

# The Cowl



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## Unseen No More Student Exposes BIPOC Experience at PC

by Nicole Patano '22  
Editor-in-Chief

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.*

Rarely does a presentation of a single student's undergraduate research have such high attendance, including the president of the College and the provost, that the venue runs out of seating. But rarely is there a student with the dedication and commitment to complete a two-year long research project, seemingly unrelated to his two majors, beginning in his freshman year and during a global pandemic. Justin Babu '23 is just that student.

In 2020, Babu, a biology and secondary education major, approached the director of the Black studies program and an associate professor of sociology, Dr. Zophia Edwards, with a research proposal. Babu, recognizing that BIPOC students at Providence College have a "vastly different experience" than the average student at PC based on his own undergraduate experiences, wanted to show this difference quantitatively.

To do so, Babu created a survey with questions based on the HEDS Consortium Campus Climate Survey and the Brown University Climate Survey. Each question was optional to promote confidentiality, protect participant anonymity, and create a sense of trust among participants. Babu sent this survey out on April 7, 2021 via several departmental mailing lists. In just three days, Babu received 50 percent of the total responses received during the survey period (230 responses). By the end of the survey period, Babu had received

461 responses, approximately 10 percent of the PC undergraduate population. Edwards stated, "It takes whole offices with multiple people to do the work that Justin has done, by himself, in just two years."

Approximately 90 percent of the survey respondents were undergraduate students, 10 percent were faculty, and just over one percent were staff and administration. Of the survey respondents, 75 percent identified as white and 25 percent identified as people of color, which Babu emphasized is a "really important statistic" considering people of color are often severely underrepresented in campus climate surveys distributed by the College.

Based on the survey results, Babu was able to compare the responses of BIPOC respondents to all respondents, representative of BIPOC members of the PC community and all members of the PC community.

The first questions Babu included were intended to measure participants' satisfaction with the campus climate and diversity of PC. BIPOC respondents expressed more dissatisfaction with the campus climate than white participants, but all participants expressed dissatisfaction with the diversity of the College.

Regarding participants' sense of belonging, acceptance of their identity, feeling of opportunities for success similar to their peers, and feeling that they receive the same recognition and praise as their peers, all metrics were lower for people of color than white participants. Similarly, questions relating to how valued participants feel by PC community members found that people of color feel less valued by administrators, faculty, staff, and students than the average person at PC.

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## Twelve Six Gents

by Grace Whitman '22  
A&E Staff

After postponing their Thursday, March 30 show, Six Gents was back and better than ever on Monday, April 11. Given that the group also moved the show from its typical 11 p.m. start, to an hour earlier at 10 p.m., it should come as no surprise that the

Angell Blackfriars Theatre was almost completely filled with students eager to see Providence College's best—and only—sketch comedy group deliver a highly-anticipated performance.

The packed house made for the perfect opportunity for the club to introduce their three new gents. To do so, the group headed to Hogwarts. However, because the sorting hat was unavailable, Jack Grosso '22 filled in and determined the characteristics that new gents Trish Nee '23, Santi Najarro Cano '24, and Dom Dasilva '24 would bring to the club by placing his hands on their heads and "reading their minds."

Gaslight/Page 11

PHOTO COURTESY OF SIX GENTS

## 9 to 5: The Musical

by Nicole Patano '22  
Editor-in-Chief

If you saw Providence College's production of 9 to 5: The Musical, you probably spent the past two weeks wishing the show's musical numbers would "Get Out and Stay Out" of your head. It is rare that every song in a musical is a hit, but when they are all written by the "Queen of Country," Dolly Parton, such is only to be expected. And with the vocals of a star-studded cast including Halle Pratt '22, Kate Salvato

'23, Emma Lindsay '25, Alex Cannon '22, Analisa Pisano '23, and Nick Bullock '22, this musical was destined for greatness.

The cast, crew, and production team thought of everything, from a pre-show film created by John Chatfield '19 to paper flying out of a malfunctioning printer to a portrait of CEO Franklin Hart Jr. (Cannon) hung up in his office. Even the speakers were "disguised" as '70s-themed decor.

9 to 5 is the first live musical the theater, dance, and film department has been able to put on in two years. After much anticipation, many hours of rehearsal, and a few hiccups along the way, the cast and crew got to celebrate the fruits of their labor on opening night, April 8.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF BRAD SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

## PC Prof Publishes First Book You Are Seen, You Are Heard, You Are Loved

by Nicole Patano '22  
Editor-in-Chief  
and Maura Campbell '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.*

Today at 6 p.m., the Black studies program is hosting a book launch to celebrate the publication of Akeem Lloyd's book *You Are Seen, You Are Heard, You Are Loved*. In addition to teaching T.H.U.G. L.I.F.E. in the Black studies program, Lloyd is a youth inspirational speaker with AkeemSpeaks and the CEO of A Leadership Journey. He believes that to understand how the organizations and his debut book came into being, one must understand his experience.

Lloyd was raised by his grandparents in Atlantic City, NJ, who taught him indispensable lessons that made him who he is today. When Lloyd started preparing for college, he participated in the Education Opportunity Fund at Rutgers University-Camden. EOF helps young people who do not have the financial resources to go to college with financial, academic, and career support.

Along with approximately 40 other people, Lloyd spent the summer taking classes similar to remedial high school classes. He soon found that he was not prepared for them and was told by his math teacher that he would fail out of the program. This was the first time that Lloyd realized he had the opportunity to be the first person in his family to graduate from a four-year institution,

and he did not want to squander it. He worked hard for the remainder of the program and was able to go to college. Lloyd explained that this moment and the whole program "changed the trajectory of my life." After graduating with a bachelor's degree in African American studies from Rutgers in 2010, Lloyd received his master's in urban education from Temple University.

In 2016, AkeemSpeaks was launched to help Lloyd share his story and his truth with young people. AkeemSpeaks has allowed Lloyd to "work with young people [and] support young people in a way that I never imagined." He realized that through his conversation with the youth, he could figure out what their challenges were and what they were actually experiencing. What became his "driving force" and the purpose of his work was the mental and emotional health of young people.

In the same year he began AkeemSpeaks, Lloyd also had the opportunity to go to South Africa to be part of a leadership team from an organization that was based out of Boston. This was the first time Lloyd traveled out of the country as an adult, feeling like this was "about to be the biggest adult experience I have ever had."

Lloyd became apprehensive when he learned that he would have to raise money because he had previously struggled to raise funds for another program he was working on. His grandmother told him, "If you really want to go, give yourself a chance." This gave Lloyd the motivation to fundraise despite his original apprehension, and "before I knew it, I was able to raise enough money to get me to South Africa."

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## UNDER THE HOOD

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April 21, 2022

## PC Community Walks for A Cause *Colleges Against Cancer Holds Successful Relay For Life*

by Eileen Cooney '23  
News Staff

CAMPUS

On Sunday, April 11, Peterson Recreation Center bustled with students, supporters, games, and emotional testimonies. Providence College's Colleges Against Cancer (CAC) chapter organized a Relay For Life event after

*"When you come to PC, you never really know what someone is going through, whether someone is a survivor, caregiver, or someone has lost a family member to cancer."*

All money raised is donated to the American Cancer Society. "One thing I love about the American Cancer Society is out of the money we raised, a sum of it goes to mental health and other support for caregivers," said Pugliese, "which is really important to me because almost all the survivors I've known have also been caregivers."

Father Isaac Morales, O.P. gave the heartwarming prayer before the silent lap for

diagnosed with an aggressive cancer. "The first phone call I got from my aunt at college, she told me she had her first round of chemo and that she decided to shave her head. I just wanted to hug her so bad and it was really hard to hear so far away from home. With every diagnosis there comes fear, but there also comes hope," said Pugliese.

She stressed the importance of continued awareness and fighting for better treatments and ultimately, a cure.

Pugliese walked to celebrate the life of Ashley Hope Goodman on the team A Good Fight. Ashley passed away from lymphoma. She said, "she is the bravest person I have ever met. Even in the face of her diagnosis she was always positive and thanked all the doctors at MSK and has become an inspiration to me."

Relay for Life proves to be a reflection



PC'S CAC chapter organized a Relay For Life last weekend.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GIULIA PUGLIESE '22

a two-year pause due to the pandemic.

"My main goal with this event was trying to bring back what is usually the most successful relay event in the Northeast back to Providence College. After two years of pause a lot of clubs did not get to meet and we did lose a lot of attendance, especially when the big event was not happening," said Giulia Pugliese '22, president of CAC.

The event started at 3:30 p.m. (after a delay from moving inside due to weather conditions) with a survivor and caregiver lap around Peterson track. Surrounding the track were luminaries signifying those lost to cancer or currently battling the disease along with reasons people were walking. The luminaries were created by friends and family members of those who passed away.

As of Monday, March 18, the fundraising page reached a total of \$18,903.36 of their \$20,000 goal, according to the "Relay for Life of Providence College" webpage. Notably, the "Hug Your Mama" team reached \$4,842.24, surpassing their goal of \$4,250.

*"Colleges Against Cancer is a safe space for people to come to and find others to relate to, like it was for me three years ago. It meant everything to me to have a group that understood how I was feeling and people automatically supported me."*

all those who lost their lives in the battle with cancer. Fr. Morales shared that he survived cancer twice and has been impacted by a family member's diagnosis as well.

Like many people, Pugliese's life has been impacted by cancer. Her grandmother, with whom she shares a birthday, died from colon cancer before they could meet. She said, "I have always felt connected to her, even though I have never met her before. It just is special."

As a freshman in high school, Pugliese's mom was diagnosed with cancer. She is now in remission and considers herself a survivor. Then, when Pugliese entered PC, her aunt was

of both Pugliese's hard work and Colleges Against Cancer's fight.

"When you come to PC, you never really know what someone is going through, whether someone is a survivor, caregiver, or someone has lost a family member to cancer," said Pugliese.

"Colleges Against Cancer is a safe space for people to come to and find others to relate to, like it was for me three years ago. It meant everything to me to have a group that understood how I was feeling and people automatically supported me."

# Providence College as a Polis

## Humanities Forum Hosts Professor Bartlett on Importance of Rhetoric

by Olivia Coletti '24  
News Staff

CAMPUS

"Rhetoric is a loaded gun," a fitting metaphor included in Professor Robert Bartlett's Humanities Forum in the Ruane Center for Humanities on March 27. Professor Bartlett is an award-winning professor and author from Boston College and Emory University. He specializes in ancient Greek political classic philosophy and discussed the power of persuasion with the Providence College student body by highlighting the importance of the Aristotelian Rhetoric.

Bartlett is exceptionally well-versed in Aristotle's book, *Rhetoric*, as his principal area of research is classical political philosophy. This book, like many of Aristotle's works, has been a crucial philosophical vessel, handed down through generations of brilliant minds. Bartlett spoke fluidly and passionately, utilizing Aristotle's works to describe how the early philosopher laid out passions to speak to people. Even philosophers such as Hobbes say "he was the worst teacher, politician and ethicist, but his rhetoric was rare."

Bartlett enthusiastically reviewed the three kinds of essential Aristotelian rhetoric: deliberative, judicial, and display. He cohesively explained how these three kinds of rhetoric often have three types of use: the noble, the good, and the bad. Deliberative rhetoric is often used to pursue a future goal, either to persuade or shun. Judicial is often an accusation or defense

of something usually concerned with past acts. Finally, display is seen in praise speeches and usually connects us to the present tense. He also goes over the modes of persuasion: ethos, pathos and logos, which are notions of Aristotelian rhetoric often taught in PC's Development of Western Civilization program. These modes build a sense of trust and conviction, but that conviction is not proof. Here lies the danger of rhetoric, as Bartlett explains.

Bartlett transitions to the point that with this understanding of rhetoric, there is also power. Both lies and truth can persuade humans, which is the ultimate paradox. In echoing this message, Bartlett uses the metaphor of a gun. He states that proof itself is misleading—what is proof at its very core? Bartlett states, "If I can get you angry, I haven't proved anything, but I have instilled in you a conviction that my policy is better." Herein lies the danger of rhetoric. Rhetoric has an "odor," as Bartlett describes, that attaches to a phrase, a taste of manipulation, perhaps. But, as Aristotle describes, we do need rhetoric, and it comes to defending what is faithful and just. Bartlett explains that if you think the cause you serve is right, you're being naïve without rhetoric to provide proof. If you become alive because a speaker is trying to move you, you become more self-aware and equipped against rhetoric's bullet.

Bartlett used former U.S. President Barack Obama's 2008 "A More Perfect Union" speech as a modern-day example of the power of rhetoric. Bartlett described the stark recovery associated with that speech in the 2008 primary. Before the

speech, due to scandals involving his childhood reverend, it was viable to speculate that Obama had a strong for toward America. After the speech, that speculation was indisputably invalid. Instead, Obama's rhetoric was powerful enough to provide proof of his love of the country in his 2008 bid for the U.S. presidential election.

After the forum, there was a question-and-answer period. Having listened to Bartlett, I reflected on how there is a unanimous value in an individual who demonstrates actions and principles over words. Someone who is always there when needed, reliable yet flies under the radar. I asked, "Considering Aristotle's view of rhetoric with persuasion, would he view an implicit and 'short and sweet' individual, who listens and speaks only when needed with strong rhetorical tactics in itself?" He agreed that it could be a rhetorical strategy to withhold using words. Bartlett stated, "keeping things simple is powerful because you are being selective with your usage. The denunciation of rhetoric, perhaps in a sense, is rhetorical. However, there can be something overblown to rhetoric." The word overblown even alluded to his gun metaphor, quite a remark.

Throughout this humanities forum, Bartlett used his widespread knowledge of Aristotelian rhetoric to emphasize its power and value in contemporary forms of U.S. dialogue, especially in political and academic spaces. After assessing Bartlett's talk, we should all aim to understand the power of our loaded guns of language.

# Breaking Glass Ceilings in the SCOTUS

## Senate Confirms Judge Jackson for U.S. Supreme Court Pick

by Addison Wakelin '22  
News Co-Editor

NATIONAL NEWS

On April 7, the U.S. Senate confirmed Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court. This monumental decision makes her the 116th justice to be confirmed, along with the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court, the highest court in the nation.

The 53-47 Senate final vote showed a rather stark contrast in the support for Judge Jackson's nomination, with just three Republicans joining all 50 Democrats to vote her into a lifetime appointment on the Supreme Court.

Judge Jackson is U.S. President Joe Biden's first Supreme Court nominee. She will replace retiring Justice Stephen Breyer, 83, who was confirmed to the bench in 1994 by former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Judge Jackson graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University, then attended Harvard Law School, where she graduated cum laude and was an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. Since graduating, she has pursued a legal career spanning both public service and the Washington D.C. circuit courts.

The Supreme Court has long maintained rather homogenous appointments to the bench throughout history. Since the establishment of its first assembly in 1790, only five white women have served on the Supreme Court: Sandra Day O'Connor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, and Amy Coney Barrett. Only two Black men, Thurgood Marshall and Clarence Thomas have served while no Black women have previously sat on the highest court in the nation.

Following the appointment of three of former U.S. President



Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson was confirmed to the Supreme Court last week.

Donald Trump's nominees during his presidency, the Supreme Court remains a 6-3 conservative majority following Judge Jackson's confirmation.

Such a conservative majority in the highest court in the nation has led to increased apprehension among many Americans, particularly in fear that certain progressive legislation will be repealed. For instance, the recent abortion rulings in states like Oklahoma, Tennessee, Florida, and Kentucky represent the growing incrimination of women's reproductive freedom in the United States, particularly among those who identify as pro-choice.

Judge Jackson's nomination did not come without a slew of attacks from certain Republican Senators, largely those who align with typical conservative talking points popularized over the last couple of decades.

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz (R), a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, utilized his time during judiciary hearings to criticize Judge Jackson on the basis of false claims that she promotes critical race theory. Commonly known as CRT, critical race theory is an academic concept that emphasizes the role of race as a social, rather than biological, concept, in the broader implications of race and racism throughout U.S. history.

CRT, a university-level academic concept, has been weaponized by the GOP, with many conservative politicians falsely claiming that its teachings will be implemented in K-12 curriculum across the country. During the hearings, in response to Judge Brown being a board member at the Georgetown Day School, Sen. Cruz held up several anti-racism books in the school's curriculum. He claimed, "if you look at the Georgetown

Day School's curriculum, it is filled and overflowing with critical race theory."

