

## In the News

by Gabriella Pisano '18  
News Staff

### WORLD NEWS



PHOTO COURTESY OF Jorge Saenz-AP/Wide World Photos  
Former Cuban dictator Fidel Castro in 1995.

**Former Cuban dictator Fidel Castro**, a controversial figure in both Cuba and around the world, died on Friday, November 25, at the age of 90.

**At Ohio State University** on Monday, November 28, a student drove his car into a crowd and began stabbing those around him with a butcher knife.

**Star actress of the HBO show *Westworld***, Evan Rachel Wood, recently opened up about her experience with sexual assault in an open letter to Twitter and interview with *Rolling Stone*.

**A 29-year-old beluga whale**, Aurora, died on Friday at the Vancouver Aquarium, just nine days after her calf Quila died of a similar illness.

PC BUBBLE/ Page 4

# Elite Eight



The Men's Soccer team celebrates during their game against the University of Rhode Island, which they won.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE ATHLETICS

by Liza Sisk '19  
Sports Staff

### SOCCER

The Providence College Men's Soccer Team is sprinting their way through the NCAA Tournament. The Friars hosted the first round of the tournament and faced the University of Delaware Blue Hens on Chapey

Field at Anderson Stadium.

The Friars bested the Hens 2-0. Goalkeeper Colin Miller '18 earned the shut out for PC. After only playing two games for the Friars in the 2015 season, Miller has led the team from the backfield this season.

He boasts an impressive .849 save percentage this season and has a personal game record of 12-1. After a scoreless eight minutes of play in the

first half of the contest, Julian Gressel '17 played a leading pass to teammate Brendan Reardon '17 who executed the goal, earning his first in a Friars jersey.

Seventy-one minutes into the game, the Friars punched their ticket to the second round of the tournament with a one-on-one goal deposited by Gressel, marking his 12th of the season.

SOCCER/ Page 23



Queen frontman Freddie Mercury during a performance.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PINTEREST.COM

# Freddie Mercury's Legacy 25 Years Later

by Joe Clancy '18  
A&E Staff

### MUSIC

If you have ever been to a sporting game, political rally, or even an elementary school pep rally, you have most likely heard the massively successful Queen song, "We Will Rock You." The song, however, would have been better off being named

"Freddie Will Rock You," as Queen's legendary and larger-than-life front man Freddie Mercury electrified and energized massive crowds in his 21 years of performing.

This past Thursday marked the 25th anniversary of the famed singer's passing. Mercury's death in 1991 shocked the world and helped shape both the national and global conversation about the war on AIDS.

MERCURY/ Page 13

## UNDERTHEHOOD

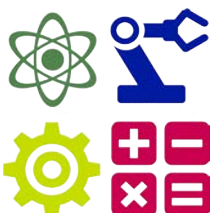
Providence College's Student-Run Newspaper Since 1935

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### News

Providence College receives remarkable grant for women in science and mathematics.

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### Opinion

One staff writer responds to the interview with Dr. Esolen published in last week's issue of *The Cowl*.

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### Portfolio

Check out Assistant Editor Abby Johnston's poem "The World of Rhythm."

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## Preview: Christmas Festivities in Providence

### *Annual Tree Lighting, Ice Skating in the City, and More!*

by Patrick Healey '17  
News Staff

#### HOLIDAY PREVIEW

With Thanksgiving having come and gone, it is officially time to ring in the holiday season here at Providence College, and there is no shortage of events planned for students to attend and show their spirit.

To kick off the Christmas season, PC held its annual Christmas tree lighting on Thursday, December 1. Students were invited to gather on Slavin Lawn and listen to music as the Slavin Christmas tree was ceremonially lit.

While it may not be as grand as the lighting ceremony in New York City, the annual Christmas tree lighting at PC was still a way for students to gather and kick off the holiday season.

There were refreshments and treats to ensure that all students were properly fed, hydrated, and happy during the lighting ceremony. In addition, PC's A cappella clubs and Footprints Gospel Choir performed to set a proper festive mood for the lighting, and students were invited to make crafts in Slavin afterwards.

There are also several upcoming events to help students get in the Christmas spirit.

BOP will be sponsoring a "Holiday Extravaganza" which will take place in McPhail's on this Friday night at 9 p.m.

For students interested in getting the chance to receive an early Christmas present, there is a special bingo night called Christmas Morning Super Bingo,

at 9 p.m. on this upcoming Saturday in Slavin Center's '64 Hall. All are welcome to compete for wrapped gifts with food included.

There is perhaps no better way to show true Christmas spirit than by giving to others. The Dirigo Leadership Honor Society, made up of seniors here at PC that have excelled as leaders, is organizing the sixth annual "Santa Shop." This event will benefit the students and families of Providence's San Miguel School, a middle school for urban boys that is just minutes away from PC.

Members of the society are asking for gift donations for boys ages 10-13, which can include anything from toys to movies to gift cards. Students can drop off either donations or cash in Slavin 106 until Monday, December 5. These donations will be put in '64 Hall later that week to be picked up by families from San Miguel.

For students willing to venture off campus, there are many Christmas events planned in the city of Providence that are a short drive or Uber away.

Trinity Repertory Company is putting on "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, throughout the entire month of December with tickets starting at \$25.

Furthermore, this weekend at city hall will be the City of Providence Holiday Celebration, where students can listen to carolers and watch the mayor officially welcome the holiday season to Providence.

The Alex and Ani Skating Rink in Providence will also be holiday-themed this month, so there is no better time to enjoy an evening skating with friends, taking in the Christmas season.

The skating rink, located in Kennedy Plaza, is open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week for the holiday season.

With finals looming in everyone's mind, there are plenty of holiday events

and activities planned to take the stress off studying and provide opportunities for students to show their holiday spirit and spread Christmas cheer.



The Ruane Great Room gets decorated for the holiday season.

MEAGHAN DODSON 117/THECOWL

## PC Honored with Clare Boothe Luce Program

### *Grant Will Finance the Education of Eight Female Science Majors*

by Benjamin Bauchiero '18  
News Staff

#### SCHOLARSHIPS

On Nov. 16, Providence College was approved to receive a very generous grant from the Clare Boothe Luce Program. This grant will fund scholarships for exceptional women in the senior class who study chemistry,

applied physics, computer science, and mathematics.

PC was chosen to receive its first major grant from the Clare Booth Luce at the Henry Luce Foundation. The program that issued the grant to PC serves as the largest source of private funding for women studying science, mathematics and engineering.

The total amount of the grant is \$288,538,

and it is to be received at the beginning of 2017 for Clare Boothe Luce Undergraduate Scholarships in chemistry, applied physics, mathematics, or computer science. Each year two females will receive the award, for the next four years, thus totaling eight scholarships.

The scholarships will include a full tuition and fees scholarship, with the exception of room and board, a paid summer research experience (including a \$4,000 stipend), and an academic year research experience for credit.

Luce was a very influential woman, working as a playwright, journalist, and ambassador. She started her career as a childhood actress, acting both on Broadway and in silent movies. In addition, she campaigned for women's rights in her teenage years in alliance with the National Women's Party. As a playwright, she created the play, *The Woman*. She wrote a total of eight plays, three books, and several movie scripts.

Luce was also an accomplished journalist, covering the early days of World War II in Eastern Europe. Her journalism on the war was documented in *Life* magazine.

As a congresswoman, Luce was elected for two terms, serving as the first woman elected from Connecticut. She also served as the only female member of the House Military Affairs Committee at the time of the war. This unique position allowed her to travel to both the Italian and French battlefronts to investigate the status of the war and American troops.

Luce would also become a major player in the establishment of the Atomic Energy Commission, an agency created in 1946 that developed and controlled the use of nuclear energy. She was then appointed

Ambassador to Italy, becoming the first American woman to represent a major world power.

President Ronald Reagan would later appoint Luce to the President's Foreign Intelligence Agency Board. She was awarded for all of her governmental work in 1983 when she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award.

After her death in 1987, the Clare Booth Luce Program was founded in 1989. The foundation seeks to empower women who share a similar drive with Luce, hoping to further aid them in their success by providing financial and academic resources. The foundation has supported more than 1,900 women in their respective fields of study, and PC's female students will now receive this opportunity to follow in her professionalism and success.

"We are humbled that the Henry Luce Foundation has found us worthy of such a significant award, and we look forward to partnering with them," said Sheila Adamus Liotta, dean of arts and sciences. "The scholarship recipients will not only receive financial support and be seen as role models and positive examples for other students, but other lives will be enriched by the required service aspect that the scholars will perform as part of their awards."

All applications are due Wednesday, January 25, 2017, to Ruane 142. The application will be reviewed by a team including three department chairs, the dean of the School of Arts and Science, a representative from Financial Aid, and two STEM faculty members.

For PC women interested in applying for this scholarship and carrying on Luce's legacy, they can find the application and a list of requirements on the Providence College website.

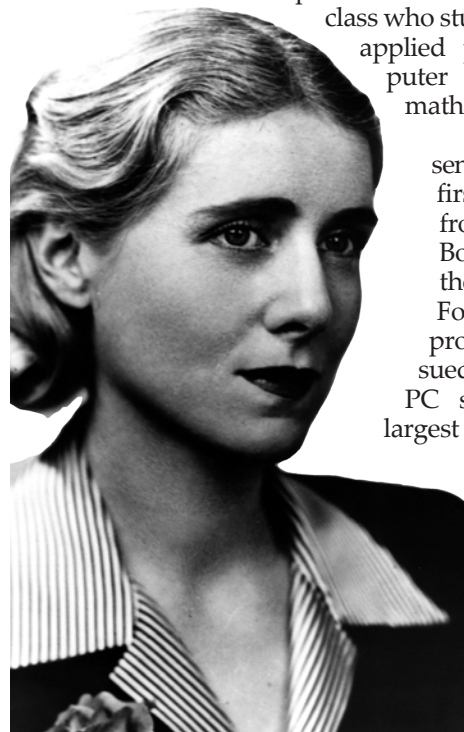


PHOTO COURTESY OF HISTORYCMS.HOUSE.GOV

# Friar Flashback: Winters of PC's Past

## Celebrating Christmas Cheer Throughout the Years

by Meaghan Dodson '17 & Marla Gagne '18  
News Co-Editors

FRIAR FLASHBACK



Who said snow days are for sleeping in? In the winter of 1982, a few ambitious students made the most of their snow day by constructing a giant, eight-layered snowman on the lawn outside St. Joseph Hall. Just look at that teamwork!

PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE.EDU



2012-2013 PHOTO STAFF/THE COWL

In December of 2012, students, faculty, and the rest of the PC community gathered around Slavin lawn for the College's annual tree lighting. Every year, the PC community gathers around the tree, sings carols, enjoys holiday refreshments, and blesses the tree.

Rumor has it that the first tree lighting was held in the '70s, coming with the arrival of female students. During his time, Fr. John Fabian Cunningham, O.P., '50, the College's president from 1985-1994, was a gifted actor, and he would read and act out Christmas stories for the community.

The nor'easter of February 1969 was one of the worst blizzards in Rhode Island history, leaving the College covered in nearly 20 inches of snow. PC students, however, were overjoyed to have a day off from classes. Students participated in the "famous" snowball fight of 1969.

A little snow is nothing to the Providence community, however, as it has had its fair share of snowstorms over the years. The biggest blizzard in Rhode Island history was the nor'easter of 1978, which buried the city of Providence in over 27 inches of snow.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE.EDU

# Go Green!

by Guest Columnists  
Shannon Law-Clark '17, Angie Mascena '17, Lizzy Tighe '17, and Sarah Hammond '17

ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMN

Increasing concerns about our care for the environment led members of the Providence College faculty and administration, in collaboration with the Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC), to investigate recycling efforts in classrooms at the College. Club members took inventory of the presence or absence of blue bins in each academic setting on campus.

Surprisingly, many classrooms, especially in Feinstein, lacked the proper containers. Even more rooms showed inadequate recycling habits, such as disposing of Dunkin' Donuts iced coffee cups, plastic water and sports drink bottles, and paper in regular trash cans. In an effort to address this problem, the Office of Academic Affairs purchased dozens of new bins for the classrooms that desperately needed them.

Now that each classroom on campus is equipped with a recycling bin, we encourage students to make the right choice for our environment and recycle plastic and paper materials in the blue bins. Place Dunkin' Donuts foam sleeves in the trash, but recycle your plastic iced coffee cups, sports bottles, and other materials. Your action helps to reduce the amount of waste in landfills and to make PC a greener campus!

The recycling bin project is one of several exciting initiatives that SEAC has been working on this semester. SEAC, PC's environmental club, focuses on raising awareness about environmental issues and improving the campus' sustainability and environmental consciousness. The new recycling bins arrived just in time for America Recycles Day, an annual event that encourages individuals and organizations across the country to take the pledge to commit to recycling. SEAC celebrated by handing out containers for students to decorate and keep in their dorm room or apartment for recyclables.

