

The Cowl



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On the PC Front

Comfy Cushions:



PHOTO COURTESY OF COLLEGE CUSHION.COM

by Ryan Cox '18
A&E Staff

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Providence College students may have noticed a new addition to the Arthur F. and Patricia Ryan Center for Business Studies recently. Four black, Friars-themed beanbag chairs are placed throughout the main atrium of the building, offering students a new way to be comfortable while studying. The PC bookstore is not responsible for their creation, but rather College Cushion, a new brand started by three juniors.

BEANBAG CHAIRS/ Page 13

Off-Campus Coalition:



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE MAPS

by Daria Purdy '19
Asst. News Editor

OFF CAMPUS

A significant part of life at Providence College is the experience of students off-campus in the community that surrounds campus. Many upperclassmen live in the neighborhoods surrounding campus, and they and their guests are brought into contact with other residents of the community and with the Providence Police Department. An Off-Campus Coalition Meeting between students, administrators, and members of the police force convened last Wednesday in order to address the issues, conflicts, and shared interests between the three parties and ensure a positive off-campus experience.

COALITION/ Page 5

From Friartown to Puerto Rico



Aura Rexach '20 (Left) and Maria Elena Santos '20 (Right) pose at a fundraiser to help Puerto Ricans affected by recent hurricanes.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURA CHADBOURNE '20/THECOWL

by Sabrina Guilbeault '18
News Editor

EVENTS

After only three days of planning, on Friday, September 28, 20 Providence College students came together to put on a benefit concert to raise funds to help Puerto Rico after the destruction caused by Hurricane Maria.

Gabriela Short '18, wearing a white shirt adorned with the Puerto Rican flag on the back, stood in front of the crowd that flocked to the Smith Quad, and explained that every single penny from the event will go toward helping Puerto Rico recover from the hurricane.

Short, along with other students from Puerto Rico, planned the event in its entirety after they received the go-ahead last Tuesday from Steven Sears, dean of students.

"Once we got the okay, it was nonstop," said Short. "I was going 100 miles per hour, but we

made it happen, and over 300 people attended the event."

The event included a beer garden, lawn games, a miniature golf course that was donated by BOP, and live music from PC students. For \$4, students could get a plate of food that came from a local Puerto Rican restaurant.

"It just amazes me," said Diane LaMattina '18, who attended the event. "The fact that so many people chose to come here and support the cause shows me that the people at this school really do care for their peers and want to show their support."

By 5:30 p.m., the event was bustling. The beer garden was filled with upperclassmen, the line to the food was very steady, and administrators and faculty members mingled with students playing the lawn games.

"It makes me proud to be a Friar today," said Kevin O'Neill '18. "Events like these show that we really do care about each other, especially when we're coming together to support a

great cause."

Short expressed her gratitude to Dean Sears and Sharon Hay, director of student activities, for their support and assistance in making the event successful.

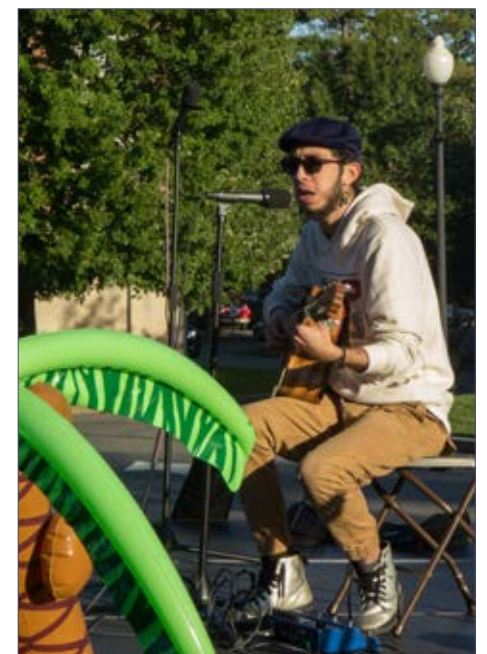


PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURA CHADBOURNE '20/THECOWL

Sebastian Otero from Brown University used his music talent to help fundraise.

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UNDER THE HOOD

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News

Mass shooting leaves 58 dead, over 500 injured.



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Opinion

Hurricane support and media coverage should be spread to all Caribbean islands.



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A&E

Saying goodbye to music legend and Grammy winner, Tom Petty.



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Playing Devil's Advocate

Friars Discuss Concepts of the Catholic Church in an Interactive Setting

by Hannah Langely '21
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

Have you ever wanted to ask the friars at Providence College a question concerning the Catholic faith or Catholic beliefs, but something stopped you? Maybe you were scared or too embarrassed; maybe you figured you already knew their answer, so it would be pointless to ask. This is the exact reason why Father Dominic Verner, O.P., and Father Bonaventure Chapman, O.P., began a discussion group called Devil's Advocate.

This program, which only began several weeks ago, allows students to ask questions anonymously by placing their questions in a mailbox or sending them through email. It was originally started by Fr. Dominic as an addition to a discussion group he began last year called "Why Catholic?" He wanted to start a discussion group in which he and another friar could discuss and debate questions, but could not find the right opportunity.

While he enjoyed "Why Catholic?" he wanted, he said, "something a little more interactive." He believes it is "very helpful to understand an argument if you can see it objected to and hear the replies and see the give and take of a debate," which is exactly what Devil's Advocate accomplishes. Fr. Dominic saw a chance for his idea to come to fruition

with the arrival of Fr. Bonaventure at Providence College this year, and the idea of Devil's Advocate came to life.

Devil's Advocate is unique from other discussion groups as it allows one of the friars to answer commonly asked questions about the Catholic Church while the other friar acts as the "devil's advocate" and refutes the claims given. These questions range from all sorts of topics, including God's existence, evils in the world, achieving perfect happiness, and if the Jesus' death on the cross was the best way for God to save us. As part of the Dominican tradition, Fr. Dominic and Fr. Bonaventure are open to discussing any question students may have, for, as Fr. Bonaventure so eloquently stated, "any statement we have is deep down an answer to a question."

The week before the meeting on Sept. 25, the priests received many questions regarding the hurricanes and natural disasters that have recently devastated people all over the world. This became the main topic of their debate, answering the question, "How do we handle natural evils with the existence of God's providence?"