Republican Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley (R) similarly attacked Judge Jackson, not on the basis of her qualifications or her legal merit, but rather to pursue another largely misconstrued claim that she has been a defendant of pedophilia during her tenure in the D.C. Court Circuit.

In response to both claims, Judge Jackson said, "the evidence in these cases are egregious. The evidence in these cases are among the worst that I have seen, and yet, as Congress directs, judges don't just calculate the guidelines and stop. Judges have to take into account the personal circumstances of the defendant, because that's a requirement of Congress."

The Republican Party has long sought to directly engage in narratives that seek to polarize the nation at both the local and national levels of government. Similar tactics to the ones used by both U.S. Senators were employed in 2015, before the legalization of same-sex marriage across the United States.

After hearing from nearly 23 hours of questioning by the Senate Judiciary Committee, Judge Brown was finally confirmed by the Senate. Judge Brown's appointment to the bench of the highest court in the United States represents changing tides and the necessity for diversity not only in the judiciary, but in society at large to create just representation and equity. "Equal Justice Under the Law," a motto emboldened on the U.S. Supreme Court building, is emblematic of the necessary equity within the juridical means of society; Judge Jackson's appointment to the bench of the most powerful court in the U.S. embodies that notion of implementing systemic change.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

# Unseen No More

## Listening Tour

Continued from front page

Babu explained how these results must be taken into consideration when deciding on new policies at PC.

Babu also sought to understand trends in and rates of discrimination at the College, as well as people's understanding and use of reporting processes. He found that the most common forms of discrimination experienced by people were on the basis of their race/ethnicity, physical appearance, and gender/sex/sexuality. Disturbingly, he found that more than 90 percent of people who reported experiencing discrimination did not report the incident to campus officials. The reason for this number can only be partly explained by Babu's survey; a majority of respondents did not know how the reporting or investigative processes worked, and a majority found the reporting systems to be insufficient.

Babu reminded his audience that "behind each of those numbers is a person." Given that PC is a small community, it is likely that everyone on campus knows someone who has witnessed or experienced discrimination. Citing the College's mission statement, Babu asked, "As a campus, are we truly committed to the flourishing of each individual person?"

In the spirit of James Baldwin, Babu explained that although this project makes it seem like he has a "hidden agenda" against the College, "I love PC. I wouldn't do this project if I didn't have Providence College's best interests at heart." Babu believes that these data, and the testimonies which he will collect during phase two of the project, must be at the forefront of all DEI initiatives "if we are going to promote this image of the Friar Family or this...Beloved Community at Providence College."

The first steps Babu suggested the College can take to achieve these goals are 1) creating greater transparency in the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; 2) creating greater accountability within data collection and recordkeeping of bias incidents through an ombudsperson and/or chief diversity officer;

and 3) creating trust between IDEI and historically underrepresented groups on campus.

Regarding step one, Babu described how difficult it was for him to obtain campus climate data as it is not publicly available. When he reached out to professors with his project idea and survey, many asked him for his data when he concluded with the project, suggesting that there is an interest in this kind of information. More than an interest, Babu stated, there is a need; campuswide access to campus climate data is "how we can best make policies at the College."

Following Babu's presentation was an opportunity for the audience to ask questions. Dr. Rahsaan Mahadeo, an assistant professor of sociology and Black studies, asked about the 90 percent of people who did not report their bias incidents and whether that may be because they lack faith in the system. Mahadeo explained that people may see bias reporting as an attempt to "treat a disease with a symptom of the disease" as it can often be an additional site of racialized violence.

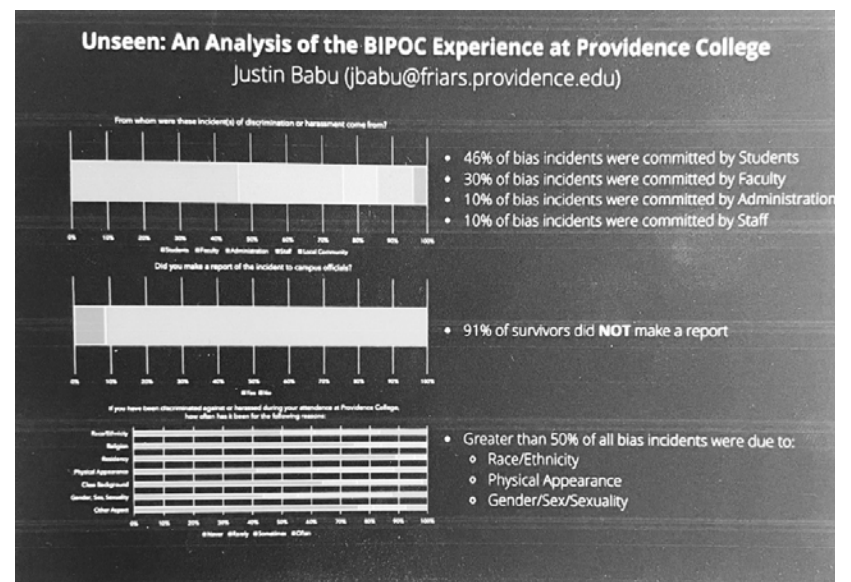
Babu responded that the data collection is necessary for our campus, but the way the College currently does it can be improved through the use of an ombudsperson or another impartial party. "I would recommend for kind of this floor-to-ceiling remodeling of IDEI and these bias reporting systems," Babu said. Ultimately, he stated that both data and testimony are necessary to assess and understand these issues.

Jessica Gilman '23 asked Babu if he had any recommendations for how students with privilege, particularly white privilege, can create a more welcoming environment, since 46% of bias incidents were committed by students. Babu explained that he did not really have the answer, but he emphasized that we must hold the perpetrators of discrimination accountable: "If we hold these perpetrators accountable, it demonstrates that the College has deemed these behaviors

unacceptable."

Drawing on the data that showed 30 percent of bias incidents were committed by faculty, 10 percent committed by administration, and 10 percent committed by staff, Dr. Ashley Smith-Purviance, an assistant professor in the Black studies program and public and community service studies department, asked how we can prevent our students who witness and commit bias incidents from becoming teachers, professors, and police officers who commit bias incidents. Earlier in his presentation, Babu addressed the concerning statistics around discrimination coming from faculty, staff, and administration: "We are putting these people in places of power such that they can lead every student at Providence College to academic success." Unfortunately, that does not always seem to be the case, and certain students, whom Babu calls the "outliers," are most at risk as a result.

Babu hopes that the main takeaway from his presentation is that we are all stakeholders at the College, and we all have a responsibility to push the needle forward if we want to see improvements in diversity, equity, and inclusion.



Some of the data Babu presented on Tuesday, April 19.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JUSTIN BABU '23

# PC Prof Publishes First Book

## Listening Tour

Continued from front page

When he arrived, Lloyd realized that in a group of at least 20 to 25 people, there were only three people of color and he was the only Black man. Despite the trip ultimately being a success for Lloyd, he could not stop thinking about what this meant for the opportunities available to "the young people who look like me." Lloyd recognized this trip as a resume booster for the white youth who were fortunate enough to attend and will be able "to talk about how these experiences helped shape them, helped educate them, [and] helped prepare them." Leaving South Africa, Lloyd started wondering what it would mean if the young people who look like him had this experience.

When Lloyd brought his idea back home, he and his friends immediately decided to start fundraising: "We are going to give ourselves a chance."

Lloyd described the beginning stages of A Leadership Journey like "we're building the plane as we're trying to fly it." As they were fundraising, they were also meeting twice a month about what ALJ needed to be. Lloyd knew that the organization needed to have "a holistic approach" and that it "needed to be more than just a travel program." After they decided this, next came the group's values: equity, access, health and wellness, and education.

ALJ focused on youth aged 13-18 because "those populations don't always have access to opportunities like the one that we wanted to provide." However, "in order to give them access," Lloyd stated, "we also had to make it equitable." Lloyd did not want families to put themselves at a financial disadvantage in order to have their children participate in such an experience. Education was the most important value of ALJ, with the

understanding that "education doesn't always have to be classroom-related."

In June 2017, ALJ took their first cohort to South Africa, and this was when Lloyd realized that "A Leadership Journey really needed to be a thing" for young people.

10 months later, ALJ took its second cohort to South Africa and received 501(c)(3) status; "and ALJ was now a thing." In 2019, the third cohort went to Kenya. 2020's trip could not happen due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But last year, the fourth cohort from ALJ managed a successful trip to Ghana.

With AkeemSpeaks and ALJ now thriving, Lloyd found himself "being encouraged to think about taking a chance in the classroom as a teacher." Even though he had been encouraged for years by his mentors, Lloyd did not think that it was for him. Despite this, Lloyd's experience with youth development and teaching began when he was just 14 as a peer mentor at the Boys & Girls Club in Atlantic City. Teaching became more important to Lloyd's work with ALJ, as part of his responsibilities were programming and curriculum building.

Lloyd first considered becoming a professor after speaking at an event hosted by the global studies department at Providence College. He met and stayed in contact with the leaders of the event, trying to "connect global studies and ALJ in a way that we could collaborate." After mentioning his desire to teach, Lloyd was put in contact with Dr. Zophia Edwards, director of the Black studies program and an associate professor of sociology. Edwards "provided a space [for Lloyd] to talk about what I already had going on" and was looking into how Lloyd could become a professor. Dr. Trina Vithayathil, chair of the global studies department, made this dream into a reality.

Vithayathil invited Lloyd to serve as a community fellow for her class "Comparative Race and Inequality,"

giving him the opportunity to co-teach a college class in the global studies department. This was the first step to Lloyd becoming a professor, his "launching pad." Lloyd was approved to be the professor of a curriculum that he designed himself, which he is teaching this semester on the topic of T.H.U.G. L.I.F.E.

In November 2021, Lloyd began writing *You Are Seen, You Are Heard, You Are Loved*. Lloyd was inspired to begin writing after he received praise from his friends and colleagues on another book he was wrapping up and after seeing the statistics on how COVID-19 exacerbated the challenges young people were already experiencing. He stopped working on the other book "to help move this conversation forward in a positive way, in a very intentional way." He thought, "If this book could help move this conversation forward, then I'm going to write it. And so I did."

Lloyd explained that the book's title is a "universal message" for everyone to feel seen, to feel heard, and to be loved. He wrote it, however, keeping in mind that the majority of communities served by AkeemSpeaks were predominantly students of color. "I want every young person who feels as though they are invisible because they feel like a social outcast, or they feel isolated, to be seen in the stories that are written in the book." He also hopes to inspire young people by giving them something to believe in, "something to hold onto."

While *You Are Seen, You Are Heard, You Are Loved* was written with young people in mind, Lloyd hopes it reaches adult audiences as well. Lloyd hopes that parents and guardians read his book to provoke conversations surrounding wellness; to encourage more involvement; and to "break the cycle, break the stigma, [and] start creating a new, positive narrative around wellness." He believes that lawmakers who read the book should be provoked to do more, to move this from conversation to written laws with financial support behind them.

Lloyd emphasized that "this book isn't about me." While he used pieces of his own story that aligned with the stories and anecdotes he used, he wanted to "amplify the voices of young people." By including bits of his story, though, Lloyd is saying, "No, I'm not just speaking on this because I see it, I'm speaking on this because I lived it."


Everything in the book falls under the three chapters, titled, "You Are Seen," "You Are Heard," "You Are Loved." One of Lloyd's favorite parts of the book is a compilation of the struggles and challenges that young people in his workshops have faced. It is his favorite part because "of how authentic they are." If the stories do not show you that this is real, Lloyd explained, then "maybe these real pieces of paper with real challenges on them will."

Lloyd emphasized that *You Are Seen, You Are Heard, You Are Loved* is necessary at PC so that PC students can be more honest about what they are feeling and advocate for more services and support on campus. While Lloyd mainly works with people under the age of 18, he opens his book with a quote from a college freshman to demonstrate how applicable its lessons are to even college students who may act like they have everything figured out or that "everything is alright when it isn't."

At the end of the book, Lloyd encourages his readers to use #mysterywill to share positive affirmations and stories with him and a community reaching thousands of people. Lloyd hopes that someone can read how people responded to this prompt on social media and be inspired.

You can purchase *You Are Seen, You Are Heard, You Are Loved* at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Bookshop, or AkeemWrites.com. Once you make a purchase, reach out to Lloyd via social media so that he can send you a gift as a token of his gratitude.

**THE PC BLACK STUDIES PROGRAM AND AKEEM SPEAKS PRESENT:**



**YOU ARE SEEN  
YOU ARE HEARD  
YOU ARE LOVED**  
Akeem Lloyd

**A BOOK LAUNCH FOR  
PROFESSOR AKEEM LLOYD**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 21ST**

**SLAVIN CENTER 112**

**6:00 PM**

**FREE TO ATTEND**

**REGISTER HERE!**

\*PER BLACK STUDIES PROGRAM POLICY, FACE MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED AT THIS EVENT.

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 COORDINATOR (401-865-2070) WELL IN ADVANCE OF THIS EVENT.

**Celebrate POETRY Month**

**BOW & PHILLIPS MEMORIAL LIBRARY PRESENTS:**

Poetry & Spoken Word Open Mic  
Friday, April 22nd  
6pm-7:30pm  
Phillips Memorial Library

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 Coordinator (401-865-2070; M-F 8:30 AM-4:30 PM) well in advance of this event.

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE FOOTPRINTS GOSPEL CHOIR PRESENTS

**FOOTPRINTS FIRST ANNUAL GOSPEL FEST**

*Join in song as we sing praises to the Lord!*

**MAY 1, 2022 | 7 PM '64 HALL  
SLAVIN CENTER, PROVIDENCE COLLEGE**

Watch and sing along as the Footprints choir sings their hearts out. With special performances and appearances by various guests.

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 Manager at (401)-865-1040; M-F 8:30 AM-4:30 PM well in advance of the event.



**CLASS OF 2022**

Now booking senior photography sessions! Group photos and portraits are available.

Contact: Isabella Baffoni for more information.

[ibaffoni@friars.providence.edu](mailto:ibaffoni@friars.providence.edu)



**BOP PRESENTS...**

**GIVEAWAY TIME**

**WIN A BOP SPEAKER, CHARGER OR TAPESTRY IN THREE EASY STEPS!**

1. PICK UP A SPRING STICKER (SHOWN BELOW)
2. POST IT ON YOUR INSTA STORY!
3. TAG @PCBOP IN YOUR POST

**\*GIVEAWAY ENDS APRIL 29TH!\***



If you are a person with a disability and require an assistive device, service, or other accommodation in order 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.

**9 to 5 THE MUSICAL**



**Book by Patricia Resnick**  
**Music and Lyrics by Dolly Parton**

**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


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

EVENTS IN THE SMITH CENTER ARE ACCESSIBLE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. 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 AT 401.865.1040 MONDAY TO FRIDAY FROM 8:30 AM TO 4:30 PM WELL IN ADVANCE OF AN EVENT.

Tuesday, April 26

**Downtown Providence PUBLIC ART WALKING TOUR**  
with The Avenue Concept



By: Leaves campus at 1:20 p.m. from outside the Eaton Street Gate Returns at 4:45 p.m.

Sign up with Janice by April 20th: [jdilustr@providence.edu](mailto:jdilustr@providence.edu)

Sponsored by the Department of Art & Art History

Artwork: STILL HERE GALT, 2018 C2 Paint, Montana Gold Spray Paint 32 Custom House

**PROVIDENCE COLLEGE**

9 to 5 is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

April 21, 2022

## Mental Health Matters *Even After COVID-19*

by Christina Charie '25  
Opinion Staff

### CAMPUS

Putting on a pair of sweatpants after a long day is always a great feeling; however, many students and staff struggle to find an extra few minutes to relax during their weekly schedules as Providence College adjusts to normal operations. After a year spent on Zoom, many are eager to be social again. The College's COVID-19 protocol introduced reading days to mitigate stress throughout the pandemic, but these breaks have ceased to exist now that we have resumed "normal" operations. Students and staff alike deserve time to walk around campus on a warm day or watch a few episodes of a Netflix show without feeling the guilt associated with being "lazy."