SEAC's most recent meetings have concentrated on the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline, a current environmental and political issue that has taken the country by storm. The oil pipeline, which is set to stretch from North Dakota to Illinois, would increase our nation's reliance on fossil fuels rather than clean energy sources and threatens to pollute water, soil, and air with dangerous toxins. The construction of the pipeline would also result in the destruction of religious, cultural, and historical lands that belong to local Native American tribes.

On Monday, December 5, at 7 p.m. in the Slavin Overlook Lounge, SEAC will host an event to bring attention to and open conversation about the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. Our guest speakers are activists who spent time at the Red Warrior Camp in North Dakota protesting the pipeline. Please come to this informative event to learn about the pipeline, the environment, and other contemporary issues that will impact not just our generation, but the generations that come after us. Look out for future environmental columns in *The Cowl!*



PHOTO COURTESY OF MNENERGYCHALLENGE.WORDPRESS.COM



## Bursting the PC Bubble

by Gabriella Pisano '18  
News Staff

## Cuban Leader Fidel Castro Dies at Age 90

Former Cuban dictator, Fidel Castro, a controversial figure in Cuba and around the world, died on Friday, November 25, at the age of 90. Castro established the first communist state in the Western Hemisphere after leading an overthrow of Fulgencio Batista's military dictatorship in 1959. Cuba remained under Castro's rule for nearly five decades. When Castro first gained control of Cuba, he had the support of most of his country. Castro became a symbol of communist revolution in Latin America. He held the title of premier until 1976 and then became president of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers.

There have been different reactions to the death of Castro. Some mourn him, while others rejoice that he no longer has say in the government. Younger generations that were not around for the start of Castro's revolution seem to be looking ahead and hoping for change. President Obama issued a statement acknowledging the tension that has existed between Cuba and the United States and stressed that his hopes that these relations will be bettered in the future.

## Students Attacked at Ohio State University

On Monday, November 28, at Ohio State University, a student drove his car into a crowd and then began stabbing those around him with a butcher knife. The police arrived on the scene and the suspect was shot dead. Ten people were taken to hospitals after the ambush with non-life threatening injuries. Law enforcement officials have stated that the suspect's name is Abdul Razak Ali Artan, a Somali refugee who had been a legal permanent resident of the United States since 2014. He attended Columbus Community College for two years and graduated cum laude with an associate degree before he moved to Ohio State to continue his studies. While the motive for the attack is unknown, officials say that the attack was deliberate and may have been planned in advance. President Obama was briefed on the attack and the FBI is assisting in the investigation.

## Actress Speaks Out About Sexual Assault

Star actress of the HBO show *Westworld*, Evan Rachel Wood, recently opened up about being a victim of sexual assault in an open letter to Twitter and interview with *Rolling Stone*. She admitted to having suffered "physical, psychological sexual" abuse and was raped by a significant other while they were in a relationship and, on a separate occasion, by the owner of a bar. Wood said that she decided to speak up because, "I don't believe we live in a time where people can stay silent any longer. Not given the state our world is in with its blatant bigotry and sexism." The actress came out as bisexual in 2011 and refers to herself as gender-fluid. She states that she felt as though her vulnerability was tied to her sexuality. Wood hopes to break the silence surrounding rape culture and the stigma against bisexuality.

## Beluga Whales Dying in Vancouver

A 29-year-old beluga whale, Aurora, died on Friday at the Vancouver Aquarium, just nine days after her calf Qila died of a similar illness. While the cause of death is unknown, a necropsy found that the mother likely died of a virus or toxin. The CEO of the facility claims that it is possible the two beluga whales were deliberately poisoned. Qila was the first whale born in captivity in Canada. According to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, beluga whales can live up to 40 years in captivity. With an increase in animal rights activism, the recent deaths of the two whales has fueled activists to push for marine animal captivity to be illegal. Humane Society spokesperson Peter Fricker said, "There's no way the aquarium can replicate their natural environment." Five other beluga whales remain in captivity at the aquarium, but Aquarium CEO John Nightingale says they will not take in any more until they know what killed Aurora and Qila.

## Congress Updates: Statement of Position

On Tuesday, November 15, the 67th Student Congress passed a statement of position in support of campus initiatives to promote diversity on the Providence College campus:

*"The 67th Student Congress of Providence College supports and encourages all forms of diversity at Providence College. We believe that we have a social responsibility and obligation to create a welcoming community on our campus. The 67th Student Congress of Providence College stands by the institutional changes initiated by the school and the Office of Institutional Diversity to promote a more inclusive and accepting environment."*



## Club Spotlight: Symphonic Winds

by Daria Purdy '19  
News Staff

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

The Symphonic Winds Ensemble allows students a chance to express their musical talents. The Ensemble includes brass, wind, and percussion instruments, and it performs various pieces of classical music in a concert each semester.

The Ensemble, which meets Tuesdays and Thursdays for 75 minutes, includes students who play a variety of instruments.

Each rehearsal begins with a warm-up, including a run-through of scales, and then the Ensemble runs through a few of the songs that they have chosen to perform. The music is assigned at the beginning of the semester, and parts of each piece are worked on in rehearsals throughout the year.

Members of the Ensemble claim that it has a very relaxed and non-

competitive atmosphere. For concerts, seats are rotated between Ensemble members to reduce competition and give everyone a chance to play various parts of the music.

Sam Redmond '19 says, "I love Symphonic Winds because I feel like I can be completely myself at every rehearsal. Also, it's a great way to make friends, and I always look forward to seeing everyone each week."

Ensemble members also praise the music that is chosen for the Ensemble to perform. Janelle LaFlamme '19 says the music is "fun and challenging," and adds that Symphonic Winds "is the best part of my week."

Furthermore, Oliver Penn '17 says the Ensemble "is a great way to meet people and to play music I wouldn't normally get to play."

The conductor of symphonic winds is Dr. Jennifer Bill. Each prospective member of the Ensemble must audition, but as long as they show proficiency with their instrument, they are invited into the Ensemble.



The Symphonic Winds Ensemble poses before a performance. PHOTO COURTESY OF JANELLE LAFHAMME '19



# OPINION

## We Need to Forgive *A Response to Dr. Esolen's Interview*

by Kevin Copp '18  
Opinion Staff

CAMPUS

Dr. Anthony Esolen, despite all the controversy and confusion that has surrounded him for the past two months, still has one major concern. He remains committed to his students and "giving them what's left of a really good, classical, liberal arts education," as he says in his recent interview with *The Cowl* Editor-in-Chief Katherine Puzycki.

Esolen's goal, appearing more clearly now, has been to persuade PC faculty to accept a less politically-motivated definition of diversity for the Western Civ program. Although he may have made some mistakes in how he has presented this argument in his *Crisis Magazine* articles, it is time for the PC community to forgive Dr. Esolen.

To understand Dr. Esolen's point of view, we need to examine his role on the PC faculty. To summarize his concerns, some members of the PC faculty have suggested severely altering or eliminating altogether the Western Civ program because of its lack of educational diversity.

But Dr. Esolen's rebuttal stands valid. Isn't diversity the study of a culture of the past? Doesn't understanding the way Greek warriors fought and spoke add diverse elements to your life because it is fundamentally different from the way we live today? According to the school's



PHOTO COURTESY OF YOUTUBE.COM

diversity standard, it does not.

Dr. Esolen also makes a strong point about Catholic viewpoints at this school. Providence College and the Dominican Order are rooted in the value of Veritas. Truth. This is a pretty well-thought out motto for a school, don't you think? Catholic professors should be able to voice opinions that fall in line with the Church's teaching without fearing the backlash of the student body. It makes little sense that a school would fail to protect the viewpoints of a professor that it agrees with and also defends as the truth.

Dr. Esolen certainly made errors in his articles, especially the line Puzycki notes in the interview about an "alphabet soup

of cheered-on sexual proclivities." This line is insulting to every member of the LGBTQ community and deserves an apology. The shot at the Bias Response Team on campus was unwarranted.

Also uncalled for was the generalization about students wanting everything to be about them and their own cultures. Many students at PC are genuinely interested to learn about a culture that differs from their own. Dr. Esolen needs to prove that he understands why these comments are unnecessary, hurtful, and untrue.

Yet these errors should not spoil the message Dr. Esolen is sending: Every culture that is different from someone's own is worthy of study to create

enrichment in that person's life, not just the select few that match the politically-influenced definition of diversity.

I am willing to take the liberty to say that perhaps if more courses satisfied the diversity requirement Dr. Esolen complains so vociferously about, he would not be as inclined to consider PC so removed from its glory days as a regional school.

Dr. Esolen wants his culture to be respected. As much as the leaders of the Black Lives Matter movement want police officers to be held accountable for their actions, as much as the Standing Rock Sioux want the sanctity of their land to be sustained, as much as Muslims want their ability to live in this country to be protected, Dr. Esolen wants to be able to affirm his beliefs as a Catholic professor at a Catholic school. I think we can respect that.

I must admit that I am a Catholic writing this piece. I do not agree with every teaching the Catholic Church proclaims to be true. Still, maybe my own Catholicism makes me a little more inclined to defend another person who identifies with me.

Yet, I know that what Catholicism teaches above anything else is forgiveness. To avoid the fate of a house that is divided against itself, we must seek to understand and forgive. If we cannot forgive Dr. Esolen, the entire Providence College community might be destined to fall and never get up again.

## Popping the Social Media Bubble

by Taylor Godfrey '19  
Asst. Opinion Editor

SOCIETY

We are now coming up on a month since the presidential election that divided the nation, and yet, I still find my social media feeds clogged with posts and information about the consequences of the election. While we should still be talking about this very important event, there is a real problem with the ways we are communicating about it.

I find that most of the posts I see on my social media feeds tend to agree with my viewpoint. I am a 19-year-old college student and most of the people I follow and interact with on social media are around my age, from roughly the same area of the country as me, and often share my political leanings.

Being surrounded by people like myself may seem like a good thing. However, this creates a bubble of ideas that I would agree with and does not allow me to interact with people with differing views. With the election bringing many important debates into the spotlight, I often found myself only reading pieces in support of one side.

In a world where many people get their news from social media, this can be particularly detrimental. It creates an echo chamber where my own ideas are amplified, strengthened, and bounced back to me, without any input from people with different ideas. The algorithms of social media sites will support this too, showing me only news from sites I would likely agree with.

My ideas are not the only ones that exist nor are they necessarily right while others' are wrong. But this echo chamber might convince me that they are. Solely reading posts by people like myself or articles with the

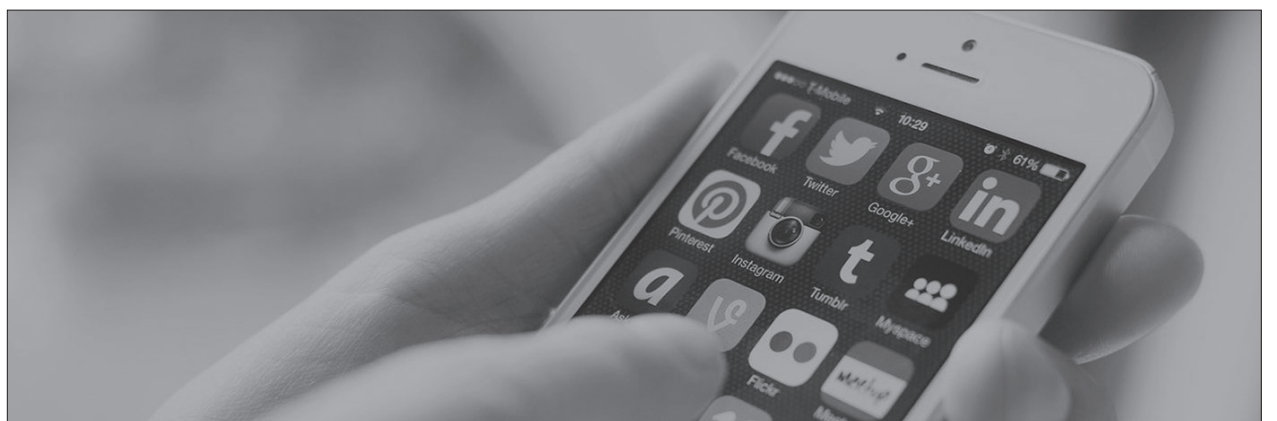


PHOTO COURTESY OF MANAGEYOURSOCIAL.CO.UK

same leanings as me will only serve to convince me that my opinions are the right ones.

But I should be challenged. We all should be. Life is about interacting with different kinds of people, understanding their viewpoints, and maybe even changing our own opinions as we better understand ourselves.

Staying only in our own little social media bubbles will not accomplish this. If we do not understand the other side of the hot button issues the election raised and continues to raise, we cannot hope to be compassionate and kind members of our community.