The fathers flipped a coin to decide who would be the devil's advocate, and the coin toss went to Fr. Dominic. For 10 minutes, Fr. Bonaventure debated on the behalf of Catholic belief, while Fr. Dominic argued against his reasoning. Afterwards, the two discussed the question with the group of students to get their



Fr. Dominic discusses matters concerning the Catholic faith with students. BRIANNA COLLETTI '21/THE COWL

insights on what they thought and answered any questions they might have had about the debate.

The discussion lasted about an hour, but it seemed the students who attended obtained a better awareness about God's role in nature, and they enjoyed the debate. Brian McIntyre '21 said the discussion was a good chance to talk to the friars, and he liked having the opportunity to have an open discussion with them about the Catholic faith.

Trevor Wakefield '21 commented, "I like how it's not just them lecturing about their beliefs, it's getting their beliefs challenged and responding to them." While this was

only the second week of the program, Fr. Bonaventure and Fr. Dominic aspire for this discussion program to be, as Fr. Dominic stated, "a place [students] can come and bring their honest questions and objections to tenets of the Catholic faith."

Devil's Advocate takes place every Monday night at 8:15 p.m. in Slavin Center LL01. Mailboxes for the submission of questions can be found in Slavin outside the Campus Ministry meeting room (near McPhail's) or in Campus Ministry, which can be found in the basement of St. Dominic Chapel.

Friars Put on Benefit Concert for Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico:

Continued from front page



Students responsible for the planning of the event smile at the Concert. SABRINA GUILBEAULT '18/THE COWL

She also thanked Student Congress, the Office of Admissions, BOP, and BMSA for their support. "We are so, so thankful," she said. "We couldn't have done this without them."

Donations are still being accepted, with a fundraising goal of \$5,000. The PC community is encouraged to donate to a GoFundMe page, which can be found at: <https://www.gofundme.com/friars-with-puerto-rico>.

friars-with-puerto-rico.

According to the page, put together by Maria Santos '20, all donations from the event and to the Go Fund Me will go to Unidos Por Puerto Rico, an organization that will be providing food, water, medicine, and financial aid to those who need it on the island.

In last week's *Cowl*, Santos explained that being

at PC and not at home has made the Puerto Rican students feel powerless and hopeless, but decided to turn their sadness into positive action.

The final amount that was raised at the event is still being calculated, as other outside donations are still expected to come in, but Short expressed that she knows the event was successful as it got students together and raised awareness.

"It is important that students know we are part of the PC community, and are more than just 20 students who are directly affected by what just happened," said Short. "Every time something like this happens and affects our community in some way, it helps for our peers to be mindful of what happened, and respectful and understand where our hearts are."

"The island is completely destroyed," said Natalia Fournier '19, a student from Puerto Rico. "It's not only a vacation spot, but it's our home, it's where we grew up, and it's where our friends and family live," she said.

She stressed that this event was so important because it can help families and businesses get the resources they need to survive, because many people on the island currently do not have access to basic and necessary essentials.

Short explained more fundraising efforts and events will occur throughout the semester to further help the island. "I want to say thank you to everyone who was there at the event and let everyone know that this is just the beginning," she said.

"There is a lot more ahead to help our beautiful little island get back on its feet."

Featured Friar: Stachel Roberts '18

Senior Helps Her Peers Reach Their Career Goals

by Sarah Gianni '18
News Staff

FEATURED FRIAR

"Come to the career center, I promise we're not scary!" Stachel Roberts '18 says with a smile. The Bronx native is reflecting on her work-study position in the Providence College Center for Career Education, a job she has held since her sophomore year. "Right now I am being trained to be able to facilitate career center workshops for different groups on campus," said Roberts.

Groups such as athletic teams or floors in various on-campus residences can request one of these workshops so that students can get assistance even if the career center is not open. "We do everything from creating resumes, to navigating eFriars, and interview tips," said Roberts. In addition to working in the career center, Roberts is involved in many diverse organizations on campus. "Sometimes I think I'm a little too involved," she admits.

Roberts is a member of the outreach committee of Student Congress, the Vice President of the NAACP, a participant in PC Pals, and part of the Board of Multicultural Student Affairs (BMSA). "I'm so all over the place in that I'm interested in so many things, and I think that everything I'm involved in on campus showcases that," said Roberts.

As a political science major, Roberts said she has a strong passion for racial justice, but is still unsure of her post-graduation plans. "What my post-grad plans are is the big question that everyone asks me, but I enjoy not knowing what I want to do," she said.

Roberts said she has interest in doing foreign aid work, but is unsure if she wants to be a foreign service worker in the current political climate. "I am thinking of maybe doing some sort of non-profit work or the Peace Corps," she said. In her down time, Roberts said she loves being off campus as much as she can. She said that sometimes she just needs to separate herself, and loves going to different coffee shops. When it

comes to transportation, Roberts enjoys walking or can sometimes catch a ride with friends.

"I'm from New York City so I don't have my license, and when I don't want to pay for transportation I will take Uncle RIPTA," said Roberts, laughing at the name she coined for the bus. "I call it Uncle RIPTA because its not the most reliable, but it gets you where you need to go."

With about a month of school under her belt, Roberts says she is finally getting into the swing of senior year. "It's weird to say, but I feel like these are some of the last moments of being surrounded by my friends. My goal is to enjoy this last year at PC before going out into the real world."



PHOTO COURTESY OF STACHEL ROBERTS '18

Introducing:



*Starting at 8:00 a.m.
Every Weekday,
Pick Up a FREE
Cup of Coffee
in Campus Ministry!*

This week's brew comes to PC from Friends of San Lucas Mission, a non-profit in Guatemala where PC students volunteer at each year.

Biology Professor Receives Research Grant

Dr. Jonathan Richardson Looks at Rat Populations and Public Health

by Ernie Andreoli '18
News Staff

ON CAMPUS



PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE.EDU

On Sept. 20, Providence College announced that Dr. Jonathan Richardson, assistant professor of biology, received a highly selective research grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for \$125,310.

