event, asking questions of Joseph Benton, Stephanie Moniz, and Eddie Franco, who were all formerly incarcerated in Rhode Island and now advocate on behalf of incarcerated individuals. Each of these speakers provided insight into the experiences of people who are incarcerated in Rhode Island.

Following an introduction to the event and the topic of solitary confinement by Dr. Eric Hirsch, chair of the sociology and anthropology department, Ascencao explained that the goal of the speakers is to educate the public on how the system can be improved through "serious but practical changes." The Restrictive Housing Act should be able to provide these changes. Introduced into the Rhode Island House of Representatives on March 2 (HB 7760) and the Rhode Island Senate on March 8 (SB 2631), the Restrictive Housing Act would limit and regulate the use of solitary confinement in Rhode Island Department of Corrections facilities. The panelists of the March 3 event explained how the RHA would address some of the specific problems they experienced and witnessed while incarcerated, specifically with the system of solitary confinement.

One of the first issues addressed was mental health in prison, especially as it relates to the experience of solitary confinement and recidivism rates. Benton tackled this discussion, as his job is to focus on this particular part of the RHA. Improving mental health infrastructure in Rhode Island's prisons is of personal significance to Benton as he has seen how the current system impacts his community. Many members of Benton's community are formerly incarcerated individuals who are now homeless and have mental health issues because of their time in prison. "Being locked up for extended periods of time causes mental deterioration," Benton explained.

Moniz addressed how mental health is specifically dealt with in women's prisons in the state. When an incarcerated woman is in crisis, Moniz detailed, "you're put in [segregation]—they take all your clothes, your shoes, and put you in a turtle suit." The women have access to a counselor (who is only at the Rhode Island Adult Correctional Institutions for approximately three to four hours) and medication, but, as Moniz revealed, "Everyone is medicated, and they're probably not on the correct dose or medication because they don't have the access to it." Speaking about the experience of solitary confinement, Moniz summarized, "The women who are in solitary are largely mentally ill, are largely traumatized, and are largely being retraumatized by being put into there."

Several members of the panel and the audience commented on how the experience of women in prison is different from that of men, and, in some cases, worse than that of men. "What the men get, we get the scraps," Moniz shared. "Every broken down piece of the system that the men are going through, the women are experiencing double the trauma."

Other marginalized individuals in prison also often face harsher conditions because, as Moniz explained, "the bias and racism which exist outside of prison also exist inside." These affect which individuals are put into solitary confinement and at what rates they are put into solitary confinement. This means that individuals with certain advantages, such as their skin color or relationships within the prison, can avoid solitary confinement while others cannot.

The way that solitary confinement functions, however, ensures that the cells will always be filled. Franco provided a reason for why this is: "To [the Rhode Island Brotherhood

of Correctional Officers], it's job security. I understand it, but I don't sympathize with it." When a person is put in solitary confinement in Rhode Island prisons, they lose 10 days of good time (credits for sentence reduction given to a person for good behavior while in prison) for that month, and one day is added onto their sentence. Thus, a person can have 11 days added to their sentence by being placed in solitary confinement for a minor infraction such as accidentally bringing a highlighter into their cell from the law library—an item which would be considered contraband by the guards.

Solitary confinement is a profitable system for the guards working in the ACI. Ascencao provided a statistic to show just how much: last year, 29 correctional officers made over \$200,000. This money is made primarily through overtime, and with correctional officers permitted to work 32-hour shifts, they are able to earn 24 hours of overtime per shift.

Meanwhile, the maximum pay for a person incarcerated in Rhode Island is \$3 a day. To make matters worse, Franco stated, "When I first went in in 1968 at 15 years old, \$3 a day was the maximum pay." Incarcerated persons rely on this money to pay for services like using the phone to speak with family. An incarcerated person is unable to work for as long as their time in solitary confinement, so many lose their jobs when they are finally let out. Then, because there are so few jobs in the prison, it takes approximately six months to a year for them to find another job, according to Benton. One audience member who was formerly incarcerated astutely remarked, "They're getting out with 300 bucks; of course, they're going to go buy a gun!"

Jenny Chen '23, who was present at the event, shared how she is passionate about criminal justice, specifically prison abolition. Moniz remarked, "[RHA] is one of the many foundational steps to abolition." And while the bill does not eliminate solitary confinement, it would make the existing system more humane. Franco understands that even though he and other advocates for the bill want to see the end of solitary confinement in Rhode Island prisons, "this is politics."

The Restrictive Housing Act calls for several improvements to the system of solitary confinement in Rhode Island without asking for the system to be completely eliminated. Ascencao enumerated some of these changes: allowing individuals in solitary confinement to access the law library, not punishing individuals for keeping food in their cells past 3:30 p.m., making 12 hours the maximum period between meals, and ensuring individuals have at least four hours out-of-cell time a day and receive counseling for a couple hours every week. More broadly, the bill calls for restrictive housing to be used in circumstances that pose a clear and direct threat to the safety of others or the operations of the facility, in the absence of alternative punishments, for the shortest time period possible, and with the least restrictive conditions possible.

Towards the end of the event, Joe Buchanan, a prominent activist in Rhode Island who was in attendance, asked the panelists, "Why should we care about this bill?" This question allowed the panelists to share their personal reasons for supporting the bill. It also gave the opportunity for another advocate of the RHA, Daniel Shepard, to talk about why the bill is important to him. Shepard agreed with Hirsch that solitary confinement is a form of cruel and unusual punishment; "You're not there just to be abused and treated, in some instances, less than an animal."

Moniz explained, "It's important to advocate for this bill because I understand that there are very few degrees of separation between you all sitting here and you all sitting in seg." She emphasized that anyone can get caught up in the criminal justice system regardless of who they are. Benton finds the bill important because of the impact solitary confinement has on the community: "You got damaged goods coming out of there and coming into my communities." Franco, who spent a total of 12 years in solitary confinement, wants the public to know about how the Brotherhood is able to benefit from locking people up and how being locked up can negatively impact a person's physical and mental health.

Ascencao emphasized that "in order for this bill to happen, we really need the general public's awareness." Anyone can get involved in the Stop Torture RI campaign by attending coalition meetings and rallies, testifying in support of the legislation, and working in solidarity with formerly incarcerated individuals and their allies. Shepard concluded, "I hope that we can reach the hearts and the minds through the ears and the eyes of the people that need and want to make a difference here today."

# Diversity Spotlight

by Isabella China '25  
News Staff

FEATURE

*This article is part of The Cowl's ongoing series committed to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts at Providence College.*

In honor of 50 years of Women at Providence College, this year's Women's History Month feels even more monumental and important to discuss. As the College is especially interested in honoring the achievements of women at this time, it is

essential to hone in on this month's topic of Women's History, at a time when PC is most open to listening.

Coming out of Black History Month and transitioning into Women's History Month creates the perfect opportunity to discuss women of color at Providence College. Keeping with the focus of women alumni recognized by 50 years of Women, let us reflect on one of the most transcendent women of color to have graduated from Providence College.

It seems crucial to discuss the influence of Dr. Wanda Ingram '75, our school's very own senior associate dean of undergraduate students and freshman and sophomore dean, from the



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PROVIDENCE COLLEGE ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS.

graduating class of 1975 that welcomed the first female graduates. She was a part of the inaugural class of 287 women who fortified PC and built a path of opportunity for the 2,662 women the school currently hosts. Not only did Dean Ingram battle the challenges of fostering change in an institution known for resistance, but she did so while also being a woman of color; those two intersectional forces of her identity added even more of a challenge to breaking barriers within educational institutions. Dean Ingram has returned to Providence College and continues to generate growth at her alma mater. One example of this is her work and presence as co-chair of the MLK Convocation Committee.

In a reflection on the 2022 MLK Convocation, Dr. Ingram discusses how she was one of 12 women of color when first enrolling at Providence College. This number is substantially low, however it was 50 years ago, and PC has most definitely improved from this small yet strong starting 12.

How much greater has this number grown then? Providence College has a current number of 4,824 students (Undergraduate, Graduate, and Continuing Education), and with 2,662 being women, not nearly enough of them are of color. While our numbers have grown a substantial amount in the last 50 years, the amount of students of color remains low, the current freshman class of 2025 only having 208 students of color. This number includes both men and women and comes directly from PC's "Fast Facts & Statistics" page.

The class of 1975 had 12 women of color, and the class of 2025 has around 115.

This problem persists, and while any growth is important growth, our school continues to diversify at rates much slower than the rest of the country. The College continues to struggle to provide more inclusive spaces on campus for underrepresented groups, particularly for people of color.



# Academia as the Personal and Political

## An Interview With Members of the Women's and Gender Studies Program



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PROVIDENCE COLLEGE ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The College has had an extensive journey expanding academic opportunities for women.

by Addison Wakelin '22  
News Co-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.*

This past academic year has been representative of the major strides taken by women at Providence College, particularly in the commemoration of 50 years of undergraduate women at PC. Throughout the last several decades, women have fostered a transformative presence on PC's campus through academics, athletics, student clubs, and other facets of student life. The recognition of the essential roles of both Women's History Month and 50 years of women at PC is emblematic of the larger role of continuing to resist against the oppressive institutions that have suppressed the necessary role of women within society for centuries.

Throughout this year, there have been various on- and off-campus events to celebrate the presence of women on PC's campus. One of the most notable, on Sept. 13, 2021, was the commemoration of the momentous occasion of the first female students who had officially entered campus and moved into Aquinas Hall. In an event titled: "Then, Now, Next: Women Pioneers at Providence College," with a panel of several PC women, the group reflected on the ways that female students, faculty, and alumnae have fundamentally transformed the College's campus and the community over the last five decades. These events provide the necessary community engagement to bolster the support for women's rights and the recognition of that struggle for equitable treatment.

March 1 also marks the beginning of Women's History Month, an annual celebration of the commemoration of the vital and pertinent role of women throughout history. The entirety of March celebrates the momentous achievements and overcoming of obstacles that women have faced for decades against oppressive patriarchal norms that have dictated society.

The momentous occasion of both Women's History Month and 50 years of women at PC cannot be celebrated without the transformative presence of the women's and gender studies program here at PC. Nestled in the lower level of PC's Phillips Memorial Library, the women and gender studies department has played a paramount role in challenging the traditionally

conservative attitudes and values that have driven PC since its inception.

Within educational institutions, there arises a triadic role that combines the necessary intersecting forces for fundamental change. These include the essence of feminism itself, providing the opportunities for women to succeed in academic settings, and the importance of intersectionality. Both faculty members and students a part of the WGS Department are a transitive presence in breaking down the institutional barriers propped up for decades through systematic patriarchal oppression, particularly in the pursuit of equitable treatment in academia and in the workplace.

*What is feminism to you?*

"Feminism is about a belief in a changing world order that moves beyond what bell hooks called the 'imperialist white supremacist capitalist patriarchy' – we are seeing so many of the effects of placing profit before people, and "manhood" before humanity." - Dr. Jennifer Illuzzi, associate professor of history and director of the DWC program

"Feminism to me is more than just claiming to want gender equality. It means those who have privilege advocate and work with those that don't have the same human rights." - Christina Corbisiero '22

"Feminism to me means standing up for the human rights and equity of all human beings, regardless of gender or sexual orientation, race, socioeconomic status, cultural diaspora, age, and everything else that makes us all unique. Feminism must be for everyone, by everyone, and sensitive to our intersectional identities. Feminism to me means having the power to define feminism for oneself, the strength to face and fight the wrongs of our society, and the support to strive towards a life of success and happiness." - Megan Labbe '22

"I like to think of feminism in the plural, since there are many different "feminisms". Though feminisms and feminists take many forms, in my view, they share an underlying commitment to analyzing and fighting all forms of oppression, and to promoting gender equality and justice for all individuals." - Dr. Licia Carlson, professor of philosophy

*What is the importance of the celebration of 50 years of women at PC?*

"Obviously, PC has been enriched and changed by the presence of women on campus in faculty, staff, student, and administrative capacities. It's a clear example of how bringing different ways of thinking to the table and really listening to what those voices might be saying might improve a community and an institutional culture." - Dr. Illuzzi

"I think Providence College is what it is today because of the women that are on this campus. Despite the college being predominantly run by men, women students are in leadership positions in most of the clubs on campus, make up more than half the student body, and are athletes, scholarship holders, interns, student workers, and so much more to represent the college." - Christina Corbisiero '22

"While 50 years of women is an exceptional milestone displaying how far we've come as an institution of higher education, it is also an indication of how far we still have to go to elevate all PC students to be successful in all aspects of life." - Megan Labbe '22

"This anniversary is important for many reasons. It celebrates a significant moment in PC's history that reflects a commitment to co-education and to expanding the diversity of students, perspectives, and ideas. Through the wonderful programming this year, it has also been an occasion to learn about our history and to celebrate the distinctive contributions that so many women in the PC community have made." - Dr. Licia Carlson

*What do you hope for the future of women at PC in academics and beyond?*

"I have high hopes and expectations for women at PC in the future, because I believe that there is still so much more that needs to be done to allow female identifying students to truly succeed here. I hope that PC will take Title IX more seriously, including investigating instances of sexual assault across our campus in a more serious manner. Additionally, I hope that PC will continue to combat institutionalized and systematically supported instances of racism and discrimination across our campus in all shapes and forms. Finally, as a Catholic institution, I hope that PC will continue to make progressive strides towards the recognition and equal treatment of all gender and sexual orientations." - Megan Labbe '22

"I think that the issue of diversity, which is at the core of our mission at PC, is one that is relevant to all of these areas- academic spaces and departments, curriculum, personal expression, and justice. I think that we must continue to work as a community toward the affirmation of everyone's valued place in our community. I am so grateful for the many initiatives, clubs, and hard work that so many are doing to make our campus more hospitable, and I look forward to continuing to do my part." - Dr. Licia Carlson

*What is the importance of intersectionality in your own understanding of feminism and women's rights?*

"I don't think there can or should be feminism without understanding the concept and importance of intersectionality. My identity as a woman is not the central facet of who I am, and I wouldn't want anyone to assume that about me. We're all complicated, and the only way to understand one another is to resist the urge to lock someone up into one aspect of their humanity. That being said, we have to be willing to listen to and care about aspects of identity that the folks in our lives cite as important to them. A concept I really find helpful is Isabelle Gunning's 'world traveler feminism.'" - Dr. Illuzzi

"There is no feminism without it being intersectional. Feminism needs to include all people no matter their race, religion, gender, and sexuality. Yes, feminism has been used to uplift women in attempt

to make them 'equal to men,' but it's so much more than just the gender binary." - Christina Corbisiero '22

"In understanding feminism and women's rights, if we cannot view these topics through an intersectional lens we are doing a grave disservice to ourselves and our friends and loved ones. Viewing feminism and women's rights through an intersectional lens is the only way that we can truly hope to achieve equality, equity, and understanding amongst all human beings, specifically by recognizing our differences and working towards a brighter future for all in light of these very differences. Without an intersectional lens, first and second wave feminism only focused on problems specifically faced by white, middle class, educated women, leaving behind the voices of BIPOC, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and so much more!" - Megan Labbe '22

"I think it is crucial to examine the ways that gender intersects with other factors and identities, including race, ethnicity, class, ability and disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity. My own research in the philosophy of disability (as a person who does not identify as having a disability) has been profoundly humbling and instructive. It has shown me how important it is to acknowledge the broad range of experiences that people have, to challenge assumptions and biases, and to listen and learn from others." - Dr. Licia Carlson

Since the admission of the 1975 inaugural class, PC has made some changes in the expansion of women's rights on-campus. The establishment of the Providentia Endowed Fund was a recently established initiative to celebrate 50 years of undergraduate women at Providence College, amassing gifts of more than \$1.67 million in just six months.