Not to mention that some of these one-sided sites are actually false. Facebook is currently having a real problem sorting through fake news sites and with the amount of people getting their news from Facebook it is not surprising that the election was so full of lies and half-truths.

These false sites, and even some that are factually correct, only serve to vilify the side they are against. They do not add value to the conversations that we must have, but only strengthen the bubble from which

we must strive to break free.

While nothing can be completely unaffected by bias, news from social media sites that are actively trying to show you only things you will agree with or like, is far from reliable. And only ever hearing one side of these issues will only create a deeper divide in our nation that will be harder and harder to cross.

Social media is the place for birthday wishes and cute cat videos. It is not the place to find news. We should all try taking a break from social media and going to some actual news sites. Stop only interacting with people who agree with us and try to understand all sides of an issue. Be open to discussion and actually listen to people who do not agree with us.

The rift in our nation will not be healed by people rising on taller and taller social media soapboxes and trying to shout over one another.

The divisions will be solved by listening and making a real effort to understand. And this can only happen if we pop the bubble and open ourselves not only to opinions with which we agree, but also those with which we do not.

# Countdown to Christmas

by Allison LaBelle '20  
Opinion Staff

HOLIDAYS

Twenty-five more days until Christmas! You know what that means—lots of Christmas movies, Christmas music, Christmas cookies, and Christmas presents! It's the most wonderful time of the year, and it's almost here.

I realize that not everyone loves Christmas as much as I do, but even if you are not a Christmas fanatic, there are still things to get excited about.

In general, people are kinder during the holiday season and have a greater urge to give. It could be something as little as an unexpected smile or someone paying it forward in the coffee line at Dunkin' Donuts. It's a time filled with generosity and compassion. People reach out to others—especially those who need it most.

Christmas is a time when people come together in order to share memories and celebrate this joyful time of year. Some people decorate cookies together. Others participate in Secret Santas or Yankee Candle swaps. There's always the classic option of cozying up by a fire and watching a Christmas classic like *Rudolph* or *Elf*.

Don't forget about the tree! Family after family embarks on the journey to pick out what they believe is the perfect Christmas tree so that they can then haul it back to their house and set it up in a spot where Santa can place everyone's presents.

Once the tree is all set up, it's time to decorate. Christmas ornaments bring memories and cheerfulness.

In addition to ornaments, families string popcorn and cranberries that they can wrap around their trees. The combined smell of pine and popcorn is so delightful and magical.

Many families decorate their houses with bright Christmas lights. With so few hours of light in the day, these Christmas lights bring merriness and joy to those driving through town. Moreover, people hang up wreaths and mistletoe. It is a time of great festivity.

Then, there's snow. A white Christmas is the best kind of Christmas. It brings sledding, snowball fights, and snowmen to be built. The first snow is always the most magical. Snowflakes dance through the air and make everything they land on beautiful. Empty trees become covered in snow and look like they are dressed for the season.

This is the season to be merry and joyful. It's a time to appreciate all that we have. There are many people who wake up alone on Christmas with no tree, no presents, and no one to share Christmas memories with. This is a season of giving and it is important that we remember all of those who are not as fortunate as we are.

As college students, this is also a time of high stress leading up to finals week. We should not let this stress inhibit our compassion, joy, and merriness. We will all soon be home again with family and friends, enjoying this festive holiday.

For the time being, enjoy the here and now. Watch some Christmas movies, listen to some Christmas music, and eat some Christmas cookies. Enjoy this merry time of the year. Merry Christmas!



PHOTO COURTESY OF WORDPRESS.COM

## We Still Have Time

*Students Should Not Be Pressured to Choose a Career*

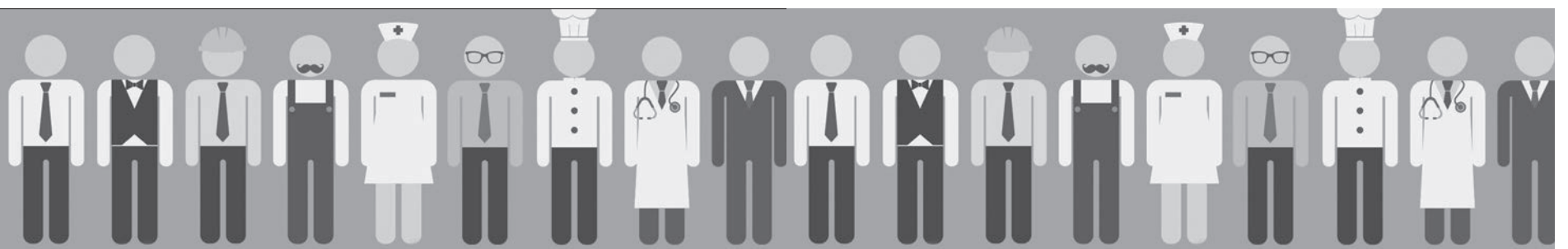


PHOTO COURTESY OF KNOWLEDGESPACIAL.COM

by Hannah Paxton '19  
Opinion Staff

CAREERS

We are always told in high school that college is the time where real changes happen and big decisions are made. Once you are in college you are considered an adult, and once you're an adult it is time to start thinking about the real world, which primarily consists of a career.

A career is the whole reason we are in college in the first place—to study a concentrated area of interest that will prepare us for the job we want to pursue. In college there is even more pressure to figure everything out—where we want to live, who we want to spend time with, but most importantly, what we want to do.

This is especially hard to deal with if you are in a position where you do not have an answer to anything.

Not a single college student can get by without being asked what it is they want to pursue as a career. Considering the environment we live in, it is only natural that this is the one thing on our minds, the one question that consumes our entire being for four years.

We could get by in high school without having a clue, but once you are in college it is time to have definitive plans.

Perhaps you have a major, perhaps you do not. Maybe you have career aspirations, maybe you do not. But either way, even if you are set on a job, nothing is set in stone. You do not have to have it all figured out just yet.

This may be a difficult idea to grasp, as these are the last four years we have before entering the real world—the last four years we have before we fully assume adult responsibilities—but it is true.

You may only have a vague idea of what you are interested in or you may hardly be considering a potential job, but that alone is enough. What we decide now does not determine the entirety of our lives.

We tend to think that these years spent in college are the antecedent for the rest of our lives. Whatever we are studying has to be our choice of career, and whatever that choice of career is must be the job we keep forever. But this could not be further from the truth.

People change every day. Our opinions change every day. At one

point you might have wanted to be a doctor, then years later decided that wasn't for you. The same idea still applies on the threshold of adulthood. You might want to do something with psychology now, but maybe that won't be the case in five years, and that's okay.

There is nothing and no one demanding that we pick a career path now and stick with it for the rest of our lives. There is not even anything telling us that we have to have our heart set on whatever we are thinking of doing now.

Life changes in an instant and so do we. We aren't always the same person we were yesterday. It is okay if we do not have everything completely figured out, even if we are college students, because nothing is ever meant to be final.

# Procrastination Nation

## *It's Okay To Take A Break During Finals Week*

by Daniel Barton '18  
Opinion Staff

HOLIDAYS

There is nothing quite like the moment a college student realizes he or she has let an assignment completely slip his or her mind. Sometimes it comes while laying in bed, other times it comes three and a half hours after the assignment was due. Though the latter is obviously far worse than the former, the feeling is in no way pleasant.

In spite of this, it is understood that this realization is not a moment that every student comes across, especially considering Providence College is filled with a breed of superbly organized multitaskers who manage to stay on top of their work with little to no issue. Yet, there is still a population of students at this school who fall outside this category of exceptional composition.

These students find themselves sitting on their couch watching Sunday Night Football or reruns of *Seinfeld* and suddenly realize at 11:30 p.m. that it is, in fact, the weekend that their ten page term paper is due.

I'm not targeting this group of students. I do not mean to make any readers feel like they are less than their superbly formulated peers. In fact, I'm bringing it up simply because I can strongly identify with the procrastinator. Of all things, I think procrastination is on the top of the list of things I am good at.

Take the simple fact that this very article that you are reading was due to the editors a full 24 hours before I even submitted it, for example. What does that say about me? I'm not sure, exactly. Was part of it out of pure laziness? Perhaps, but I would attribute the tardiness mainly to my gross, negligent, cognitively dissonant habit that is extreme procrastination.

Procrastination is like eating fast food. Everybody



PHOTO COURTESY OF ODYSSEYONLINE.COM

knows that there are better options for their health, yet they still consume it. They look at a \$3 salad and compare it to a \$5 cheeseburger (with fries and a drink, of course) and say "sure I could just eat the salad, but I'll get so much more out of the cheeseburger." They want to be more full.

Procrastination can be viewed in the exact same light. Staying on top of an assignment is like eating a salad—it's good for your health and is somewhat tasty and enjoyable. Some can eat salads every single meal, while others, myself especially, do not have the internal discipline for that.

What keeps the procrastinators going is the instant satisfaction that comes with pushing off an assignment until the last minute. It ensures that they can get the most out of their free time, it fills them up.

At the end of the day, nothing is inherently wrong with procrastinating. Sure, it adds more stress and

occasionally takes away quality from a student's work, but if everything is being turned in on time then there is really no issue whatsoever, as long as the work is quality.

Everyone understands how he or she works most efficiently, and for some that is through self motivation and good habits, and for others it is five hour energy drinks and paralyzing stress-induced anxiety attacks over work assignments.

Some of the most organized people around get the same grades as the biggest procrastinators around, and that is because of the simple fact that nobody learns in the exact same way, in spite of what some professors may think.

Ease up a bit this finals season and take a study break, you deserve it. Just keep in mind that at the end of the day, it doesn't hurt to eat a cheeseburger every once in awhile.

# McKenzie's Declassified Finals Survival Guide

by McKenzie Tavella '18  
Opinion Staff

CAMPUS

It is quite unbelievable to think that classes will be finished in two weeks. This is what everyone is saying to you, right? This is all I heard over Thanksgiving break. Boy, the semester really flew by this time, did it not? Yes, it did.

However, one thing that your sweet grandparents or silly uncles do not realize is that it is not over, because the final stretch is the worst and longest part of it all. Someone had to bring them up—final exams.

They are right around the corner, but does your family think this is a big deal? No. They only see the positive—that soon, you will be home for over a month for the holiday season. They are asking you what you would like for Christmas and if you have someone to spend New Years with.

We cannot think like that yet! Our main concern is the dreaded final examination period. It is not their fault though. They are not a student at Providence College. Your friends and family do not know what it is like during finals at PC.

Do they know that you practically camp out in the library? (I have actually seen students bring their pillow) So instead of venting about

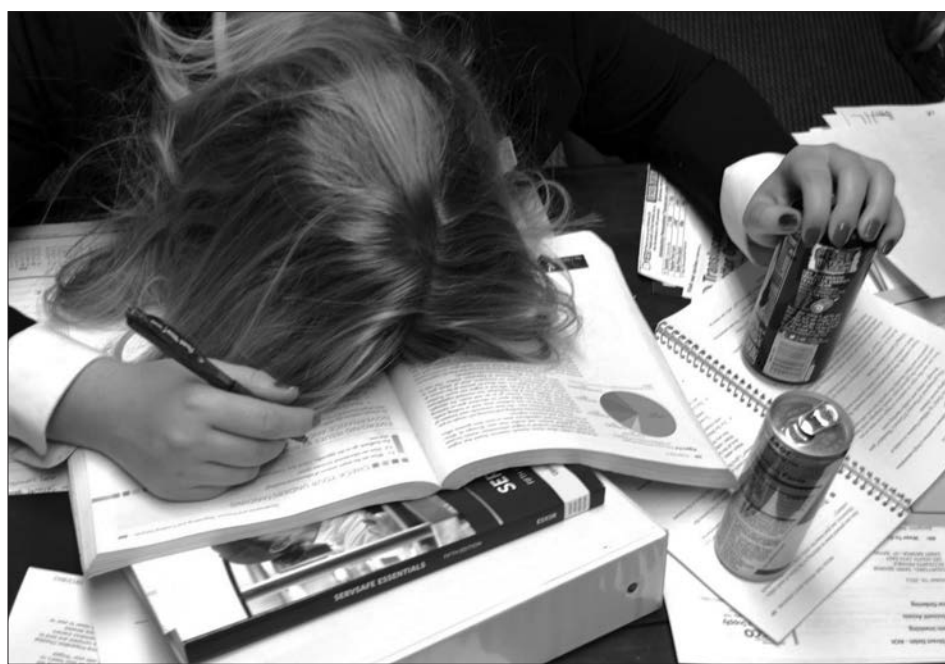


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them to your loving family members who do not have a clue, I have decided to vent and name some tips I call "final survival."

I originally think to myself how great it is that I only have to deal with two more weeks of essays and tests before final exams and then freedom. But then I think to myself, "Oh, no. I only have two weeks to get all of these assignments in and study for all of my tests."