Through field work research, Richardson will work with two undergraduate summer research assistants to study urban ecology and landscape genetics in rats. Richardson's research project stemmed from a group of geneticists assessing the surge in the rat

population in Salvador, Brazil.

"He is so passionate, it is infective," said Dr. Charles Toth, the chair of the developmental biology department. "Dr. Richardson's research combines different realms of biology, and his accolade has provided an incredible field work research opportunity for students."

According to Richardson, as more humans have flocked to impoverished urban developments in Salvador, otherwise known as *favelas*, more rats have migrated to these destitute habitats. The main issue at hand is the spread of leptospirosis, a bacterial disease spread through the urine of infected animals, among this urban population.

Through the extraction of tissue samples from rats, Richardson is examining why the influx of rats is occurring, as well as their movement patterns. "The goal is to be able to sever the connections between rat populations and humans in order to stabilize the public health crisis in these poor urban developments," noted Richardson.

In addition to these predominately impoverished urban developments in Salvador, rat populations have been on the rise in New York City, New Orleans, Vancouver, and other densely populated cities. Richardson has identified variables, such as socioeconomic demographics, infrastructure, and excess food resources in an effort to understand the rats' movements.

Ultimately, Richardson's research will aim to identify which of these variables plays a role in dictating rat migrations, and determine the commonalities of the rats' movement. Richardson indicated that this research will "empower scientific inference by locating the generalities of the rats' movement."

Richardson holds a doctorate from Yale University, and is an expert in evolutionary ecology and conservation genetics. "I have always been inherently interested in the subject matter, and I knew that I always wanted to do 'big Bio,'" said Richardson. In addition to this conservation genetics project, Richardson has conducted research on salmon genetics for the National Marine Services, as well as other research on the growth and development of amphibians.

While the NSF made 30 awards out of 136 research proposals, the majority of the research recipients were from research universities. "This is a fantastic achievement for Providence College, and represents the College as a leading science school in the Northeast that is able to receive federal research aid," stated Toth.

Research is ingrained in the teaching mission of the biology department. Toth explained that an emphasis on research allows undergraduate students to become successful scientists, and find their passions. "Dr. Richardson's Wildlife Conservation course provided

students with active knowledge of current conservation issues occurring within Rhode Island," noted biology major Will Rinaldi '18.

Richardson's research and coursework have a strong emphasis toward nature's resiliency. "Humans have had a disproportionate effect on the environment," Richardson said when asked to comment on current conservation issues facing society. "Species have a unique way of adapting to the changing environment."

Prior to the onset of infrastructure and mass migrations to urban centers, the relocation of rats, among other "weedy species," did not exist to the extent it does today. For Richardson, evolutionary adaptability is at the heart of understanding the most pressing questions in conservation genetics and urban ecology.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABY.COM



CENTER FOR Physician Assistant Studies



The ARC-PA has granted Accreditation-Provisional status to the Physician Assistant Studies Program sponsored by Johnson & Wales University.

Accreditation-Provisional is an accreditation status granted when the plans and resource allocation, if fully implemented as planned, of a proposed program that has not yet enrolled students appear to demonstrate the program's ability to meet the ARC-PA Standards or when a program holding Accreditation-Provisional status appears to demonstrate continued progress in complying with the Standards as it prepares for the graduation of the first class (cohort) of students. Accreditation-Provisional does not ensure any subsequent accreditation status. It is limited to no more than five years from matriculation of the first class.

OPEN HOUSE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2017

Registration: 4:45 p.m. / Presentation begins promptly at 5 p.m.

RSVP: 401-598-4558. Space is limited.

Location: 35 Claverick Street, Providence, R.I.

GPS address: 157 Clifford Street, Providence



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Students Express Concern at Off-Campus Coalition

Coalition:

Continued from front page

The students who attended the meeting were all seniors who lived off-campus, or who observed the meeting for a community organizing class.

The administrators who attended the meeting included Dean of Students Steven Sears, Vice President of Student Affairs Kristine Goodwin, Associate Vice President of Public Affairs Steven Maurano '78, Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety Major Jack Leyden, and David O'Connor, assistant to the director of citizenship and off-campus life.

Representatives of the Providence Police Department included Lt. John Dunbar, the crime prevention/campus relations officer for Providence College, and Lt. Patrick Reddy. The main concern the students brought to the meeting were the discrepancies between communication and conflict resolution between the students, administration, and police department off-campus. Some of the students at the meeting had received orange stickers on their houses.

The students pointed out how the lack of entertainment options for underclassmen on the weekends have led them to flood Eaton Street in order to find fun social activities. The amount of students that go to Eaton Street on the weekends have led to over-crowding at parties and more incidents of open-container violations.

The students also wanted more clarity on why they were being given



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL

stickers, and how they could possibly appeal against the giving of a sticker.

Additionally, the students wanted to know when and how it was appropriate to get the police involved in a party.

Goodwin stressed that students have to take responsibility for the people that are entering their houses, and that if they do not know a person, they should not let them in.

Reddy emphasized that if a student felt a party was getting out of control, or if a large amount of students were gathering in their yard without their permission, they should call the police and ask for help in clearing the area. If a student calls the police to help control a large gathering, they will not be given a sticker, but they must do this before the police arrive by their own discretion.

Reddy went on to say, that if a student were to call the police to help control a large gathering, "they must be detailed in their call, and say that they feel unsafe." This will ensure that the police will respond to the call in a timely manner and that the student will not be penalized.

The coalition discussed many possible methods to alleviate the huge numbers of students that go off-campus to the community immediately surrounding campus every weekend. The solution included giving more options for socializing to seniors outside their off-campus residences, along with providing more entertainment options to underclassmen.

Dean Sears suggested that PC students should take advantage of the RIPTA more, in order to expand

their socializing options. Dean Sears suggested that seniors could take the RIPTA to Thayer Street on the weekends, as there are many fun entertainment options there for students.

Dean Sears went on to say, "Thayer Street should be advertised more to freshmen". Therefore, freshmen and seniors would both be more inclined to spread their socializing beyond the community surrounding campus.

Dean Sears and other administrators also expressed great enthusiasm for McPhail's as a possible hub for socializing. Especially since McPhail's now has food options for students, the administrators and students agreed that it has great potential to be a fun and safe gathering place for students.