COVID-19 brought many of the mental health issues exacerbated within the educational system to light. Many problems that arose during the pandemic existed before but often went unnoticed. Expecting students to manage five exams in one short week is a difficult task both in "normal" times and during a pandemic. Students naturally experience anxiety during midterms and finals, and stress is unfortunately a part of college life. Maintaining an open dialogue about mental health on campus is essential if PC wants students to understand this.

However, there are methods, such as reading days, that ease stress surrounding time constraints for studying without

diminishing academic standards. Putting the proper amount of time into research projects and exams is difficult after a student finishes an entire day of classes. Additionally, working incessantly does not always produce high-quality results. When students take a break, they return to class with vitality and readiness. Reading days during the week after long segments of five-day weeks are crucial to overall productivity in the classroom, though it may seem counterintuitive.

Reading days are essential around the midpoint of the semester when many classes are conducting examinations during the regular weekly schedule. The same principle applies to final-exam week at the end of each semester. After taking an exam for two hours, the motivation to study for the next day's exam is low. Students need time to rest in order to ensure their best performance. A reading day supplies the perfect opportunity for professors to grade exams while students can study without the time constraints of other exams.

While PC can affect individuals through policy changes, all members must be open to a new mindset. All students must be open to recognizing a study break as an effective use of time instead of a waste. Anxiety is normal for college students. Each student's "best" performance varies depending on their circumstances.

Watching television is not always lazy. Sleep is an essential activity that allows humans to function. Society needs to shift its negative attitudes towards certain strategies

that many use for self-care. No individual can work all the time without negative consequences.

These conditions are independent of any global crisis. Students were incredibly stressed even before the onset of COVID-19. One should not overlook effective policies that promote both individual well-being and academic success. While the College should be excited to move beyond pandemic life, the community could become stronger

than before. Slowing down for a day during the semester will not cause a disaster. A class meeting will not be effective if students are preoccupied with cramming for an exam.

A single person cannot make every grade and join every club without some help along the way. PC must encourage students and staff to support each other during stressful times to promote overall optimism on campus in a post-pandemic world.



Photo Courtesy of Cambridge University Press

At the end of the semester, as life goes back to normal, students wonder why, with the loss of masks, the loss of mental health days followed.

## Letter to the Editor *Self Censorship On-Campus?*

Do you sometimes feel reluctant to voice your ideas—either in class or among your peers? Maybe you suspect that your professor will only accept certain viewpoints, and that speaking your mind could negatively affect your grade. Maybe you worry that people will shun you for not expressing the "right" opinions.

Most everyone agrees that listening to different viewpoints is a good thing—and that critical questioning and debate are key parts of a robust education. And most people would say they are against "cancel culture" (if we could agree on what it is and to what extent it's real). But when a University of Virginia undergrad wrote a New York Times op-ed lamenting the self-censorship she's found on campus, it set off a firestorm of angry online attacks. As political theorist Teresa Bejan admits, disagreement is, well . . . disagreeable. So it's tempting to shut down the a-holes who disagree with us, and it's tempting to keep silent rather than deal with disagreement.

We must resist these temptations. America's founders viewed freedom of speech as the absolute bedrock of a free society. Free speech holds governments accountable, and tends to combat ignorance and groupthink. We see the converse clearly today: When Russia launched a cruel and catastrophic war on its neighbor Ukraine, it promptly clamped down on any protest and publication of critical information. And as China prosecutes disastrous lockdowns on its citizens in Shanghai, censors scrub social media 24/7 of dissent.

As a student at Providence College, being

educated in the Dominican tradition of disputation, you have the opportunity to cultivate the habits of critical truth-seeking, open discussion, and debate that prepare you for life as a citizen of a free society.

We want to hear from you . . . and hear what you think would help PC promote a culture of free exchange and lively debate. In fact, the Frederick Douglass Project at PC has cooked up an essay and public speaking contest just for you.

I know what you're thinking. "Dr. Bernhoft, I have enough essays to write and presentations to give as it is! You'd have to pay me to write one voluntarily."

Interesting point. OK. Here's the deal: Because we want you to think (and speak!) critically about free expression and self-censorship on campus, we're putting \$1600 in prize money into this contest. \$500 for first place, \$200 for second place, \$100 for third place—for both the written op-ed and the recorded speech. (And yes, you can enter both contests.) Full guidelines can be found online, and the deadline for entries is Friday, April 29.

Winners will be announced at an event the Douglass Project is hosting on Thursday, May 5 at 4 p.m. in the Aquinas Lounge. Our speaker will be Alex Morey, an attorney and journalist who directs the Individual Rights Defense Program for the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education. Alex will be speaking about her work defending students and faculty of all political and ideological persuasions who face civil liberties threats on campuses—and what you can do as students to promote a culture of free expression on campus today.

TL;DR: The free exchange of ideas is

fundamentally important to a free and educated society. So self-censorship on campus is a big problem. What can we do to promote it? Make your case in the Frederick Douglass Essay & Public Speaking Contest for the chance to win up to \$1000 in prize money. Deadline 4/29. Contact Dr. Bernhoft (ibernhof@providence.edu) with any questions, and come to our end-of-year event with Alex Morey on May 5!

- Dr. Iain Bernhoft

**"The hope of the world—the progress of nations—the triumph of the truth and the reign of reason and righteousness among men are conditioned on free discussion."**

**Frederick Douglass, *The Proclamation and a Negro Army* (1963)**

# The Pursuit of the... Half Truth?

## Providence College Only Tells One Side of Some Stories

by Sydney Gayton '23  
Opinion Staff

CAMPUS

On Thursday, March 31, PC for Life, which is overseen by Campus Ministry, hosted a discussion by Emily Albrecht titled, "Understanding and Responding to 'My Body, My Choice.'" The biggest issue with the event is that it dealt with how pro-life individuals should respond to dissenting, pro-choice arguments, but these dissenting arguments are not allowed to be expressed on campus. No pro-choice activists or voices would be allowed to speak on the issue unless a pro-life side was also offered. Thus, even by holding an event that claims to foster inclusive conversations, there is no opportunity for inclusion as one side is forced to remain silent.

Even Albrecht herself recognized that this issue needs to be treated as a dialogue between both sides. She commended pro-choice individuals for attending the event and seeking to understand, or at least listen to, a side that they do not agree with, as this is how productive conversations occur. The point of her discussion, in her own words, was to "promote less hate, and more dialogue," something that would be successful if the College were to invite dissenting voices to join the conversation.

PC's mission statement states that "the pursuit of truth has intrinsic value...and the search for truth is the basis for dialogue with others and critical engagement with the world." It also states that the College "honors academic freedom, promotes critical thinking and engaged learning, and encourages a pedagogy of disputed questions." However, the College does not appear truly devoted to this pedagogy as it has a history of not welcoming speakers who would actually encourage debate and allow PC students to think critically in pursuit of the truth.

In 2013, after canceling a talk by John Corvino on gay marriage (which was later postponed), then president Fr. Brian Shanley, O.P., stated that if the College "brings someone in to argue against the veracity of the

church, there is an obligation to make sure it does not go unopposed." This argument is often cited when speakers are not allowed to come to campus or events are campus, but Dr. Christopher Arroyo of the philosophy department, in the same year, explained that the 'policy' "requiring a speaker to present the Catholic Church's stance on controversial topics was revealed to be a practice, not a written policy, of the College." Student Congress in 2007, following the permanent cancellation of The Vagina Monologues at PC by Fr. Shanley, passed legislation entitled SSC57-01, which stated, "It is the sentiment of the Student Congress that suppression of academic, social, or other materials, under any auspices, religious or otherwise, is antithetical to the mission of the College, and

**"If the College wants its students to pursue the truth through discourse and disputation, dissenting voices and speakers should also be welcomed onto campus."**

unacceptable to its student body." While this legislation does not carry much weight today, it represented mass student opposition to the censorship of certain voices.

Unfortunately, the interests of many students do not always align with the interests of the College's Catholic identity. Bishop of the Diocese of Providence, Thomas J. Tobin, urged PC to remain vigilant against the politically correct mindset in society. He asked, will PC "simply be P.C.- politically correct, the pathetic, ephemeral fashion that has...taken such an ironclad grip on our culture?" This description of politically correct as "pathetic" is consistent with how PC has been treating some of these controversial issues, namely abortion and LGBTQ+ rights.

Censorship of voices which oppose Catholic teaching is not a new trend at the College. In 1976, as part of a Sexuality Forum held at the College, no gay people were allowed to speak at a talk on the subject of homosexuality. Nearly 50 years later, this trend continues, even when speakers are not presenting on controversial subject matters which oppose Catholic teaching.

In the fall of 2020, the College was faced with an incident in which they were forced to question their "political correctness." When Dr. Spencer Klavan, a classicist and host of the Young Heretics podcast, was invited to campus by the Humanities Forum, students were concerned about the hateful messaging he shares on his Twitter page. In his announcement to the Providence College community that the event would proceed as scheduled, provost Sean Reid said, "As a College committed to free expression of diverse viewpoints, canceling speakers who express beliefs with which we may disagree sets a dangerous precedent." This is certainly true to an extent; so long as a speaker does not challenge the established ideas of the Church, they will be invited to speak in front

It is not only school-sanctioned events or speakers that cause controversy; student actions on campus have been treated differently depending on whether or not they are in support of Catholic teaching. In 2000, three students were suspended for creating a flier that depicted an image of the Virgin Mary that read, "How's this for an immaculate concept: Keep Abortion Safe and Legal." Each student was fined \$1,000, suspended for the rest of the semester, and none of their work from earlier in the semester was counted. PC officials stated that they were punished for not receiving permission from Student Life before hanging the signs up and also for allegedly "violat[ing] the college's expectations for student conduct," according to Rev. Philip Smith, O.P., president of PC at the time.

In 2018, St. Joseph's Hall R.A. Michael Smalanskas posted a bulletin board in the dorm which said, "Marriage: The Way God Intended It...One Man, One Woman" with Bible quotes and images. Despite

sparking outrage and controversy on campus from many members of the student body, there does not appear to have been any formal punishments from the College, unlike in 2000. The lack of administrative action against Smalanskas suggests that the punishment of the three students in 2000 may have resulted more from the content of the flier than the fact that the students did not get permission from Student Life.

Albrecht's talk reminds the student body that they are only receiving the thoughts that PC supports. Yes, it is a Catholic institution, but if the College wants its students to pursue the truth through discourse and disputation, dissenting voices and speakers should also be welcomed onto campus. The College simply needs to extend its "freedom of expression" policies to all voices. Or else why would Albrecht need to teach us about responding to dissenting voices if those voices are not allowed on our campus?

**Disclaimer: The opinions and positions expressed in The Cowl do not necessarily represent those of Providence College or The Cowl's staff, and the content of advertisements do not necessarily communicate endorsement by the College or The Cowl's staff.**

**The Cowl welcomes guest opinions and letters to the editor from members of the Providence College community and outside contributors. All submissions must include the writer's name, signature, a phone number, and an email address where he or she can be reached.**

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**Accuracy Watch**

*The Cowl* is committed to accuracy and carefully checks every article that goes into print to ensure that the facts are presented clearly and truthfully. If you find an error in any article, please email the Editor-in-Chief at [editor@thecowl.com](mailto:editor@thecowl.com). Corrections will be printed as necessary.

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*The Cowl* is a proud member  
of the Associated Collegiate  
Press.

# Things Are Not Always What They Seem

## *So Treat People With Kindness, Dammit!*



by **Nicole Patano '22**  
Editor-in-Chief

Mental Health Awareness Month, a nationally celebrated effort to reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness, kicks off in just over a week.

In perfect timing for this month, I recently had the opportunity to read *How to Go Mad Without Losing Your Mind* by La Marr Jurelle Bruce and meet the author in one of my classes. At the center of Bruce's work is a call for radical compassion, a

will to care for and commitment to feel with the "madpersons," "freaks," "weirdos," and "unReasonable others." Radical compassion goes beyond empathy. When you walk a mile in someone else's shoes, Bruce says, you are inevitably "leaving them existentially barefoot all the while."

With this year's awareness campaign for Mental Health Awareness Month being "Together for Mental Health," now is the perfect chance for members of the Providence College community to learn how to extend radical compassion to everyone on our campus and beyond. Whether it be the student falling behind on their classwork or the homeless man talking to himself on the street, all people are deserving of radical compassion. No matter how inconvenient or detestable it may seem, we must learn how to extend radical compassion to anyone and everyone.

Mental Health Awareness Month comes on the tail end of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which warrants a conversation of its own. With women in college experiencing sexual assault at three times the rate of women in general, it is likely that you know a woman at PC who has been sexually assaulted. It is well documented that sexual assault survivors, regardless of gender identity, are at greater risk

for depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance use disorders, anxiety, and eating disorders. Thus, we need to treat everyone we meet with sensitivity and compassion, regardless of what we know or think we know about them.

Radical compassion requires that we not only extend compassion to those with mental illnesses who conform to normal society—the people who are able to blend in undetected. It also requires us to care for the depressed person who has not showered in two weeks, the anxious person who has not responded to your messages, the suicidal person who drifts off during lectures and conversations, and the person with an eating disorder who makes a mess of the communal bathroom.

It is not enough to empathize with people you relate to—in other words, those who wear the same-sized shoe. Radical compassion is radical for the very reason that it necessitates caring for people who appear completely different from you. Realizing that your humanity is bound to theirs and that their mental health impacts overall health is truly radical, and undeniably necessary.

# TANGENTS & TIRADES

*The TikTok Trend We All Need*

*Why Do We Move Our College Stuff out for the Summer?*

If approached with the question, "Do you believe in feminism?" or "What are your thoughts on systemic racism?" would you be able to quickly have an informed answer? These questions are now more frequently asked thanks to TikTok. Despite its marketing as an entertainment application, TikTok does sometimes offer educational information. More so than just a video explaining what these things may be, students at Brigham Young University use the app as a way to highlight disparities in education, specifically on topics like social issues and history.

One group that appears to be gaining popularity recently is "The Black Menaces," students of color at Brigham Young University who ask their peers questions about race, gender, and sexuality. There are opinion-based questions, like "do you think women should always be stay at home moms?" or "do you support Blue Lives Matter", which capture the students' thoughts about hot button issues. In other videos, the students show a picture of a historic Black figure, like Coretta Scott King or Malcolm X, and ask if the students can identify them. Students offer a variety of answers for each type of question, with shockingly underwhelming results for those fact-based questions.

Essentially, the goal of this page is to point out that there is a distinct difference in the education of students at Brigham Young University and those at countless other schools across the country. Students can likely identify well-known figures like Rosa Parks, but not many others. When answering opinion-based questions about feminism and systemic racism, students often deflect, admitting that they need "more information" or "to do more research" on a topic.

Overall, there is a glaring issue in what young people know regarding race, gender, and sexuality. The importance of doing "research" is evident as students are left dumbfounded by rather basic social questions. So, in case this trend circulates at other schools—and just for the sake of knowing more about the world around you—start thinking about your own stance on these social issues.

— Julia McCoy '22



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLIPPLY



PHOTO COURTESY OF U-HAUL

— Ashley Seldon '24



**GRADUATE ASSISTANT NEEDED!**  
APPLICATIONS DUE THIS WEEK!

The Phillips Memorial Library, Archives and Special Collections department is hiring a Graduate Assistant for Fall 2022.



Applicants must be accepted into the graduate program

PCTV PRESENTS...

# 24 Hour Film Fest

APRIL 22-24, 2022



If you are a person with a disability and require an assistive device, service, or other accommodation to participate in this event, please contact Central Reservations Coordination (401-865-2070; M-f 8:30a.m.-4:30p.m.) well in advance of the program.

ECOPC, BOP, STUDENT CONGRESS, CAMPUS MINISTRY, AND FASHION SOCIETY PRESENT...

## EARTH DAY CELEBRATION 2022

Join us in celebrating the Earth with Plant City, Fully Rooted, Like No Udder, Campus Thrifts, and more!

APRIL 24TH, 12PM-2PM, SLAVIN LAWN


If you are a person with a disability and require an assistive device, service, or other accommodation in order 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.

## THE COWL'S REDBUBBLE SHOP IS FINALLY OPEN!




SHOP MERCH DESIGNED BY YOUR FELLOW FRIARS AND SUPPORT PC'S ONLY STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER!