In order to keep from having another panic attack, the first thing

I suggest is to get ahead. Of course, college students are known for procrastination. We are the best at it. But this year is not the year, and this is not the time to procrastinate.

I do not know if it is just me, but I think this semester I have had more work than ever before (even during junior year of high school, and that is saying something). So, Thanksgiving break would have been the best time to get ahead on your work.

However, if you did not do this, use this coming weekend to dedicate

fully to work. Trust me, you will thank yourself later.

Besides making the library your permanent residence this weekend, you also need to make a list of every single assignment you have due in the next two weeks.

If you were in my position, you would wake up to a wonderful surprise in your email notifications stating how you have an essay due your next class session. So, look over all of your class syllabi and write it all down in a list. To reward yourself, when you are done put a check next to it or cross it out. It is a relief.

Besides making lists, living in the library, and refusing to procrastinate, the last and most important thing you can do in this final stretch is sleep.

I promise you that it is not worth staying up until 2 a.m. to watch the last period or half of a sports game or to finish the movie you can watch another time, or finding out who went home on *The Voice*. Make sure you are getting at least eight hours of sleep. Yes, eight, not seven, because that is the bare minimum.

Final exams at any school are hard, but if you are still in PC's DWC program, following these tips is a must. Those exams were by far the hardest I have ever had to endure, whether it was a take-home, an essay, or a two and a half hour sit in exam, you will need all the help you can get. Good luck!

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# Defending Truth in a Post-Truth World

by Jacquelyn Kelley '17  
Associate Editor-in-Chief

## EDITOR'S COLUMN

The Oxford English Dictionary recently declared "post-truth" to be the international word of the year due to its frequent utterance during both the Brexit vote and U.S. election. The OED defines the word as an adjective meaning "relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public



opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief."

Because Providence College's mission emphasizes "veritas," or truth, I cannot help but believe that our community is obligated to work toward reversing the "post-truth" culture that society has adopted.

But, where do we begin? We must first acknowledge the power that the Internet and social media hold over our society. Almost anybody can create their own website these days and pose as an expert with all the facts when, in reality, they are spewing conspiracy theories and personal opinions that are not founded in truth. What is worse is that with the click of a button, it is all too easy to share these factless claims on Facebook and Twitter where they may influence and misinform vulnerable followers.

As much as I dislike starting "drama" on social media, a space where people have every right to voice their own opinions, I do think it is imperative that we use these platforms to promote truth, even if that means awkwardly calling a friend's data or source into question. If we choose to scroll past an article or status with information appealing to a "post-truth" society, we may prove that we are able to discern between fact and fiction, but we fail to help our peers who

may read the same article or status from a more naïve perspective.

It is our duty, as defenders of veritas, to assist others in finding truth too, so instead of simply overlooking a post that lacks credibility, we need to respond. Whether we comment on the post in question with some facts or share an article from our own accounts that sheds some light on the issue, we have, at the very least, proven our dedication to truth, but have hopefully helped others find truth too.

Because the Internet and social media dominate our everyday lives, and have undoubtedly played a significant role in the political outcomes of 2016, I have mainly focused on how we can work to transform our cyberspace from one appealing to "post-truth" culture to one appealing to fact.

However, there are certainly other ways we can defend truth too. If we suddenly find ourselves participating in conversations that have diverged from fact, we can use our own words to bring the discussion back around to the truth. When it feels as if nobody wants to hear the truth, perhaps we join a protest, and shout the truth so loud so that everybody hears it. In any case, we must remember that as members of a college community dedicated to veritas, it is our duty to defend truth in this "post-truth" world.

# Letter to the Editor

## DIALOGUE

By Dr. Jennifer Illuzzi  
Department of History

I very much appreciate that you took the time to interview Dr. Esolen about the controversy concerning the articles published in *Crisis Magazine*. I feel quite moved to respond to the articles. As someone who is a Catholic who tries, and often struggles, each day to practice her faith, and simultaneously falls on the left of the political spectrum, I found myself agreeing with many of the points Dr. Esolen made in the interview: I certainly have experienced skepticism on the part of secular liberal colleagues, particularly at my graduate institution, when they realized that I practiced the Catholic faith, and I have also experienced skepticism of some of my views from various conservative and observant Catholics in my life. I do sometimes feel caught in the middle of politics and religion. One of the reasons that I very much appreciate teaching at Providence College is the fact that I feel that I can openly talk about the struggles between faith and politics, and engage with faith in an academic way at all. I have never felt stymied in expressing my faith here at

Providence College, and that welcoming spirit has led me back to my faith, and to a new embrace of the spirit of challenge and questioning that is so much a part of Thomas Aquinas' legacy to us as a college. I strongly agree with Dr. Esolen that one of our foremost missions at the College is to re-integrate ourselves with our surrounding neighborhood and to open our doors to the youth of Smith Hill as we did historically. Moreover, I agree with Dr. Esolen that we must have a campus dialogue about what precisely diversity means for us, as an institution and a community. That work has begun through the Difficult Dialogues series, and I know it will continue.

It is from this spirit that I feel I must challenge what seems to me to be an unjust dichotomy and a problematic framing of Dr. Esolen's arguments. Dr. Esolen seems to posit a split between faculty who are Catholic and agree with DWC as it has historically been taught, and a secular faculty who seek only to destroy the program and disparage people of faith. In Dr. Esolen's interview, he states, "The tremendous irony of it all is that the Catholic Church, which is now 2,000 years old, is the most multi-cultural institution in

the world right now, and it has always been that way....But there's this tremendous irony that that is what the Church is [an institution that values diverse cultures], that's what the Church has been, but people who are not part of that have no idea." I felt very perturbed by that statement, and I feel that, as a Catholic of a different perspective, I must respond.

One of the things I have tried to convey in my DWC classes (and elsewhere) is that, like so many other historical institutions, the members and representatives of the Catholic church have acted in liberatory and oppressive ways. Dr. Esolen's portrayal of the Catholic church quite literally whitewashes a problematic history: without understanding the history of the Catholic church, in all its complexities, how can we Catholics, as a Church, make it better? Gustavo Gutierrez, among others, has been struggling and fighting for that work for much of his life in his quest for a theology of liberation that has begun to transform and strengthen the Church in the world. For many centuries, many members of the Catholic church stood on the side of the powerful, and aligned themselves with forces of oppression.

Certainly not all members of the church, but from the eyes of our Jewish brothers and sisters in history, the Church did not represent multiculturalism, but oppression and marginalization. Our Muslim brothers and sisters would have stories to tell of a Catholicism that was concerned more about political power and wealth than the poor and those who suffered. Our Catholic sisters and brothers in Latin America and in many parts of Africa may recall a time when "Christian and black are juxtaposed – the one overcoming the other" (Jennings, 2010, 23). Oscar Romero stood on the side of the poor and against a powerful institutional church that stood with those who oppressed the poor and indigenes. There is a missionary tradition within Catholicism that "stands conceptually in one place and demands that 'the barbarians' move toward [it.]" (Jennings, 2010, 105). These actions distorted the reality of Jesus, and as a Church, our job is to try to follow in the footsteps of Christ. Certainly, dissenting voices opposed these problematic developments at every turn, but to claim that the Church has always been a "multicultural" institution is to fail to grasp the complexity of

its institutional history. It also, I believe, oversimplifies and underestimates the student, faculty, and staff members of the campus community by presenting a reductionist view of Church history. As a Catholic myself, I resent being imbricated in a narrative of Catholicism that rejects a coming to grips with problematic historical approaches to humanity and its differences, or an alternate narrative that posits I am but a secular liberal fighting for the end of culture. It is this piece of the interview that continues to trouble me, as a person of faith. I do not want our students who choose to call themselves constituent parts of the body of Christ to think that Dr. Esolen's failure to acknowledge the problematic pieces of the institutional Church means that they too must defend Catholicism without admitting its flaws. His position does not represent mine, and I suspect I am not alone in this feeling. I hope that more of us can continue to build a narrative and a dialogue around a complex view of Catholicism and its history to build a stronger community here at PC—one that includes and reaches out to everyone who is willing to listen.



# TANGENTS & TIRADES

## *Celebrate the Season of Giving*

My grandma said something quite profound a few days ago while riding in the car with my family and me. Non-stop Christmas music was playing through the car speakers.

The super intense Trans-Siberian Orchestra's "Carol of the Bells" came on—the one that sounds like something Santa might lift to at the gym. Halfway through the song, my grandma says, "This kind of music is a scheme to hype people up to buy a bunch of junk."

As funny as this was coming out of her mouth, it made me think. Listening to the radio and seeing ads on TV for sale after sale, layaway at Walmart, buy three mattresses, and get the fourth free, the spirit of materialism and the hype to buy, buy, buy can feel suffocating.

Christmas is absolutely the most wonderful time of the year. Nothing lifts downtrodden spirits more than listening to Christmas music, decorating a tree, and spending time with loved ones.

Christmas can also feel like the season of gluttony, and not always in a good way. It can feel more like the season of stuff and less like the season of love. That is why the best present to give or receive on Christmas morning isn't the newest, shiniest gadget or the latest trend. I believe the best presents are homemade.

They demonstrate thoughtfulness. They are made with love and given knowing the receiver won't feel like they were just checked off a list. Sure, it might be a very poorly knit scarf or a bar of soap whittled into a reindeer, but it came from you and your creativity. Homemade gifts are in the purest spirit of giving, and that's what Christmas is really about.

- Lela Biggus '18

## *The Problem with Gilmore Girls*

Like every other college-aged girl and her mother, I spent a large chunk of my Thanksgiving break waiting for and watching *Gilmore Girls: A Year In The Life*, which was released on Netflix on Nov. 25. I actually watched it with my mother, who is a bigger fan of the show than I am.

I lived for the drama and comfort of Stars Hollow when I was younger and spent a lot of time living through Rory Gilmore after school; and although there were parts of *A Year In The Life* I thought were incredibly well done—which I will omit for the sake of spoilers—I thought the revival had too many fillers and not enough substance.

Not to say that there was no substance—the plot lines the writers carried out were interesting and emotional—but each of the four, hour and a half long episodes had at least a half an hour of filler that was pointless and not necessarily entertaining.

Kirk's homemade movie, the musical that the writers made the audience sit through for 20 minutes, and the montage of "With A Little Help From My Friends" taken directly from *Across The Universe* were not particularly entertaining, not relevant to the story, and took away precious time that could have been spent expanding the plot.

I believed that *Gilmore Girls: A Year In The Life* had potential, but I wanted to see how Rory transformed the *Stars Hollow Gazette* instead of professional dancers in an irrelevant musical number filler.

- Brianna Abbott '17

## *The Perks of Being At School*

Being home for Thanksgiving break has been a nice change to say the least. Although some of my grandmother's Thanksgiving side dishes resembled the not-so-fine cuisine you would find in Ray, our Thanksgiving table still held the highly-anticipated classics. And because I had to hit all my favorite restaurants I've missed since August, it was Sunday before I sat down with my favorite leftover sandwich filled with turkey, stuffing, gravy, and cranberry relish.

Apart from eating real food, having access to a car to venture out and run spontaneous errands was another luxury I enjoyed at home. Need a snack? Head to Trader Joe's for chocolate covered almonds. Running low on conditioner? No problem. Need a vacuum to clean that shag carpet back at school? Target is open all night.

While I enjoyed relaxing in the comfort of my own home with friends and family and sleeping on my own full size mattress, I also realized the advantages of the freedom I am granted in college. Not having to text my parents about every move I make is certainly not something I have missed these past few months. Those pestering 1 a.m. texts from my mother demanding to know where I am and when I'm coming home is something I dread dealing with over Christmas break.

Although the positives of being home seem to outweigh the negatives, I look forward to reclaiming my independence once back at PC. Like I texted my mom at 2 a.m. on Sunday morning, "I'm in college now."

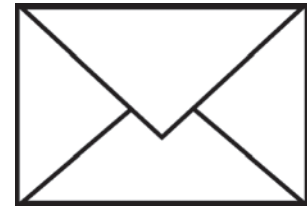
-Katherine Opiela '20



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# PHOTOGRAPHY



KIMBERLY LEZAMA '18/ THE COWL

**ABOVE:** Students of the Class of 2018 buy their class rings, sponsored by Student Activities.

**TOP RIGHT:** Students buy gifts at the Fair Trade Christmas Sale and give back to Catholic Relief Services, sponsored by Social Justice Advocacy.

**RIGHT:** Students spread the Christmas cheer by enjoying hot chocolate, decorating snow globes, and sharing the holiday festivities with friends, sponsored by BOP.

**BELOW:** Students buy postcards of Providence College to send home for the holiday season, sponsored by Photography Club.