Students and administrators also discussed possibly using fences as a method of crowd control on Eaton Street. If fences were put in behind houses, residents would find it much easier to control and take responsibility for who was entering their backyard. On Eaton Street, it is hard for residents to stop people from entering their backyards without their permission.

Reddy said, "I am a firm believer in community solutions, and I hope that we can work together to solve these problems."

Similar feelings of a willingness to communicate and work together were expressed by the administrators and students. All those attending hoped that the coalition would mark the beginning of a period of greater cooperation and communication between the students, administration, and police.

Bursting the PC Bubble: Tragedy in Las Vegas

A Report on the Recent Shooting Massacre at a Jason Aldean Concert

by Gabriella Pisano '18
Assistant News Editor

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

The Route 91 Harvest Festival ended in tragedy as shots were fired for nine to 11 minutes leaving 59 dead and over 500 injured. This marked the deadliest mass shooting in modern American history, following the June 2016 shooting at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando that resulted in 49 casualties and more than 58 wounded.

The open-air festival, nicknamed "the neon sleepover," is a three-day festival that welcomes some of the biggest names in country music. The festival has been held in Las Vegas for the past four years.

Performers at this year's festival included, headliners Jason Aldean, Jake Owen, Brad Paisley, Kenny Chesney, Sam Hunt, and Ashley McBryde among others. Over 22,000 people were gathered to hear performers when the shooting began on Sunday, October 1, the third and final day of the festival.

The shooter, identified as Stephen Craig Paddock of Mesquite, Nevada, fired shots from a window on the 32 floor of the Mandalay Bay resort that overlooked the concert. The motives of the 64-year-old retired accountant are unknown at the time, but the city's police chief said that the attack was definitely premeditated. FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe stated that in cases of mass shootings such as this there is usually a clear motive.

When police reached his room, they discovered that Paddock had taken his life. After searching his hotel and two Nevada homes in Verdi and Mesquite, a total of 47 guns were found. Thousands of rounds of ammunition were also found by authorities as well as an ingredient used in explosives. Bump-fire stocks, devices

that allow bullets to be fired rapidly, were found outfitted to 12 of his firearms.

Paddock had cameras set up inside and outside of his hotel suite. While it is not confirmed, authorities suspect that the cameras were used to watch for people approaching the room. When security guards approached Paddock's suite he turned his gunfire away from the festival and towards his door, wounding one of the security guards.

Marilou Danley, girlfriend of Paddock, was brought in for questioning on Wednesday, October 4. Danley was out of the country at the time of the attack, but returned to the U.S. from the Philippines on Tuesday. Danley's sisters stated that Danley did not know about the shooting. One of her sisters expressed her hope that Danley could provide information to help understand the attack.

With so many unanswered questions, authorities are still investigating the attack. The

FBI says there is no connection between Paddock and any international terrorist group.

In a post on Instagram, Aldean wrote, "Over the last 24 hours I have gone through lots of emotions. Scared, Anger, Heartache, Compassion and many others. I truly don't understand why a person would want to take the life of another... At the end of the day we aren't Democrats or Republicans, Whites of Blacks, Men or Women. We are all humans and we are all Americans and its time to start acting like it and stand together as ONE!"

Many have echoed Aldean's plea for unity in this time of mourning. President Trump tweeted, "My warmest condolences and sympathies to victims and families of the terrible Las Vegas shooting. God bless you!" He later addressed the work of the police stating, "It is a 'miracle' how fast the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police were able to find the demented shooter and stop him from even more killing!"



Citizens of Las Vegas gather at a vigil in remembrance of those who lost their lives.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BALTIMORE SUN

Bursting the PC Bubble: Analyzing NFL Protests and America's Response

What Happened at the White House?

by Darren Squillace '19
News Staff

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

From NFL players choosing to kneel during the national anthem to certain championship sports teams getting their White House invitation rescinded, protests at sporting events have made headlines along with other national issues such as North Korea and its threats to obliterate the U.S., the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Maria and the toll it has taken on Puerto Rico, and the expected upcoming tax overhaul.

Many of the president's critics believe his attention on these issues is based on his desire to divert the public's attention from the more critical issues at hand so that he can handle them in his own preferred manner without as much scrutiny. Others say it is simply an effort to garner enthusiasm from his base of supporters.

Stephen Curry, a member and star player from the 2017 NBA Champion Golden State Warriors team, stated that even if invited to the White House he would not attend, as a sign of disapproval of the current administration in place.

In response to this, on Sept. 23, President Trump tweeted, "Going to the White House is considered a great honor for a championship team. Stephen Curry is hesitating, therefore invitation is withdrawn!" This was a tweet that not only drew to it the attention from the political world, but also the sports world for many

reasons as well.

It is unclear if Trump had ever formally invited the team to the White House. Curry is not the only notable athlete who is unsatisfied with the president's body of work since he has taken office. Fellow star athlete LeBron James responded to the president's tweet with a tweet himself saying, "U bum @StephenCurry30 already said he ain't going! So therefore ain't no invite. Going to White House was a great honor until you showed up!"

Similar sentiments to the ones expressed by James have become a common theme around professional sports. Athletes are no longer seeing an invitation to the White House as being fulfilling and enriching as they did under past presidents who extended invites, both Democrat and Republican.

While President Trump has tried to make it clear that none of his criticisms against teams or athletes have anything to do with race, many of those who have publically protested him and the job he has done in office seem to have taken them that way.

The majority of athletes who have chosen to speak of the president critically and chosen to decline his White House invitations have been African American. Trump has recently bragged that the NHL Stanley Cup winners, the Pittsburgh Penguins, would be accepting his invite to the White House, but many were quick to point out the reality is that the Penguins, along with all other teams in the NHL, are made up of predominantly white athletes.

What's the Deal With the NFL?

by Brian Garvey '20
News Staff

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Every weekend, millions of NFL fans tune into their respective teams, excited for another day of fantastic football. The weekend of Sept. 24, however, was anything but "another day." In response to President Trump's comments about protesting and the players who participate, an overwhelming amount of players made a statement of disapproval.

This was not just a few nameless players making a stand either. Players such as Lesean McCoy, Malcolm Butler, Von Miller, and Mike Evans, all Pro-Bowl players, were seen kneeling.