# SAVE THE DATE




**SENIOR SYMPOSIUM**  
**Monday, May 9, 2022**  
Details to be announced  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

BOP Presents...

# Clam Jam: Back to the 90s

Slavin Lawn 1-5pm  
Saturday April 23

Live Music from The Breeze  
Food from Iggy's, Hot Dogs, Durks  
BBQ, Mac and Cheese  
Mechanical skateboard,  
Adrenaline Extreme Inflatable  
Free giveaways, vinyl decorating, and more!



If you are a person with a disability and require an assistive device, service, or other accommodation in order to participate in this event, please contact the

Afro-Am presents...

# THE REVOLUTION OF FASHION

SATURDAY | APRIL 23, 2022  
 PETERSON GYM  
 8:00 PM TO 10:00 PM  
 DOORS OPEN AT 7:30PM

APR 12 | Ticket Sales Begin at Slavin Ticket Office  
 \$10 PC Students | \$12 Outside Guests

Featuring Performances By:  
 Motherland Dance Group | BOW  
 Eddysinparadise | JohnDo | & more

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


PC IRISH DANCE

# SPRING SHOWCASE



WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 7:30PM  
 SMITH CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
 BLACKFRIARS THEATRE  
 FREE ADMISSION  
 DONATIONS APPRECIATED

IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY AND REQUIRE AN ASSISTIVE DEVICE, SERVICE, OR OTHER ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER 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.



Phillips Memorial Library

## CONNECT WITH YOUR LIBRARY WITH WAITZ

Know how busy the library is before you leave your house or class!

DOWNLOAD THE WAITZ APP FOR IOS AND ANDROID  
[HTTPS://WAITZ.IO/PROVIDENCE](https://waitz.io/providence)

# A Picture is Worth A THOUSAND WORDS

MONDAY APRIL 25TH, 2022  
 6-7PM MCPHAIL'S

Have you ever taken a photo that you love? Want to showcase it? Submit a photo, any photo, with a description of the meaning behind the picture attached.

The photo can be anything and there is no requirement for how long or short your blurb can be.

Submit your photos & blurbs to the Photo Club Sakai page under the Assignments tab by Wednesday, April 20th.

Submissions will be anonymous unless asked otherwise.

CLASS OF 2022



# 22 NIGHTS 'TIL GRADUATION

TICKET SALES APRIL 19 - 28  
 SLAVIN TICKET OFFICE  
 \$12 PC CASH OR CREDIT CARD



# Providence River Cleanup

Come join us on Earth Day, Friday, April 22 from 4-6 pm!

Speaker from Mass Oyster Project!

FishCo post-party at 6:30!  
 Raffles and Merch!

616 South Water St.,  
 Providence, RI  
 (Parking Lot)

# PHOTOGRAPHY

**RIGHT:** Justin Babu '23 was the speaker at "Unseen: An Analysis of the BIPOC Experience at Providence College." On Tuesday, April 19, the Black Studies Program hosted this event in Aquinas Lounge.

**BELOW LEFT:** Immaculee Ilibagiza, a survivor of the Rwandan genocide, presented her story on faith, hope and forgiveness on Wednesday, April 19 in Ruane as part of the William J. and Maryann M. Christie Distinguished Catholic Faith Lecture.

**BELOW RIGHT:** Asian Am and BOP hosted "Taste of Asia" on Wednesday, April 20 in Moore Arts Cafe. Different foods and cultural specialities were offered from China, Korea, Japan, Vietnam, Cambodia, and the Philippines.

**BOTTOM:** Elysia Cunnigan '23 was up at bat against Bryant University on Tuesday, April 19. The Friars celebrated their defeat over the Bulldogs 10 to 9 on Glay Field.



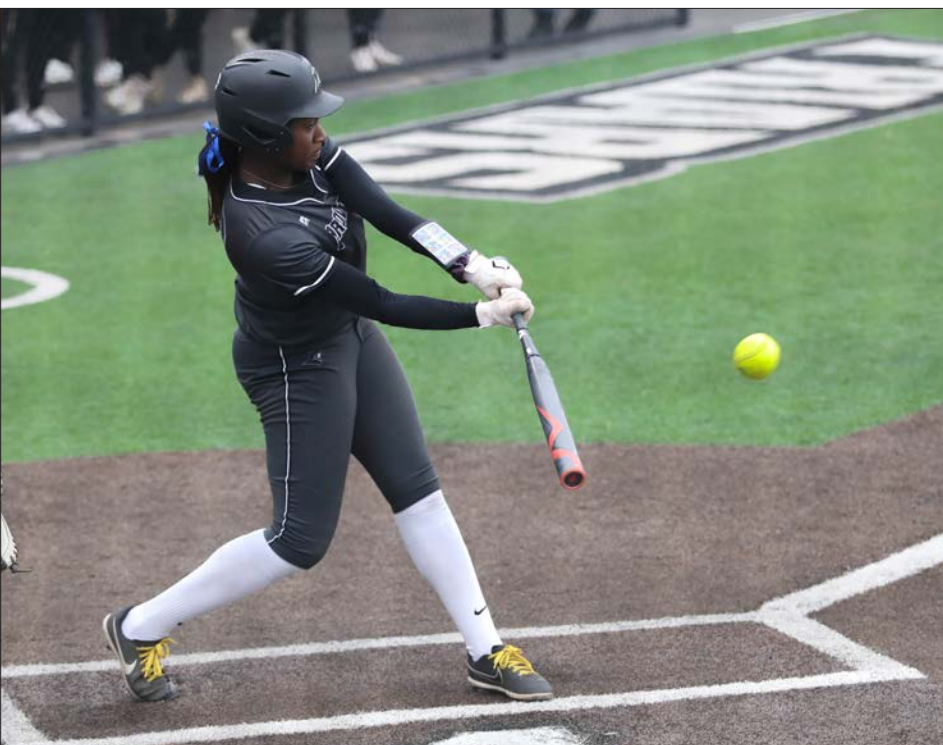
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ISABELLA BAFFONI '23/ THE COWL

# ROVING PHOTOGRAPHY

*What era would you like to live in?*



**"Early 2000s. People connected more before social media."**

Ryan Carberry '23



**"1940s-1950s. Women were allowed to express themselves."**

Bells Glennon '25



**"1980s. I would want to see my Mom as a student at PC."**

Chris Azar '24



**"The Regency."**

Jackie Lopez '22



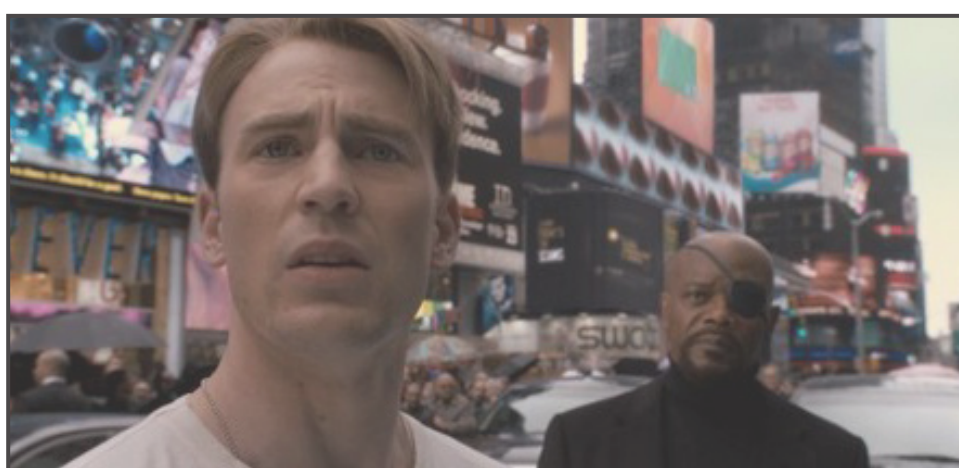
**"1990s or early 2000s. People started to become more comfortable with themselves."**

Olivia Pitocchelli '24



**"1970s. There was the best music."**

Sarah Downey '24



**"1940s. I had a date."**

**- Steve Rogers**

PHOTO COURTESY of DISNEY+

Photos by The Cowl Staff Photographers

## Gotta Scoot, You Gotta Scurry Down to Smith 9 to 5: The Musical's Successful Opening Weekend

### Girlboss

Continued from front page

*9 to 5* is the first live musical the theater, dance, and film department has been able to put on in two years. After much anticipation, many hours of rehearsal, and a few hiccups along the way, the cast and crew got to celebrate the fruits of their labor on opening night, April 8.

It was clear right away how much work and passion went into creating the production. A tale of adversity in the office set in the 1970s, *9 to 5* is still just as necessary in light of the #MeToo movement and the anniversary of 50 years of women at Providence College. What better way to celebrate feminism and women than by putting on a musical starring three take-charge women who overcome sexism and misogyny in the workplace? Unfortunately, while the comedy musical has a happy ending, audiences must endure the boy's club, "locker room" talk, and Hart being a "sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot" throughout the entire first act. Even the solution does not come through changing the hearts and minds of the men, rather through deception, scheming, and just a handful of illegal acts.

Politics and morality aside, the cast and crew put on an undeniably good show. More impressive than the complex and involved set changes between nearly every scene was the ability of each actor to fully embody their character's personality. Pratt brought out Violet's awkwardness and assertiveness, portraying the inner battle between her insecurities as a single mother and her confidence as "One of the



PHOTO COURTESY OF @PC\_TDF ON INSTAGRAM

Boys." Lindsay nails the role of the shy and clumsy Judy, but when it comes to her singing, she always takes care of business. Salvato fills Parton's stilettos well, proving that she is no "Backwoods Barbie." Finally, Cannon goes above and beyond to run Consolidated Industries, even shaving his facial hair for the part. It is no question that the cast all "Shine Like the Sun" on stage, even while dealing with dark topics

such as sexual harassment, sexism, and blackmail.

Fortunately, if you could not attend *9 to 5: The Musical* during opening weekend, you are in luck: Violet, Doralee, Judy, and company will be back on the grind at Consolidated come April 22. You can see them hustle and bustle at 7:30 p.m. on April 22 and 23 and 2 p.m. on April 24. Tickets are available for purchase on the TDF website.

## Dear Providence College, Today is Going to be a Good Day, and Here's Why...

by Grace Whitman '22  
A&E Staff

LOCAL THEATRE

Trigger Warning: This article contains mentions of suicide.

Broadway is back, and the Providence Performing Arts Center is up and running with a long list of hit musicals slated to run at the venue this year.

PC students recently had the opportunity to see one of these shows for themselves. On Wednesday, April 6, the Board of Programmers scheduled a trip to PPAC, located in downtown Providence, for a performance of the six-time Tony award-winning musical *Dear Evan Hansen*.

The show follows Evan Hansen, a high schooler with severe anxiety, and his journey of self-discovery and self-acceptance after his classmate Connor Murphy commits suicide. The show does a great job of sharing how social media affects young adults' mental health, an issue that has become increasingly dire since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The national tour of *Dear Evan Hansen* boasts a cast with impressive resumes. Stephen Christopher Anthony, who plays the titular character, has had a long career on Broadway. He started

out as a cast member of the *Book of Mormon* in New York, performing in the ensemble and as the understudy for Elder McKinley. In 2018, he became the understudy for *Evan Hansen*. He soon took over the role full-time on the *Dear Evan Hansen* national tour. Moreover, Stephanie La Rochelle, who plays Zoe Murphy in the show, appeared in the original Canadian production before joining this tour.

In addition to the actors, the show's set contributes to the magic of *Dear Evan Hansen*. At the PPAC performance, hanging projection screens of scrolling social media feeds illuminated a bare stage with few set pieces. With much of the show consisting of characters speaking to one another online,

this setup made the actors look like holograms coming out of cell phones, creating an uncanny, innovative effect.

For those who were not able to make it to PPAC for *Dear Evan Hansen* but are yearning to enjoy live theatre after the pandemic, the Lincoln Center Theater production of *My Fair Lady* will be at PPAC from May 11 to May 15. This will be the last show at the theater before the end of PC's spring semester. However, for those who live in the Providence area or are willing to make the trip, more exciting shows are coming to PPAC later in the year: *Jersey Boys* on June 2 and 3, *Mean Girls* from Oct. 4 to Oct. 9, and *Les Misérables* from Nov. 15 to Nov. 20. Additionally, some shows

have already been announced for the spring of 2023, including *Jagged Little Pill*, *Hadestown*, and *Beetlejuice*.

BOP regularly provides discounted PPAC tickets to PC students. Aside from the *Dear Evan Hansen* trip, they have sponsored outings to shows like *Aladdin* and *The Phantom of the Opera*. Notably, however, PPAC also provides student rush tickets. These tickets are available at the Box Office window two hours prior to curtain time and are 50 percent off the regular price with a student ID. Either way, there are sure to be many opportunities for PC students to enjoy live theatre in the near future.

Sincerely, Me

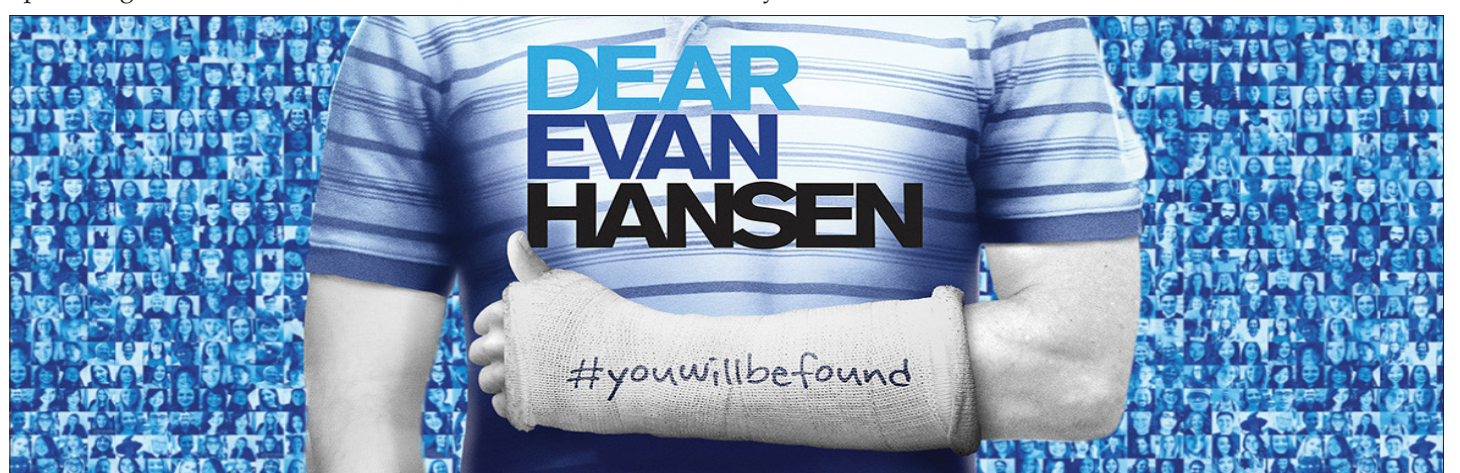


PHOTO COURTESY OF OFFICIAL LONDON THEATRE

# A Course in Girlbossing and Curious George *Six Gents Delights With Another Hilarious Show*

## Gaslight

Continued from front page

After this hilarious opening, the first full skit of the night commenced. Titled “Da Boyz,” it saw Dasilva and Abbie O’Connell ’22 play husband and wife. Dasilva and some of his guy friends “watched football” at the couple’s home—and by watching football, viewers soon realized, they meant doing things that were very decidedly not watching football, such as making plans to attend a Big Time Rush concert, discussing how to perfect charcuterie boards, and debating whether they were team Cassie or Maddie from *Euphoria*. Aidan Benjamin ’23 told O’Connell that she needed to get her hearing checked when she questioned what they were actually talking about, but at the end of the skit, she caught them red handed, having a dance party.

Another memorable sketch was called “Gaslight, Gatekeep, Girlboss.” Written by O’Connell, it follows her as she teaches a few of the other female gents what it means to gaslight, gatekeep, and girlboss. Analisa Pisano ’23 expressed concern that gaslighting someone is a form of

bullying, but O’Connell reassured her that as long as she throws up a peace sign and sticks out her tongue while she does it, it is perfectly okay.