KIMBERLY LEZAMA '18/ THE COWL



KIMBERLY LEZAMA '18/ THE COWL



KRISTINA HO '18/ THE COWL



# PROVING PHOTOGRAPHY

## Who is your celebrity crush?



**"Myself and Matthew McConaughey."**

Gabriella Sanchez '18 and Ingrid Brugnoli-Ensin '18



**"Leonardo DiCaprio."**

Monica Graziano '19 and Lindsey Madeira '19



**"Liam Hemsworth and Adam Levine."**

Madison Olenzak '19 and Katarina Rizzuto '19



**"Jake Gyllenhaal, Drake, and Jesse Williams"**

Nana Akua Asante '20, Brionna Murray '20, and Sabrin Mohamednur '20



**"Tom Brady."**

Chris Campanelli '19, Chris Manettas '19, Michael Fahy '19, and Kyle Griffin '19



**"Julianne Hough, Ryan Reynolds, Tom Brady, and Blake Lively."**

Christie Labib '20, Cassie Riddle '20, Kiley McMahon '20, and Alexa Stiles '20



**"Kanye West."**

- Taylor Swift

PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.WALLPAPERBACKGROUNDS.COM



## Remembering a Rock Legend

### Mercury

Continued from front page:

Mercury's problems began in the 1970s when Queen spent most of their time in Munich, a city with an incredibly prevalent sex culture. During this time, Mercury engaged in multiple sexual relationships in addition to heavy drinking and drug use.

AIDS entered the scene in the 1980s when cases were beginning to be reported in New York City, and Mercury's promiscuous lifestyle prompted an AIDS test in 1985, which came out negative, and again in 1987, this time with a positive result.

Mercury kept his diagnosis private, not informing the other members of Queen or Mary Austin, his girlfriend for many years. His motivation in finally telling his fellow band members was to make as much music as he could with the time he had left.

To rewind, Mercury's career launched in 1974 when Queen released their first major album *Sheer Heart Attack*, which was a massive commercial success. Mercury and May had helped co-write a number of the songs.

The album showcased Mercury's unbelievable voice, which could hit deep low points and then miraculously go incredibly high. Mercury and May went on to write a number of rock and roll hits, such as "Crazy Little Thing Called Love," "Fat Bottomed Girls," "Don't Stop Me Now," and "Somebody to Love."

Queen's live performances were often considered to be among some of, if not the best live performing acts. Take for instance Mercury's performance at the Live Aid concert in 1985. The concert itself was broadcasted worldwide and received 1.9 billion views according to CNN.

Though the band only played a handful of songs, Queen was considered to have the best performers as Mercury electrified the crowd. This performance is often cited as one of the most



Freddie Mercury performs in concert.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TARINGA.NET

important events in the history of rock and roll, up there with Woodstock.

Mercury knew that his voice was legendary and he proved it not only with his rock opera song "Bohemian Rhapsody," but with his rendition of the famous opera song "Barcelona," which became the song of the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona.

Mercury almost married his long time girlfriend, Mary Austin, whom he met when he first moved to Britain. However, Mercury identified as gay, and eventually the relationship ended and the two remained best friends for his entire life.

Queen rocked the public throughout the late '70s, '80s, and early '90s, however by early 1991, it was becoming clear Mercury was sick and rumors

of AIDS haunted him everywhere he went.

Finally on November 23, 1991, Mercury publicly admitted to having AIDS, and died the next morning. The public was shocked to learn of the first rock icon dying so suddenly from the disease.

The following year, what remained of Queen held a concert on his behalf and featured Robert Plant of Led Zeppelin, Elton John, David Bowie, and many more rock superstars.

In 2012, Mercury rocked the world when he reappeared at ceremonies in London for the Olympic games. The hologram performance of Mercury showed the world that rock and roll not only transcends international boundaries but even death itself.

## 'Tis the Season: Christmas Album Releases

by Ryan Cox '18  
A&E Staff

### MUSIC

It has become somewhat of a tradition for recording artists to record a Christmas album once they have become established in the music industry.

Artists in all genres put their spin on Christmas classics and often include some original music as well. From rock to pop and country to rap, a new batch of Christmas CDs are released to radio, stores, and online streaming.

Here is a preview of four of this year's new releases, which can be found in stores now or streaming on Spotify.

If you can't listen to the whole album, be sure to at least listen to the featured song at the end of each preview for a small taste of the CD.

Brett Eldredge, *Glow*:

Country star Brett Eldredge abandons his usual country sound and channels Michael Bublé for his first Christmas album, *Glow*. The entire album features a bright brass section in a big-band style. Eldredge's baritone fits the style of the band extremely well. He duets with Meghan Trainor on "Baby, It's Cold Outside," which would have been an interesting pairing on a strictly country record, but works

well given Eldredge's big band, Bublé-esque style for this album. Despite technically being a country album, *Glow* caters to all listeners, not just country fans. Featured song: "Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!"

She & Him, *Christmas Party*:

She & Him features actress Zoëy Deschanel as the female half of

this duo and the lead vocals of the majority of the tracks on *Christmas Party*. Deschanel doesn't have the best singing voice, but it fits the indie-acoustic sound of the duo. *Christmas Party* is unique in that the track list is extremely diverse, comprised of some non-standard Christmas classics, like "Mele Kalikimaka" and "Must Be Santa."

She & Him delivers a unique take on "Run Run Rudolph" by slowing it down, and Deschanel shines on "Happy Holidays." Featured song: "Happy Holidays."

Leslie Odom, Jr., *Simply Christmas*:

The Hamilton star's Christmas album is the shortest in this article at only eight tracks, and the simplest. Rather than Eldredge's big band sound, Odom opts for a smaller jazz ensemble of mostly just piano and drums, with an occasional brass or string feature. Thanks to this simpler accompaniment, Odom's clean, effortless tenor is, without question, the star of the album. His original song, "Winter Song," hints at Odom's Broadway experience. Featured song: "I'll Be Home for Christmas."

Pentatonix, *A Pentatonix Christmas*:

Pentatonix has established a distinct sound over five years of performing together as an A cappella group. So, in terms of the sound of *A Pentatonix Christmas*, it is exactly what you might expect: clean harmonies, incredible vocal percussion, and an A cappella group that sets the bar high for similar acts. As with many Pentatonix arrangements, the group offers fun and different new takes on classics, in this case with "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" and "Hallelujah." Featured song: "White Christmas," in collaboration with The Manhattan Transfer.



Brett Eldredge poses for a promotional photo.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PEOPLE.COM

# Boston Art Exhibit Shaking it Up



"Brooch" by John Iversen.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOSTONMAGAZINE.COM

by Alexis Jais '18

A&E Staff

FINE ARTS

Sometimes it is not so clear how art can change one's perceptions; oftentimes, art curated or developed in a different way than the public is familiar with can have an even more intense effect on human perception.

By assembling varied mediums and materials in new ways in abundance and multiplicity, artists are able to illustrate the allure of patterns and the interconnectedness of systems in today's world.

At Boston's Museum of Fine Arts between Nov. 19 and April 9, the "Massed Media" exhibit has been doing just this. It features a set of pieces designed by artists from around the world who are intrigued by the use of unexpected materials to create truly mesmerizing pieces to spark cultural, personal, relational, and societal reflection.

While I was experiencing the compositions in the exhibit this past weekend, I saw the variance in perceptions even of the artists themselves. Each artist had their own idea of how patterns could speak to the public.

One artist, El Anatsui, a Ghanaian sculptor known especially for his famous "bottle-top" pieces, seemed

to evoke political and cultural implications in his work "Black River." It almost forced a provocative and forthright objection to pollution in consumer society with the use of bottle pieces to recreate a river.

Another artist, Ayala Serfaty, based in Israel, used pieces of glass and strands of fiber to recreate abstract scenes, possibly offering a more introspective message, speaking to each viewer in a personal and private way.

The traditional mediums in the art world can seem overused and uninteresting to some, and classically poetic to others. In any case, there is genuine depth in many of the pieces I saw at the exhibit.

Using a new medium can be scary because it involves treading on untouched ground. The payoff, however, can be more impactful than expected mediums because the public is not accustomed to seeing the very base of a composition created out of something totally unfamiliar.

Other artists in the exhibit presented video, sculpture, craft, design, and jewelry compositions, among other experimental mediums.

The "Massed Media" exhibit is truly one of the most intriguing, versatile, and thought-provoking exhibits at the Boston MFA in a while, and is free with museum admission until early April 2017. It is well worth a walk through.

# Smells Like Teen Spirit: *Edge of Seventeen*

by Kerry Torpey '20

A&E Staff

FILM

On November 18, 2016 *The Edge of Seventeen*, starring Hailee Steinfeld and Woody Harrelson, was released in theaters by STX Entertainment. Written and directed by Kelly Fremon Craig, the movie follows the story of an awkward and highly dramatic high school student named Nadine.

*The Edge of Seventeen* hits on all the major points a coming-of-age story typically does. Nadine faces struggles with family, friends, school, and self-discovery.

Nadine in many ways, however, defies your typical protagonist. Although she is often sweet and affectionate, Nadine is frequently sarcastic, outspoken, melodramatic, and candid about everything and everyone that crosses her path.

After a family member of hers passes away unexpectedly, the only person Nadine takes comfort in is her best friend, Krista. When Krista starts dating Nadine's brother, the "popular guy," Darian, she feels like her world is falling apart all over again. As her depression and social anxiety prevent her from entering a new social circle with Krista, Nadine finds herself alone.

As a result, Nadine seeks advice from her history teacher, Mr. Bruner. Played by Harrelson, Mr. Bruner listens to Nadine's problems and often responds with a dry humor, once telling Nadine "Wake up! You had a brain operation! It worked! It made you pleasant and agreeable!" Despite his humorous approach to dealing with Nadine, Mr. Bruner's words often have serious, genuine undertones that offer Nadine legitimate guidance.

While wrestling with how to deal with so many abrupt changes in her life, Nadine forms a friendship with a delightfully awkward and sweet classmate named Erwin. Erwin is a recognizable character in a coming-of-age story. He clearly has feelings for Nadine, who cannot imagine anyone ever admiring her, but is too shy and clumsy to smoothly do anything about them.

Alongside the hilarious relationship between Erwin



Hailee Steinfeld in *Edge of Seventeen*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GEEKSOFDOOM.COM

and Nadine is a non-existent one between Nadine and her long-time crush, Nick Mossman. The stereotypical "bad-boy," Nick is mysterious and perplexing in Nadine's eyes. As seen in the trailers for the film, Nadine sends Nick a priceless, cringe-worthy text message that had the whole theater uproarious.

What makes *The Edge of Seventeen* stand out from other coming-of-age stories is highly due to the script. Craig's witty and clever dialogue make for a wonderfully entertaining and hilarious film. She handles what it is like for a modern-day teenager going through the struggles of high school with grace and charm.

Steinfeld makes a commendable performance as Nadine. The 19-year-old actress continues to prove

herself as skilled as she makes Nadine likeable yet slightly irritating.

Haley Lu Richardson plays Nadine's best friend Krista. What stands out about Richardson's performance is that in many coming-of-age stories, Krista's character normally would turn into the awful and nasty ex-best friend who completely ignores Nadine. On the contrary, Krista remains a sweet and gentle character who wants to maintain her friendship with Nadine, but is shut out by Nadine's shock and anger with her.

*The Edge of Seventeen* is definitely worth a watch as it is a rare film that combines common aspects of a coming-of-age narrative with its own unique and amusing twists.

Let's

Rave

## This Week: *Gilmore Girls*

by Luiza Alves '19  
A&E Staff

TELEVISION

The *Gilmore Girls* revival *Gilmore Girls: A Year in the Life* was officially released on Netflix this past Friday. Unlike many reboots and reproductions that have disappointed in the past, it exceeded my expectations.

The show's original executive producers and writers, husband and wife Daniel Palladino and Amy Sherman-Palladino, were fully committed to bringing back the show in the best way possible and how it was intended to end. "End," however, is an ephemeral and unreliable word to use as there are speculations that *A Year in the Life* is not a one-time thing.

There are rumors of a spin-off show due to Rory's last words on the fourth and "final" episode. I will not give away any spoilers to those who may have not watched the revival yet, other than that it is absolutely incredible.

Watching this kind of reboot leaves you a tad bit rattled after it is over, in addition to leaving you wanting more. The season consisted of four 90 minute long episodes based on each season of the year, hence *A Year in the Life*.

After the show's retirement, when I heard of a comeback I immediately had questions on each character's story line and what they were up to ten years later.

I have to congratulate the show's creators because, although I wish for another season, all of my immediate doubts were answered and I was thoroughly satisfied with the acting and plot of the show's episodes. Although they had a lot to fit into 90 minute episodes, it did not feel rushed by any means and followed a sequential and logical order.

With only four episodes, you will not find all of the nitty-gritty details like their Thanksgiving and Christmas plans, but all major characters appear at least once, with the exception of Lorelai's father, Richard Gilmore.