Jared Getgano '20 said, "I understand why they are kneeling, but there's definitely a different way to do it. My dad and my uncle both served, and I feel that the flag is a symbol that people sacrificed for."

Every single team in the NFL chose to make some statement of solidarity against the president's comments. The Tennessee Titans, Seattle Seahawks, and Pittsburgh Steelers all elected to remain in the locker room for the anthem.

Alejandro Villanueva, the left tackle for the Steelers and a former Army Ranger who served in Afghanistan, stood alone at the edge of the tunnel at attention for the Anthem. Incidentally, Villanueva's jersey is now the highest selling jersey in the NFL. "What people do not understand is people who are taking a knee are not saying anything negative about the military. They're not saying anything negative about the flag," Villanueva said. "They're just trying to protest the fact that there are some injustices in America. And for people that stand up for the national anthem, it doesn't mean that they don't believe in these racial injustices; they're just trying to do the right thing."

The New England Patriots had about 20 players kneel for the anthem, and Tom Brady stood with his hand on his heart, while locking arms with Tony Dorsett. Long-snapper Joe Cardona, currently on active duty in the U.S. Navy, stood at attention on the sideline during the anthem.

"American men and women have fought under our flag for over 240 years to ensure freedom for every American," said Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Wingate, a professor of military sciences at Providence College. "That freedom absolutely includes the right to sit, kneel, or stand during the national anthem."

He went on to explain that many veterans, military personnel and families, and other Americans view anthem protests as disrespectful

to the sacrifices of our servicemen and women, many of whom laid down their life while fighting under the flag. "I wish that protesters would take that reality seriously and voluntarily find another forum to express their concerns and thus avoid the divisiveness of protesting during the anthem," said Wingate. (This statement is his personal opinion and in no way represents the stance of the Army, or the Department of Defense, or Providence College).

Further notable protests included the Detroit Lions, whose owner Martha Ford and three daughters locked arms with players during the anthem. At the conclusion of the anthem, the singer, Rico Lavelle, knelt and raised a fist. Eight players knelt for the Lions.

The Dallas Cowboys, including owner Jerry Jones, locked arms and took a brief knee before standing for the anthem. Jerry Jones in the past has been very vocal about his support for the flag and the anthem, saying, "We strongly, strongly support the flag. It's almost ridiculous to be saying it — the people that for generations and generations have given it all up so we can get out here and show off in front of millions of people on television. We respect that so much."

Many players post-game spoke out against Trump and his actions, speaking on both a personal and national level. Players went out of their way to state that they mean no disrespect to the military and their sacrifices, and that their protests were against racial inequality and the president.

Not every player was completely supportive of the protests. Drew Brees, quarterback for the New Orleans Saints spoke out against players kneeling, saying "Do I think that there's inequality in this country? Yes I do. Do I think that there's racism? Yes I do. I think that there's inequality for women, for women in the workplace. I think that there's inequality for people of color, for minorities, for immigrants. But as it pertains to the national anthem, I will always feel that if you are an American that the national anthem is the opportunity for us all to stand up together, to be unified and to show respect for our country".

Reactions from the fans, both in the crowd and on the couch, was understandably split. Many fans took to Twitter to either defend or attack these players, using the same divisive language on both sides. During the anthem, boos could be heard very clearly, and many fans were shown standing with their arms locked with the people next to them. Reactions on campus were just as strong as they were nationally.



GRAPHIC DESIGN BY SABRINA GUILBEAULT '18

Have a World News Story We Should Cover?
Email us at news@thecowl.com

Make America Converse Again

Panel Discusses Importance of Discussion in Today's Political Climate

by Gabriella Pisano '18
Assistant News Editor

FEATURED FRIAR

During the past year there has been a great disconnect in our country, specifically in regards to political affiliation. Most people can agree that we live in a politically charged world, where people have many differing opinions on a plethora of topics. In an attempt to address this the Board of Multicultural Student Affairs held a panel discussion on Thursday, September 28, aptly called, "Make America Converse Again."

The discussion was open to all faculty and students. The panel consisted of two Providence College professors and four students and addressed the issues of healthcare, immigration, and transgender men and women in the military.

Kristen Rezuke '18 and Mira Magner '18, students on the BMSA diversity committee, oversaw the event and asked the panel questions on each of the topics. When welcoming those in attendance, Rezuke addressed the issue of the importance of conversation. "It's important to talk about difficult political issues. Even if you disagree with someone, having that conversation about it is so important."

People with different perspectives and areas of focus were chosen to be on the panel. Dr. Jessica Mulligan, associate professor of health policy and management, and Dr. Christina Rodriguez, assistant professor of English, were the two faculty panelists. Both have a focus in Latin American studies in their respective fields.

The students on the panel included Melanie Fricchione '19, vice president of SHEPARD, Gabe Alvarez '20, member of the BMSA diversity committee, Michael Bartels '18, president of PC Republicans, and Krista Minniti '20, vice president of PC Republicans.

The panel was organized in a way that allowed all panelists to respond to questions when they felt inclined to answer. After the panelists



GRAPHIC DESIGN BY SABRINA GUILBEAULT '18

discussed the issues for a time, attendants were given time to converse with those around them and ask the panelists questions.

Many of those attending the event shared the opinion that they were not extremely well educated on the topics being discussed. Having expected this to be the case, Rezuke and Magner provided fact sheets including general information about recent and potential changes in healthcare, immigration, and transgender servicemen and women in the military.

The discussion began with questions regarding health care. "Is healthcare a universal right?" questioned Rezuke. Minniti was the first to respond, stating that health care is part of the private sphere, meaning it is not a universal right. Mulligan responded by explaining how

the United States is an outlier in not treating health care as a universal right. "The U.S. has a patchwork system in regards to healthcare," said Mulligan. "Certain categories of people have certain rights to health care. Until the Affordable Care Act there was no guaranteed access to health care for working adults."

Though there was obvious disagreement over certain topics, the conversation remained respectful and open.

When the topic of immigration was addressed, Alvarez interacted with those in attendance, asking them to think about the phrase, "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." He urged people to keep this in mind when thinking about immigration issues.