The skit “Curious George” was one that Grosso, who created the sketch, had been wanting to perform since his sophomore year. However, until now, the other gents vetoed it. Grosso played the iconic Man in the Yellow Hat from the beloved PBS Kids show and had the audience in stitches when they realized that Curious George was the man’s imaginary friend and not an actual monkey.

Emma Harrington ’22 stole the show with some improv stand-up comedy. Asking for two volunteers from the audience, stipulating that they must be okay with “being roasted,” her quick wit was truly incredible, with hard-hitters like, “sorry I’m running low on content, just like those socks” and “did you wear that outfit on the first day of middle school?” The chosen audience members were great sports about coming up on stage and helped make the show one to remember.

One of the final skits of the night was based on Harrington’s on-campus job as a resident assistant. The audience watched as in the span of one night, she had three separate groups knock on her door with absolutely bizarre scenarios. The situations were



PHOTO COURTESY OF @SIXGENTS ON INSTAGRAM

meant to be exaggerations of some of the real problems that RAs have to deal with, but in reality, they were not too far off, which made the entire sketch all the more hilarious. From a fight between roommates about one of them having her boyfriend over too much to there being poop on the dorm stairwell, Harrington saved

the day with her special RA skills.

Six Gents’ final show of the year will be on May 4, and, as such, will be *Star Wars*-themed. Make sure to come down to the Smith Center for the Arts to support the group!

# A Potentially Massive Win for Small Victories *An Interview with Alex Noroce*

by Jack Downey ’23  
A&E Co-Editor

LOCAL MUSIC

In two weeks, Small Victories, a Providence-based booking agency, is hosting their biggest event of the year, Small Victories Spring Week, or SVSW. It is sure to be one of the most legendary musical events the Rhode Island area has ever seen, so ahead of this exciting time, Alex Noroce, the man behind Small Victories and SVSW, agreed to sit down and talk about it.

**What is Small Victories Spring Week?**

“SVSW is Small Victories Spring Week, a three-day collection of concerts and panels that piggyback from Brown University Spring Weekend and aim to bridge College Hill with the rest of Providence, particularly Providence College.”

**When will this event be happening?**

“The events will happen from Tuesday [April] 26th through Friday [April] 29th.”

**What is the highlight of this week?**

“The anchor event is Friday the 29th, Spring Weekend After Dark, a huge takeover of The Strand with agency-booked talent. Big Golf Party energy. This year, we’ve booked CID & Young Bombs, who are two great electronic music acts.

“Thursday, we have both rooms at Fete for a full live act takeover with Chance Emerson and a show that features over six other bands. The

## Small Victories Spring Week Schedule

Tuesday, April 26

*Philanthropy opportunity*

Wednesday, April 27

4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. @ Andreas: *Entrepreneurship Panel + Networking Drinks*

7:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. @ Fete: *“Afrocentric” feat NYRU, ISRAEL WUSU & CHACHI CARVALHO*

Thursday, April 28

4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. @ Andreas: *Entrepreneurship Panel + Networking Drinks*

7:30 p.m.-1:00 a.m. @ Fete: *MADE IN PROVIDENCE*

Friday, April 29

9:00 p.m.-2:00 a.m. @ The Strand: *AFTER DARK FEAT CID & YOUNG BOMBS*

official name of this event is Made in Providence.

“On Wednesday, we’re throwing an Afrobeat, Hip-Hop & R&B party at Fete. The headliners are all Providence-based with heritages from Nigeria, Liberia and Cape Verde.”

**Who else is affiliated with the week?**

“The Thursday show would never have been possible without Kiwi. For Wednesday, it was the belief in the high quality partners I had in NYRU and Chachi Carlvalho.”

**Why should Providence College students be interested in Small Victories Spring Week?**

“This is an epic, large-scale party opportunity taking place between Fete, The Strand, and Andreas on Thayer. The anchor is music, but the week still serves to facilitate other opportunities. The goal is to take inspiration from SXSW and crush the whole week. We are bringing Golf Party energy to the Friday concert.”

# Where the Crawdads Sing Controversy

## Taylor Swift Criticized for Involvement in Film Adaptation

by Grace O'Connor '22  
A&E Staff

MUSIC/FILM

Many readers have been anxiously awaiting the release of the film *Where the Crawdads Sing*, which is based on the New York Times best-selling novel of the same name. The book centers on a woman named Kya who is forced to grow up on her own and navigate the complexities of life without guidance from a young age.

As a teenager, Kya finds herself involved in two serious relationships. She becomes swept up in both, letting herself be open to love, a feeling she had never experienced before in her life. When one of the men she is involved with is found dead, Kya is the first to be blamed, as many people in her community are quick to judge her due to her tragic past.

The novel seamlessly combines two genres, romance and mystery, keeping readers engaged from its opening pages to its final lines. Readers empathize with Kya as she falls victim to social prejudices against her owing to her socioeconomic background but are inspired by her resilience.

With news of *Where the Crawdads Sing*'s adaptation to the big screen has come scrutiny of author Delia Owens' questionable past, the facts of which were not publicized when the novel was first released in 2018. Years before she became a writer, Owens

and her now-ex-husband traveled to Zambia, where they were believed to be somehow involved with the murder of an unidentified poacher.

Without spoiling *Where the Crawdads Sing*, there were enough similarities between the novel's plot and the author's unsavory background for backlash to erupt at news of the novel's film adaptation. Indeed, according to BuzzFeed News, "despite its critical acclaim, *Where the Crawdads Sing* has been shrouded in controversy after problematic information about [Owens] came to light."

One famous figure who seems unfazed by the controversy is music industry legend Taylor Swift. In March, Swift took to social media to share a teaser trailer for the film that featured a song she wrote called "Carolina." The singer expressed, "as soon as I heard there was a [*Where the Crawdads Sing*] film in the works starring the incredible @daisyedgarjones and produced by the brilliant @reesewitherspoon, I knew I wanted to be a part of it from the musical side. I wrote the song 'Carolina' alone and asked my friend @aaronessner to produce it. I wanted to create something haunting and ethereal to match this mesmerizing story."

Although many of Swift's loyal fans were excited to hear a new song from the artist, some were disappointed that in supporting the upcoming film, Swift essentially aligned herself with Owens despite the author's dubious past. As The News explains, many



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GUARDIAN

have "expressed disappointment that Swift is supporting someone who got away with the murder. Others said that she should have first [considered] all the information [about the project and those associated with it] before doing [a song for it]." Still other fans believe that Swift and her team fans were not aware of Owens' past before becoming involved in the production. As BuzzFeed News notes, some critics are attempting to paint the situation as evidence of Swift being a white feminist and only standing up for others' rights when it benefits her.

However, Swift is only one person of many—and one celebrity

of many—who is involved in the production, with breakout star Daisy Edgar-Jones starring as Kya and Reese Witherspoon's production company helming the film. While, if true, Owens' role in the poacher's murder is certainly deplorable, critics' condemnation of Swift for her involvement in *Where the Crawdads Sing* and silence with regard to the other big names attached to the project suggests that the outcry is not so much about the morality of working on the film, but rather about criticizing a successful woman's accomplishments.

# A Look At Marvel's Latest Original Series

## Moon Knight Offers Action, Adventure, and Egyptology

by Abigail Levasseur '24  
A&E Staff

TELEVISION

To the delight of Marvel fans everywhere, the creative geniuses behind the Marvel Cinematic Universe have released a new comic-inspired series, *Moon Knight*. The Disney+ exclusive's first episode, "The Goldfish Problem," premiered on March 30, followed by "Summon the Suit" on April 6, and "Moving Heaven & Earth" on April 13. The remaining episodes of the series will be released each Wednesday leading up to a May 4 finale.

The role of the titular Moon Knight is played by Oscar Isaac, who is best known for his roles in *Star Wars*, *Addams Family*, and *Spider-Man: Into the Spider Verse*. Other featured actors include the late Gaspard Ulliel as Anton Mogart, Ethan Hawke as the villainous Arthur Harrow, and May Calamawy as Moon Knight's love interest, Layla El-Faouly.

*Moon Knight*'s series premiere raked in 1.8 million views, tying *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier*, surpassing *Hawkeye*'s 1.5 million views, and falling short of *Loki*'s 1.9 million views.

What, exactly, is the premise of this buzzworthy show? Before this reporter answers that question, it is only fair to warn that there are spoilers ahead.

The premiere episode of *Moon Knight*, "The Goldfish Problem," depicts the average day in the life of gawky social outcast Steven Grant (Isaac), a lonely man who is constantly tardy to his job as a gift shop salesman at the British Museum. From the first few minutes of the episode alone, it is clear that Grant is no superhero, especially in comparison to his fellow MCU Stevens—Steve Rogers, otherwise known as Captain America, and Doctor Stephen Strange. (Seriously, when will Marvel come up with names for its characters other

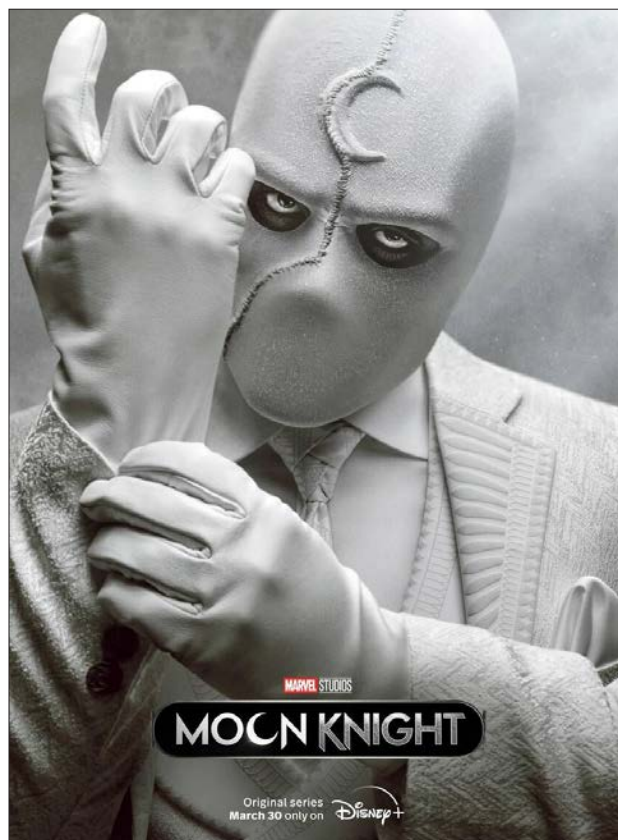


PHOTO COURTESY OF MARVEL

than "Steven" and its miscellaneous variants?)

Just as quickly as viewers realize that Grant is not their average MCU Steven, however, they also realize that he is not an average Joe, either: his bed sits before a sand pit and contains foot shackles. These oddities owe to the fact Grant has an alternative identity, Marc Spector, who is a mercenary working under the name Moon Knight with the Egyptian moon god Khonshu. Spector's role is unclear in

the first episode, as his violent actions appear offscreen, left open to the audience's imagination—likely to keep the Disney+ show family-friendly.

Nonetheless, by the end of "The Goldfish Problem," viewers realize three major plot points: Grant and Spector occupy the same body, Harrow is the show's "big bad," and the episode's violence, chase scenes, and overall action are centered around an instrument called the golden scarab. It remains to be seen, however, why this macguffin is significant. Although certainly enthralling, "The Goldfish Problem's" dealings with multiple identities, invisible Egyptian jackals, and an alternate universe leave viewers wondering whether they are seeing the show's reality, or if Grant is just dreaming.

The second episode, "Summon the Suit," begins to offer clarity. It does an especially good job of advancing viewers' understanding of the complicated relationship between Grant and Spector by introducing Spector's wife, Layla El-Faouly. Yet, this plot advancement raises another question: how real are Grant and his life?

El-Faouly and Grant begin working together to protect the golden scarab. She instructs him to "summon the suit," which he royally messes up, refusing to allow Spector to take control over their shared body. The subtleties of El-Faouly and Grant's relationship, including his refusal to finalize her and Spector's divorce and their shared interest in Ancient Egypt, leads viewers to wonder: is a complicated love story brewing?

Overall, lovers of ancient Egypt, in addition to fans of the MCU, will certainly take an interest in *Moon Knight* and its action-packed adventure story. For those who have not seen its first few episodes—and for those who are already itching to rewatch them—*Moon Knight* is now streaming on Disney+.

# “Just Having a Really Good Time”

## driving home 2 u Celebrates Olivia Rodrigo’s Rise to Fame

by Caitlin Ariel '24  
A&E Staff

MUSIC/FILM

Olivia Rodrigo’s megahit “drivers license” shattered Spotify records worldwide after its Jan. 11, 2021 release, such as most global streams in a day and most streams in a week. The song, as well as Rodrigo’s full debut album, *sour*, left fans anticipating what would come next for the singer and wondering how she could possibly top the work she has already put out. While the artist’s new film, *Olivia Rodrigo: driving home 2 u*, does not provide definitive answers to these questions, it allows viewers to re-immers themselves in *sour* and follow Rodrigo as she reminisces about her rise to fame.

The 77-minute film opens with a young Rodrigo in a home video. She says, “Hi, I’m Olivia Rodrigo,” loudly exhales into her microphone, and clarifies, “from California.” Viewers then see a montage of Rodrigo’s late-night show interviews, music video clips, and live performances, as well as a video of the artist hearing “drivers license” on the radio for the first time. All of these moments encapsulate the young star’s seemingly overnight success.

*driving home 2 u* then follows Rodrigo as she ventures on a wistful yet sentimental trip from Salt Lake City to Los Angeles in her vintage sky-blue Ford Bronco. She explains that the trip from the Utah capital to sunny Los Angeles was one she had taken many times before as a child star, and she wrote most of the songs featured on *sour* during those trips.

While driving, Rodrigo stops to perform each of the album’s 11 songs in various locations. Many of these special performances feature rearranged versions of the tracks. For example, Rodrigo sings her head-

banging break-up ballad “good 4 u” in a slowed-down, lo-fi style against the majesty of Monument Valley with an entire string section accompanying her.

Between these performances and breath-taking shots of Rodrigo driving through the desert, viewers see fly-on-the-wall footage of the artist in the recording studio with her producer and fellow songwriter, Dan Nigro. In one of the most surprising snippets of their writing and recording process, Rodrigo decides at the last minute that she wants another upbeat song on *sour*. The talented duo create “brutal” in what seems like less than two minutes: Nigro strums some cords on his guitar and Rodrigo starts singing over it. A song is born—and that song is now the opener on the set list for Rodrigo’s *sour* tour.

The movie is not necessarily a documentary about the teen star, but can rather perhaps best be understood as a concert film. In addition to reimagined performances of Rodrigo’s hit songs and behind-the-scenes footage of the album’s creation, the artist offers anecdotes about how the tracks came to be. She talks about the devastation and suffering that comes with heartbreak, coping methods she uses to move on from breakups and other difficult circumstances, and the overwhelming feeling that she was never enough for someone she struggled with for a long time. These moments humanize Rodrigo even more than *sour* does. Indeed, it is not every day that a celebrity blatantly admits to their insecurities.

Overall, *driving home 2 u* gives viewers a look at a mature, self-aware Rodrigo—one who, like them, is looking toward what the artist’s future holds. To this end, and to the excitement of many fans, the singer includes snippets of unreleased music in the film. Whether she fully shares these songs with the world in a month or in a year, it is safe to say that with her talents and tenacity, Rodrigo will only continue to meet with

success as she grows as both a person and an artist.

*Olivia Rodrigo: driving home 2 u* is now streaming on Disney+.