Although there have been major institutional developments to cultivate the role of women and their just place at PC, there are still campus-wide concerns regarding equity and diversity on-campus. In order to ensure absolute gender liberation for women beyond academic spaces, there must be a complete transformation of the political, social and economic institutions in society for representative gender justice and freedom.

PC has long struggled to provide more inclusive spaces for those students, faculty, and staff who comprise a community of underrepresented groups on campus. These include BIPOC, the LGBTQ+ community, and other historically marginalized groups who feel alienated on PC's campus. In advocating for the expansion of necessary safe spaces to encourage and to promote dialogue on issues faced by those most marginalized on campus, especially through academia, there can be equitable treatment and justice for all at PC.

Continuing to challenge the very institutions that have sought to oppress women for so many decades is a necessary means for the end that is gender liberation in traditionally male-dominated spaces. The necessary implementation of the intersectional forces that construct a woman's identity are further reinforced particularly in collective, academic settings. Silence is the oppressor that inhibits the noise necessary to drive change.

As Audre Lorde puts it: "I am not free while any woman is unfree, even when her shackles are very different from my own."

Happy Women's History Month!



The Office of Student Activities and Cultural Programming, Student Affairs and Student Advisory Board Presents

## Self-Care Bingo

Thursday, March 24th  
9 pm in McPhail's




Join us in McPhail's for a chance to win Self Care themed prizes and free pizza for participants!

Prizes include: gift cards, self help journals, essential oil diffuser, and more!

If you are a person with a disability and require an assistive device, service, or other accommodation to participate in this event, please contact the Central Reservations Manager (401-865-1040); M-F 8:30 AM-4:30 PM well in advance of this event.

## SWEET 16 WATCH PARTY



MCPHAILS vs LOWER SLAVIN

**FRIDAY MARCH 25TH**

@ 630-730PM **GET FRIAR'D UP**

@ 730-10PM **TIP OFF**

@ 830-1030PM **FOOD TRUCKS AT FENNEL GATE**

FOOD  
DRINKS  
ATHLETICS GIVEAWAY

### LET'S GO FRIARS

The Office of Student Activities and Cultural Programming presents...

## VIDEO GAME TOURNAMENT

Saturday, March 26th  
8:00pm-11:00pm  
Slavin Living Room  
Snacks available!





If you are a person with a disability and require an assistive device, service, or other accommodation to participate in this event, please contact the Central Reservations Manager (401-865-1040); M-F 8:30 AM-4:30 PM well in advance of this event.

## Hey PC -



WANT TO HEAR SOME HISTORICAL ANALYSIS WHILE EATING DELICIOUS SNACKS?

JOIN US FOR THE  
**REV. CORNELIUS P. FORSTER, O.P.**  
**MAKING HISTORY CONFERENCE**

SATURDAY, MARCH 26TH-RUANE 2ND FLOOR



WELCOMING RECEPTION, 12:15-12:30  
PANELS A & B, 12:30-1:40  
PANELS C & D, 2:00-3:10  
PANELS E & F, 3:30-4:40

SPONSORED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND CLASSICS THROUGH A GENEROUS ENDOWMENT FROM THE GLADYS BROOKS FOUNDATION

Office of Student Activities and Cultural Programming

## Spring KICK OFF

SATURDAY MARCH 26TH, SLAVIN LAWN  
@ 1- 4PM



Bring your friends to celebrate the beginning of Spring! First 150 student gets a free Spring Kick Off t-shirt!

- Lawn Games
- Fire Pit Hangouts
- Succulents
- Tie Dye T-shirt
- Food trucks



If you are a person with a disability and require an assistive device, service, or other accommodation to participate in this event, please contact the Central Reservations Manager at 401-865-1040; M-F 8:30 AM-4:30 PM well in advance of this event.

## Pilgrimage for the people of Ukraine

*Peace for Ukraine*

### Ender's Island CT, March 26th

From 10am - 3pm  
All people welcome Lunch included!

<https://forms.gle/knQMk9S2X5XQHEHw8>

Sponsored by Women's Study Group

OFFICE OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES & CULTURAL PROGRAMMING PRESENTS...

## MARCH INTO APRIL PAINT NIGHT

Thursday, March 31st  
8:00pm-10:00pm  
McPhails  
Wright Dairy Farm Pastries



**PURCHASE \$5 TICKETS @ INFO DESK**



Painting of the Night

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 (401-865-1040); M-F 8:30am - 4:30pm well in advance of the event.

THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY AND ECOPC PRESENT...

## GLOBAL CLIMATE AND JUSTICE TEACH-IN

Join us for an important discussion about climate change and the changes that we can make individually, and as a campus community, to live more sustainably.

Wednesday, March 30, 2022  
6:00 to 7:30 PM  
SCI 206

If you are a person with a disability and require an assistive device, service, or other accommodation to participate in this event, please contact the Central Reservations Manager at 401-865-1040; M-F 8:30 AM-4:30 PM WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE EVENT.

## DEI @ PC Moving Toward Action and Fostering Change: What YOU Can Do!

Sponsored by Institutional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion & Human Resources

**Faculty Workshops:**  
March 30th (Slavin 112) OR April 5th (Harkins LL12)  
Creating Inclusive Classrooms and Addressing Microaggressions  
By Dr. Diane Goodman  
3pm - 5pm

**Student Workshops:** March 31st  
"How To Be A Better Ally"  
By Dr. Diane Goodman  
4pm - 5:30pm (Slavin 112) OR 6:30pm-8pm (Slavin 116)

**Staff Workshops:** March 31st or April 7th  
Equity and Belonging in the Workplace:  
Your Role in Making it Real  
By Mr. Robert Principe  
9am-10:30am OR 12pm-1:30pm (Virtual)

**Senior Leadership Workshop:** April 5th  
"Behind the Words: What Does DEI Leadership Really Look Like?"  
By Dr. Benjamin Reese  
11:30am-1:30pm | Harkins LL12 Barnini


A Professional Development Series

## ENTER OUR INSTAGRAM CONTEST!



Put on your "Don't Wait" t-shirt  
Pose for a photo & tag @pcfriarlife  
A chance to win every Tuesday!

Need a "Don't Wait" shirt? Stop by Slavin 108!



Book by Patricia Resnick  
Music and Lyrics by Dolly Parton

Directed by Jimmy Calitri  
Musical Direction by Lila Kane  
Choreographed by Jennifer Hopkins


## Angell Blackfriars Theatre

April 8th-10th & April 22nd-24th  
Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30pm, Sundays at 2pm

\$5 Students | \$10 Seniors & PC Employees | \$15 adults  
[www.theatre.providence.edu](http://www.theatre.providence.edu)  
Box Office: 401.865.2218

9 to 5 is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI)

EVENTS IN THE SMITH CENTER ARE ACCESSIBLE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.



## CLASS OF 2022 CAP AND GOWN DAY

Friday, April 8 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
'64 Hall, Slavin Center

Come join us for this one-stop "Get Everything You Need for Commencement" Event! Great Food and Refreshments will be served.  
Pick up your attire, guest tickets, and find out where your spot in line will be on the big day!  
Attendance is mandatory and a photo ID is required. Please notify the Office of College Events via e-mail at [colevent@providence.edu](mailto:colevent@providence.edu) or by phone at 401.865.2344 in advance if you are unable to attend.



## Stop Glorifying Kanye West *Why the Rapper's Actions Signify Mental Health Issues*

by Ashley Seldon '24  
Opinion Staff

POPULAR CULTURE

Kim Kardashian and Kanye West's very public divorce has been the subject of news for months despite more pressing matters facing the world. While at first their divorce seemed to be a peaceful separation where the couple would be able to co-parent, social media ruined that possibility. Relations between Kim Kardashian and Kanye West began to spiral when he allegedly was not given the address of his daughter, Chicago's, birthday party. Since then, he has posted private messages among him and Kim, Pete Davidson, and other family members. He has publicly asked for Kardashian to come back to him, despite his public appearances with multiple women. Kanye West also called out the fact that North has a TikTok account, and Kim responded on her Instagram story, saying, "Kanye's constant attacks on me in interviews and on social media is actually more hurtful than any TikTok North might create." His Instagram attacks seem like manic episodes with senseless captions in all caps. He has bad-mouthed Davidson and coined a new nickname for him: "skete."

The situation appeared comedic when West posted a meme he made of Marvel's Civil War with him and Pete Davidson against each other in battle along with different members of their social circle. Additionally, though, back in December, West bought a house directly across the street from his former wife. While he says his

concern is proximity to children, he could have easily purchased a home in a nearby neighborhood. If it were anyone else, people would call him a stalker. Kim Kardashian is not happy with how public West has made their separation. She was recently approved to be considered legally single because of the harassment she has endured from Kanye. Kim posted her first official relationship photo with Pete Davidson following this news. Meanwhile, West has moved on to another Kim look-alike—from Julia Fox to Chaney Jones. Creepily he appears to be committed to making each of his women dress like Kardashian, and Fox even admitted on the Call Her Daddy podcast that West dressed her.

While this is yet another irrelevant news story regarding the Kardashian family, Kim's divorce and the public harassment she is enduring from her ex-husband are an important narrative. Many people have come to Kanye's aid out of hate for the Kardashian family, saying they feel bad for the pain he is enduring and that the Kardashians have ruined yet another Black man (an ongoing myth that there is a Kardashian curse). People cannot deny that West is incredibly talented when it comes to making top-charting music and setting fashion trends. However, being an artist and what many call a "genius" does not undo the fact that he is abusive to his ex-wife and children. He has been publicly harassing her and most likely affecting his relationship with the kids as he makes co-parenting unbearable. Kim Kardashian has publicly done nothing to shame her ex-husband while he seems committed to ruining her life.

In Kanye West's new song, "Eazy," he says he wants to beat up Pete Davidson. In the disturbing music video, a blurred face looks like Davidson wears a "skete" hoodie and gets attacked by a monkey. West is inciting violence by threatening Davidson, and this behavior shouldn't be pushed to the side just because Kanye West is rich, famous, and influential. It also seems strategic that West had sat on documentary footage for twenty years and then finally sold it to Netflix that details personal aspects of his life and has made fans pity him. It is clear West has never fully coped with the untimely death of his mother,

but that doesn't change that his behavior is wrong. In light of it being National Women's History Month, it is particularly important that Kim Kardashian is enduring a toxic cycle from which most women do not have the resources and money to protect themselves and their families. Suppose people are incapable of checking Kanye West's behavior. What does this mean for any woman dealing with a manipulative ex who has threatened or harassed her into getting back together? Though Kim Kardashian is wealthy, she deserves to be supported and protected by society.



Kanye West has been using social media accounts like Instagram to talk about his divorce from Kim Kardashian. PHOTO COURTESY OF NBC NEWS.

## The Cost of Normalizing Fast Fashion *The Ethical and Environmental Effects of the Trend*

by Kaelin Ferland '23  
Opinion Staff

SOCIETY

With fashion trends constantly changing and new styles introduced every season, many shoppers use fast fashion websites to get cheap pieces to wear for a few months while they're trendy. We probably buy more clothes from stores like Zara and H&M than we'd like to admit, but it's understandable that we order a cheap and trendy top from these sites instead of spending close to a hundred dollars for a similar item at a more sustainable store. Since 2000, the average clothing consumption has doubled, while the amount of time that we actually wear and keep clothes has significantly decreased. To keep up with this demand, the fashion industry has had to adapt at the expense of the environment.

Every year, 85 percent of textiles are thrown away. Not only is this wasteful, but it also has an environmental impact on a larger scale, especially in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, water use, and pollution. According to the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion, 10 percent of our global carbon emissions is from the fashion industry. Additionally, clothes production has a significant water footprint, serving as the second greatest water consumer. Ninety-five billion cubic meters of water are used to produce clothing annually, which the UN estimates is enough water for five

million people. Furthermore, cotton production also requires a lot of water, needing up to 10,000 liters of water to grow one kilogram of cotton. It is estimated that 2,000 liters of water are used to produce one pair of jeans. This water use poses a significant issue today, as one in three people do not have access to clean drinking water.

Some synthetic materials are equally harmful to the environment. For example, polyester uses 70 million barrels of oil annually to produce enough of this material to meet the world's clothing demand. Because polyester is a plastic based material, it can pollute our oceans in the form of microplastics. About eight percent of the microplastics in the ocean comes from clothing waste alone. Pollution from chemical waste is also an issue. Leftover dye is disposed of in bodies of water, threatening the health of those in surrounding communities, as well as factory workers.

Aside from its environmental impact, fast fashion raises a lot of ethical concerns. In factories, workers are exposed to unsafe working conditions and forced to work anywhere from 10 to 18 hours a day, depending on consumer demand at the time. These workers also are not paid a livable wage, with some companies only paying their workers less than 10 cents for each piece they make.

There are many ways to minimize our environmental impact through the clothes we buy. Thrifting, for example, is a sustainable and cheaper alternative. It's also important to

avoid buying clothes for trends that will go out of style within a few months. However, if you have to buy new clothes, you can visit websites like goodonyou.eco that allow you to search for companies and brands to see how ethical and sustainable they are. To minimize clothing waste, you can donate clothes you no longer wear. If you notice that some have stains or rips, bring them to a textile recycling facility instead of throwing them out. It's possible to make these changes and shop more sustainably without sacrificing fashion.



Even as waste piles up from discarded fast fashion, society continues to spend on new, trendy clothing items. PHOTO COURTESY OF TAMBORASI



# A Rebrand for the Ages

## How Abercrombie Has Become an Inclusive Brand

by Julia McCoy '22  
Opinion Co-Editor

SOCIETY

Any young woman in their late teens or early twenties in 2022 can easily recall a former favorite pastime: walking around the mall with friends. In the early 2010s, around the same time that Starbucks frappuccinos and frozen yogurt shops were having their renaissance, shopping malls were a popular reprieve for young people looking for something to do on a Friday night.

What happened during this time? Girls would walk around stores with their friends, looking for the items to spend their weekly allowance or even their first wages on. They would browse stores catered to their age group like Hollister, American Eagle, and Abercrombie & Fitch. As a result, trips to the mall would impress upon girls how they should look, act, and feel about themselves.

In 2013, Abercrombie unabashedly promoted its brand towards “skinny” people. An Insider article from 2013 titled “Abercrombie & Fitch Refuses To Make Clothes for Large Women” begins by saying, “Teen retailer Abercrombie & Fitch doesn’t stock XL or XXL sizes in women’s clothing because they don’t want overweight women wearing their brand.” There was a clear stigma against women of a certain size, and it caused many to rethink how they looked—always wanting to fit the cool Abercrombie brand.

Men’s clothes at the same time, on the other hand, were available in all sizes, including XL and XXL. The same Insider article suggests that this could be to draw in muscular football players and other “athletic” body types that are desirable in men, but certainly not in women at the time.