Fricchione shared statistics about transgender servicemen and women in an attempt to familiarize people with the issue. Bartels responded by saying, "A blanket statement that transgenders can't be in the military ignores the question of if a person can do their job." When questioned about proposed policy change, Mulligan expressed her opinion that relegalizing discrimination never sounds like a good thing.

At the end of the discussion attendees were given the floor to share opinions and questions. An international student from Jordan stood and shared that as a third world country, Jordan, with a population of six million, took in three million Syrian refugees. He pointed out that this is half of the Jordanian population. When he asked for a response to America's lack of aid to the Syrian refugee crisis, he was met with silence. The looks shared among students made it clear that this question prompted deep thoughts.

Rezuke expressed the opinion that though at times uncomfortable, conversation between those with opposing view points can be beneficial and thought provoking. There were people at the discussion panel who had different political views and opinions, but the respect in listening to the points of others made the event's title ring true.

My Brother's Keeper Expands

Popular Charity Organization Sees New Location Thanks to Feinstein

by Daria Purdy '19
Assistant News Editor

OFF CAMPUS

Providence College students who volunteer their time with the Christian charity organization, My Brother's Keeper, are able to live out their religious values of serving the community. The organization, which delivers furniture free of charge to families in need, is opening a brand new facility in Dartmouth, Massachusetts this Sunday, October 8.

My Brother's Keeper was founded in 1988 by a husband and wife who wished to help local families in need. The charity has two bases in Massachusetts, in Dartmouth and Easton, through which 11 staff members and over 3,000 volunteers bring furniture to families in need.

Any family living in the service area of Southeast Massachusetts is eligible to receive help from the non-profit organization.

The organization conducts 8,500 deliveries per year. The volunteers do the physical labor of bringing and installing the furniture to the homes. PC students volunteer their time with the organization Monday through Friday.

Josh Smith, one of the staff of My Brother's Keeper, says, "First and foremost we are a Christian mission. We try to bring the love and hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve." He

goes on to say, "The furniture acts as a tool in that, it allows us to enter the hearts and prayers of those in need."

Smith describes how, along with the furniture, the group delivers a crucifix to each family that they serve. In this way, the Christian inspiration and purpose of the organization is emphasized with each act of charity.

Smith describes how he started with My Brother's Keeper as a student volunteer, at Stonehill College 10 years ago. Smith describes the experience of the student volunteers as "one that changes your world-view in a lot of ways," and also "allows you to see service as a privilege."

Meghan O'Connor '18, a student volunteer at the organization, said, "The experience has improved my overall ability to relate to people, and to not judge a book by its cover."

O'Connor has been volunteering with the organization since her sophomore year, and was able to be a summer intern with the non-profit through a PC grant. She said that she relishes the opportunities she gets to leave the PC campus and connect with a wide range of people through her work.

Smith emphasized the central role that PC students have played in the expansion of the organization. Smith says that PC has been My Brother's Keeper best college partner, through student volunteers and donation of dorm furniture to the organization.



Students on their way to My Brother's Keeper for service.

ADRIANNA PERRY '20/THE COWL

Smith says, "Our mission, to serve God by serving community, has resonated on campus."

The new facility that is opening Sunday in Dartmouth will be 23,000 square feet, which is two and half times larger than the previous facility in Dartmouth. The larger size is meant to accommodate the growing number of volunteers. The new facility will also have a larger prayer room and kitchen.

The ceremony to open the new facility this Sunday will begin at 2:30 p.m., with a mass beginning at 3:30 p.m. The Bishop of the Diocese will be in attendance. Smith emphasized that all are welcome to attend the ceremony and mass. Students are also welcome to join in the strong PC tradition of volunteering their time to serve the community through My Brother's Keeper.

Hurricane Devestation Beyond Puerto Rico *Start Talking About Aftermath on Other Islands*

by Laura Arango '20
Opinion Staff

POLITICS

The Atlantic has suffered through 13 named storms this season: eight hurricanes and five major hurricanes. Specifically Maria, Irma, and Jose have left a trail of disaster in their wake. Homes have been destroyed and countries have been reduced to functioning without power, running water, and food. Thus far, the areas that have been hit hardest by the hurricanes have been the islands of the Caribbean, and they fear being forgotten by the rest of the world.

Unfortunately, that is exactly what seems to be the case. Small islands in the Eastern Caribbean are struggling to meet basic survival needs in the wake of Hurricane Irma. Yet, no one is talking about them!

Both the French and Dutch sides of the island of Saint Martin were in ruin. More than 90 percent of the buildings on the Dutch side were damaged, basically every structure in Cole Bay was wrecked, and the island's main power plant in Cay Bay was also destroyed.

The island of Anguilla also experienced severe damage. According to the International Organization for Migration, about 90 percent of its buildings and infrastructure were ruined. The island of Barbuda, which has a population of approximately 1,800 people, was said to have "looked like a landfill" by its prime minister.

In fact, in the aftermath of Irma, 75 percent of the buildings in its main town were damaged and Barbuda's residents were evacuated to the neighboring island of Antigua.

The United States Virgin Islands face extreme hardship. The islands were left without power,

air conditioning, and water, and people were sleeping in cots "pushed up against each other with tons of people in them—mostly people that lost their homes," said Shelby Alfred, a nurse in Cruz Bay, on the island of St. John.

Kurt Nose, who was born in Ohio and moved to St. Thomas stated, "Gas and diesel are starting to run out...Fresh drinking water is starting to get scarce...How long the food we have here will last and how quickly they can get food in here is a question." The residents of St. Thomas are taking extreme measures to keep their personal belongings safe in the midst of all the chaos. Some are locking down their homes and maintaining an assault weapon on them at all times.

The status of the U.S. Virgin Islands and other Caribbean islands have developed into a full-blown catastrophe. Members of the communities are clearing the roads, helping the reconstruction process, giving supplies to their neighbors, and using their own boats to save the lives of others. It is commendable and a testament to the perseverance of human nature. However, they need outside resources, outside government help, and an abundance of supplies that their own people are not in the condition to retrieve. Laura Dixon Strickling, a member of the St. Thomas community, stated, "We are U.S. citizens, and the U.S. government needs to come and help. They need to send a visible force to make people feel safe so they don't do desperate things." This is only one of the many recorded statements from members of destroyed communities pleading for government assistance.