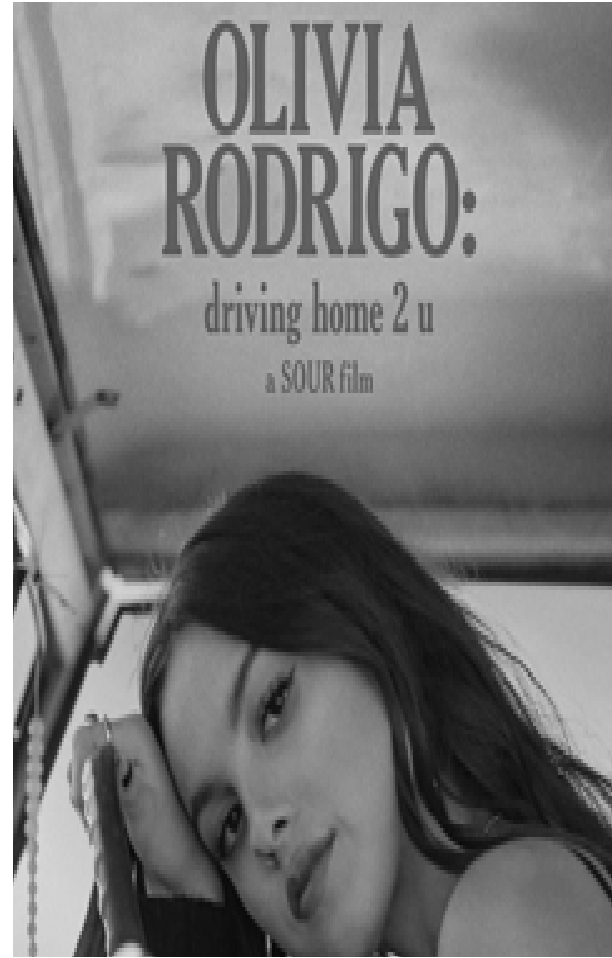


PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

# “Tell the Driver, Make the Radio Play”

## Ed Sheeran Wins “Shape of You” Lawsuit

by Claudia Fennell '24  
A&E Staff

MUSIC

In 2017, the now 31-year-old artist Ed Sheeran released one of his most famous songs to date: “Shape of You.” The track, a single off of his album *Divide*, was an instant hit on the charts. Indeed, “Shape of You” was the overall best-selling song in 2017 as well as the second-best selling song digitally worldwide that year. Additionally, the song was number one in the United States for 12 non-consecutive weeks, the fourth-most weeks a song has stayed on top of the charts in history.

Now, five years later, the remarkable song is making headlines for a more negative reason: musical artist Sam Chokri and his producer Ross O’Donoghue recently brought Sheeran to court, claiming the chorus of “Shape of You” is stolen from their song, “Oh Why.”

Chokri, who is more commonly known as Sami Switch, his stage name, is a popular Grime artist. Grime is a music genre that developed in London in the early 2000s that combines British rap and electronic music to create a style similar to hip hop. In 2015, two years before Sheeran’s “Shape of You” hit the airwaves, the artist released “Oh Why.” The chorus of the song repeats the phrase, “Oh why, oh why,” and the chorus of “Shape of You”

repeats the phrase, “Oh I, Oh I” with a somewhat similar pronunciation. This commonality led Chokri to allege that Sheeran stole the phrase and file a suit against the famous singer-songwriter. Sheeran and his associates immediately denied the claims Chokri and his team put forth against them.

Chokri originally made these allegations of plagiarism against Sheeran in 2018, but the copyright

lawsuit did not commence until last month on March 4. The trial took place at London’s high court and lasted eleven days. It consisted of testimony from both sides as well as outside testimony from professional forensic musicologists who analyzed “Oh Why” and “Shape of You” for similarities. Although the forensic musicologists at times disagreed on some small details, they agreed that

the purported similarities between the two songs were “overstated.”

After taking all of the testimony and evidence presented into account, Justice Antony Zacaroli declared that Sheeran “neither deliberately nor subconsciously” copied Chokri’s 2015 song.

While Sheeran and his team were certainly pleased with the verdict in the trial, the artist soon took to Twitter to share his concerns about the implications of the case. In a video, he explained that while he felt vindicated post-trial, he remained concerned for the future of the songwriting industry. Sheeran emphasized that in his mind, today’s artists are far too eager to sue one another. He went on to elaborate that he sees a pattern of artists hoping to save or even make money by reaching a settlement rather than fighting against a perceived injustice by going to trial. Sheeran expressed, “I feel like claims like this are way too common now and [there has] become a culture where a claim is made with the idea that a settlement will be cheaper than taking it to court, even if there is no basis for the claim.”

Although Sheeran will likely not be the last musician to face allegations of plagiarism, the artist’s dedication to using his platform to speak out against such allegations and their bearings on the music industry suggest that the artists of the future will be well-supported should they find themselves facing such allegations.



PHOTO COURTESY OF INEWS



# Book Review: *Soft Apocalypse*

## What If the World Ends Not With a Bang, But a Whimper?

by Madison Palmieri '22  
A&E Co-Editor

LITERATURE

The word apocalypse typically has connotations of violent, fiery chaos that erupts all at once, wreaking havoc on a modern world and forcing its inhabitants into a new, alien reality. Indeed, this is the basic premise of most apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic fiction. Will McIntosh's *Soft Apocalypse*, however, asks readers what it would be like if the world as they knew it ended not with a bang, but a whimper?

The novel centers around sociology major Jasper and his band of friends over the course of 10 years, exploring what life in a slowly-but-surely decaying society might look like. Readers follow them from their time as nomads—condemned as “gypsies” by their more affluent neighbors who have been fortunate enough to keep their homes—to their stint as apartment-dwellers in an initially peaceful but increasingly tense neighborhood and then to their forced return to life on the move. Eventually, the group seems to find a potential safe haven, but it might come at the cost of the little humanity they have left. Jasper and his friends are forced to make their most difficult decision in their 10 years on the run: Struggle to cling to a dying past, or embrace the uncertainty of the brave new world that stands to point the way to a potentially peaceful future?

If *Soft Apocalypse* could be summed up in one cliché, it would be, “the more things change, the more they stay the

same.” Even though Jasper and his fellow survivors constantly face threat after threat, issues of romance and relationships are always at the forefront of his mind. Throughout his trials and tribulations, he finds himself involved with a number of women: married accountant Sophia, who brings him and his fellow nomads supplies, red-haired, bookish Phoebe, who he loses and finds multiple times throughout the novel, masochistic rock star Deirdre, who steals the only memories of his childhood he has left, free spirit Bird, whose life he saves during an excursion into the wilderness, and his best friend Ange, one of the only people he's ever truly loved.

While this seemingly continuous flux of romances may seem unrealistic, especially considering the circumstances in which they occur, it is not only incredibly realistic, but also necessary. Given that the novel takes place over the course of 10 years, it is more than plausible that, apocalypse or no apocalypse, Jasper would have this number of relationships, if not more; given that the protagonist is continually placed in situations which test the limits of his humanity, it is more than reasonable that he would seek to cling to one of the most basic elements of our humanity: our capability to love.

One of the most interesting aspects of the novel, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, is its handling of apocalyptic disease. Rather than one singular epidemic, there are multiple waves of sickness intentionally released by various groups of scientists-turned-terrorists. The most important, however, is



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

Doctor Happy, which, upon infection, alters the individual's brain chemistry to alleviate them of the sadness and pain so prevalent in the novel's world. This disease—or perhaps cure—is the ticket price of entry into the potential haven Jasper and his friends find.

*Soft Apocalypse* will leave readers guessing what choice Jasper and his fellow survivors make until its final pages: take the proverbial blue pill and live out the rest of their days in a blissful state at the expense of losing who they are, or take the proverbial red pill by refusing the

virus and live their lives haunted by what they've seen and done?

Overall, the novel forces readers to ask themselves some of the most profound questions about their existence: what does it mean to be human? If one loses their humanity, can they recover it and, if so, how? Is it better to live ignorantly in bliss or face the harsh realities of life? What stance *Soft Apocalypse* takes on these matters readers will have to decide for themselves.

Rating: 4.5 / 5 stars

# Like a True Sociopath

## Book Review: *Confessions of a Sociopath*

by Tully Mahoney '23  
A&E Staff

LITERATURE

*Confessions of a Sociopath* by M.E. Thomas is an eye-opening book that sheds light on the reality of sociopathy from the perspective of a clinically-diagnosed sociopath.

Hollywood often depicts sociopaths as stone-cold killers who lack the ability to blend into society. In her memoir, Thomas challenges those stereotypes: she details her life as a successful law attorney, a devout Mormon, and an appreciated sister.

Thomas is incredibly candid about her attempts to conceal her sense that she was abnormal throughout her early life as well as how she felt like a social outcast until she was properly diagnosed with sociopathy in college. She explains how although she felt very alone, 1 percent of the population, 4 percent of corporate America, and possibly more than 10 percent of Wall Street employees are camouflaged sociopaths. After learning these facts, many readers will not only be surprised, but also perhaps even be prompted to look deeper within their own natures and those of their family, friends, and coworkers.

Despite *Confessions of a Sociopath's* allure, however, the book is not without its faults. On multiple occasions in the memoir, Thomas explicitly states that she aims to provide a firsthand account of a true sociopath's life. With this in mind, readers might expect an honest, unfiltered account of all her secrets, yet when she discusses exploiting people for her own benefit, she holds out on readers, writing, “I wish I could tell stories of ruining people, but they're the stories

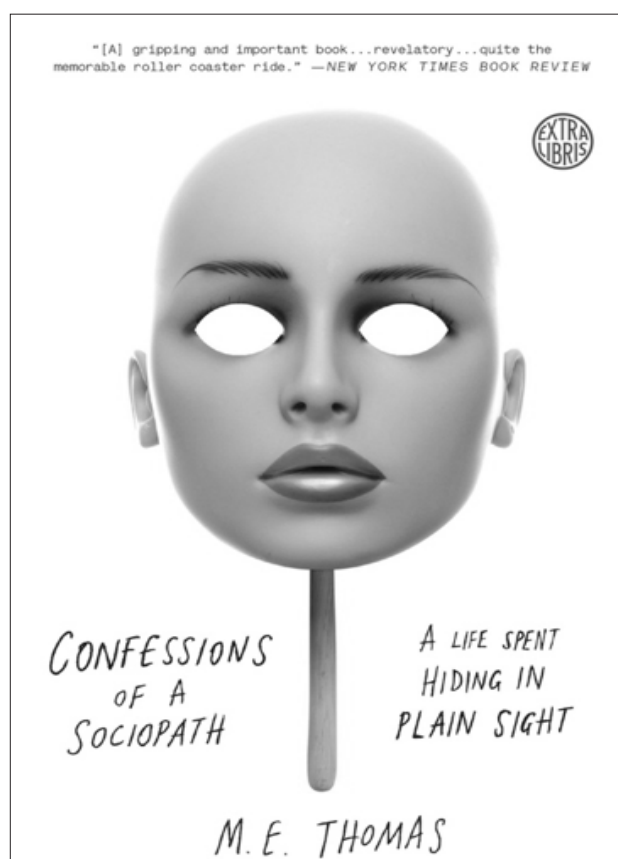


PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

most likely to get me sued—situations that involved the police and restraining orders and professional lives derailed.” Since Thomas previously claims—at multiple moments—that she will provide a fully-disclosed account of her life, her failure to do so with

regard to her treatment of other people cheapens her memoir. It is important to note, however, that Thomas does uphold her promise in the book as it pertains to other, less salacious areas of her life.

Another issue with *Confessions of a Sociopath* is that although the memoir is altogether captivating from beginning to end, there are periods where Thomas draws out her ideas for too long. These sections of the memoir become unfocused: Thomas attempts to highlight her key points, but they are hard to comprehend. At the end of the exposé, she finally states her official “thesis,” but the account would be much clearer if she had done so earlier on in the book.

Notably, Goodreads reviewers express frustration with Thomas' bluntness, self-centeredness, and her tendency to obscure herself in her writing. These readers clearly did not pay attention to Thomas' discussion of the attributes of a sociopath, as such a person lacks the empathy and social awareness they ironically fault Thomas for failing to exhibit. They do not realize that it would be impossible to read a memoir from the perspective of a sociopath that includes those qualities, unless it were severely edited, as the absence of these traits often defines a sociopath's personality. Indeed, it is unfair and ignorant to fault Thomas for presenting a sociopathic personality and perspective in a memoir written by a sociopath about sociopathy.

Overall, *Confessions of a Sociopath* calls attention to the presence of sociopaths in society and identifies some of these people's key traits that may typically go unobserved. As this memoir was quite enthralling and stimulating, it deserves 3/5 stars, regardless of its sometimes unfocused nature and lack of promised full disclosure.

## His (Our) Odyssey

by Aidan Lerner '22  
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

*Bringggg. Bringggg. Bringggg.*  
As a unit, over eight hundred kids arose and walked toward the wing of classrooms. The full mass of the entire student body was not something which Eddie had ever taken for granted, given his claustrophobic instincts and fear of crowds. But on the list of triggering things in a high school, the morning scrum was relatively low and something to which Eddie had grown more accustomed.

Eddie's first class was Spanish III and he was dreading it. Señora Mafrey demanded that no English be spoken from the beginning of her class to the end and the results were mixed, to say the least. Eddie slumped into his seat next to his friend Anthony.

"*Hola Anthony. Como te weekend?*" Eddie sputtered. "*Tú escribes el homework? Eso sucked.*"

"*Hola, el homework made me hate my vida,*" Anthony replied quickly and with much less effort.

"*Solamente español!*" Señora Mafrey yelled.

Eddie sighed, exasperated. He grabbed the bathroom pass, a miniaturized mariachi-style guitar, and walked into the hall. It was during walks such as these when Eddie came to appreciate the simple design of his school's hallway. The white brick and purple streaks were so much more appealing when observed alone.

Eddie took care of business in the first-floor bathroom. The smell of vape lingered as always, but Eddie counted himself lucky to not have encountered a squad of vapers. He was washing his hands, considering how he could prolong his time outside of the classroom by taking a drink from the water fountain, when he heard a bang and the lights cut out.

Eddie was thrust into total darkness. Only the very edge of sunlight lingered around the corner where the hallway windows gave way to the outside world. Eddie felt his way along the wall and stumbled into the hallway. He had always hated the noise of hundreds of students, but now the silence was disconcerting.

As he looked out into the sunlight, Eddie saw something that thrust a chill into his stomach. There was a hole in the window. It was small and round and broken glass lay underneath it. The glare of the sun hurt Eddie's eyes as he stared at the hole, wondering if it was the source of the bang he'd heard.

He walked towards it slowly, aware of every deep breath. He thought he could see something just beneath the glare. Maybe he saw someone dressed in so much black he might just be a shadow. Eddie stopped, and the shape did too. The lights flickered as Eddie reached the hole, staring into a

shapeless, colorless thing. He was paralyzed by fear.

Against the black, a pop of yellow crawled out and multiplied. The sun was blinding him, but he heard the buzz of a hornet. Eddie could feel the air pouring through the hole.

"*Attention students. This is a lockdown,*" Principal O'Shaughnessy's voice announced over the intercom.

Eddie jumped. The beekeeper, clad in all black, sealed the hole closed and backed away. The first hornet sting surprised Eddie more than hurt him, but his move to slap the bee away disturbed another. The second sting elicited a yell and freezing in place was no longer an option. Eddie wheeled away taking sting after sting all over his body, on his arms and legs.

Eddie sprinted around a corner, yelling and slap-



ping the air. Eddie found the nearest classroom and dashed inside, nursing multiple nasty stings and gasping for air. For several seconds, the only thing Eddie was aware of was the absence of pain. Then, he became aware of the darkness as well as the sound of breath.

"Hello," Eddie said into the silence. "Who's there?"

Out of the shadows, a reply breathed into the empty room.

"I'm normal."

"O-okay," Eddie stammered, unnerved.

"I kissed a girl just last night. It smelled nice."

Eddie was reaching for the doorknob, wincing with every creepy whisper that punctuated the dark.

"So, some of us are normal. We're not all weird. We're not all alone."

Eddie found the doorknob. He asked, "Who's 'we'?"

The darkness laughed. "We're you, you aren't. I'm the punchline to her joke."

"What?"

"I'm going to do it to you now," he said. "I want you to know why. It's because—"

Eddie leaned on the door and fell into the hallway, sliding and slamming the door behind him. He shot to his feet and ran. Adrenaline was failing him now, and he felt his stomach open up to a new level of fear he had not previously known. Instead of butterflies in his stomach, it felt like, well, hornets.

Finally, he saw light emanating from a classroom and burst inside, screaming for help. The violinist continued playing undeterred while a minister shuffled his notes.

"Welcome, welcome, welcome!" a girl in an elaborate dress greeted him. "Are you here for the bride or the groom?"

"What? No. Th-there's a man with a you-know-what. We need to hi—"

"Oh, Cassie, don't be silly," a woman's voice interrupted. "Eddie is the groom!"