It was a dangerous combination, especially when marketed towards young women: in order to be cool and to fit in with your friends that you shop with, you must be thin. Models were thin, larger sizes were not available, and there was no space for young women who did not fit this unhealthy type. In the times before plus-sized models and eating disorder awareness on a wide scale, retail culture threatened women’s mental health with little to no repercussions.

Now, however, TikTok is flooded with “Abercrombie Try-On Hauls,” in which women of all sizes excitedly

open up Abercrombie packages—either purchased or sent through influencer PR deals—and try on the brand’s clothes. On their website, denim is now sold up to a size 37 and boasts styles like “Curve Love” which highlights curvier body types and provides a better fit. Models no longer represent a stereotyped, skinny, white society that the company formerly idealized, but rather introduces models of all shapes, sizes, and races.

So, what caused this change? How did a company evolve from messaging like “we won’t sell above a size ten” to a store that all women feel comfortable shopping in?

In short, those same women who were influenced by this unhealthy messaging a decade ago are now trailblazers of a new mindset, one of inclusion and body positivity. Platforms like Instagram and TikTok have become safe havens for conversations about mental health, eating disorders, and body image issues, and women have become far more comfortable talking about these things in public. With that messaging being brought into society, there has been a rejection of the former “perfection”

guidelines within modeling and retail culture.

Credit is due to Abercrombie for its ability to adapt to the changes in society and to make up for the issues that it has made in the past. There are still plenty of companies out there that have yet to make this change. One, for instance, is Brandy Melville, a company that boasts its “one size fits most” brand. That “most” does not include a number of bodies, and therefore stigmatizes people who do not fit into their small t-shirts or skirts.

Powerful women have brought our country to this change. They are powerful not because they reject the society that they live in, but because they find ways to empower themselves in spite of the issues that society offers. With the continuation of this powerful positive energy through platforms like TikTok, Instagram, and even everyday conversation, there is hope that society will continue to move in a positive direction. There is hope that young girls shopping in the mall will feel happy, regardless of what they may look like.



Even in their newer ad campaigns and website photoshoots, Abercrombie and Fitch has become more inclusive. PHOTO COURTESY OF IN THE KNOW

## Feminism for All

*Obedience Towards the Patriarchy Benefits No Gender*

by Madeline Morkin '22  
Opinion Co-Editor

SOCIETY

Feminism is not strictly for women. However, misconstrued idealities have long suggested that feminism exists solely for the benefit of women. In reality, the feminist movement advocates for equality among all genders and the inclusion of every individual.

While the patriarchal system has wrongly gendered women to be soft, domestic, and male-dependent, this system has also unfairly assumed the roles of men, limiting what men can do, feel, and be. The patriarchy harshly devalues women’s abilities and identities in this male-dominant society. It also restricts men from assuming roles, behaviors, and identities which deviate from these narrow-minded assumptions of what it should look like to be a man. While the system may seemingly lift male-identified persons into more powerful statuses, it also wrongly forces them into generalized identities.

The feminist movement focuses on striving to develop a society in which no individual is limited based on gender. Despite this, men may find it difficult to displace themselves from the patriarchy because it seems to routinely benefit them. This is not fully the case.

Men do benefit the most from the patriarchy, and many of them happen

to be passive in their acceptance to dominance. Being passive is no excuse and it does not erase men’s oppression of women whether they mean to do this or not. If men can embrace the feminist movement’s true purpose, they could feel liberated, empowered, and more freely individual in their existence as well.

By being passive to the patriarchy and avoiding better treatment of women, men are negligently degrading themselves to the statistics—of sexual assault and violence against women, of male demoralization towards women in the workplace, and of numerically quantifying men into groups which oppress the female gender.

Men being negligent and thinking they are not a part of the problem is truly a part of the female struggle itself. It is not enough to consider yourself apart from these negative statistics, because men cannot simply distinguish themselves from the patriarchal experience without passively supporting male domination. The feminist movement is for everyone, regardless of gender, and it seeks to liberate every person. Think about the mothers, sisters, and women who have strongly influenced your own existence, and consider the benefits that come with standing together in unruly individuality and equality.

Do not be “man” enough to fear being a male feminist.

# Happy Women’s Month & 50 Years of Women

The Opinion Section is dedicated to using its space to empower women on campus and worldwide, especially this month.



THEN · NOW · NEXT  
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# Ladies, What Are We Doing Here?

## *Finding Our Purpose at an Institution Not Meant for Us*



by Nicole Patano '22  
Editor-In-Chief

As everyone is well aware by now, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the integration of women into Providence College. We have been beaten over the heads with talks, celebrations, and events. And rightly so.

For more than half of the College's existence, it catered to a specific clientele: men. Some professors have been around longer than women have been at PC,

in a different position of power but still present. As everyone should also know by now, the College was not built for the purpose of educating women in addition to men.

PC was not unique in this fact by any means: many universities and institutions did not cater to women, as they were viewed as an "inferior sex." The same year that the College opened its doors to 71 male students and nine Dominican faculty, women were being arrested while demonstrating for their right to vote.

But these things are not really related; we were never part of the plan. So what changed? Not the hearts and minds of the College faculty or students—at least not for several decades.

A "Roving Reporter" conducted by *The Cowl* in 1958 polled students: "Would you like to see P.C. as a coeducational institution?" One student replied, "No! No! No! A man needs the education more than a woman does, in order to get ahead. She would take up space very much needed by men. Since her place is in the home, let's keep her there."

Unfortunately, the answers in favor of coeducation were not much better. Male students wanted women on campus so they would no longer have to go through the difficulty of "importing" local girls and so that they could have something nice at which to look.

Ten years later, however, something had changed. A poll conducted by the College in 1969 found that most students showed support for coeducation. A memo from the editor of *The Cowl* in that same year stated that "coeducation at PC is inevitable...definitely desirable and can only serve to improve the school."

With a little bit more digging, the reason why women were integrated into PC could become clear. If we were perceived by a significant minority of students and faculty to not be a social or intellectual advantage to the College, then what were we? Money bags, maybe.

But 50 years later, the original "why" doesn't matter as much. I suggest a new one, one which the College probably never intended.

I think we can use these sexist and misogynistic comments as a motivator. Prove those boys from the 1950s that they were wrong. And that kid on YikYak who thinks a women's and gender students class would be "the most useless class ever invented"? He is why you are here.

Decades ago, faculty members thought that coeducation would bring women "into the light as a friend and out of the dark as a lover," but this is about more than that. It is about making men realize that we deserve respect, we belong, and we are a benefit to this institution.

# TANGENTS & TIRADES

## *How Fashion Treats Women Differently and Unequally*

Two-inch inseams. Bodycon dresses. Cheeky bikini bottoms. The list is incessant. The fashion industry continually projects these trends on women once the temperatures rise. While no one should be ashamed of showing their shoulders, the fashion industry leaves women with few options. A pair of women's bermuda shorts is a distant memory from years ago. However, dress codes and conservative mindsets blame women for their buying habits when it is not necessarily a choice.

Men do not have the same advertising pressures. A crew neck shirt with basketball shorts is perfectly acceptable to society for men. Meanwhile, women squeeze into ribbed baby tees and bike shorts, and shopping becomes impossible when juggling dress code restrictions, proper fit, and trends. Why do women have to wear ridiculously uncomfortable clothing to be considered fashion-forward?

Ultimately, the fashion industry is sexualizing women. While an excessive emphasis on modesty can cause body image issues, the other extreme is also abhorrent. Sheer mesh dresses seen on supermodels present women as objects to be desired. The clothes distract from the intellectual and emotional value women have to offer while holding dangerous perceptions of the ideal female physique. With more women at the forefront of industries such as law and science, the fashion world remains in the past.

The same principle extends into the cosmetic industry. Acne needs concealer. Wrinkles need creams. Lips need filler. There is no limit to the resources women need to put into appearances. Women are no longer objects for others to admire. It is time for the fashion industry to support women, rather than tearing them apart.

— Christina Charie '25

## *The Issues of Promiscuity in Rap*

It is growing increasingly impossible to turn on the radio, browse TikTok, or scroll through Youtube's trending music section without encountering sexually suggestive or vulgar content. Promiscuity in music, particularly mainstream music, is not new; sexually suggestive songs have been around since humans have. However, during a month in which we reflect on women's achievements and social progress, it is important to ask ourselves if the overwhelming prominence of sexual themes in modern, mainstream music made by women is a step in the right direction. On one hand, women making music about their own bodies and promiscuity is a self-reclaiming of their own sexual agency, co-opting the trend of males being exclusively allowed to rap or sing about women's sexual appeal. However, there are more dimensions to this question than liberation achieved through a normalization of both genders expressing and exploring sexuality in their music.

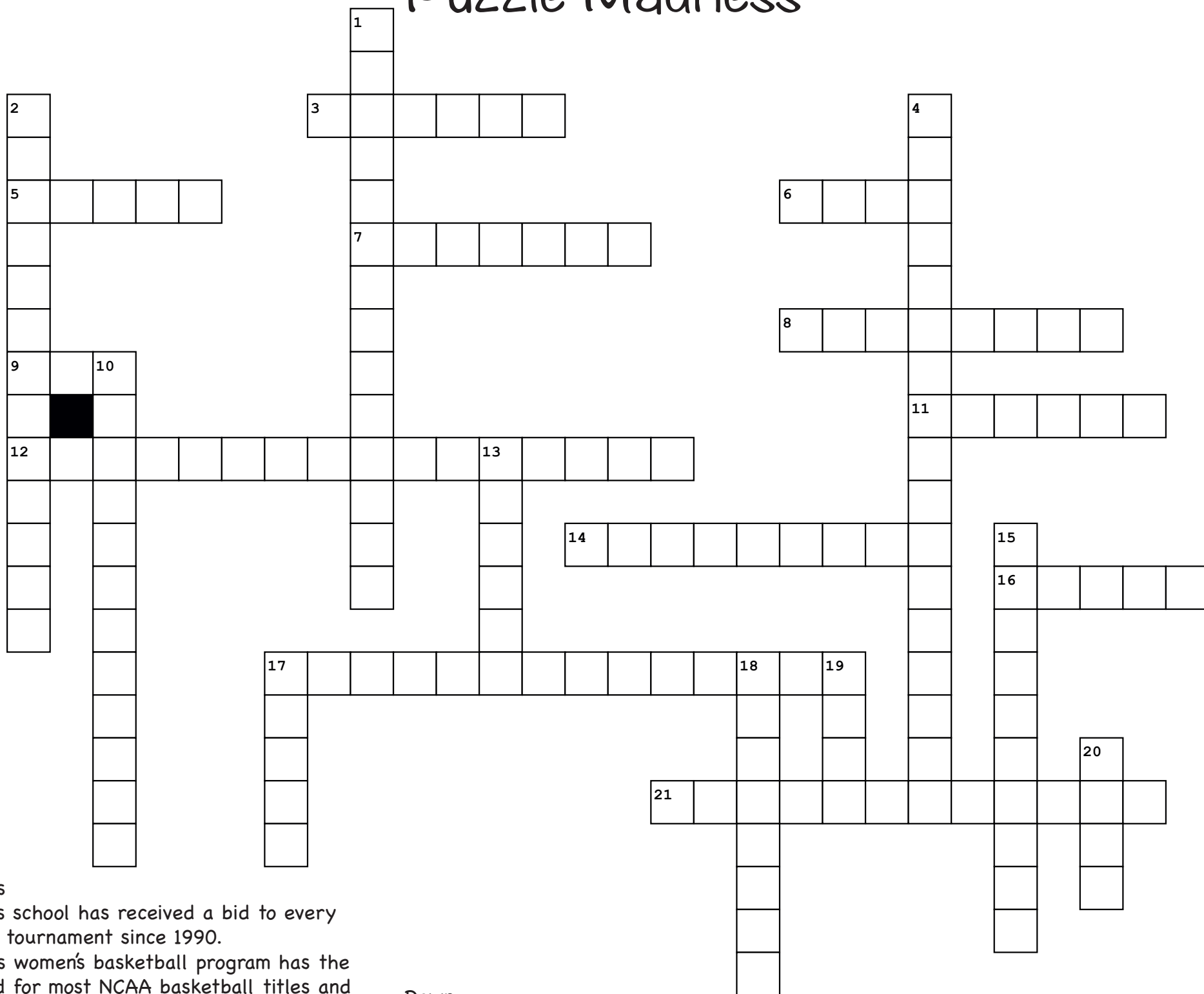
The practice is anti-feminist if it is forcefully reducing female artists to this "hot-selling" subject matter, excluding them from exploring others, and reducing them to their anatomy as well as what they do with it. Hearing messaging that women are primarily valued for their overt hyper-sexual appearances, attractiveness to men, or sexual skills can be negative for girls burgeoning body images. Also, the music industry is full of old-money, ancient, out-of-touch men in suits dictating what these women talk about. The autonomy women have gained to openly express their sexualities is a positive, but when they are coerced by market incentives and contractual obligations to express themselves sexually, exactly how much agency they really have in this transaction gets called into question.

Women are certainly sexual beings, but they are also much more than that. During this women's month, we must consider what true "liberation" of women is. It is not only an unabated expression of their sexual selves (that have historically been demonized), but also an exploration of other aspects of womanhood, femininity, and female creativity that are not produced for the monetary or sexual gratification of men, but for the genuine self-expression of women.

— Sienna Strickland '22



# Puzzle Madness



**Across**

- 3. This school has received a bid to every NCAA tournament since 1990.
- 5. This women's basketball program has the record for most NCAA basketball titles and most consecutive titles.
- 6. How many of the No. 1 seeds made the Final Four in 2008.
- 7. This team had the youngest head coach to ever win the NCAA basketball tournament.
- 8. In 2011, this top-ranked school won the national championship.
- 9. In 2019, this conference had a record setting three No. 1 seeds.
- 11. This SEC women's program lost three straight NCAA basketball championship games
- 12. The song known as the traditional March Madness Anthem.
- 14. This team was the lowest seed to ever win the NCAA Basketball tournament.
- 16. The first tournament that took place in 1939 consisted of this many teams.
- 17. In 2020, this NCAA women's basketball player won the wooden award for the second year in a row.
- 21. The NCAA women's basketball coach with the most NCAA titles.

**Down**

- 1. The player that holds the March Madness single game record for blocked shots.
- 2. This women's team is currently the top-rated team in the women's March Madness bracket.
- 4. The NCAA basketball tournament's all-time leading scorer.
- 10. This USC women's player was the first woman to win consecutive final four MVPs.
- 13. The team that won the first NCAA basketball national championship.
- 15. The Final Four this year is taking place in this city.
- 17. The UCLA Bruins won this many consecutive NCAA titles.
- 18. The winner of the most recent women's NCAA basketball tournament.
- 19. The school that Kareem Abdul-Jabbar won three final four MVP's at.
- 20. In 2018, this school became the first No. 16 seed to defeat a No. 1 seed.

## The Riddler's Word Scramble

PIEONECDVR ISRAFR  
 ALNIF FROU  
 WNE OLRASN  
 DE EYOLOC  
 GIB TSEA



# PHOTOGRAPHY

**RIGHT:** Mother Olga Yaqob, an Iraq native, spoke at “Courage and Faith Under Fire” on Monday, March 14. She is the founder of Daughters of Mary of Nazareth in Quincy, Mass. The presentation was sponsored by Campus Ministry in '64 Hall.