However, too few people are discussing these small islands. The assistance they have gotten is not nearly enough to help the rebuilding process of the islands. President Trump has made statements regarding the fact that the communities need to help themselves more. However, he fails to realize that there are children out on the street cleaning the roads. The people are working toward their pre-hurricane status. However, in order to recreate the beautiful land they lived in before it was destroyed, they need help. And the Providence College community, as well as the entire world, needs to create awareness of these prominent issues. They should not be forgotten simply because they are not a part of the continental United States. Humans are humans and there is still a third of hurricane season in store for us.

A woman walking through Port-au-Prince, Haiti after the devastation of Hurricane Irma.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DIEU NALIO CHERY/AP PHOTO

Education is a Right, Not a Privilege *National Academic Inequities Cannot Be Ignored*

by Kelsey Dass '18
Opinion Staff

POLITICS

Every child in America should be granted an equal opportunity to succeed, regardless of which state, city, race, religion, or gender the child associates with.

Coming from the perspective of a senior elementary and special education major at Providence College, it is time to think about where to land my first teaching job. The education I received in order to become a qualified and certified teacher cost, give or take, \$250,000 without interest.

PC has a high-quality program that produces high-quality teachers. However, that often, but not always, means that those teachers will want to teach in schools that have some of the highest paying salaries.

Teachers who want higher paying jobs often end up in higher paying districts. Those districts can pay the teachers more because the taxes in those areas are higher. This often means that the incomes of those families in that specific district is on average, relatively

high.

What quality of education are children in lower income areas receiving? There is no doubt that high-quality teachers do in fact teach in lower-income school districts, but that certainly does not make up the majority.

Children do not choose the life they are brought up in, and they are born into whatever family they have. The status of their family is not up to them, and there lies the problem.

Unfortunately, the frightening statistics do not lie. "Minority students are more likely to be taught by inexperienced teachers than experienced teachers in 33 states," says a recent survey conducted by the *New York Times*.

There is something incredibly disturbing about this statistic. Each and every child should walk into a

school and feel the quality of their education is just as good as their neighbor's. They should be taught by professionals who have knowledge and passion in this field of work.

If certain areas do not have the capability to pay teachers higher wages, they certainly do not have the means to provide resources. You walk into some schools, and every student has a Chromebook. You walk into another school and there is one

computer in the class that the students must share.

How is that just? How is that equal opportunity?

Did their families buy these Chromebooks? Absolutely not, but the taxes the families paid in the district certainly helped fund that resource.

On a national level, the *New York Times* reports that districts with the most students of color receive 15 percent less per student in state and local funding than the whitest districts.

The system is broken. As a nation, if we cannot figure out how to even the playing field, there is going to continue to be a major disparity. This disparity continues to damage the values of equality and liberty that this country was founded on.

Every child deserves an equal opportunity to learn. We will never represent the truest form of liberty until that happens.

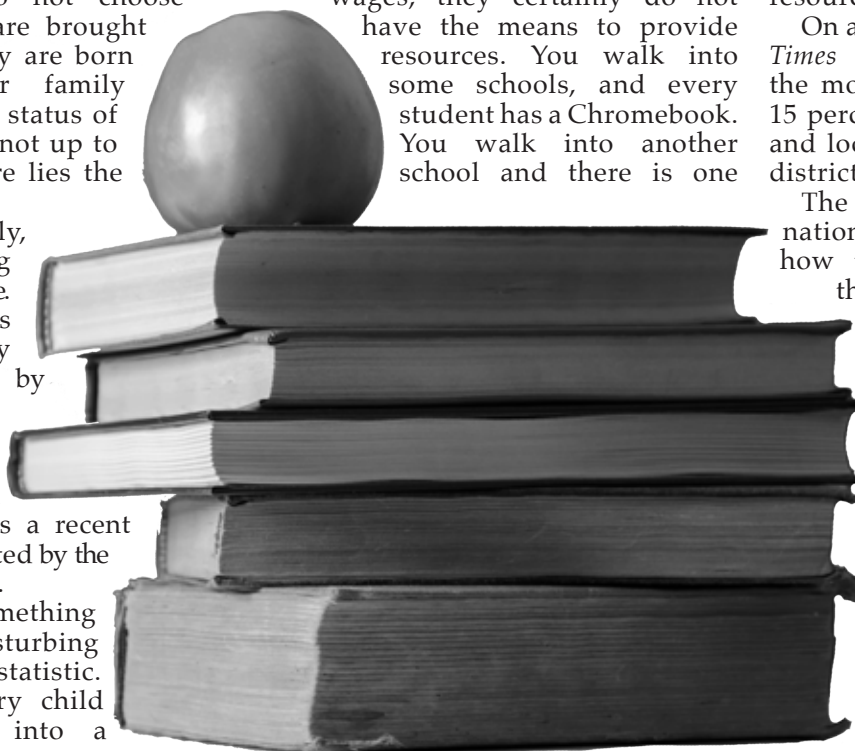


PHOTO COURTESY OF SUPPORTING CHILDREN

Hate Is Not a Partisan Issue

Trump's Divisive Rhetoric Has Gone Too Far

by Kevin Copp '18
Opinion Staff

POLITICS

Presidential behavior is often controversial. There are questions and discussions about what is acceptable for the commander-in-chief to say and do. Such talking points can arise from issues as large as foreign policy to as small as what color suit the president wears. Yet despite how heated the conversation might become, it is almost always assumed that the president has the best interests of his country in mind. With the ascension of Donald Trump to the presidency and his continual use of divisive rhetoric, such an assumption is no longer valid. The world must firmly acknowledge Trump's unwillingness to unite America and his determination to promote his own skewed personal agenda.

Trump ran his campaign on lofty promises without specifying the concrete measures he would take to reach his goals. There would be no more crime, no more debt, and no more crooked politicians making a living out of lying to Americans. Trump promised he would drain the swamp and always put America first.

Even after taking office, Trump continued to suggest that he would get rid of all the elements that were dragging America down—too many immigrants, too much healthcare, too much recognition of climate change—and save it from the wayward path it had been traversing.