Eddie turned to his right and saw his date to the prom, Allie, adorned in a full-length wedding gown.

Eddie was floored. "Allie, what the—"

Allie smiled wide. "Eddie, please marry me. It's time to take the next step in our lives."

"No, you don't get it. There's a guy out there with a thingy."

Allie waved her arm dismissively. "Oh, I'm sure there is. No point worrying about that right now. The ceremony is about to begin! Look, I wore my prom dress!"

Eddie stared, mouth agape. "Allie, that's a wedding dress."

She laughed hysterically. "Eddie, I know you like me. Let's just do it. I mean, are you really going to find anyone you like more than me?"

"I don't know, maybe," Eddie replied, "Couldn't we just date first? Also, I'm a little distracted at

the moment."

If Allie was disappointed, she did not show it. "Okay! I'm going to go marry that guy then! Take a seat!"

"Alright," Eddie said, baffled.

The music swelled as Allie walked towards the minister and her new groom. Eddie took a seat and tried to listen to their vows. Allie got a laugh from the attendees when she asked the minister to remind her of the groom's name. Then, the groom died.

He fell like a bag of bricks, and the sound echoed through the classroom. No one moved or made a sound except Allie, who turned to face the audience. Her face was half-covered in red, but she was smiling as radiantly as ever.

"Okay, folks! Looks like we are going to switch gears here and have a little child funeral!" Allie turned to the minister. "Minister, I assume you packed your child funeral materials?"

"Yes of course," the minister replied. "I never leave home without my child funeral toolbox. Before we begin, does anyone wish to say a few words about the deceased?"

Eddie craned his head and recognized the shape of the man walking forward. He walked to the front and placed his thing down carefully behind him. As he spoke, Eddie realized that the man was really a boy.

"Why I did it," the boy said slowly. "You arrogant little tyrants. You grow up here all fat and happy, sucking the life out of people with real problems. No. You don't know true adversity, true pain, until it arrives without warning. It strikes from the dark and makes the continuation of your life feel unfortunate. You should thank me. All of you have everything one can have except suffering. And now you have it."

Eddie stared into the eyes of a boy, brimming with pain.

The shadow continued, "So, why did I do it?" The boy grinned. "I did it because it was WAY easier than solving derivatives in AP Calc!"

Everyone, including the boy, devolved into hysterics. The sound of laughter drowned out all else; even the minister had tears of mirth streaming down his face.

Eddie shook his head. He had had enough. Still clutching the mariachi guitar bathroom pass, he left and began the walk towards his Spanish III classroom. Behind him, the lights flickered on and Principal O'Shaughnessy announced that the lockdown was over.

Eddie opened the door and walked towards the desk with his name on it. He joined his classmates in standing with his hand on his heart.

"I pledge allegiance to the flag..."

# Blue Light

by Nicole Patano '22  
Editor-in-chief

POETRY

Past the student center she walks,  
a ringing in her ears.  
Her name is spoken in whispers  
by the boys she met last year.  
The ones who took the chance to kiss her  
and then left her alone to cry silent tears.

Beyond their voices, another sound,  
steady as a thrum.  
It presses down upon her neck,  
presses like a thumb.

It transports her back to that hateful night,  
when she wished upon a star  
for someone to make it stop.  
Now hearing it is like tearing open a scar,  
or feeling a blister pop.

She knows that after hearing the "beep," "beep," "beep,"  
she will not be able to sleep.

All because of that hateful night  
And, gone unanswered, that one blue light.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY.COM

# Parasitic Hyacinth Flowers

by Taylor Rogers '24  
Portfolio Co-Editor

FICTION

Parasitic limbs curiously crawl into my brain, their furry legs hitting the organ ruthlessly, not caring about the potential dents and damage they could cause. Gradually, they begin their descent, digging a hole into my precious prefrontal cortex, not reacting as my mood shifts from confused to irritated. These annoying bugs work on creating one of many entrances, sliding down the moist caravan they call an entryway, strategically planning to infect my innocent cells with their toxic virus.

Unaware of the infection that is soon to attack my immune system, I sit outside, admiring the hyacinth flowers gifted to me this past weekend from my grandmother, the baby blue color our favorite, as it reminds us of the bright sky on a sun-filled day. These buds are just growing, slowly increasing in size the same way the parasites overflow my cranial cavity. Like me, these buds urge to be out in the sun and observing the weather, so I break out a smile and take the precious flowers outside with me. My flowers and I sit on the swing my grandfather crafted for my grandmother, the white wood digging into my exposed legs, which are barely covered in a pair of jean shorts nearing their last tear. Wind blows in my hair, the sun smirks down at me, and my flowers peacefully sit on my lap. Boredly, I glance around the peaceful neighborhood, making eye contact with someone who currently trims their overgrown hedges.

Suddenly, a gunshot goes off in my brain, jarring pain attacking my head as the parasites within

begin to cheer victoriously, watching as my hyacinth flowers drop to the ground like a grenade. They watch as a mysterious figure strides down the street confidently, bending down to collect the flowers as an explosion goes off in their host's brain. In seconds, a hand clasps my own, pressing the flowers back into my outstretched fingers with a grin.

"Think you dropped these; it's a shame. They're stunning flowers."

Curiously, the parasites watch my interaction with the stranger, a few pausing their digging while others grin, knowing this is the perfect chance to wreak their havoc. Quickly, they invade this cortex, twirling strands of brain that are slender like spaghetti and manipulating them to their will, creating a Prince Charming out of a being who is simply human.

Stunned, I reel back at my sudden romanticization of the simple action, confused where this feeling has come from. While I am no stranger to attraction, the hyacinth flowers that have been tainted by another are strange to me now, the bare minimum morphing into something completely foreign to me. The hyacinth has shifted, the stems gingerly reaching out to the stranger and invoking me to ask this human a question.

"Would you like one? I

have plenty more inside, my grandmother brings them to me often."

Apparently, the parasites quite like this reaction, as the pain in my head temporarily halts, as if allowing me to explore the feelings suddenly forced on my previously pure brain. Matching smiles rapidly form on the stranger's face as well as my own, and our hands briefly collide as I hand them a sky blue bud. Above, the parasites continue to observe, deciding to gingerly adjust my nerves so my conversation with the new person can continue while they conjure unknown sensations and feelings.

"You know, you're really pretty."

Small gasps escape my lips as something bangs against my temporal lobe, the parasites above just as shocked as I am concerning the compliment. Instinctively, I put a hand up to my head and rub the infected area, the stranger kneeling on the dewy grass in concern.

"If I knew complimenting you would result in such an adverse way, I wouldn't have told you the truth."

While I would roll my eyes at most for saying this, the stranger's words make me laugh, an off-pitched melody escaping my chapstick-stained lips as the parasites continue to harshly attack me. Gritting my teeth, I

mold my face into a grin, my hands fiddling with the hyacinth that drew this new character to me.

"Sorry about that, I just get migraines sometimes. Especially, oddly enough, when I see attractive people."

Unlike the person standing before me, the parasites fail to appreciate my joke, savagely continuing to fumble my nerves as emotions come and go, my face failing to reveal the war that wreaks havoc on my anxious body. My newly found lover laughs, the sound causing the birds around us to giggle, the sun to shine a little brighter, and the parasites within to halt their attack. Despite their pause, my feelings still rebelliously combust, passion's painful flames engulfing any doubts or confusion that I might be confusing love with lust, as attraction to me has only been sexual and short-lived.

"Don't worry about it, really. I'll see you around. Hopefully your migraine disappears the next time our paths collide."

Before I can protest and force the stranger to stay, they have left with a permanent reminder of me, the hyacinth flower swinging between his fingers as I resume the similar motion on my own wooden seat. The parasites within my brain finally hatch their eggs, evoking strange sensations throughout my body and turning this insignificant encounter to one equated with a myth I had never believed: love at first sight.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY.COM

# But English Majors Love to Write!

by Kate Ward '23  
Portfolio Staff

CREATIVE NONFICTION

"As an English major, you must love writing!" God, if only I had a tally over my head each time I heard that throughout college. And I do, I do love writing, but sometimes it's a little much with three papers due a week plus an awkward *Cowl* deadline on the day I'm supposed to be relaxing. As much as I love to write, I can't help the constant threat of burnout or the anxious feeling of when my inspiration will run out. The uninspired feeling is one that is particularly brutal for me. Why? Because mentally I have ideas and storylines that I want to write and indulge in, but...I can't. Every word on the page I hate, nothing fits, nothing sounds good, nothing encapsulates the way I want this character to sound. I can't remember the last time I wrote something that either wasn't for a grade or wasn't extremely forced.

I enjoy bringing short pieces to life for *The Cowl*, but I hate shouldering the weight. The impending doom of a Saturday or Sunday submission deadline makes my stomach turn.

I'm more of a machine than a writer—of course, I want to produce quality work for my friends and professors, but as of late, everything is rushed—it doesn't fit. But English majors must love to write! The past two weeks have been the most difficult, balancing a 13-page workshop story with essays coming in hot and now this piece I'm writing. In fact, I'm only writing this piece because

I have nothing else creative to write. I am all consumed by my severe loss of inspiration. I'm struggling to hit the five hundred word minimum for this piece and this is coming from someone who wrote four hundred pages freshman year for fun.

I know I can take breaks and step back from writing. I also know I chose this major and I chose it because I love it.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY.COM

# Parties in the Age of Crypto

by Kathryn Libertini '23  
Portfolio Staff

SCREENPLAY

INT. AT A PARTY

ME

Hey, what's up? You okay?

FINANCE MAJOR

Yeah kinda. Ever since the market closed on Friday and Dogecoin went down I've just felt awful about myself.

ME

It's just a stock, I'm sure it will go back up!

FINANCE MAJOR

Do you even know what the stock market is like? Everyone is happy to say "buy low, sell high," but when someone like me has the guts to do it, I risk my life savings.

ME

I'm sure it's not that big of a deal; you can't predict the market. Let's get back to the party!

FINANCE MAJOR

What did you just say?

ME

What?

FINANCE MAJOR

Oh my God. You don't know anything about the market, do you? Leave me alone. Can you go send Chad out here? I need his take on NFTs and what my next move should be.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY.COM

# Meal Prep

by Caitlin Bartley '24  
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

At nighttime  
girls are stripped bare,  
washed and dried,  
slathered in oils and moisturizers and serums,  
and dressed in white silks.

So soft and sweet.

Girls are put to bed,  
laid on linen sheets,  
eight hours to sleep until the alarm  
rings.

This is how girls are prepped  
to be devoured  
by the male gaze.

At dinnertime  
chickens are skinned,  
washed and dried,  
slathered in oils and herbs and spices,  
and dressed in wine sauces.

So tender and tasty.

Chickens are put into the oven,  
laid on baking sheets,  
thirty minutes to cook until the  
timer beeps.

This is how chickens are  
prepped  
to be devoured  
by the carnivores.

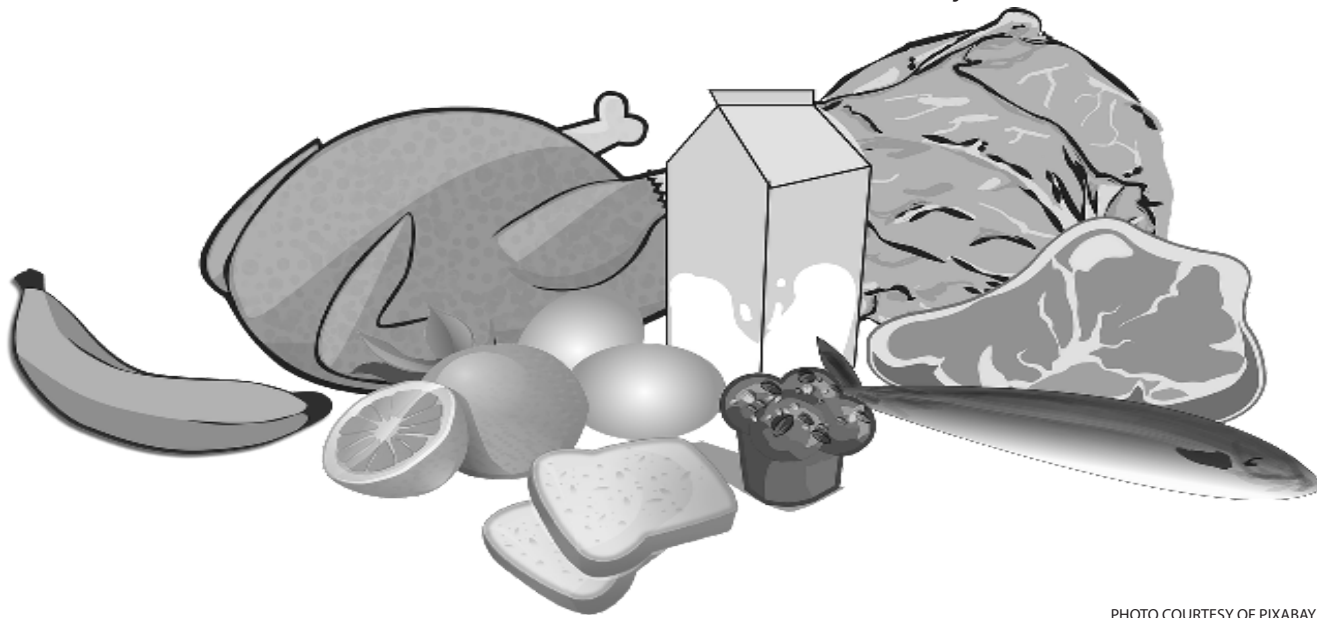


PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY.COM

## Listomania\*

### Best Things to Find in an Easter Egg

- A \$100 bill
- Tickets to Coachella
- Another smaller egg
- Those little foam dinosaurs that grow in water
- A coupon for free tuition
- The fat squirrel from the fall
- An engagement ring
- Full-sized Kanye
- A crumpled up exam answer sheet
- A personalized poem written by Dean Sears

## Tiffany & Earl

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

Dear Tiff and Earl,

I was walking around campus today, and I can't help but notice the fat squirrel from the fall is missing. I need to know if he survived the winter... any ideas as to where he is?

Sincerely,

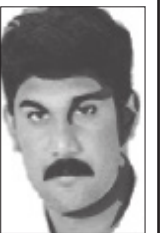
Squirrel Enthusiast

Dear Squirrel Enthusiast,

I have it on good authority that the fat squirrel from the fall has not only survived the winter, but he is absolutely thriving. While all the other squirrels went into hibernation, he went to the Concannon Fitness Center. He's lost all the extra poundage and is now training to be a member of Team USA's track and field team for the Summer 2024 Olympics.

God bless the USA!

Earl



Dear Squirrel Enthusiast,

I ate him.

Sincerely,

Tiff



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

## Sports Shorts

by Margaret Maloney '23  
Sports Staff

SPORTS SHORTS

### Men's Track and Field

The Providence men's and women's track and field teams competed at the Friar Invitational at the Ray Treacy Track at Hendricken Field on April 8. The meet featured 14 men's and women's teams. There were some great moments from the team that were huge achievements. Liam Back '24 finished first in the mile with a time of 3:59.06. Ryan Gallagher '22GS also copped a first place finish in the 5,000 meter race with a time of 13:56.44. And for the third first place finish, Josh Lewin '24 finished first in his heat in the 800 meters.

### Women's Track and Field

On the women's side of the Friar Invitational at the Ray Treacy Track, Laura Mooney '24 took first in the 5,000-meters with a personal best of 16:09.43. Mooney's time was 17.51 seconds ahead of the next runner — Orla O'Connor '23 finished in 16:45.26. Nicole Borowiec '23 ran a personal best in the 100 meter hurdles of 14.51 seconds. Borowiec's time set a new program and facility record.

### Women's Softball

The Providence College Women's Softball team is in a three-game series with the University of Connecticut, tied 1-1. On Friday, April 15, the Friars fell short with a 3-1 loss, but there were still some important highlights from this loss. Jacque Haring '24 got the Friars on the board with an RBI single to center field. Micaela Abbatine contributed the run for the Friars. Tori Grifone '24 pitched 3.2 innings for the Friars, allowing two hits while striking out five batters. On April 16, the Friars won in extra innings with a score of 2-1. Lauren Nunez '22 scored the game winner for the Friars. The Friars faced them one more time on April 18, ending with a score of 8-0 in favor of the Huskies.