**BELOW LEFT:** Elisa Pelloux '25 and Martina Scarpa '25 decorated clothing at “DIY Wardrobe” on Sunday, March 20 in Slavin. Student could decorate clothing with iron patches and fabric paint markers with their friends.

**BELOW RIGHT:** PC students greeted Justin Minaya 'GS outside of the Concannon Fitness Center.

**BOTTOM:**  
The Men’s Basketball team was welcomed back to campus by students on Sunday, March 20 after their win against Richmond 79-51. Legend Geeter '25 high fives fellow students upon returning.



MAYA MIGNANO '22/THE COWL



LILLIE HUNTER '22/THE COWL



JACK DOWNEY '23/THE COWL



JACK DOWNEY '23/THE COWL



# ROVING PHOTOGRAPHY

## What is the best thing that you did over Spring Break?



**"Went skiing in the Poconos."**  
Ted Hughes '23



**"Sleeping on the beach in the Bahamas."**  
Jaclyn Coppinger '23



**"Watching the Big East Tournament."**  
Mia Cirelli '25, Kathryn Tierney '25, & Bridget  
Dockett '25



**"Reconnecting with friends abroad."**  
Rocco Arciprete '23



**"Going to Florida with my best friend."**  
Jessica Weinstein '23



**"Going to Florida."**  
Sarah Todd '22



**"Going to the Big East  
Tournament in NYC."**

**- Friar Dom**

PHOTO COURTESY of The Athletic

Photos by The Cowl Staff Photographers



## A Month After The Met *Looking Back on a Night of Musical Triumph*

by Jack Downey '23  
A&E Co-Editor

ON-CAMPUS ENTERTAINMENT

After last September's utterly spectacular concert at The Met in Pawtucket, the anticipation for a follow-up performance was through the roof. Behind the scenes, the musicians put plans together for a Dec. 4 show in order to meet demand. However, this goal proved to be unfeasible, so the concert was moved to Jan. 27, right at the start of Providence College's spring semester.

Unfortunately, the Omicron variant of COVID-19 had other plans. Omicron shut down most concerts throughout January, leading to the postponement of The Met show out of safety concerns. Feb. 17 was set as the new date for the performance. Fortunately, by then, the threat of Omicron had receded, and with PC relaxing its campus-wide mask mandate, the timing for a concert could not have been better. Feb. 17 was a go.

Set to perform at this show were wild rockers St. Joe and the Dorms as well as returning headliner Nolan Donato '22 and his backing band. Previous exciting performances from both groups led hype to grow exponentially in the weeks leading up to the show. On the day of the performance, the whole campus seemed to be buzzing about it. Everyone seemed to feel that this night was going to be something to write home about.

Just as the show was about to start, however, tragedy struck: Donato fell ill. Unable to recover, he ultimately made the painful choice to leave The Met and go home. Backstage, the other musicians avoided panic, instead they figured out how to continue the show without its star. The decision was made to split vocal duties amongst the remaining musicians. Guest singers Jack Wilmot '24, Lauren Fraser '22, Anna Gaul '22, and Kathryn Genest '25 chose a handful of

songs on the setlist and began rehearsing right then and there. The backing band, led by Griffin May '24 and Joe Genest '22, took on some vocal duties, as well. Yours truly even got to sing a couple of songs.

St. Joe and the Dorms first took the stage, and their chaotic energy and charisma immediately had the audience in the palm of their hand. After blasting through a setlist consisting of only the fastest of rockers, such as "Rockaway Beach," "Dancing With Myself," and "Johnny B. Goode," their set was so enjoyable that they seemingly departed the stage just as quickly as they walked onto it.

Fortunately, the headlining band provided a perfect follow-up. The only thing left to chance was how the crowd would react to the news of Donato's unfortunate illness. After playing through Stevie Wonder's "I Wish," Genest '22 broke the news to the audience. Much to the musicians' relief, the crowd was very understanding of this development and still hungry for a night of live music. With their energy restored, the band carried on.

All the guest singers did a fantastic job. Fraser and Gaul's duet on Tom Petty's "Free Fallin'" was certainly one of the highlights of the night, due largely in part to the two singers' chemistry. Wilmot also shone brightly, particularly when he led the audience through a rousing rendition of "Kilby Girl" by The Backseat Lovers. The entire crowd was jumping, which was truly an awe-inspiring sight. Genest '24 got the groove going towards the end of the set by playing "Walk This Way" by Aerosmith, not to mention a medley of funk classics. The entire concert ended with an ensemble performance of "Country Roads, Take Me Home" by John Denver, a perfect way to end the night.

The crowd was truly blown away by what they saw. Many of them had not been to a concert featuring their peers before, and to see that kind of talent demonstrated by their friends and classmates was



PHOTO COURTESY OF YELP

something to behold. Colin McNamara '25 remarks that the concert was "life changing" and "something he'd remember for the rest of his life." Another concert at The Met is currently being planned for later in the spring semester. Topping the Feb. 17 show will certainly take effort, but the talented student performers are surely more than up to the task.

## A Chance to Experience Beloved Art in a New Way *The Immersive Van Gogh Exhibit Delights Art Lovers Worldwide*

by Claudia Fennell '24  
A&E Staff

ART

Acclaimed artist Vincent van Gogh only started painting at the age of 27, but he created over 900 paintings before his untimely death at the age of 37. However, van Gogh was only able to sell one of his art pieces before he died. It wasn't until about a hundred years after he passed that his artwork started to become recognized as excellent. He is now considered one of the finest painters in history, with his specialty being impressionist and post-impressionist paintings.

Today, art lovers across the world have worked together to create new and unique ways for viewers to observe van Gogh's fabulous paintings. One of these art lovers is Massimiliano Siccardi, who has led a team of van Gogh fanatics in creating the Immersive Van Gogh Exhibit.

Siccardi began his career as a dancer, and from there, he then decided to explore the world of visual arts. Throughout his career, he has been a visual choreographer for various festivals and galas across the globe, experiences which led him to create the Immersive Van Gogh Exhibit.

This exhibit, housed in museum sites ranging from 300,000 cubic feet to 500,000 cubic feet, completely surrounds the viewer with van Gogh's

paintings. Indeed, in each, the Dutch painter's works are projected along walls and floors, fully allowing the viewer to be one with the paintings. The exhibit contains tens of thousands of frames of video and about 90 million pixels of artwork. What makes this exhibit truly unique, however, is that its paintings move in ways that highlight particular elements of each, spotlighting the important details of the works so that viewers can see them more easily. Notably, the exhibit includes some of van Gogh's more famous paintings, such as *The Starry Night* (1889), *Sunflowers* (1888), and *The Bedroom* (1889).



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOLOCALPROV.COM

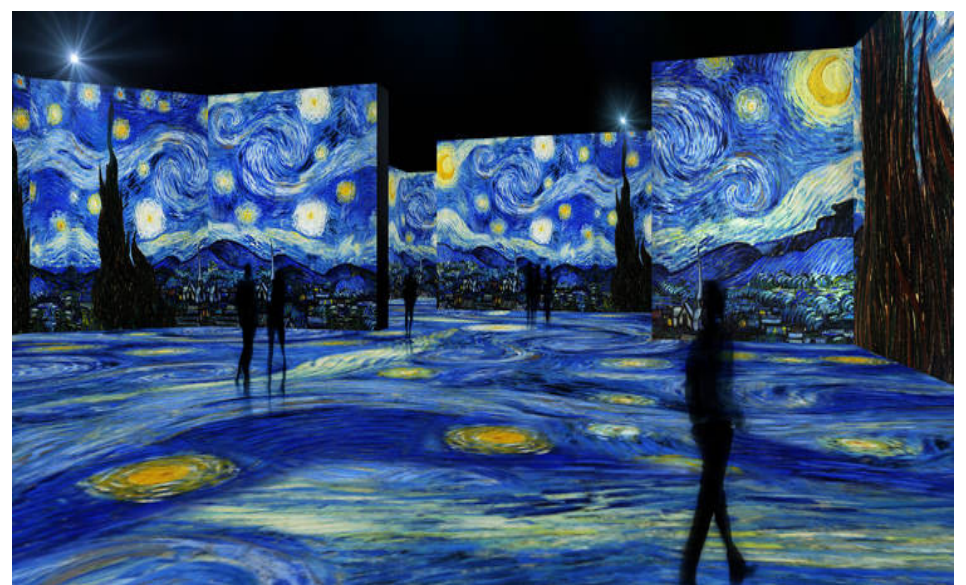


PHOTO COURTESY OF TIMEOUT.COM

Online, reviewers are raving about the exhibit, emphasizing how unique the experience is. One attendee exclaimed, "Absolutely amazing, we all enjoyed it. The pictures don't do justice...glad we went in person."

This immersive experience is available in select cities in the Americas, Europe, and Asia-Pacific. There are over fifteen locations in the United States, and other notable locations include Toronto, Berlin, and Beijing. Some exhibits have unfortunately sold out, but others still have tickets available for purchase with prices ranging from \$40 to \$60. Interestingly, in specific cities, yoga classes are

offered at the site of the exhibit, creating a unique way to practice mindfulness surrounded by artwork.

At every exhibit location, COVID-19 policies are in place to ensure viewers' safety. Circles painted on the floors help to manage social distancing between viewing parties, masks are required for entry, and the exhibit is sanitized regularly.

In allowing viewers to literally step into van Gogh's work, this innovative art exhibit is the perfect place for van Gogh fans to see the artist's work through new eyes and gain a newfound appreciation for it.



# An Inappropriate View on *The View*

## Whoopi Goldberg Suspended From the Daytime Talk Show

by Nikki Idelson '22  
A&E Staff

TELEVISION

Popular talk show host Whoopi Goldberg was recently suspended from the television program *The View* for making controversial claims.

As IMDB explains, *The View* centers on “five women with very different outlooks on politics” who discuss “current events discuss these and other diverse topics of the day.” Goldberg has been a featured host on *The View* since 2007, making her the program’s longest-running cast member.

*The View* has always covered controversial topics and consistently ventured into contentious territory given the featured women’s various backgrounds and perspectives. This time, however, Goldberg went too far. According to USA Today, she made “wrong and hurtful comments on the Holocaust during the Jan. 31 episode of the show.” This episode centered around the graphic novel *Maus*, which, as USA Today explains, “tells the story of [author Art Spiegelman’s] Jewish parents living in 1940s Poland and follows them through their internment in Auschwitz.” *Maus* had been in the news after school districts in the South elected to ban it from their curriculum.

While discussing the graphic novel, Goldberg made troubling comments that the other women of *The View* disagreed with. According to USA Today, she “claimed the Holocaust, which involves the murder of 6 million Jews and other victims, was not about race.” Goldberg then went on to say, “it’s about man’s inhumanity to man. That’s what it’s about.”

Goldberg has faced much backlash from these comments from both the other hosts of *The View* and fans of the show. For one, co-host and comedian Joy Behar responded to her remarks on-air by pointing out, “well, [the Nazis] considered Jews a different race.” Immediately after this episode of *The View* aired, ABC News president Kim Godwin suspended Goldberg from the show. Godwin

also released a statement wholly condemning Goldberg’s comment.

Goldberg has additionally received significant backlash from Anti-Defamation League CEO Jonathan Greenblatt. When commenting on the incident, Greenblatt declared that “the Nazis dehumanized [the Jews] and used this racist propaganda to justify slaughtering 6 million [of them].”

In the wake of her suspension, Goldberg released a statement apologizing for her hurtful comments and acknowledging how she could have worded the point she was trying to express in a more clear and respectful manner. She remarked, “I said the Holocaust ‘is not about race, but about man’s inhumanity to man.’ I should have said it is about both.”

When her suspension was over on Feb. 1, Goldberg took her apology to *The View* itself, telling viewers that she is “grateful” for being corrected, sharing, “the information I got was really helpful and helped me understand some different things.”

Many fans of *The View* have accepted Goldberg’s apology, as they believe that she will use this experience to learn and grow for the future. However, other fans remain unhappy with the talk show personality due to how insensitive and incorrect her comments were. Only time will tell whether Goldberg has learned from her mistakes.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CNN

# Spotify Songwriter Controversy

## Writers Protest the Streaming Service’s Pay Policies

by Grace O’Connor '22  
A&E Staff

MUSIC

Spotify has become a world-renowned music-streaming app, boasting over 406 million active users and 106 million paying subscribers as of Dec. 2021. According to *Variety*, “the platform rose from 7 [percent] of the U.S. market in 2010 to a whopping 83 [percent] by the end of 2020—and recorded-music revenues saw their fifth consecutive year of growth, topping \$12.2 billion, per the RIAA.” The magazine went on to add, “it’s no understatement to say that streaming saved the recorded-music business and that global market leader Spotify [has] led the charge toward the stability and growth that the industry enjoys today.” Needless to say, over the course of the past few years, Spotify has grown exponentially in popularity and success—as well as in its impact on the music industry.

Songwriters, however, are not necessarily sharing in the bounty. On March 1, 2022, over 100 of these talented creators took to the streets of Los Angeles in a protest planned by activist group the 100 Percenters to express their dissatisfaction with Spotify’s current policies. More specifically, according to *OkayPlayer*, they are protesting the fact that the streaming service only gives most songwriters 0.003 percent of a penny per stream.

Among those songwriters protesting is Kennedy Lykken. In a statement to *The Los Angeles Times*, Lykken expressed that her last royalty check totaled only \$432. She has worked on tracks for Dua Lipa, Ariana Grande, and Britney Spears. She has also won a Grammy Award. Needless to say, her impressive record calls for more than minimal royalties.

Songwriters have been battling the “0.003 percent” rule for several years now. The 100 Percenters, the

nonprofit organization leading the current protests against Spotify, was founded back in 2020 by a small group of individuals including songwriter Tiffany Red. In an interview with *The Los Angeles Times*, Red, who has written for Zendaya and Jennifer Hudson, expressed her frustration that “people will say to her, ‘Oh, you’re a ghostwriter’” and explained that to such remarks, she always asserts, “I’m not a ghost, I’m a person.” This is precisely the sentiment that 100 Percenters hopes to convey in their fight against the disproportionately low payment rate for songwriters.

Another songwriter, Kaydence Tice, spoke up at the recent protest to share her story. Tice co-wrote “Black Parade” with Beyoncé, and despite such a massive hit to her name, she can barely afford to pay rent.

Unfortunately, these songwriters’ stories are the

norm in the industry, rather than the exception. Indeed, there are innumerable other songwriters with similar stories, songwriters whose success Spotify has not acknowledged with proper compensation.

The manner in which Spotify is treating songwriters is ironic considering that the platform is meant to celebrate and highlight their talents. As singer-songwriter Heather Bright expressed in a powerful statement, “you can feel the oppression and the disrespect when you’re in rooms with people who have million-dollar homes while [you] have nothing.”

Bright’s statement echoes the sense of degradation and dehumanization that songwriters are experiencing at Spotify’s hands. Hopefully, the streaming giant will soon realize its songwriters’ value, and treat them as they deserve.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OUTSIDER



# Old Songs Find New Life on TikTok App Celebrates Multiple Generations of Music

by Olivia Riportella '25  
A&E Staff

MUSIC

TikTok, one of the world's most popular social media apps, has proven to be more than just a platform for dancing and silly skits. It has evolved into a bridge between generations, connecting them through music that holds meaning in both the past and the present. Many classic hits, along with lesser-known songs from past eras, have recently been revitalized by young people on the app. Indeed, this new generation of TikTokers is taking these songs to new heights of popularity.