Edward Herrmann, who played Richard in the show's seven seasons, passed away in 2014 as announced by media outlets. Many wondered how the revival would cope with his loss. The writers successfully addressed it with the care and attention it deserved.

Needless to say, the colorful characters of Stars Hollow, Connecticut were missed and this revival provided fans with the "last" embrace we desired. Be sure to pay Lorelai and Rory a visit on Netflix...after finals, of course.



Lauren Graham and Alexis Bledel in *Gilmore Girls: A Year in the Life*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WHAS11.COM

# *Fantastic Beasts* and Why You Should Watch Them



Promotional photo taken for *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SCREENSCOOP.COM

by Brigid Walshe '19  
A&E Staff

FILM

As an avid Harry Potter fan, I was more than excited for the new prequel, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, and how the prequel would compare to the originals, and let me tell you, it did not disappoint.

That being said, this movie is not really related to Harry Potter directly. It explores the adventures of Newt Scamander in New York's secret community of witches and wizards seventy years before Harry Potter reads his book at Hogwarts.

*Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* was actually a book published by J.K. Rowling. The book describes the history of Magizoology, the study of magical creatures. Newt collects all this information during his world tour to five continents, where he observes the 85 magical creatures he describes.

In the Harry Potter world, this book is required for all first year Hogwarts students, and in the version published by Rowling, she includes Harry Potter's notes in the book. Rowling then took the character of Newt Scamander and wrote the movie centered around him.

Of course, there are some differences between the wizarding world in England compared to the United States. First, a non-magical person is referred to as "no-maj" rather than a "muggle." All of these differences are addressed in the book and it is interesting to see how they are portrayed in the movie.

For example, rather than having a Ministry

of Magic, they have the Magical Congress of the United States of America, and instead of a minister, they have a president. They have much stricter laws when it comes to relationships among no-majs and wizards; Rappaport's Law in America declared that no-majs and wizards could not mix.

Along with Rappaport's Laws, relations among no-majs and muggles seem to be really tense; the film shows no-majs protesting wizards and the magical community. Not only that, if a no-maj witnesses a magical act, their memory is erased to forget it.

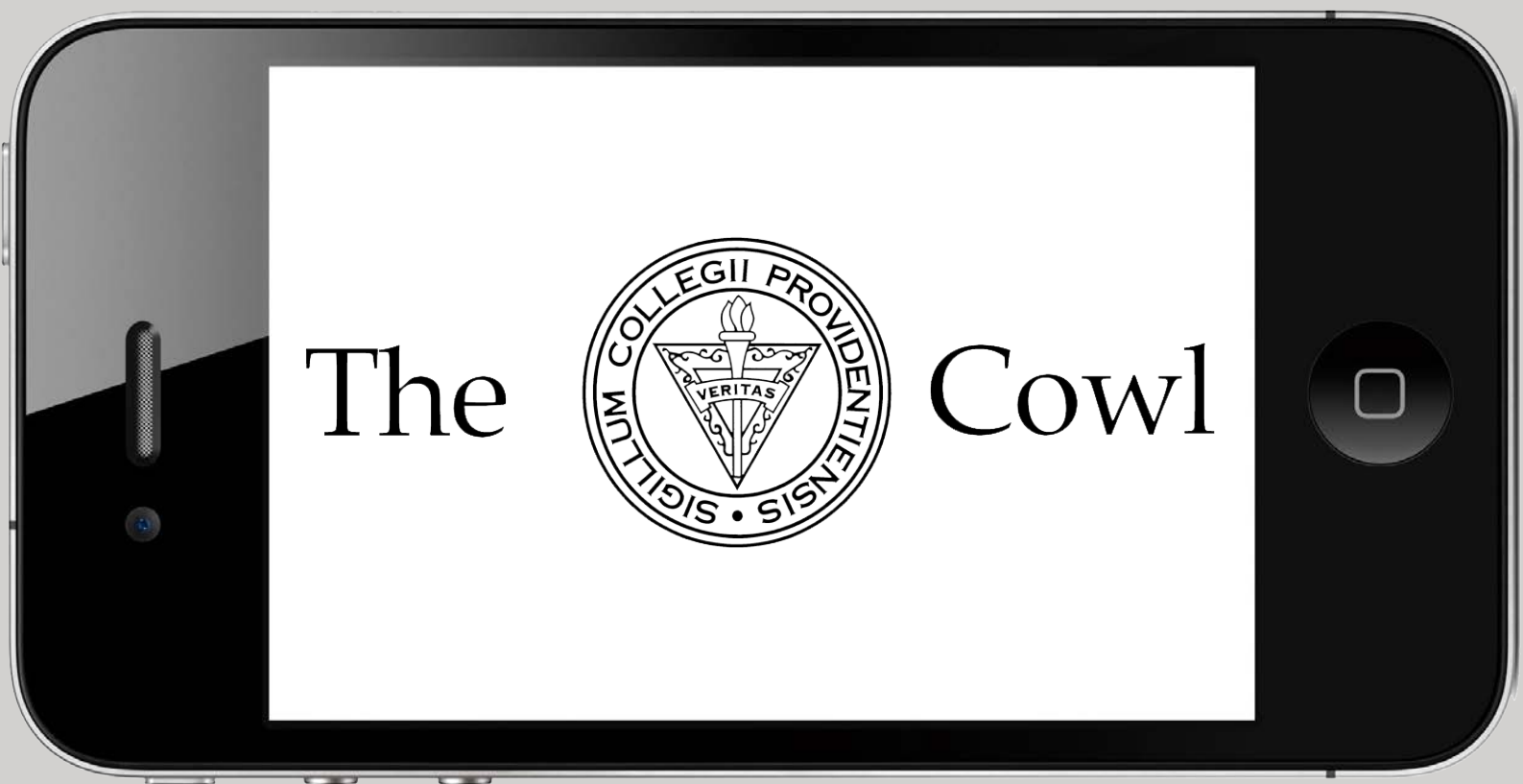
Of course, the movie contains "fantastic beasts" and these beasts are adorable. First, there is the cute, but sneaky Niffler. The Niffler is described as a long-snouted, burrowing creature native to Britain with a penchant for anything shiny, according to Newt. He causes a little of trouble for Newt, but the audience could not help but love how adorable he was.

There are also Billywigs, Thunderbirds, Bowtruckles, and many more. If you see the movie, you'll see exactly what these creatures are and how they impact Newt's adventures.

Although Newt is doing his own thing, true Harry Potter fans will be surprised (and definitely pleased) with the ending. It ties into an important event in the history of the wizarding world that those who read the books will recognize immediately.

So, if you have time during the next couple of weeks or need a study break, I definitely recommend checking out *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*. It was nice to return to the magical realm of Rowling, and even if you don't like Harry Potter, I'm sure the Niffler will win you over.

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Cowl's* Tiff & Earl!**



# WIGGLAWTE

by Connor Zimmerman '20  
Portfolio Staff

SHORT STORY

I stand on top of the building in the dead of night. It would be easy to mistake me for a gargoyle. In a way, I am, because people are scared shitless when they see me. It is silent, just the way I like it. The stars are out and I look down at my city with a wanting gaze. I need some action right now or I might just fall asleep. My eyes grow heavy and begin to close. A couple of minutes of sleep never hurt nobody. Then my scanner screeches.

“Robbery down on 616th avenue, first responders be advised the group is armed.”

I smile, it's showtime. I begin to run towards the edge of the rooftop and jump. All of time begins to slow down. Twenty feet is all that lies between me and my death. And I wouldn't have it any other way. I begin to tuck myself into a ball and roll as my left shoulder strikes the cement rooftop hard. I roll and am quickly back on my feet. As I jump between rooftops, the wind flies into my face. If it wasn't for my mask I am sure that I would have had a healthy dinner of flies by now. I hear police sirens in the far-off distance and pick up my speed. Nothing is going to take away my night.

I see my exit and jump. I ride down a fire escape like it's the pole in a firehouse. My feet hit the ground and I'm off. In my sights, I see the jewelry store on 616th avenue, and thank God my night finally came alive. Three guys dressed blacker than the night run out of the store and into a white van. They begin to drive away. I see a motorcycle on the street and quickly hotwire it. I rev the engines up and feel the horsepower run through my veins.

I drive off after the van at a speed that would be considered reckless, if I wasn't the driver. They drive through a red light. Suddenly, I hear the sound of a truck to my right. I turn my head and the headlights blind me as I swerve out of the way and begin to drive on a sidewalk. I blast the horn and people jump out of my way. I quickly veer back onto the road, wondering if there were any casualties. I drive up close to the white van and balance myself on the motorcycle. I reach into my jacket and pull out two knives. And I jump. All I feel is the adrenaline, the sweetest drug in the world. The motorcycle slides into the car behind me and I hear a loud crash and horn that I ignore.

I land on top of the van with a thud. Sticking two knives through the roof to keep my place on the fast-moving van. The knives barely miss one of the guys inside.

“What the hell was that? I almost got stabbed in the damn head.”

“Why the hell are you asking me? Go check outside the window.”

One of the guys in the van pokes his head out the door and I smash his face with my fist. He falls out of the van and gets run over. I ignore the blood-curling screams and crunch of the body as the van drives on. I jump into the van through the open door, grab the driver's head, and smash into the dashboard. The van begins to swerve left and I grab the wheel. The man in the back of the van cocks his gun and, before he shoots, I drive my elbow into his throat and hear the snap of some bone. He falls to the ground gasping for air. I push the unconscious driver out of the van and shift into his seat. I hit the brakes and the van stops in the middle of the road. Just as I get out of the van and hear police sirens. I run to the

nearest building and scale up the fire escape. Right on time, as always.

The police stop and go up to the van. The two officers open the back of the van and see the unconscious man in the back. They gasp.

“Christ, what the hell happened to these guys? Two were dead back on the road and this guy is barely breathing.”

“Whoever did this didn't even stop the robbery. Thank God, we caught the other van that had the jewelry. This was the distraction car.”

“Psycho never realized that there were more than three guys in the robbery. He's the real criminal.”

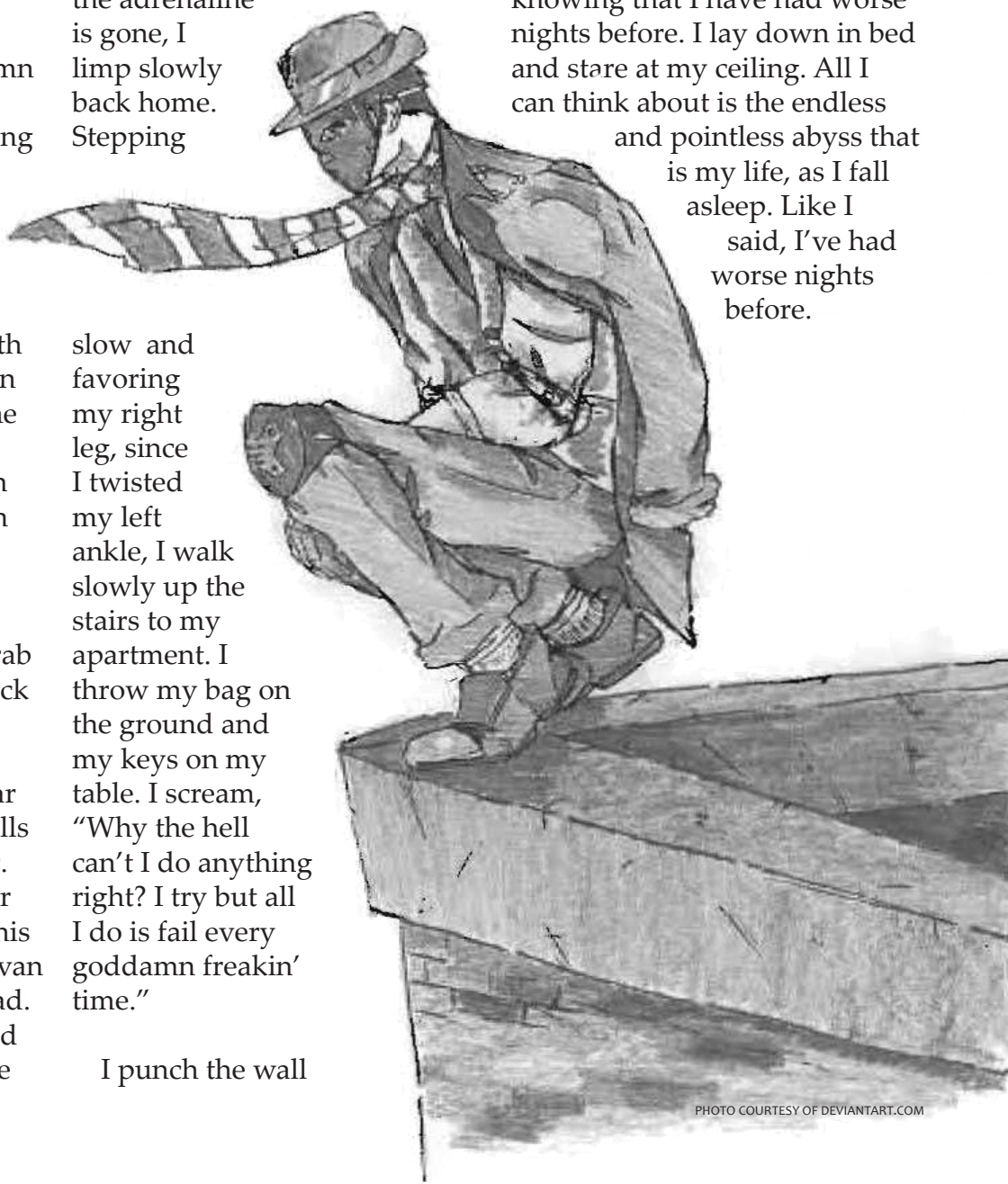
I hear this from the side of the building. I curse under my breath. I take off my mask and change into my street clothes. I scale back down the fire escape and put my hood up. Now that the adrenaline is gone, I limp slowly back home. Stepping

slow and favoring my right leg, since I twisted my left ankle, I walk slowly up the stairs to my apartment. I throw my bag on the ground and my keys on my table. I scream, “Why the hell can't I do anything right? I try but all I do is fail every goddamn freakin' time.”