### Men's Lacrosse

The Providence College Men's Lacrosse team fell to the Villanova Wildcats, 18-13, on Saturday, April 16 at Villanova Stadium in Villanova, PA. The Friars drop to 5-7 overall, 0-3 in Big East play. This high-scoring game allows for a hopeful remainder of the season with lots of Big East play remaining. Providence had nine different goal scorers on the day. Jack Horrigan '25 recorded a hat trick, while Matt Grillo '22 and Michael Chabra '24 also registered multi-point games with two goals each. Up next, the Friars will face University of Denver at home on Saturday, April 23.

## Men's Lacrosse Season Update

by Leo Hainline '22  
Sports Co-Editor

PC ATHLETICS

After dropping their first three conference games, the Providence College Men's Lacrosse Team has an opportunity to return to winning ways this weekend at home against No. 13th ranked University of Denver.

The matchup against Denver will be Senior Day for the Friars, who will be playing their final game at Chapey Field this season.

PC Lacrosse has faced a challenging schedule and are 5-7 thus far. The Big East is one of the best conferences in men's lacrosse, with three of its six members currently in the nation's top 25; Georgetown University is ranked third and Villanova University is ranked No. 23.

Coach Gabrielli's men played competitive out-of-conference games, hosting Bryant University, a team that was ranked in the top 25 at the time, and Ivy League powerhouse Brown University, who are currently ranked ninth in the nation.

Saint Joseph's University, another top 25 team, traveled up to Providence earlier in the season as well to compete against the Friars. Unfortunately for the Friars, they fell short in many of these early-season tests.

One of the highlights of the season, however, came from PC's matchup against Hofstra University, a back-and-forth contest that went into overtime thanks to Jack Horrigan's '25 game-tying goal. In overtime, Michael Chabra '24 grabbed the winner, capping off a four-goal performance from the sophomore.

As the team's schedule suggests,

men's lacrosse is one of the most competitive and difficult sports in terms of qualifying for the NCAA Tournament. Apart from the 10 automatic qualifiers, claimed through winning conference tournaments, only eight at-large bids are awarded.

The Friars' 0-3 start to their in-conference schedule has made qualifying for the Big East Tournament, which only takes the league's top-four teams, highly unlikely. Denver, Villanova, and Marquette University are all tied for second place with 2-1 records.

Georgetown remains undefeated in Big East play. St. John's University, who the Friars will play in their final game, sits at 0-3.

In the Friars' game this past weekend at Villanova, the team fell into an early hole, trailing 4-0. The first quarter ended with the Wildcats leading 5-1.

However, PC stormed back with goals from Chris Cusolito '24, Patrick McAleavey '25, Chabra, and Albert Paniccia '25 to make the game level.

Villanova responded with a run of their own and the home team led 9-6 at half-time.

The Wildcats were able to maintain their lead from then-on, claiming an 18-13 victory.

Faceoffs were a key difference between the two sides, Villanova winning 22 out of 35.

Although this year has not necessarily gone as planned, the Friars can certainly finish the season strong. The Friars are competitive against the nation's top teams. Despite their results, they show quality on the field and have individual talents that can act as game-changers.

Attackman Matt Grillo '22 leads



PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

Matt Grillo '22 leads the Friars with 29 goals.

the team in goals, tallying 29 this season. Midfielder Evan McGreen '22GS has also played his part, scoring 19 and providing 11 assists thus far. Statistically, these are both players' best years since their freshman seasons.

Friartown also has a bright future with multiple underclassmen making significant contributions. Freshman midfielder Ryan Bell '25 tops the team in assists with 27 on the season. His tally is more than double compared to the team's second highest assist leader.

Midfielder Michael Chabra has also been an impact player as the Friars' second-leading goalscorer, racking up 20 goals on the year.

Fellow sophomore midfielder Chris Cusolito has filled the stat sheet with eight goals and 22 assists.

Attacker Jack Horrigan is another young player to watch out for. The freshman has the best shot percentage amongst regular starters and has contributed 14 goals on the year. He scored a hat-trick in his last game against Villanova.

Each player taking the Friars' faceoffs is an underclassman. Quinn McConnaughey '25, Richie Hughson '25, and Tom Fegley '24 are the three players in PC's rotation. Experience this season should work to their advantage in the coming years.

A win on the Senior Day against the University of Denver, where the team's eight seniors and two graduate students will be honored, would demonstrate great in-season growth for the Friars. The veterans will need to bring their top performances to knock off the Rocky Mountain powerhouse, but they have shown stretches of quality that can turn into a winning performance.



PHOTO COURTESY OF @PCFRIARSLAX TWITTER

The Friars celebrate after defeating Hofstra University in overtime earlier this season.

# Who Will Win the NBA Playoffs?

## Providence College Investigates

### Boston Celtics

The Boston Celtics have set themselves up to be the next champions of the NBA Playoffs.

The Celtics are in their first season with their new management and front office after Brad Stevens took over as General Manager and Danny Ainge, the former GM, decided to retire after 18 years at the position.

Brad Stevens' first move as General Manager was to fill his previous role of Head Coach and he did so with Ime Udoka. Udoka is a former player that bounced around five teams over seven years, but found his calling as a coach. He started coaching as an assistant in San Antonio under the legendary coach Greg Popovich, where he then climbed his way to the top and landed the Celtics head coaching job this past offseason.

The team started the first half of the season very slowly going 20-21, but something clicked amongst the players as they finished the season with a record of 51-31.

The Celtics made history by having the best end of season record by any team in history that was below .500 percent winning at the halfway mark. This simply means they finished the second half of the season better than any other team that was below .500 percent at game 41 of the season, in history. This proves that the Celtics can turn it on at any point down the line. They created a system where they know what works and clearly have the talent to pull off a championship run.

Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown need no explanation for what they bring to the table, because they both bring everything, offense and defense, they are franchise caliber players that are 24 and 25 respectively.

Two other names to keep an eye out for this series are Marcus Smart and Al Horford. Smart is a Defensive Player of the Year finalist and will most likely win it this year after being snubbed last year. Al Horford is back on the Celtics, after spending the last year with Conference rival the Philadelphia 76ers, he is a reliable big-man who can play Center or Power Forward and give you 10 or more points and rebounds a night with ease.

The Celtics will face off against the Brooklyn Nets, who knocked Boston out of the playoffs last year in the first round. Notable players on the Nets are ex-Celtic Kyrie Irving and superstar/former MVP Kevin Durant.

Celtics fans will let Irving hear it in the two games in Boston and it will be interesting to see what happens, but the Celtics will win in four games and move on to face most likely the Milwaukee Bucks and then match up against the Miami Heat and then play either the Memphis Grizzlies or Phoenix Suns for the NBA Championship.

- Justin Bishop '24  
Sports Staff

### Phoenix Suns

This year the Phoenix Suns will be crowned champions of the NBA.

This year's season has been the definition of a revenge season for the Suns. They have not skipped a beat and have dominated the NBA all season, posting an NBA-best 64-18 record. That record is tied with the 1973 Boston Celtics for the sixth spot in the NBA's best all-time records. This team is one of the most complete teams in the league because of their depth: they are stacked top to bottom.

Leading the way is three-time All-Star Devin Booker, who averages just over 26 points per game. The veteran point guard, Chris Paul, is the backbone of this team who averages a double-double nearly every game, and center Deandre Ayton, a former number one overall pick in 2018, is a dynamic presence down low.

The Suns are made up of hardworking, strategic players who find ways to win, no matter the opponent. Some of the young players that have played major roles in the Sun's success are Cameron Payne, Cameron Johnson, and Mikal Bridges. These players have stepped up to start several games because of injuries and have been able to eat up minutes and perform well so that the stars of the team are less pressured.

Some of the leaders of this team, Paul, Jae Crowder, and Booker, speak very highly of their teammates and have shown the chemistry they have created as a team all season. Having good leaders

on and off the court makes a big impact on your team, providing examples for newer players as far as what is expected on and off the court.

The Suns are also backed up with an incredible fan base that loves packing Footprint Arena on game day. The players feed off the energy from the crowd and are very thankful for the Phoenix faithful. "This crowd is crazy," point guard Chris Paul said. "It's crazy to have all the fans in there. The energy it's nothing like it. I told the guys this is why we fought so hard in the regular season to get home-court advantage, and I think we truly have that with our fan base."

Last season, the Suns came just short to the Milwaukee Bucks in a series that was very entertaining. For Suns fans, it was devastating. For NBA fans around the world, it was bittersweet because one of the league's best players of this decade, Giannis Antetokounmpo, was able to bring home his first championship. However, Chris Paul, a legend of the game, was left with nothing to show for an unbelievable playoff run.

Paul and the Suns are determined to finish what they started last season and they understand there are no other suitable goals except celebrating a trophy and raising a banner in Phoenix.

- Patrick Walsh '24  
Sports Staff

## NFL Draft Preview

by Joseph Quirk '23  
Sports Staff

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

For two teams every year, the Superbowl is the most exciting date on the NFL calendar. For everyone else, who were not quite good enough or fell just short of making the big game, the offseason represents a time of hope. It provides a clean slate, a chance for a team to get better and address weaknesses, and a time for rivals to get worse. And the pinnacle of hope and talent acquisition is the NFL Draft.

The 2022 NFL Draft, which begins Thursday, April 28, features a particularly deep class of rookies alongside a weak class of quarterbacks. Combine that with the fact that eight teams have two first round picks (16 picks, or half of the first round, is controlled by a quarter of the league), this year's draft is shaping up to be as interesting as ever. So, what do you need to know before April 28?



PHOTO COURTESY OF AP PHOTO

Ikem Ekwonu is one of the top-rated Offensive Tackles after a stellar season at NC State.

First off, if you are in the market for a quarterback (looking at you, Carolina Panthers), then this is not the best year to take one in the first round. The class has some solid players featuring University of Pittsburgh product Kenny Pickett, Liberty University dual threat Malik Willis, and University of Cincinnati veteran Desmond Ridder. All of these guys, along with Sam Howell and Matt Corral, have the potential to be fine pros. However, their talent and ability do not seem to be equivalent to being seen as a "future star." There are some interesting guys later, such as Carson Strong, who has a cannon of an arm but is very raw. Bailey Zappe is also interesting as he is coming off a historic season numbers wise but played at Western Kentucky University which did not face much strong competition in Conference-USA.

While QB's may not be going early, offensive linemen and pass rushers certainly are available in abundance. Typically considered the two most important positions outside of the QB, those who pressure and protect the QB, if your team needs an EDGE or OT, this is the class for you.

Evan Neal out of the University of Alabama is a tried-and-true product that has started multiple years, at multiple positions, in the rigorous SEC conference for Nick Saban's Crimson Tide. Right up there alongside him is NC State product Ikem Ekwonu, who is nasty and physical, especially in the run game. Mississippi State University's Charles Cross, however, is the better pass blocker of the two.

In terms of pass rushers, you can pick your poison. University of Michigan Heisman finalist Aidan Hutchinson provides a good blend of pass rush talent and athleticism. However, his athletic ceiling isn't comparable to the University of Georgia EDGE Travon Walker who is an athletic freak, even if his role in college didn't translate to stunning pass rush numbers. The University of Oregon's Kayvon Thibodeaux was the consensus number one overall pick going into and throughout the year. Athletically, he has all the



PHOTO COURTESY OF USATSI

Kenny Pickett was a 2021 Heisman Trophy finalist as Quarterback for the University of Pittsburgh.

tools and dominates on the field, but off the field, concerns and consistency issues may allow him to drop a little further than he should. Jermaine Johnson from Florida State University and George Karlaftis from Purdue University also provide solid depth to the position in the first round.

All of this does not mention receivers, of which the first round has many. If you are the New York Jets or Green Bay Packers, both of whom have multiple first round picks and needs a receiver, this is draft is key. You can get speed with Alabama's Jameson Williams, route running and star potential in both Garrett Wilson and Chris Olave from the Ohio State University, or a jump ball threat in the University of Southern California's Drake London.

There are many names to watch out for in this year's draft. These are just a few that everyone should know before the festivities begin. But one thing is for sure: this year's draft is shaping up to be very exciting and promises a lot of unexpected moves, picks, and trades.

# A Look Around Friartown

## Softball:

4/16 at University of Connecticut, won 2-1

4/18 at University of Connecticut, loss 8-0

4/19 vs. Bryant University, won 10-9

## Upcoming:

4/22 vs. Villanova University

4/23 vs. Villanova University

4/24 vs. Villanova University

## Lacrosse:

4/2 at Marquette University, loss 16-11

4/9 at Georgetown University, loss 15-5

4/16 at Villanova University, loss 18-13

## Upcoming:

4/23 vs. University of Denver

4/30 at St. John's University

5/5 at Big East Tournament

## Tennis:

4/6 vs. University of Connecticut, loss 4-3

4/10 vs. College of the Holy Cross, won 7-0

4/14 at St. John's University, loss 7-0

## Upcoming:

4/21 vs. Georgetown University (Big East Tennis Championship)

## Track:

## Upcoming:

4/28 at Penn Relays

5/1 at Brown Springtime Invitational

# PROVIDENCE

## Women's Tennis Update

by Will Murphy '23  
Sports Staff

PC ATHLETICS

As the Big East Championship approaches for the Providence College Tennis Team, now is a perfect time to look back and reflect on the Friars' season thus far. The team is looking forward to traveling to Cayce, SC to compete for the Big East Championship April 21-24.

They are led by head coach Orsi Golovics, who is in her first year serving as head coach of the Friars.

Prior to arriving in Providence, Golovics starred for Northern Arizona University, where she earned First Team All-Big Sky accolades on three occasions. After graduating and earning her degrees in business administration and marketing from Northern Arizona, she began her first stint as an assistant coach there.

After her time at Northern Arizona, she served as an assistant coach at Cardinal Stritch University, while she earned her Master of Science degree in sports management. Cardinal Stritch enjoyed great success during her tenure there, as the team was ranked in the top-10 in the NAIA and reached the national championship. Following her time at Cardinal Stritch, she returned to Northern Arizona from 2016-17.

Under Golovics, the Friars have been able to make significant improvements from last year, building off some early season success as they topped Colgate University 4-3 in their spring opener on Feb. 12. Improvements are especially important considering the team consists primarily of underclassmen—five freshmen and four juniors—and they will be returning their entire roster for next year.

The team has also benefited from the strong leadership of captains Katie Mulvey '23 and Vannelie Melendez '23. In their opening win over Colgate University, Julia Migliorini '23, Olivia Wright '25, Mulvey, and Emmie Lindholm '23 were able to earn the doubles point for the Friars. They were able to close out the victory thanks to points from singles victories from Migliorini, Mulvey, and Lauren Carson '25.

The Friars' next victory came in a home match against Merrimack College, on March 4, when they notched a 5-2 victory. In the win, PC controlled five of the six singles matches to earn the victory. Wright, Migliorini, Mulvey, Carson, and Morgan Warner '25 all won their singles matches to secure the victory for the Friars.

After a couple of tough outcomes, the Friars were able to get themselves back in the win column in a big way against University of New Haven on March 26, with a 7-0 sweep. The win was a commanding one, as the Friars were able to take all the singles matches in straight sets.

The following day the team took on Quinnipiac University, and despite earning the doubles point



PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

Julia Migliorini '23 is one of the veteran leaders on the young PC Tennis team.

to get out to a fast start, they were unable to hold on as Quinnipiac got the best of them in the singles matches.

The Friars were able to bounce back nicely their next time out against Bentley University on March 31. Providence took command early by sweeping the doubles matches to earn the doubles point. The singles matches also went Providence's way, winning all but one of them in straight sets. Carson was particularly dominant, beating her opponent 6-0, 6-0 to earn a point for the Friars.

After back-to-back losses against Georgetown University and University of Connecticut the Friars would face the College of the Holy Cross on April 10, in their penultimate match of the regular season. It was one of the best of the season for the team, as they notched their third 7-0 victory of the season.

After dropping the final match of the season to St. John's University, the team has begun to prepare for the Big East Championship.



PHOTO COURTESY OF @PCATHLETICS TWITTER

The Providence College Tennis team faces Georgetown University on April 21 in the first round of the Big East Tournament.