One such song that has found new life on TikTok is "Love Grows (Where My Rosemary Goes)." The 1970 tune from one-hit-wonder Edison Lighthouse was an unlikely pick to resurface 52 years later, but has exploded across the app. To embody the "Rosemary aesthetic," TikTok users have used the song to post clips of themselves over its opening lyrics, "She ain't got no money / Her clothes are kinda funny / Her hair is kinda wild and free / Oh but love grows where my Rosemary goes..." As a result of this trend, the old-school pop song saw an astounding growth of 1,490 percent in streams in the 10 day period between Dec. 25, 2021 and Jan. 3. "Love Grows (Where My Rosemary Goes)" even broke into Spotify's U.S. Top 200 Chart,



PHOTO COURTESY OF FORBES

Sister duo Aly & Aj are just two artists whose work has found a second life on TikTok.

sitting just outside of the top 100. Another classic 70s track that has found new life thanks to TikTok is the iconic hit "Dreams" by Fleetwood Mac. When TikTok user "Dogg Face," whose real name is Nathan Apocada, stole everyone's hearts with a clip of

him skateboarding while holding a bottle of cranberry juice and singing along to "Dreams," the tune was brought back to life. A whole new generation became enamored with the sweet melody of Stevie Nicks' soothing serenade. After Apocada's clip went

viral, the song returned to number two on the Rolling Stone 100 chart, reentering commercial charts for the first time in over 40 years. Apocada even received a shoutout from Stevie Nicks and Mick Fleetwood themselves after the reemergence of their hit song prompted the superstars to create their own TikTok accounts.

A more recent "throwback" that has caught the attention of TikTok users is sister band Aly & AJ's "Potential Breakup Song." This 2007 single from the duo, whose full names are Alyson and Amanda Michalka, made an exciting return to popularity due to its angsty teen breakup lyrics that resonated with Gen Z-ers. Clips of young people lip-syncing to the song went viral across the app, bringing about an epic comeback for the Michalka sisters. There was such a resurgence in "Potential Breakup Song" across TikTok that the artists were prompted to re-record the single a decade later—this time, featuring explicit lyrics. One year after their return to the spotlight, the duo dropped their first album in 14 years.

TikTok has proven to have the uncanny ability to launch songs new and old into the stratosphere. The app's unique power, combined with Gen Z's fascination with bygone eras and the proliferation of streaming services in the music industry, makes it possible for even just a song clip to go viral and bring the entire tune to unprecedented popularity.



## 2022 Oscar Nominations



### Best Actress in a Leading Role

- Jessica Chastain - *The Eyes of Tammy Faye*
- Olivia Colman - *The Lost Daughter*
- Penelope Cruz - *Parallel Mothers*
- Nicole Kidman - *Being the Ricardos*
- Kristen Stewart - *Spencer*

### Best Actor in a Leading Role

- Javier Bardem - *Being the Ricardos*
- Benedict Cumberbatch - *The Power of the Dog*
- Andrew Garfield - *tick, tick...BOOM!*
- Will Smith - *King Richard*
- Denzel Washington - *The Tragedy of Macbeth*

### Best Picture

- Belfast*
- Coda*
- Don't Look Up*
- Drive My Car*
- Dune*
- King Richard*
- Licorice Pizza*
- Nightmare Alley*
- The Power of the Dog*
- West Side Story*

### Best Actress in a Supporting Role

- Jessie Buckley - *The Lost Daughter*
- Ariana Debose - *West Side Story*
- Judi Dench - *Belfast*
- Kirsten Dunst - *The Power of the Dog*
- Aunjanue Ellis - *King Richard*

### Best Actor in a Supporting Role

- Ciaran Hinds - *Belfast*
- Troy Kotsur - *Coda*
- Jesse Plemons - *The Power of the Dog*
- J.K. Simmons - *Being the Ricardos*
- Kodi Smit-McPhee - *The Power of the Dog*



# Film Review: *jeen-yuhs: A Kanye Trilogy* An Intimate Look at Kanye West's Life and Career

by Talia Rueda '23  
A&E Staff

MUSIC/FILM

Fans of Kanye West can now catch a glimpse into the saga of the artist's battles and brilliance that have unfolded over the course of his 20-year career thanks to West's longtime friend, filmmaker Coodie Simmons.

Although some fans of West may not know much about Simmons or may have never even heard of him, *jeen-yuhs*, the new docuseries from Simmons about West's life, proves that the two have had quite a mutually impactful relationship. Their connection has ebbed and flowed over the years, but has shaped both into the creatives that they are today.

The first part of *jeen-yuhs* aired on Jan. 23 and took viewers right back to the early 2000s, the beginning of West's career. It follows him making beats as he lives in various studio apartments, yearning for more in life. Witnessing the humble beginnings of one of today's most well-known artists is not only dumbfounding, but also does exactly what a documentary strives to do: create a greater appreciation and admiration for such a person.

West came from nothing and strove to break barriers in the music industry. He did not simply want to release his first album, *The College Dropout*, but also wanted Chicago to be represented in the rap scene and for those in the music industry to acknowledge his production and rap

skills as two separate talents, as labels initially only saw him as a producer.

While this was not necessarily a bad thing, as his production was high-quality, it proved to be to his detriment because his production skills were so elevated that no one thought his rapping talents could be of that caliber as well. However, the release of his music video for his single "Through the Wire" changed everything. The praise he received for it led Rock-A-Fella Records to fund his first album.

The documentary demonstrates how at this moment in his life, West receives what he had long hoped for: recognition, appreciation, and fame. Along with these exciting developments, however, comes a strain on his relationship with Coodie, as well as increasing controversy over his boldness as both an individual and as

an artist. To add difficulty to an already conflict-laden time in West's life, this period sees him excitedly win Grammy awards while also grappling with the death of his beloved mother, Donda.

*jeen-yuhs* emphasizes that despite this tragic loss, West does not take a break from making music, rather working tirelessly and dedicating his artistry to his mother. Notably, at this point in the documentary, Coodie and Kanye have not seen one another for six years.

Their reunion comes at a music festival. In the documentary, Coodie expresses how he was nervous to see his old friend after so much time had passed. He recalls how odd he felt that though he knew West from the beginning of his career, he did not know "Yeezus," or the persona West was embodying at the time.

At this point in his life, West is seemingly on top of the world. His career has reached new heights as he embarks on his *The Life of Pablo* tour, launches the Yeezy clothing line, and experiences the joys of marriage and fatherhood.

Coodie remains behind the scenes throughout this period, capturing West's life from afar as his old friend's battles begin to outweigh his brilliance. The documentary shows West's infamous social media rants and the growing concerns of those around him before depicting the artist receiving the mental health care he needs. During this time in West's life, he and Coodie ultimately reconnected, per the rapper's request.

The film next explores how West's diagnosis with bipolar proves accurate as he continues to make erratic statements to the public. Coodie captures several spur-of-the-moment rants from the artist that make little to no sense.

The footage from the most recent years of West's life and career is perhaps the most up close, personal, and insular to the artist. Coodie documents West's recent prioritization of spirituality as well as his life in the Mercedes Benz stadium while creating *DONDA*. Coodie is there for West in the artist's most vulnerable times, capturing not only the iconic moments of West's career, but supporting him off-screen when the bad outweighs the good.

The documentary suggests that West and Coodie's bond represents the ups and downs of the rapper's career. During the period in which the two lost contact, the rising star was making a name for himself and figuring out who he wanted to be; now that he has grown into himself and become an influential artist, he seemingly yearns for deeper connections with those who knew his younger self. Although fans may not have expected this relationship to be such a focal point of the film, when considering West's journey as an artist and person, it makes a great deal of sense.

*jeen-yuhs: A Kanye Trilogy* is now streaming on Netflix.

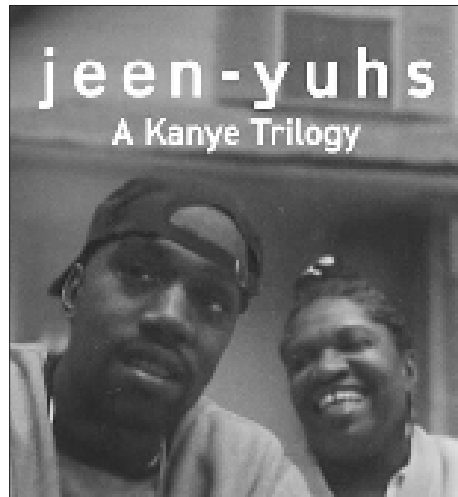


PHOTO COURTESY OF REELGOOD.COM

# Euphoria Season Two Recap Zendaya and Company Shock Viewers Once Again

by Caitlin Ariel '24  
A&E Staff

TELEVISION

After the finale of *Euphoria*'s jaw-dropping first season in 2019, fans had to wait an agonizing two and a half years for its sophomore season, which aired on Jan. 9. Indeed, with the pandemic delaying the filming of season two, it seemed like forever since fans had seen a new episode of the smash-hit series.

During this wait, however, watchers' patience was rewarded with two special episodes: one dedicated to Rue (Zendaya), and another to Jules (Hunter Schafer), with both installments following each character as they cope with their dramatic breakup with one another.

These specials only heightened fans' anticipation for the show's second season: its premiere raked in 19 million viewers, officially making *Euphoria* the second-most popular HBO show behind *Game of Thrones*. Even as credits rolled during the finale, fans were still begging for more.

Director Sam Levinson seems to broaden the scope of the show's storyline in this season much to the benefit of two characters who suffered from a want of development in season one: Lexi (Maude Apatow) and Fezco (Angus Cloud). Lexi, who was relegated to a supporting role in



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROTTEN TOMATOES

season one, recognizes her passivity in *Euphoria*'s story and begins to control her own narrative in the most obvious way possible: writing and performing a play about her life for the entire school. Fezco's story similarly comes to prominence early on in the new season, with its first episode offering viewers a flashback to his childhood.

Sydney Sweeney's character, Cassie, continuously sneaks off with her best friend Maddie's (Alexa Demie) abusive ex-boyfriend Nate (Jacob Elordi). As Nate and his father Cal (Eric Dane) further entrench themselves in their messy and problematic dynamic established in season one, viewers see a new, troubling side to

Cassie. Last season, the character came across as an overthinking, quiet girl, but under Nate's dangerous influence, she spirals into an explosive and commanding figure.

Of course, Zendaya dominates this season, proving that she truly deserved her 2020 Emmy win. Rue's season two storyline picks up right where viewers left her at the end of season one, not shying away from the uncomfortable, tragic realities of her drug relapse that emerged during the season's finale.

Unlike last season, however, Rue is accompanied by newcomer Elliot. Elliot is played by Dominic Fike, who is well known for his song "3 Nights," which currently has 680 million

streams on Spotify. Elliot almost seems to be taking Jules' place this season, as he and Rue grow close, but he, like Jules in season one, is unsure of how to handle Rue's destructive actions. Rue's behavior causes Elliot and viewers alike to feel a strange mix of sympathy and anger as they watch her turn on those she loves. Zendaya's pre-season warnings about season two being "difficult," specifically for her character, certainly ring true.

Overall, the flashiness of *Euphoria*'s first season is substituted with rawness in its sophomore run, a dramatic shift reflected in how Levinson switched from digital to film when filming the second season. The bold purples and blues that fans have come to associate with *Euphoria* are exchanged for darker and neutral colors, making the show feel more emotional and grounded. Levinson and the actors dig deep to find new dimensions to the characters viewers thought they knew, and as the season progresses, those at home cannot help but become connected to their drama. It is this powerful connection that kept viewers coming back every Sunday night as the season aired, and will keep them anxiously awaiting the series' third season, which is slated for a 2024 release.

Season two of *Euphoria* is now streaming on HBO Max.



# Book Review: *The Invisible Life of Addie Larue*

## A Historical Fantasy You Won't Be Able to Put Down

by Tully Mahoney '23  
A&E Staff

LITERATURE

V.E. Schwab's *The Invisible Life of Addie Larue* is a stunning novel that captivates readers from the very first page. As a young woman in 1700s France, Addie is expected to marry and raise children in the same town she grew up in, so she prays to new gods and old gods alike for freedom. For the longest time, she does not receive any sort of sign that her wish will be granted.

However, in a moment of desperation on her wedding night, she prays after dark and summons the god of the darkness, a ghost of the shadows that transfigures himself into a handsome man with eyes whose colors change with his emotions. She bargains with him to live forever without the shackles of expectations.

The catch? The devil curses her so everyone she meets forgets she exists.

The novel splits between Addie's life in the 1700s and the 2000s, following her adventures and the people she meets as she tries to make an impression in a world that she exists as a shadow within. Across the centuries, Addie and the god of darkness play a metaphorical game of chess, consistently attempting

to be one step ahead of the other: he wants her to give up her soul, and she is too stubborn to give him the satisfaction of her doing so.

Addie learns to make her mark on the world by giving lyrics to musicians, allowing artists to paint her, and becoming a spy during wars. Her mark is subtle and can never truly

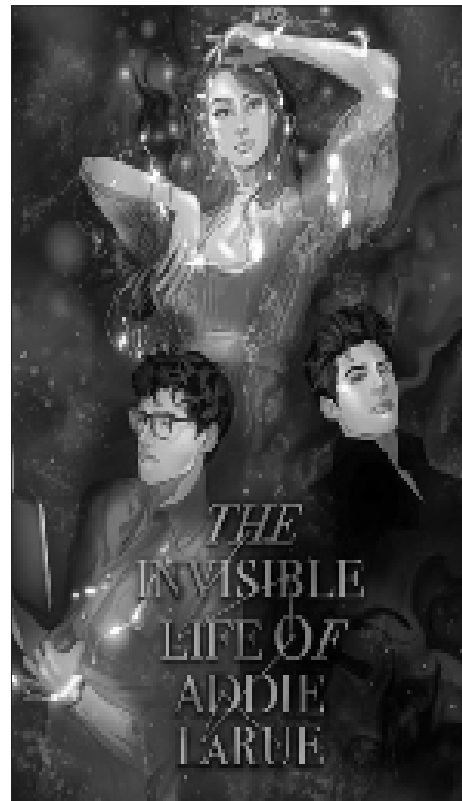


PHOTO COURTESY OF FORTATKINSONSIGNAL.COM

be attributed to her, as anyone she meets forgets all about her as soon as she leaves, making them think they created the words, envisioned the face in the painting, or learned the secret information themselves.

In her loneliness, Addie continuously asks herself, "What is a person, if not the marks they leave behind?" This question fuels her desire like an uncontrollable fire, especially when everything changes after she meets a boy in a bookstore, Henry, who somehow remembers who she is.

This is where the novel's structure comes into play. It is split into four parts, and at the beginning of each, there is a description of a piece of artwork, a wonderful stylistic choice that unifies these parts seamlessly. Each work of art includes a description of a girl with seven freckles in the shape of a constellation: Addie. These illustrations describe Addie's impact in the world and how Henry is connected to her before they even meet.