I punch the wall

of my apartment and leave a hole in the wall. I take my hand out, shaking like I just drank five red bulls. I gaze woefully at a picture on the table. It is of a man playing catch with my younger self. I pick up the picture and throw it across the room. The glass shatters and I walk away. I mutter under my breath, “I couldn't even save my own father.”

I go to my bathroom and turn on the shower. As the dry blood slowly washes from my body and flows slowly, swirling down my drain, I become dizzy. I get out of the shower and the room is spinning. I sit down and try to clear my head. Once I can see clearly, I stand up slowly and look at myself in the mirror. I take stock of my injuries: I have two possibly broken fingers, a severely bruised shoulder, a twisted ankle, and probably a concussion. I pop two aspirin and bandage my wounds, knowing that I have had worse nights before. I lay down in bed and stare at my ceiling. All I can think about is the endless and pointless abyss that is my life, as I fall asleep. Like I said, I've had worse nights before.



# A SPRIG OF ASPHODEL

by Clara Howard '19  
Portfolio Staff

SHORT STORY

It was cold for a night in early September, and it made Liam wish he had worn something thicker than his threadbare brown leather jacket. Hunching his shoulders against the relentless wind gusts, he shoved his hands into his pockets and walked faster. Though it was just barely six o'clock in the evening, the sun was almost done setting, and up ahead of him porch lights and street lamps were turning on for the night. The yellow-orange glow from the houses in front of him lit the path as he picked his way through his neighborhood woods, heading home. A particularly strong burst of wind from behind him propelled Liam forward, making him stumble. Straightening, he rolled his shoulders and looked back towards the trees. Seeing nothing, he shivered again and continued on his way.

He didn't catch the pair of amber eyes watching him from the shadows.

\* \* \*

Liam waited until he saw his friends' car leave the driveway before stepping back and closing the door. He sighed, smiling as he went into the kitchen and saw his aunt and uncle cleaning the dishes from the night. Liam plopped down into a chair at the table. "Oh man, Aunt Mare, whatever you put in that birthday cake was delicious."

"Yeah?" She turned to face him, her hands occupied with washing the cake knife, her eyes alight with satisfaction. "You think your friends liked it?"

"Are you kidding? They loved

it! They couldn't stop raving about it." He yawned, frowning as he glanced at his watch. "Damn, I really am getting old, it's barely midnight and I'm already tired." He yawned again, watching as his aunt and uncle worked in tandem at the sink, washing and drying. They didn't speak, as though each knew exactly where the other would be, and then acted accordingly.

As he sat there, Liam felt his eyes grow heavy from the combination of a long day of driving and the amount of food he had consumed at the party. He leaned back in his seat, listening as his aunt started humming an old lullaby and letting his eyes drop shut as his mind drifted between sleep and consciousness. He missed the small, knowing smile shared between his aunt and uncle before he slipped into sleep, his head lolling forward onto his shoulders.

"Is everything ready?" Marielle whispered to her husband, not wishing to wake the sleeping prince.

Edmond nodded, his dark eyes gleaming in anticipation as he dried the last of the silverware. "Our things are packed, and the others will be here within the hour to help us move the body. All that's left to do is the actual deed itself."

Marielle smiled up at her husband, her satisfaction apparent in the wicked twist of her lips. "Good. I can't believe we'll finally be able to go home."

Edmond grinned back at her. "Believe it." He replaced the towel and wiped his hands on his jeans. "Wait here, I need to retrieve our belongings." He dropped a kiss on her forehead before stepping away from the counter. "I'll be right back."

She nodded and washed her

hands in the sink, leaving her back to the open doorway and the sleeping prince behind her.

\* \* \*

*Wake up...wake up...  
wake up...*

Liam blinked, slowly regaining consciousness and yawning. He rolled his shoulders and blinked again, waking up more fully. He looked around and, noticing his uncle's absence, opened his mouth to say something to his aunt. Before he could speak, cold fingers covered his mouth, and a cloaked figure knelt in front of him. Amber eyes stared back at him, and

suddenly he heard that same whispering voice in his ear. *Trust me.* He nodded carefully, and the figure seemed to need nothing else from him. The fingers left his face as suddenly as they had appeared, and Liam's gaze shot to the large wooden staff leaning against the table, a wickedly sharp blade attached to the end, its curved edges reminding him of pictures of grim reaper scythes from old folk legends. He swallowed, suddenly more nervous than he'd ever felt in his entire life. The sound of glass shattering rent the still air, and suddenly his

attention was claimed by his aunt, who stood staring with horrified eyes at the cloaked figure in front of them.

"No," Liam's aunt whispered. "This can't be..."

"Marielle!" his uncle's voice rang out from another room and he rushed into the kitchen. "Marielle, what happened, did he—" Liam's uncle drew up short, his very words and actions cut off by the sight of the figure in the middle of the kitchen. "My gods, this can't be possible."

Liam caught a glimpse of a smile under the hood, though there didn't seem to be any humor in it. He opened his mouth again to speak, but once again the voice in his ear convinced him not to, and he slowly shut it.

"What can't be possible, Blackserd? That I'm here, or that you can see me?" The voice that flowed from the hood was raspy and low, with an accent that was impossible to identify with any one place.

Liam's uncle's face paled, and Liam saw fear flash through his eyes before anger overtook it. "What should it matter that I can see you? You're nothing but an errand boy."

A low chuckle followed that, and the stranger stood straighter, flipping off the hood and turning to face Edmond. Amber eyes glowed against bronzed skin, and long, dark brown hair fell free against her back. Her lips were turned up in a smile, but there was something deadly in her eyes that served to frighten more than comfort. "An errand boy? Why, my dear Blackserd, you know as well as I do that I'm here to collect your soul."

# A HERO'S QUEST

Joey Aiello '17  
Portfolio Staff

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SHORT STORY

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It's 10p.m. on a Saturday night and he is on a quest for two things: to consume alcohol and to get laid. If he fails to achieve the latter he will become aggressive and seek to do more of the former. He stands outside his boy's dorm building wearing boat shoes, khaki chino shorts, and his "I want to get it in" pastel button down, with his phone in hand, furiously texting females to "come through," while he waits to be let in. He is this tale's valiant hero.

Once inside he begins unpacking the Natural Ice beers from inside his North Face backpack and into his boy's mini fridge. A few of his boys are already in the room. They're in similar attire and about to embark on the same quest. He assures them that some absolute smokes\* are coming through to pregame. He mentions one of the smokes by name and one of his boys inquires if she still has that boyfriend from home. He says yes, but that it doesn't matter. They spend the next 10 minutes or so debating about the likelihood of a scenario where the smoke in question would cheat on her boyfriend.

Our hero begins crushing brews because he wants to get a good buzz on before the smokes come through. It's now 10:20p.m. and the smokes have indeed come through. Our hero mentally places each one of them in their appropriate spots on the scale that rates attractiveness one to 10 as they walk through the door. He makes his way over to the 10 in the corner to inquire what her major is. However, she cannot hear him over the electronic dance music pulsating from the room's bluetooth speaker, which is wirelessly connected to our hero's iPhone. He motions for her to wait a minute while he takes out his phone and slightly lowers the volume. "Check that out," he boasts, "It's all on here... bluetooth." He is the pinnacle of suave.

It's nearing 11p.m. and our hero begins to grow anxious. He longs to be in a more crowded environment, with louder music, more expensive alcohol, and even more smokes. He begins asking his boys what the move is. His boy since freshman year informs him of a particular bar that one of his boys that is already there said was lit. Thus it is decided. Our hero requests an Uber and his quest rages forward.

Before the Uber arrives, our hero must make a quick run to the ATM so he has cash for the bar. He takes out \$100 from the money that his grandmother put in his savings account for Christmas.

Sadly, his quest fails. The bar closes and he leaves smoke-less. However, his boy's boy from earlier did warn them that the "girls were being hella prude tonight." He returns home in dismay at his failure to crush it.

Back in his dorm room he furiously texts all the girls in his contact list to come through for a post game. His efforts prove to be fruitless. At the end of his night he is left sans booze and female companionship and his spirits are crushed. He proceeds to order pizza on his mom's credit card, but sadly falls asleep before the deliveryman arrives. Thus ends our hero's quest.

\* Smoke show (smoke for short): an attractive woman

# THE WORLD OF RHYTHM

Abby Johnston '17  
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

The world of rhythm —  
 By the sweet solitary moon evoked —  
 Danced among us,  
 And the ancient Song of Silence provoked  
 In reverence to a voice:  
 To the wind in the red pines rustling,  
 Undulating a pool of stars  
 Plain of Orion and Taurus wrestling —  
 Waking for precious Pleiades,  
 To the I-am Silence of the mountains,  
 Whose welcome felled us and  
 Who draw down the rain and snow like fountains  
 Through desolation.

And we followed.  
 Through wheat fields and vineyards and a sheepfold,  
 But mostly desert.  
 Searching for sunlit shores, home to behold.

PHOTO COURTESY OF IMGUR.COM

## Tiffany & Earl

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

Dearest Tiffany and Earl,

My life is in shambles, how do I get it back on track?

Sincerely,

Everyone Right Now

To Whomever[yone] It May Concern,

Honey, my life has been in shambles since before you were born. Don't ask how I was chosen to write this advice column. It was randomly thrown at me; that's how off track my life is. That being said, I'll tell you what I do when my life seems particularly crumbled.

I people watch. I go to the library, find someone who seems like she has her life together, and follow her around all day without her knowing it to pick up some quick tips. I've learned many a successful habit from lurking under tables, watching other students do their homework.

Successful people seem to have successful shoes, shoes that are fancy and cost more than my entire outfit. Why would I wear an expensive outfit when I'm stalking someone? It's not like anyone is going to see me.

The first girl I stalked taught me that doing the DWC reading is a good idea. The second girl studied in groups and spent her first 20 minutes in the library organizing herself and creating a checklist of things to do. The third girl called the police.