Indeed, before Henry meets Addie, his best friend, Bea, realizes that the same woman appears across decades of paintings and proposes this phenomenon to Henry as her thesis. He tells her it was likely just a coincidence, so Bea drops the idea. Upon meeting Addie, however, he realizes Bea was right, and notices that she does not remember Addie

after they meet and thus does not make the connection herself.

Schwab's writing style is effortlessly elegant and captures the readers' imaginations, and the novel's plot line has two serious twists that prevent it from falling into a lull. Schwab creates characters that feel like real people regardless of the absurdity of someone making a deal with the devil. Readers will feel the characters' pain, loneliness, happiness, and agony.

The main flaw of *The Invisible Life of Addie Larue* is the lack of experiences Addie has, considering that she lives for 300 years. She only travels from a small town in France to Paris to Brooklyn, and it is hard to imagine that a woman who disappeared from her family on her wedding day because the thought of living in the same town forever drove her crazy would then only go to only three places in three centuries. On a similar note, although Addie meets many great, infamous people, they are all Eurocentric icons. Also, the descriptions of Addie's experiences, as well as her interactions with these icons are very limited, leaving much to be desired.

All in all, however, the novel is worth the read, especially for readers who enjoy romance and historical fantasy.

# Book Review: *Oryx and Crake*

## An Origin Story for a Brave New World

by Madison Palmieri '22  
A&E Co-Editor

LITERATURE

If there's one thing Margaret Atwood is known for, it's crafting dystopian tales that feel simultaneously foreign and all too familiar. While the acclaimed author is best known for *The Handmaid's Tale*, this novel is only of many which evince her keen ability to make readers question their reality and the future to which it may lead.

Indeed, her 2003 book *Oryx and Crake*, the first installment of the MaddAddam trilogy, likewise forces readers into this uncomfortable but important position. In true Atwood fashion, the novel jumps from one period in time to another: readers learn of the narrative's present day through the eyes of Snowman, who seems to be the only survivor of a cataclysmic event, and learn of the past events which led to this state of affairs from the perspective of Jimmy, the young man that Snowman used to be.

The present-day storyline sees Snowman struggle to survive in the wilderness with only strange new humanoids for company. He is haunted by voices and visions of his past, especially those of the titular Oryx and Crake. The former is the only woman he ever truly loved; the latter is the man responsible for

the apocalypse and the creator of the humanoids—and Jimmy's best friend.

In order to cope with the "brave new world" in which he finds himself, and perhaps to help the humanoid "Crakers" cope as well, he devises a mythology centered around Oryx and Crake, casting the former as a mother figure to the creatures of the Earth and the latter as a father figure to the humanoids themselves. Snowman presents himself as a sort of intermediary prophet between these "deities" and the Crakers.

The past storyline follows Jimmy as he grows up in an increasingly unhappy household, befriends Crake, and loses touch with him, though the pair ultimately reconnect. While a great deal of this storyline consists of worldbuilding, Atwood's choice to present it through the young Jimmy's eyes makes it natural and engaging. Indeed, readers learn of strange new creatures such as "wolvogs" and "pigoons" designed in labs alongside the young boy.

These two storylines merge at *Oryx and Crake's* climax in a satisfying way, and while the novel ends with a cliffhanger, this is only because the complete story continues to unfold over the course of the two additional books that comprise the MaddAddam trilogy.

Although Atwood's keen use of structure and compelling prose make this novel a fast-paced, hard-to-put-

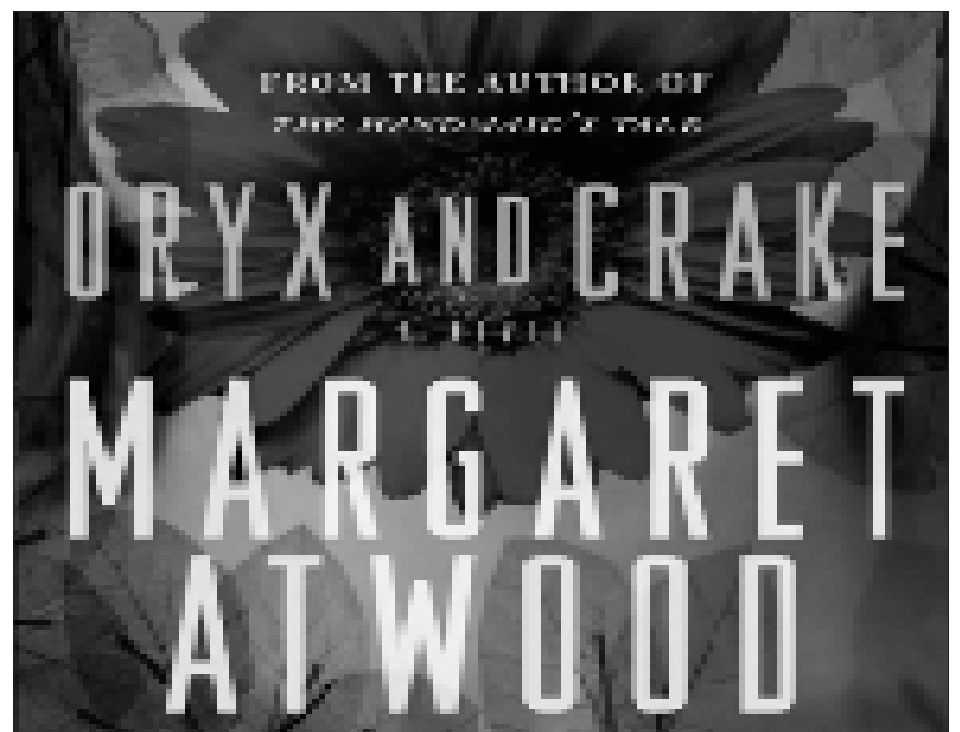


PHOTO COURTESY OF COLLIDER

down read, it is frustrating that Oryx is relegated to the stereotypical role of the fairly helpless love interest, useful only for what she can offer the male characters. While Atwood's skill and social awareness makes it evident that this portrayal is purposeful for what it can say about how society treats women, it is nonetheless disheartening that the novel's only major female character is treated as such.

Overall, however, *Oryx and Crake* is a memorable read. It will force readers to think about what they do—and don't—know about how the world they inhabit came to be as well as what they accept as true about this origin story.

Rating: 4/5 stars



## #

by Max Gilman '25  
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

*"We use our math to create cattle. Shape this way and that, but eventually your lines will be nothing more than a man with a rifle and you, the fawn child."*

Wonder if this windowed world holds something more,  
Peer through the dying streetlight, a window through old  
construction cranes,  
Slowly does the sky fall to dust, rain ashy illness, the  
foreshadow of what I like to call,  
The city of FALLEN livelihood, population deceased.  
The people here are mad.  
They hate fiction and all those vibrant colors,  
So took a knife to the unicorn, they did, spilling its blood  
like a broken faucet,  
The streets bore only blood,  
Only blood,  
And the unicorn's corpse,  
Continues to be plowed by the onlookers,

I swear I know some of these people—  
The  
Folks who eat raw from  
Raining  
Blood. Leaving the  
Only  
Innocence left to decay, as livelihood—  
Ceases  
To collate an obelisk—  
For, nay, dedicated to the sanctum of wastelands,  
An  
Unfailing effort roused by an—  
UNRIGHTEOUS  
Humanity following an illusive ghost, a—  
"god"

I have this odd tingling in my chest,  
I feel like a windy grassy plain,  
Cratered by something magnificent  
indented, like the unicorn...  
I feel the tires of the citizens crush the corpse of the lovely  
unicorn,  
because they hate fiction so...  
The horse's deformed body lays indented from our  
continuous wheels...

It's tiring to drown daily with no swimming route,  
So I plunge into the street puddles, hiding below the walking  
men,  
And I notice this symmetry, these unholy monuments to  
perceived honor,  
They cannot see me snarling in these puddles, the water  
muffles my voice,  
But I will never forget this sight, these "righteous"  
squabblers, stepping over me,  
—but I know the truth. They walk to work in their enclosure  
They run home in their enclosure.  
They eat from the ones inside the enclosure.  
Maybe they'll leave for a week, but I will see  
them again soon...

In this hell—  
In this "Box."

A box without lines, A box with lines, A box of lies  
A box without lines, A box with lines, A box full of lies  
A box with lines, A box with lines, A box of lies  
A box with lines, A box with lines, A box of opened and  
disregarded FIBS.

*There has to be something more,*

*There must be something more,*

God Created Hell.  
For people, Like you and I.  
and he called it *GOOD*.

We were given shape, lines,  
We were given dead fields and grim city structures,  
We took our lines,  
and spit on fiction  
and ran knives through flesh  
and we **TOOK** our lines,  
We created a city (#)  
We called it a # (a city)

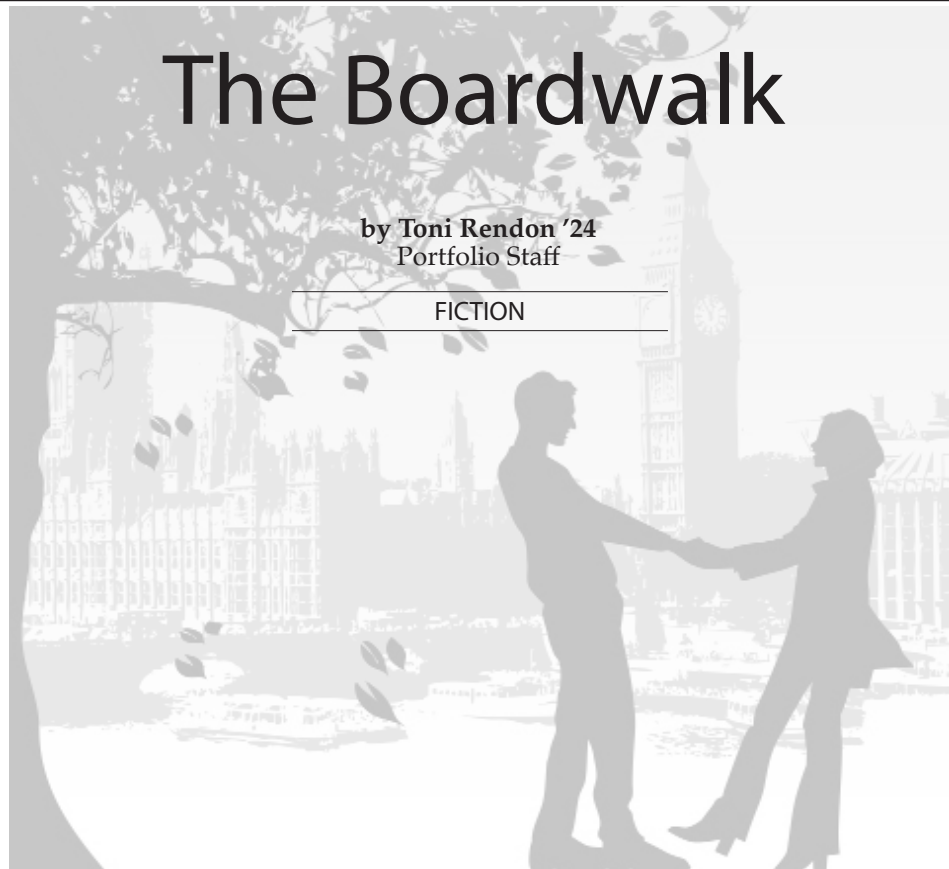
*It's all hopeless, you see?  
You haven't even noticed yet,  
have you?*

*Our "city" is a box.*



The clack of her coal-black heels on the stone echoes through the empty street as the warm breeze passes through her bright blood-red sundress. Her dark, curly auburn hair glistens under the light of the streetlamps. The shadow she casts is her only company, forever growing and shrinking as she walks under the twinkling lights. The solid stone suddenly becomes shifting sand, forcing her to ditch the two inches the heels provided her. At the end of the sand path sits an old boardwalk, its wood traversed by countless feet over the decade, kept in pristine condition, overlooking the ocean. Its deep blue accents are brought alive by the light shining from the moon. The wood feels warm under her smooth foot, leaving her with an overwhelming sense of tranquility. Taking her time to enjoy the walk to her destination, its music reaches her ears before she even catches a glimpse. Around the corner, the carousel is the only thing operating tonight.

The lights fade from red to orange to yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. The animals carved from wood stand tall on the erect metal poles sticking out of the spinning platform, their paint worn where people have sat for ages. There, he is looking as dapper as ever in the black suit, white shirt, and red tie combo that she loves oh so much. His long chestnut hair has red hints from where the dye grew out; it's box braided and pulled back neatly into a ponytail, two braids on either side of the head hang loose in the front because that's his style. He sits upon the lion like the king he is, shoulders squared and ready to face anything the world throws at



# The Boardwalk

by Toni Rendon '24  
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

him. They lock eyes. His are pieces of lifeless porcelain sitting in his chiseled, caramel colored face.

"Emily, I've been waiting for you." His rich voice echoes in her bones. It's clear even as she loses sight of him as the carousel spins round and round. Each time he comes back into view, he's perched atop the back of a different animal.

"You look beautiful tonight, are you meeting someone?" he asks with a sly smile from the back of an eagle poised to take flight.

"Yes, actually, I am. I think he's running a bit late." She pushes a lock of hair back into place behind her ear. He chuckles; it's a soft rumble that erupts from his core, wrapping her in a warm feeling that she wishes could stay forever.

"Last time I checked, I've been

waiting for you," he replies, disappearing from her eyesight again only to reappear sitting in a chariot drawn by two stallions, one as white as freshly fallen snow and another as black as the vastness of eternity.

"Come here, Emily," he says, beckoning her closer. "I saved you a spot right next to me."

She starts to move forward, her feet moving on her own toward the man she loves. The thought of dancing forever with him the way the animals on the carousel go round and round entices her, welcomes her. But she hesitates ever so slightly, knowing that what could be shouldn't always be.

"Victor, I can't..." she says, her eyes beginning to moisten. "You know I want to, but I can't. What

about everyone else?"

"What about them?" he says, this time from the back of a snake carved to forever be poised in an attack position. "What have they done for you? They left you alone, they look at you crazy, like I'm not talking back whenever you talk to me." His eyes are closed, teeth bared. It scares her to her core. She hates when he gets like this.

"Victor, calm down. It's not their fault. I would look at me crazy, too."

"It's—it's—it's just unfair. It's not your fault. You shouldn't have to take the backlash just because I left." Tears well up in the corners of his eyes. "I shouldn't have left you behind. We should be going through this together." This time he places his arms around her and pulls her in. "Emily, I—"

"Shut up, you're ruining this for me," she says, looking up at him.

Tears run down his blood-soaked face, the cuts on his face a reminder of the car crash that stopped him from showing up for dinner two years ago.

"Don't cry, my dear," she says. "It'll be okay. We couldn't have planned for this." She wipes the tears from his face.

"I'm not crying, Emily; can't you see the rain?" he whispers back as he fades into nothing, leaving her all alone.

About ten minutes pass before Emily erupts, crumbling and falling to the ground, her sobs penetrating the warm night air. Some time goes by before she decides to collect herself, standing up and dusting herself off. She looks out to the horizon, its light bathing her in hues of orange and pink.

"I'll see you soon, Victor," she whispers.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY.COM

# Cracks in the Walls

by Caitlin Bartley '24  
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

Nostalgia likes to creep through the cracks in the walls  
And seep its way into my pores to suffocate me in my sleep.  
The air becomes thick with memory, a stifling heat  
That makes my mind hazy with hallucinations.  
When it enters my bloodstream, I slip into oblivion  
And dream of a girl  
That carries herself with the exuberance of a butterfly  
Emerging from a chrysalis, showing off its wings.

Nostalgia is a callous chemical that injects ignorance into  
My veins and gets me high. The withdrawal is overwhelming,  
The chattering teeth,  
The useless limbs pinned to the bathroom floor,  
My head in a bowl purging lingering naiveté.  
How stupid of me to forget  
That the girl in the dream is now a woman trapped in a  
nightmare,  
That sparkling trophies and shining report cards  
Will fade on far away shelves, collecting permanent dust.

I cover my petal pink walls with  
Layer upon layer of gray paint  
To stop nostalgia from sneaking by again.

I trade in a butterfly for a moth and exist in a hollow cocoon.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PEXELS.COM



# Goodwill

by Fiona Clarke '23  
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

At Goodwill, a good find:  
A second, or third, or fourth-hand lamp.  
("Where are you going to put that?"  
"I don't know, but I'll find a place.")  
And so it was:  
An old light in a new shape,  
A new light in an old place.

So it was, was it not?  
I once let out a cry, and asked that I be put under the ether,  
Not wanting you to pay for it—  
("Pay for what?"  
"I don't know.")  
But I woke up, and I wised up, and I walked side by side with you,  
'Til we stood on a new crack in the old road.  
You put a quarter in the parking meter,  
And said: "This will only take a minute,"  
But we take no time; it falls through our fingers  
And taps our shoulders as it passes us by.

A good find, this new lamp,  
And where am I going to put this light?  
It will make its place for itself,  
This light that sinks and always rises,  
With weight that grounds and still surprises,  
Pours like wine upon me, and colors those empty spaces,  
Quenches a thirst and reveals a greater hunger,  
A light besides which other lights resemble bruises,  
and, shining on those wounds, binds them up.  
I once let out a cry: "Where am I going to put this lamp?"  
But this crazed corkscrew light that is within me and about me  
has made its place for itself.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY.COM

# I Forgot to Write My *Cowl* Article for This Week

by Aidan Lerner '22  
Portfolio Staff

CREATIVE NONFICTION

I forgot to write my *Cowl* article for this week. Today is Sunday, and I am a little panicked. I pride myself on my ability to be responsible and to come through for the people who rely on me, whether it be in work or school. That is why I am very disappointed to report that I definitely did totally forget that there was an issue due this Saturday. Did I agree to write a half for this issue? You bet I did. What have I written so far? Exactly this much.

In my defense, I am a senior and this week was Spring break. The jet lag of going from the central to eastern time zone is absolutely brutal *and* you add daylight savings time! That is a nightmare combination. So, yes, I will shoulder most of the blame for forgetting to write this article, but let the record state that I have many, many excuses ready to go.

How about I outline some of the things I had planned to write about, had I not forgotten due to the unforeseen circumstances of not remembering. One thing I love about writing for *The Cowl* is that I truly do feel as if I can write about whatever I want in exactly the way I want. I have written about things that I consider fun and some things which I consider more serious. This week, I had planned to write

about something more serious. I wanted to write about the complicated nature of morality and the online world.

Dear reader, now it is my privilege to take you into the kitchen so you can see how the cake gets baked. Here is how I would figure out how to write about such a heavy topic. First, I would figure out what exactly I am trying to accomplish with my piece. Generally, I find that

it is either a first-person argument or some sort of allegorical anecdote. Normally, I use a fictionalized version of myself as the subject so that I can be a little sensational with what I say. In this case, I would probably do a combination of both.

I would start with the story of a Twitter account. The Tweeter is a hard worker and is always kind when you ask

him a question. He is knowledgeable and passionate about the same subjects you are, and he adds a lot of entertainment to your life. You are one of his most consistent followers. One day, you find out that

the man behind the account has been accused by people in his life of doing heinous things. What does that mean for you? Are you immoral for enjoying his content? Are you dumb for not seeing through his kind words?

Those are questions I

would have asked in my article. Then, I would get personal with my narration.

As a self-declared writer, I often find that lying is frighteningly easy. In the era of texting, I feel as if I can spin any tale and people will believe it as long as I write it well enough. When all people see are the words I put on a page or a screen, I can make it so they

see whatever version of me they would like. I can come off as gracious or rude, confident or nervous. The author of the words has all of the control.

Even the most honest writer would struggle to communicate who they are with just words. It is nearly impossible to give anything but a window into your true nature. Our anonymous Tweeter can be a source of joy online and a monster offline: different aspects of the same complex person. On the internet, no one is who they say they are because no one can say who they are. So, it is our duty to be careful and recognize that there is a lot beyond the words on the screen. If you think you know who someone truly is based on their online persona, you are wrong.

I would write something like that, and then I would wonder if it makes any sense. I would hope to myself that someone will read it and think about some of the questions I raised. Since we are outlining this together, I will spell out the conclusion I really hope readers draw. Will they wonder if I am telling them the truth? Who am I behind *The Cowl*? Did I really forget to write my *Cowl* article this week?

(I totally forgot. Ask my editors.)

PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY.COM



# Hungry Pantoum

by Mariela Flores '23  
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

I empty myself out.  
While the world concaves around me I center myself.  
Scrapping what is left of me until I feel nothing—  
moving inside of me.

I center myself in the feeling,  
of sharp bones that rip through my skin.  
Nothing moves inside of me,  
only the echoes of a rumble I cannot hold.

Sharp bones rip through my dull skin,  
I wear them like trophies proving I was  
good.  
I want to muffle the echoing rumbles,  
but my hands tire from digging deep  
inside myself.

I want them to see that I was good.  
Their praise is enough for me to stay—  
My hands are tired from digging inside  
myself again.  
My skin is cracking from the force of  
myself again.

Their praise enough for me to stay this  
way.  
Even with nothing moving inside of me.  
Even with cracked skin itching red from  
my choices.  
I empty myself out again, and  
again.

I empty myself out.  
While the world concaves around me I center myself.  
Scrapping what is left of me until I feel nothing—  
moving inside of me.

I center myself in the feeling,  
of sharp bones that rip through my skin.  
Nothing moves inside of me,  
only the echoes of a rumble I cannot hold.

Sharp bones rip through my dull skin,  
I wear them like trophies proving I was  
good.  
I want to muffle the echoing rumbles,  
but my hands tire from digging deep  
inside myself.

I want them to see that I was good.  
Their praise is enough for me to stay—  
My hands are tired from digging inside  
myself again.  
My skin is cracking from the force of  
myself again.

Their praise is enough for me to stay  
this way.  
Even with nothing moving inside  
of me.  
Even with cracked skin itching red  
by my choices.  
I empty myself out again, and again.

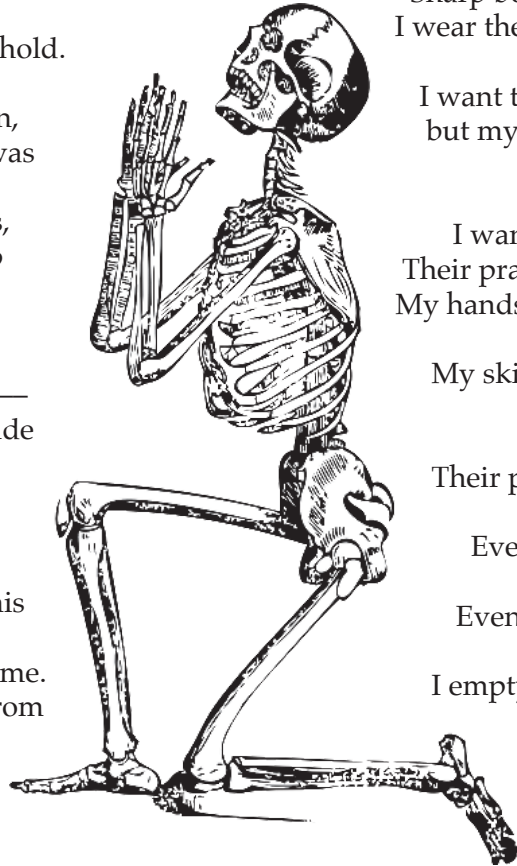


PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY.COM

## Listomania\*

### Celebrities Who Should've Been at the Big East Tournament

- Pete Davidson (only if he brought Kim)
- Kanye West (would he and Pete fight?)
- Dean Sears
- Timothée Chalamet
- Nicole Patano (our fave EIC)
- Nate Watson (think he'd make a TikTok with me?)
- Big Time Rush (without their opening act)
- Dot (PC misses her greatly)
- The Cheetah Girls
- The OG *Hamilton* cast
- Zendaya and Tom Holland
- Beyonce and Jay Z
- Obama and Michelle
- Gordon Ramsey
- Shawn Mendes
- Taylor Swift (but only if she sang *You Belong With Me*)
- The cast of *Euphoria* (especially Alexa Demie)

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

## Tiffany & Earl

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

Dear Tiff and Earl,

This spring break, I booked a trip to the Bahamas and upon landing, found out I have COVID. What are some COVID-safe quarantine activities I can do while all my friends are on the beaches having fun?

Sincerely,

FOMSB (Fear of Missing Spring Break)

Dear FOMSB,

Quarantine activities, my eye. You've got to think outside the box. What I'm about to describe to you is something I love to do whether I'm sick or not. This is one of my favorite beach activities: what I like to call "the ostrich." That's right, dig your head in. Your nose and mouth will be SO covered, you couldn't spread anything if you wanted to. All that sand will be great for your skin, and what protrudes of you will be tan. Sounds like my kind of spring break.

Cheers!

Tiff

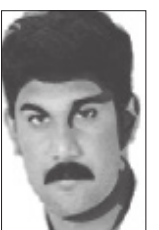


Dear FOMSB (Fear of Missing Spring Break),

If the past couple of years have taught us anything, it's that we must learn to be resourceful and have fun on our own. However, since COVID-19 has forced us to do so for approximately 10% of our lives at this point, I've unfortunately exhausted all my good ideas. The best advice I can give you is to purchase a Disney+ subscription if you do not have one already and watch *Phineas and Ferb* for some inspiration. Those kids had 104 days of summer vacation and you only have 11 days of spring break—I'm sure they have at least a week's worth of COVID-safe shenanigans that you can try yourself. Alternatively, you can just watch the show for the heck of it and transport yourself to a time when life as we knew it wasn't completely upended by a pandemic.

Good luck!

Earl





## Sports Shorts

by Margaret Maloney '23  
Sports Staff

SPORTS SHORTS

### Men's Basketball

The Friars men's basketball team began the NCAA Tournament in brilliant fashion starting Thursday, March 17 against the number 13 seed, South Dakota State University. The Friars came out victorious 66-57 with Al Durham '22GS and Noah Horchler '22GS scoring 13 points each. In the Round of 32, the Friars faced the number 12 seed, Richmond University. Ed Cooley's team dominated, winning 79-51 with 16 points from Horchler. On Friday, March 25, the Friars will play Kansas University in the Sweet 16.

### Women's Basketball

The Friars' women's basketball team competed well in the first round of the Big East tournament, where they fell short to Georgetown University in the first round. An important highlight to note from this game is Emily Archibald '25 hit her career high 21 points in the game. The team has a lot to be proud of this season, especially two players who earned All Big East recognition, Janai Crooms '23 and Kylee Sheppard '25. The Friars conclude their season with an 11-19 record.

### Men's Ice Hockey

The No. 20 Providence College men's hockey team landed 47 shots on goal but came up short in a 4-2 Hockey East Quarterfinal loss to No. 12 ranked University of Massachusetts Amherst on Saturday, March 12 at the Mullins Center. The Friars had a great season and should be proud. They finished the 2021-22 year at 22-14-2 overall. Moreso, Brett Berard '24 and Max Crozier '23, who were named to the Hockey East third team.

### Women's Ice Hockey

The No. 7-seeded Providence College women's hockey team was defeated by the No. 2 seeded University of Vermont, 4-1, in the quarterfinal round of the Hockey East Tournament on Saturday, Feb. 26. An important shoutout goes to the goaltender Sandra Abstreiter '22GS, who was named to the All-Hockey East Second Team as announced by the Hockey East on Friday, Feb. 25. Abstreiter has made 779 total saves and had three shutouts this season. She was recently announced as a semifinalist for the Women's Hockey Goalie of the Year Award. The Friars conclude the 2021-22 season at 16-14-6 overall.

## Friars Locked In During NCAA Tournament *Kansas University and the First Sweet 16 in 25 Years is Ahead*

by Joseph Quirk '23  
Sports Staff

PC ATHLETICS

The month of March is synonymous with two things: luck and madness. Despite all the chaos and craziness the other 11 months of the year can offer, few have a case to match up against the month of St. Patrick's Day, the day of the year most associated with luck and chaos, and of course, March Madness, otherwise known as the NCAA Basketball Tournament.

There are 64 teams invited to the tournament, any of whom can win on a given day. If you are a college basketball fan, this is the best time of the year. And with all the luck that comes with St. Patrick's Day and all the luck needed to win in March, the "luckiest team in the country" needs all the luck they can heading into the big dance.

The Providence College Friars Men's Basketball team headed into this weekend excited. Fresh off their first Big East regular season title in school history, the Friars would own the No. 1 seed in the Big East tournament.

The Big East tournament itself was celebrating its 40th anniversary of being hosted by Madison Square Garden, the world's most famous arena. The biggest stage, in the biggest city, the Friar fans came out in force. Descending on MSG and New York City, head coach Ed Cooley was quick to tab MSG as "the Dunk South" as during the Friars first game against Butler University, loud cheers in support of the Friars were heard all afternoon.

The Butler Bulldogs were coming off an overtime thriller of a win the night before over Xavier University. However, in a start like far too many this season, the Friars started off slow. They had trouble scoring and playing defense.

The only Friar who really showed up was big man Nate Watson '22, who finished the game leading the Friars with 26 points, added seven rebounds, and a block. Redshirt junior guard Jared Bynum '23 also had a solid afternoon with 16 points. But once again, the Friars came back and gritted out a win, a common theme for the "luckiest team in the country" this season.

When asked on Friday about his team's performance, Coach Cooley referenced Thursday's matchup saying, "Quite frankly I didn't think we played



Noah Horchler '22GS is averaging 14.5 points and 11.5 rebounds in the NCAA Tournament.

well yesterday, and we just found a way to win." This has been the theme of the Friars entire dream season, gutting out ways to win.

Prior to Friday's matchup against Creighton University, the Friars were 18-20 in games decided by 10-points or less and 12-14 in games decided by five points or less. Both of the losses were to Villanova University, who won both games by a total margin of victory of seven points.

The Friars' total record was 25-4, meaning close to half of their wins were decided by fewer than five points and just over half were decided by 10 points. That is a scary thin margin of victory; even though it can be said that this is a veteran savvy team that finds ways to win, which is invaluable in March, it still is a dangerously fine line.

The other two losses the Friars had suffered this season to a team named Villanova University were by 32 points in an away game to Marquette University and by 18 points to the University of Virginia. Safe to say that when it rains, it pours on the Friars.

On Friday the Friars played the Creighton Blue Jays, the No. 4 seed in the tournament coming off a thriller against Marquette. And Creighton dominated.