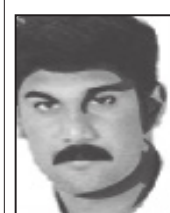
Tiffany

Dear Clutz,

# You Don't.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMGUR.COM



EARL

## Listomania

### Best Ways To Distribute *The Cowl*

Golf Cart

Mail Van

Swipe into Ray, Get a *Cowl*

Storks

Child Labor

Catapult

Carrier Pigeons

Town Cryer

Have Friar Dom Hand Them Out

Segways

DRONES

Amazon Prime

# Good luck to the Providence College Men's Soccer Team as they face North Carolina in the NCAA quarterfinals!

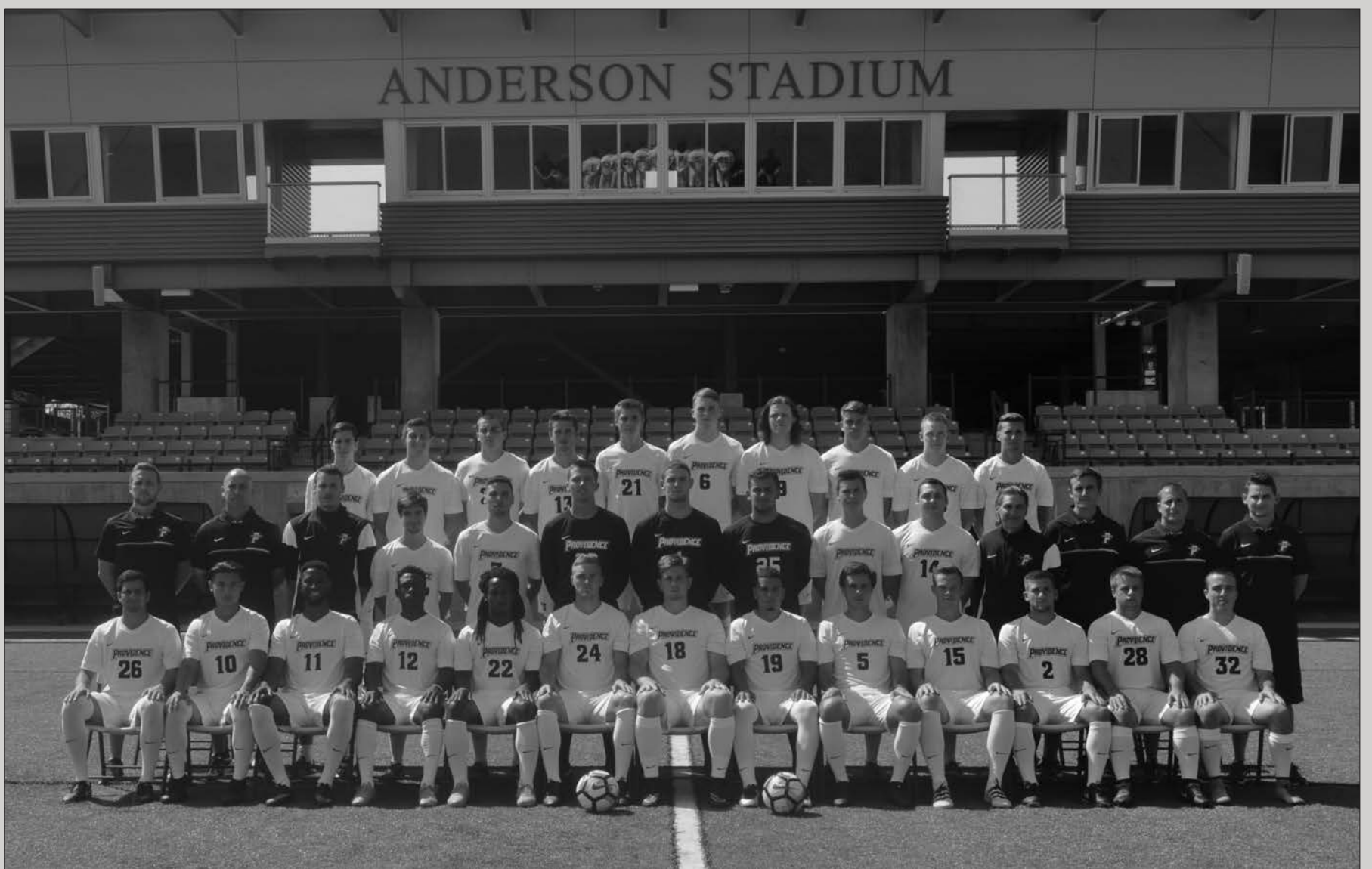


PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE ATHLETICS



# SPORTS



Men's soccer takes the field.

PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE MILNE

## Historic NCAA Tournament Run

### Soccer

Continued from front page

The momentum generated off their first win carried into the second game of the tournament in which the Friars defeated the top ranked University of Maryland Terrapins on their home turf—a game that will go down in the history of Providence College sports as one of the greatest comebacks of all time. Six minutes into the game, Maryland scored the first goal, but PC's Gressel almost immediately matched their goal. After a turnover forced by Brendan Constantine '19, Gressel gained control of the ball and tied the score in a one-on-one. The Terrapins picked up momentum and scored three more times creating a 4-1 deficit for the Friars.

At a time when many teams would give up and accept defeat, the Friars did anything but. The tenacity of the team shined through as they grinded back to score an unbelievable four consecutive goals to win the game. Gressel kick-started the scoring streak with his 14th goal of the season, and second of the game, making the score 4-2. Immediately following, Nick Sailor '17 scored his first goal of the season with an incredible left foot shot. Shortly after, Steven Kilday '19 picked the perfect opportunity to execute his first collegiate goal. Kilday took a shot from 25 feet out, through traffic, to tie the game. In the 82nd minute of the game, the Friars did the unthinkable and officially came back from a four goal deficit to triumph over the top ranked team in the country. Joao Serrano '20 scored the game winning goal with a bending corner shot that dropped into the

upper corner, landing in the net untouched. The team advanced to the third round of the tournament to take on Creighton University.

The Friars traveled to Nebraska to defeat the Blue Jays 2-1. Creighton took the lead off the bat, however Gressel tied it up with a hard earned assist from Constantine. In the 83rd minute of the game Danny Griffin, '20 racked in his sixth game winning goal of his rookie season by sending a hard shot right past the Creighton goal keeper.

Both Gressel's impeccable offensive skills and Miller's strength in the net have been key components in the success story of the PC men's soccer team this season, and specifically in their fruitful tournament run. Look out for the quarterfinal match to be played against University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill on Dec. 2 at 7 p.m.

## Cross Country Finishes Stellar Season

by Lauren Altmeyer '17  
Sports Staff

### WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

The Providence College Women's Cross Country Team started off the season ranked third nationally and first in the Northeast region. A little over a month later, the Friars were ranked number one nationally, the first time since November 2013. Much of the team's success is due to Head Coach Ray Treacy '82, who was the captain of the cross country team his junior and senior years at PC. Considered one of the most successful coaches in the nation, Treacy just finished up his 32nd season as Director of Cross Country and Track here at PC. The recently named "Ray Treacy Northeast Women's Coach of the Year Award" was presented to Treacy at the end of this season in honor of his achievements with the program. Distance runner Katie Lembo '18 said of Treacy, "We put our trust in him each and every day because he has the experience. One of the main reasons I chose to go to Providence College was because of Ray."

Lembo also credited the assistant coaches and her teammates to the success of their team this year, saying, "We owe our success to Tim Brock and Stephanie Reilly as well. Both Tim and Steph help with workouts, transportation, and shoes, so we wouldn't be where we are without them. The team also owes its success to

its own members. Each person on this team has an impact. One of the reasons why I love cross country so much is because it is such a team sport."

At the end of October, the Friars went into the Big East Championships ranked fourth, but came out on top. The team captured its second consecutive Big East title and eighth overall. Although Lembo was injured and unable to run, she couldn't have been more proud of her team for winning. "It was great watching the team compete and get the back to back title," she said. "They definitely got the job done."

After the Big East win, the team moved on to the NCAA Northeast Regionals, where they once again came out on top. This win marked the fourth time in five years that the Friars captured the NCAA Northeast Regional title, scoring 50 points to come in first out of 37 teams.

The Friars then travelled to Indiana for the NCAA Championships on a cold and windy November day. Scoring 399 points, the Friars took 13th place overall. Millie Paladino '18 and Brianna Iarda '18 led the Friars, finishing with times of 20:34.3 and 20:40.7, respectively. Close

behind them was Sarah Mary Collins '16G with a time of 20:49.6 and Lembo with a time of 20:59.5.

"Going into nationals, we were hoping for a podium finish. We had been ranked high all season and our training was going well, but things didn't turn out how we liked them to," noted Lembo. "We weren't pleased with our performance at nationals, but we all fought hard and at the end of the day that's all you can do. I wouldn't want to be on any other team. I love these girls so much. We can't wait for next year."



The women's cross country team smiling after a great season.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FRIARS.COM

# The Team to Beat in the Big East

by Jake Searbo '17  
Sports Staff

MEN'S BASKETBALL

On April 4, 2016, Kris Jenkins hit one of the most clutch three pointers in March Madness history, as his buzzer beater gave Villanova their second national championship in school history. Since they are in the Big East, the Providence College Men's Basketball Team must play the Villanova Wildcats twice per season. Nova will be by far the toughest team the Friars play this season, but they are not unbeatable.

Everything Villanova does starts with Josh Hart, who is one of the best players in the country and one of the preseason favorites to win National Player of the year. Hart averaged 15.5 points per game, 6.8 rebounds and is the clear leader of the Wildcats team. Hart is incredibly hard to stop because he is lights out from three-point range where he hit 35.7 percent of his attempts last season. Aside from three pointers, Hart was also very efficient from mid-range and inside, where he shot 51 percent. It's a tough task to stop Hart, but for the most success, the Friars should put Jalen Lindsey '18 on him because Lindsey is long and athletic, and could shadow Hart all over the court.

Villanova has an incredibly talented and versatile roster after Hart. Jenkins, Jalen Brunson, Mikal Bridges, and Eric Paschall all provided major contributions to the Wildcats championship-winning team last season and have been just as effective this season. Hart, Bridges, Brunson, and Jenkins are all averaging over 10 points per game early this season. Jenkins is an absolute sniper from behind the arc and has shot 38 percent from three so far this season. The way to neutralize Jenkins is to run him off the three-point line and force him to put the basketball on the floor. The

Friars would need to put an athlete like Lindsey, Rodney Bullock '18, or Ryan Fazekas '19 on Jenkins to successfully cover him.

On defense, they are solid and all their players can cover multiple positions and switch on the pick and roll. Opponents are only scoring 66.5 points per game against the Wildcats and their defensive versatility makes it incredibly difficult to score on them. Paschall is the anchor of the defense even though he only stands at 6' 7" while Hart and Bridges are superb one-on-one defenders.

For the Friars to score on this stingy defense, they would need to shoot well from three point land. Villanova only allows opponents to shoot 27 percent from three, so Lindsey, Bullock, Fazekas and Kyron Cartright '18 would need to shoot a high percentage from three. Additionally, they would need to control the glass against an undersized front line of the Wildcats. The tallest player in their starting lineup is 6'9" so they can be susceptible on the glass. Emmitt Holt '18, with a 7'2" wingspan, has a chance to dominate the boards against the Wildcats. If the Friars can own the boards, they can have more possessions and have more opportunities to beat Villanova. It is no easy task but the keys to beating Villanova start with winning the three point and rebounding battle.

It is always a struggle to beat a top five team in the country, but the Friars have the players to do so. Focusing on defending the three-point line while dominating the rebounding battle are the keys to beating this team. Coach Cooley is a great coach and will have his squad ready once the Wildcats come to Friartown.

## BASKETBALL

One of the greatest accomplishments every student at Providence College strives to achieve is winning the Intramural Championship shirt. That said, there are some sports that are more challenging to win the championship in than others. At the top of that list is intramural basketball. The set-up for intramural basketball is two leagues: A and B. A-league traditionally consists of more experienced and talented players compared to B-league which consists of many competitive players, along with players who are in it for fun. Many people, including my counterpart, may argue that flag football is the most challenging intramural to win a championship. However, the fact that the league set up an A, B, and Freshman league, makes it a little less challenging because, adding the freshman tier takes the competition away from the other classes in the A and B league.

One thing I have noticed when playing intramural basketball is the teams that some of the freshmen come up with consist of players who played basketball in high school. The skill work of the freshmen, being one year removed from high school, tends to be more competitive with the other grades who have not necessarily had organized basketball experience for at least a couple years. Furthermore, another thing I have noticed is a larger portion of the student body played basketball in high school than football. As a result, it seems the students who compete in intramural basketball have a more developed skill set than some of those who play flag football. By writing this, I am not saying by any means that the flag football is not a challenging sport to win. I think both football and basketball, along with many of the other sports made available, are difficult to make a run at the championship due to the athletic ability of many of the Providence College students. However, it is without a doubt that basketball is the hardest sport to win a championship in.

-Chris McCormack '19

# WHAT'S THE TOUGHEST INTRAMURAL SPORT TO WIN?

## FLAG FOOTBALL

We are lucky enough to have a seemingly endless amount of intramural options here at Providence College, and anyone who has participated knows the challenge of winning a championship, regardless of the sport you're playing. There is, I believe, one shirt to rule them all: A-league flag football. Besides being the best sport on the planet, football requires a whole team as well as a strategy. Compare that to some of the other intramurals, such as handball, where having one really good player can take you a long way. That's not to say an individual cannot carry a flag football team, it's just much harder to compete against another opponent that has all the pieces.

Basketball is also a top-tier intramural, however it lacks the strategy that flag football requires. With only three players, the complexity of the game is lowered emphatically compared to football. Granted, the talent level of A-league basketball is right up there with flag football, but the game is too simple to be considered a more impressive championship win. This debate comes down to the fact that the sport of football, simply put, is more difficult to be good at than basketball.

Flag football requires players to know their role within their team. In essence this makes the sport almost more competitive by nature, as athletes are sometimes forced to play lesser positions, such as blocker, in order to put their team in the best position to win. This can create frustration, making the game even harder to win. Every person has to do their job correctly in order to execute plays, which is why football is not only the best team sport, but also the most difficult to come out a champion. So next time you pass by the intramural championship board in Slavin, keep an eye out for the A-league flag football picture. Whoever the team may be, they deserve to be at the very top.

-Kevin Skirvin '18

## FRIARS vs WILDCATS