The Friars struggled once they let Creighton get on a big run in the first half and could never regain any momentum. Their defense fell apart. They couldn't score either inside or outside and Creighton big man Ryan Kalkbrenner, the Big East defensive player of the year, dominated to the tune of 15 points, nine rebounds and four blocks. This, added with Alex O'Connell's team leading 18 points, Arthur Kaluma's 17 points and Trey Alexander's 15 points led Creighton to an easy 42-27 victory.

After the game coach Cooley spoke on trying to keep his squad motivated, saying, "When you play a game like this you know A) your ego can get shattered and B) your confidence can get shattered, and I just want them to understand that it is only one game. Obviously, it's a really big stage, great arena, great support, great crowd, that's what the Big East tournament is about."

Coach Cooley also noted that he thought that the team's best basketball was ahead of them and that they had earned the right to play in the coming NCAA tournament. He remained firm in his belief that whomever the Friars face next, they can beat.

The concern, however, must be the slow starts. Cooley's team can pull comebacks against DePaul and Butler any day, but when facing some of the top competition from the Big 12, Big Ten, and SEC, that may be a much taller task.

Plus, it needs to be remembered that the 18-point loss to Virginia, the Friar's first of the season, came on a neutral court, to a worse team on the second day of a back-to-back. That was the exact same scenario that the Friars faced when they were blown out by Creighton. When the tournament arrives, the Friars' are going to need to be able to play consistently regardless of their schedule or location.

Of course, the Friars' success in the tourney will in large part be due to their seeding. Coach Cooley said that it was



PHOTO COURTESY OF DRAFT KINGS

Friars in the Sweet Sixteen for first time since 1997

"something I can't control" and that "our body of work, I just don't want our seeding to be determined by one game."

In terms of using this game as a humbling experience and one to rally around, Cooley said he reminded his team about their first Big East loss of the season, a 32-point loss to Marquette, after which his squad won 8 straight. However, he noted that "we don't need to win 8."

Since that embarrassment in the Big East tournament however, the Friars are 2-0. On Sunday, the Friars returned to a roaring crowd after a big weekend in Buffalo to kick off the March Madness tournament.

The Friars started by knocking off 13 seed South Dakota State. The Jackrabbits were a popular pick to upset the Friars in the first round, with an electric offense that was one of the top in the nation and a hot streak of 21 straight wins.

But the Friars took care of business and punched their ticket to the round of 32, where they met a hot University of Richmond team, fresh off winning their own conference tournament and beating the Big 10 champion Iowa State Hawkeyes in the first round.

Still doubted, having the second consecutive game against a double digit seed and second consecutive game where they were favored by as little as under three points, the Friars routed the Spiders 79-51, in what looked like their best and most well-rounded game of the season.

Now the Friars head to the Sweet 16 for the first time since 1997, where they will take on the University of Kansas, a blue-blood program and number one-seed in the Midwest region.

The Friars can handle the Jayhawks, assuming they can lock down guards Ochai Agbaji and Remy Martin. The Jayhawks are a good team, coached by legendary coach Bill Self.

While this is true, this is not Self's best squad he has ever had. If the Friars can shoot the way they have been the last couple of games, they have a legitimate shot to be in the Elite Eight.

If they can manage to pull off an upset, as Kansas is currently favored by over 7 points, then they will secure a date with another team in the double-digit seeds, either a cinderella University of Miami (FL) team or a hot Iowa State University team with a trip to the Final Four on the line.

All eyes will be on the Friars this Friday at 7:15 p.m. as the Friars tip-off against Kansas at the United Center in Chicago.



# Who Will Win the NCAA Tournament?

## Providence College Investigates

### Providence Friars

On Monday, April 4, the Providence College Friars will be the team cutting down the net in New Orleans.

This team is the toughest in the nation. Defensively, the Friars are elite and have a standout player in Justin Minaya '22GS who can guard all five positions. His ability to stifle the opposition's best offensive threat combined with his relentless rebounding on both the offensive and defensive ends makes him indispensable to this Friars team. He sets the tone with his energy and is a player any coach would love to have.

The Friars are well-balanced offensively. Four members of the starting five, and Big East Sixth Man of the Year Jared Bynum '23, are all threats from beyond the arch. Nate Watson '22GS and Ed Crosswell '23 are dominant big men who can change the game through merely their presence on the court. They are a tough team to guard given each player has the ability to rise to the occasion and get themselves a bucket.

Additionally, whenever one Friar is struggling, another steps up and helps lead the team to victory. Each player is unfazed by big moments yet knows their individual roles, making the right plays at the right moment. The unselfish yet assertive dynamic on the offensive end, especially in close games, is a key reason why PC will prevail in this tournament.

Coach Cooley has also done a phenomenal job leading this team both on and off the court. His preparations and in-

game decisions have been a massive factor in the Friars' success and he deserves to be named Coach of the Year. The Big East is arguably the most competitive conference in the nation and winning the Regular Season Championship is a significant accomplishment. Cooley's ability to prepare his men and to manage any situation on the sidelines gives the Friars an edge over their opponents.

Among all else, this Friars team never gets rattled. They are mature and remain calm in adversity. Numerous times this season, most notably at Hickle Fieldhouse playing Butler University when the Friars faced a 19-point second-half deficit, they battled their way from behind to win. Their energy and communication with each other are arguably the best in college basketball. PC emulates what true teamwork entails and their composure under pressure has been and will continue to be a driving force of their success.

The energy surrounding this team is unmatched. No student body and administration are more collectively passionate about their basketball program. The players and fans are eager to prove doubters wrong and eager to continue this statement season. The support from the Providence College community will only further elevate this team towards a national title.

-Leo Hainline '22  
Sports Co-Editor

### Gonzaga Bulldogs

When I look at the group of teams assembled this year in Division I Men's College Basketball, I see a lot of teams with talented interior and exterior offense and defense. However, one team stands out from the rest: Gonzaga University, the 2021 March Madness Runner-Up. The Bulldogs are the favorite to win it all this year, and for good reason.

According to ESPN, Gonzaga is in the top ten for both adjusted offensive and defensive efficiency. They finished the regular season as the No. 1 team in the nation after a strong late season push. In the first four hours after the 2022 tournament bracket was determined, 34.5 percent of brackets in ESPN's Tournament Challenge picked Gonzaga to win it all.

Gonzaga has an overall record of 26-3 and a West Coast Conference record of 13-1 this season. They have only lost to No. 2 seed Duke University (28-6 overall, No. 1 in Atlantic Coast Conference), No. 5 seed Saint Mary's College (25-7 overall, lost to Gonzaga in WCC Tournament), and No. 6 seed University of Alabama (19-13 overall).

They are led by two strong candidates for the John R. Wooden Award, which is awarded to college basketball's most outstanding player. Drew Timme '23 is a 6'10" forward for the Bulldogs who averaged 17.5 PPG (points per game) and 6.3 RPG (rebounds per game). Timme picked up the West Coast Conference's player of the year award this season.

Chet Holmgren '25 rises up at 7'1" and is another inside force for Gonzaga. The center leads the interior defense for the team with 9.6 RPG and 3.4 BPG, as well as contributing extensively on offense with 14.2 PPG and shooting 41.3 percent from three-point land (3PT). He won the defensive player of the year award and is projected to lead the NBA draft class next year.

The Bulldogs starting lineup as a whole is a force to be reckoned with, as all five starters average double-digit scoring. In addition, four out of five starters shoot over 36.5 percent on three-point attempts. These players include Holmgren, Julian Strawther '24 (12.2 PPG, 39.6% 3PT), Andrew Nembhard '22 (11.7 PPG, 36.5% 3PT, 5.7 assists per game), and sharpshooter Rasir Bolton '22 (11.2 PPG, 46.7% 3PT).

Although the path to the March Madness Finals is undoubtedly challenging, Gonzaga University will have the best chances to reach the end. They have a unique combination of offensive and defensive talent that prevents them from lacking in any area of the game. Gonzaga has reached the national title game in two of the past four NCAA tournaments. This year will make that three of five, with a national championship to go along with it.

-Stephen Foster '22  
Sports Staff

## Women's Basketball Falls in Opening Round of Big East Tournament

by Liam Tormey '22  
Sports Co-Editor

PC ATHLETICS

The Friars women's basketball season came to an end on March 4 after a 68-55 defeat to Georgetown University in the opening round of the Big East Women's Tournament.

After being down by one at halftime, the Hoyas jumped out to a 22-0 run in the third quarter. The Friars were unable to bounce back, and their season was over.

Emily Archibald '25 scored a career-high 21 points in the contest, shooting 7-9 from the floor and 6-8 from three-point territory. Janai Crooms '23 added 18 points, five rebounds, five assists, two steals, and one block for the Friars, but the Hoyas were able to hold on.

The Friars finished the season 11-19, 6-14 in Big East play, and ended the year on a five-game losing streak. They were 6-11 at Alumni Hall and 5-7 away from home.

Crooms completed her first year for the Friars after transferring to her home state from Michigan State University. She averaged 13.8 points with an average of 34.7 minutes per game in her first year as a Friar. Crooms also recorded six double-doubles – a team-best – and was the only player in the Big East ranked inside the top-15 in scoring and also ranked inside the top-10 in rebounding, assists, blocked shots, offensive rebounds, and defensive rebounds.

The Cranston, Rhode Island native, who is the first female to have her number retired at St. Andrew's School, shot 43.6 percent from the field and 38.6 percent from behind the three-point arc. Along with Kylee Sheppard '25, Crooms was awarded All-Big East Honorable Mention accolades.

Sheppard was a unanimous selection to the Big East All-Freshman Team. She only played in 19 games and started in 18 of them after missing 10 games in the beginning of her rookie season due to injuries. By the end of the year, Sheppard finished third in the team in scoring with 9.6 points per game 2.1 assists per game while second in steals averaging



PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

Alyssa Geary '22 was one of the Friars' top two scorers in each of the past two seasons.

1.6.

Alyssa Geary '22 and Mary Baskerville '22 both completed their senior season for the Friars. Geary started in all 30 games, averaging 26.4 minutes per game and 9.5 points per game. The senior shot 37.7 percent from the field while adding 4.2 rebounds a game.

Per her Instagram, Geary will be using her extra year of eligibility due to COVID-19 and transferring to Indiana University. She played 118 games for the Friars, a total of 2655 minutes and 854 points.

Baskerville played in 23 of the Friars' 30 games this season. She averaged 19.0 minutes per game and finished the year averaging 7.0 points and 5.5 rebounds. There is no word yet on the future of Baskerville and what she will plan to do with the extra year of eligibility.

Next year, with the return of Crooms and an entire year of Sheppard in the lineup, the Friars will have potential. They will need to make up for size with Geary leaving, but a young team under the leadership of Jim Crowley will continue to grow in the 2022-23 season.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

Mary Baskerville '22 has been a standout performer for the Friars, setting program records throughout her four years.



# A Look Around Friartown

## Men's Basketball:

3/17 vs. South Dakota State University, won 66-57

3/19 vs. Richmond University, won 79-51

## Upcoming:

3/25 vs. Kansas University

## Softball:

3/18 vs. St. John's University, won 8-0

3/20 vs. St. John's University, won 3-1

3/20 at University of Rhode Island, won 3-2

## Upcoming:

3/25 at Creighton University

3/26 at Creighton University

3/27 at Creighton University

## Lacrosse:

3/8 vs. Sacred Heart University, won 16-12

3/12 vs. University of Vermont, won 12-10

3/19 at Fairfield University, loss 15-11

## Upcoming:

3/26 vs. Hofstra University

4/2 at Marquette University

4/9 at Georgetown University

## Tennis:

3/12 vs Wesleyan University, canceled

3/17 vs. Sacred Heart University, loss 5-2

3/20 vs. Bryant University, loss 5-2

## Upcoming:

3/26 vs. University of New Haven

3/31 at Bentley University

4/2 at Georgetown University

# PROVIDENCE

## Men's Season Comes to an End After Hockey East Tournament

by Justin Bishop '24  
Sports Staff

PC ATHLETICS

The Providence College Men's Hockey team fell 4-2 against No. 11 University of Massachusetts Amherst on Saturday, March 12 in the Hockey East Tournament Quarterfinal after beating the University of Vermont 2-1 on Wednesday, March 9. The team entered the third period down 3-1 after Riley Duran '25 scored his 10th goal of the year late in the second, but UMass put one in the empty net before Matt Koopman '21 potted his fifth of the year to cut the deficit to two with only 1:30 left. The Friars' season comes to a disappointing end, and it seems they will just miss out on the NCAA Tournament again. Last year they were a COVID-19 bubble team but ended up not playing despite two teams dropping out due to positive tests. The team ended this season with a respectable record of 22-14-2 but finished 12-11-1 in conference play, putting them in seventh out of eleven in the Hockey East Conference. The Friars finished with the second most wins (22) in the conference next to Northeastern University which finished with 25 and were ranked first in the conference and No. 10 in the country. To put it simply, the Friars did not have a bad season; other teams in conference play just did better.

Bright spots this season for the team included winning 22 games. The Friars finished the season with both a top-10 Power-Play Percentage (PP%) and top 15 Penalty-Kill Percentage (PK%). Sophomore Brett Berard '24 led the team in Goals (18), Points (38), and Penalty Minutes (37). Five Friars scored at least 10 goals this year, and 13 Friars had points in double digits. Jaxson Stauber '23 had a stellar year and posted a 21-14-2 record while having a 2.10 Goals Against Average (GAA) along with a .921 Save Percentage (SV%) and put up four shutouts. The team defended Schneider Arena well with a 14-4-1 at home record.

### "Boston Bruins signed the captain of the Friars, Michael Callahan '22, to a two-year entry-level contract."

However, the biggest news came out on Sunday, March 13, night as the Boston Bruins signed the captain of the Friars, Michael Callahan '22, to a two-year entry-level contract. Callahan, who grew up in Franklin, MA, was a three-year captain of Providence and finished his college career with 73 points in 138 games. He was selected back in the 2018 Entry Draft where the Arizona Coyotes originally drafted him in the fifth round. The local kid will spend time in the Bruins American Hockey League affiliate, the Providence Bruins,



PHOTO COURTESY OF FRIARS HOCKEY TWITTER

Seniors Michael Callahan '22 (left) and Matt Koopman '22 (right) were both key contributors to the Friars this season.

so he does not have to get acclimated to a new city just yet.

This team has a bright future with a young core in Berard, Duran, Nick Poisson '24, Cody Monds '25, Guillaume Richard '25, and Chase Yoder '24, who all were major pieces this past season. They will look to veteran leadership in Patrick Moynihan '23, Jaxson Stauber, and Parker Ford '23. The Friars will have at least eight drafted players on the team next year, and possibly more with the NHL Entry Draft occurring this summer. The Cowl will highlight the newcomers for next year's season next fall, but names to keep an eye on this summer are Brady Berard, brother of current Friar Brett Berard from East Greenwich, RI; Chase DaFoe from Beverley, MA; and Cole Pelc out of Buffalo, NY. With a mix of experience from the current players along with the incoming talent, the team is preparing for a deep run next year to establish themselves as not only a Hockey East powerhouse, but also have a national presence.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

Nate Leaman's Friars narrowly missed out on the NCAA Tournament this season. Their season concluded with a loss to University of Massachusetts Amherst 4-2 in the Hockey East Tournament.