Although there have been hundreds of clues and hints along the way, the sources of Trump's motivation are now decidedly clear: his egotism and his desire to see himself celebrated.

Think of the numerous times Trump has attacked the media or a specific news outlet or journalist. It has always come after they have



President Donald Trump and NFL player Colin Kaepernick.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HOLLYWOODSTREETKING.COM

criticized him. And why does Trump continue to applaud Fox News and appear on their shows? Because they are the least critical of him, and Trump thinks this means that they are least likely to turn on him or embarrass him.

When Trump realized the media would not refrain from critiquing him just because of his position, he knew he would need a strategy that would allow him to continue to pump up his accomplishments and minimize his deficiencies. So he continued the technique that brought him into the White House—attacking anyone and everyone who did not conform to his worldview or dared to criticize him. From the mayor of London, after a terrorist attack, to Meryl Streep, and the mayor of San Juan, after a devastating hurricane, to Pope Francis, Trump has spared few from his Twitter rants.

His comments against NFL players who kneel for the national anthem have shown how far he will go to protect his own image. He has chosen to appeal to right wing conservatives by calling NFL players exercising their rights protected by the Constitution "SOBs". A president who truly cared for the fate of the American people would not admonish and embarrass his citizens for speaking up for themselves. He would try to understand the issue and what these citizens want to change. He would try to be a constructive leader, someone who works to improve society. Trump has demonstrated that this is not his priority.

United we stand, divided we fall. Donald Trump has only accelerated our nation's leaning, bringing us closer and closer to toppling.

Stop Politicizing Education

by Sarah Kelley '18
Opinion Co-Editor

POLITICS

To what extent can we as a nation allow divisive politics to dominate and influence our own children's access to educational resources?

In celebration of National Read a Book Day on Sept. 6, First Lady Melania Trump sent 10 Dr. Seuss books to a chosen school in each state across the nation.

In her letters to students, Trump wrote, "I wanted to send you a special gift. Dr. Seuss's *Oh the Places You'll Go!* is a book my son and I have read over and over again, and one that we want to share with all of you...Please also remember that you are the future of America and that you can accomplish anything you set your mind to."

While this seemingly innocent gift may have initially appeared to be a way for the first lady to promote education and help children throughout our nation, one librarian had a very different understanding.

Liz Phipps Soeiro, a librarian from a public school in Cambridge, Massachusetts, responded to the first lady's gift. In a letter to Melania Trump, Soeiro rejected the books, explaining that her schools did not have a "need" for them.

In addition to vehemently criticizing the racist and stereotypical nature of many Dr. Seuss books, Soeiro also slammed the Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos and the current state of the educational system in the United States.

Though her response was caustic, Soeiro did make many valid and truthful points. The

systematic marginalization of countless schools across our nation as a result of policies put in place by our Department of Education, the possible racist undertones of certain Dr. Seuss books, and the potential need for the White House to reconsider what types of schools they gift books to are all important issues that should be resolved.

And while denying the truth and legitimacy of these issues would be ignoring the changes that must be made within our nation's system of education, the question still stands as to how we as a nation can allow politics to divisively impact children's access to educational resources—even if those resources are just a gift of 10 Dr. Seuss books.

While Soeiro did have a right to express her views on the first lady's gift and the Trump administration, did she have the right to reject books gifted to school children to promote their education and learning?

Could no child within her school have benefited from access to these books? Was there truly nothing positive to be gained through the acceptance of these Dr. Seuss books into her school system?

Asking these questions is not to deny the fact that many other schools throughout the United States could have benefitted more from this type of gift. Rather, it forces us as a nation to question whether the contentious politicization of something so innocent and yet so transformational as a book is justified.

Many other first ladies, including Michelle Obama, Hillary Clinton, and Barbara Bush, have read Dr. Seuss books to children at countless educational events. These events were framed in the positive light of educational promotion, with no backlash regarding the nature of the Dr. Seuss books, which children were benefitting from the readings, or the state of our Department of Education.

And although the discussion of these issues is vital if positive changes are to be made within our nation's educational policies, we must continue to question how these dialogues begin. Can we as a nation allow the freedom of expression of one individual to potentially impact the access to educational resources of children?

Is there a line that should be drawn in terms of how far we can allow politics to affect our perspectives and interpretations of educational promotion? Had these same books been gifted by a first man (*cough cough* Bill Clinton), if election results had been different, would Soeiro still have rejected them? Would this issue still be newsworthy? Is this something we as a nation should accept?

We must keep these questions in mind moving forward. We must recognize and be skeptical of when, where, and how we should politicize actions, such as individuals giving books to children, and beyond.



First lady Melania Trump with Dr. Seuss books.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK REINSTEIN/SHUTTERSTOCK/RANDOM HOUSE CHILDREN'S BOOKS/JASON REED

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Facing Difficult Times

by Marla Gagne '18
Editor-in-Chief

EDITOR'S COLUMN

On Monday morning, most of us woke up to a long list of CNN messages on our phones recalling the events of a mass shooting in Las Vegas: "At least 50 dead and more than 200 injured."

Soon we would be informed that 64-year-old Stephen Paddock opened fire on a country music festival in Las



Vegas Sunday evening, ultimately leaving 58 people dead and over 500 injured before taking his own life. The country was glued to phones and TVs as more was revealed about the worst mass shooting in modern history.

In this week's *Cowl*, writers inform readers, analyze, and discuss some of the hotly debated issues, like gun violence and attacks, currently plaguing the United States and World. The News Section examines the events of Sunday night as more information becomes available about the shooter and victims and how this will affect the future of gun laws in America. The front-page features fundraising for Puerto Rico, one of the many islands harmed by a recent series of hurricanes that left buildings crushed, agriculture destroyed, electricity gone, and people in great need of shelter and resources. Along with gun violence and natural disasters, the U.S. is also struggling over the rights of athletic protesters to kneel during the national anthem—are they disrespecting the flag or utilizing their rights of freedom of speech?

Finding answers to these difficult problems is not easy—I certainly do not have solutions to the challenges we are facing. While we try to find these answers, we as individuals today can and should:

- Recognize that we do have problems—from gun laws to the inequality in our country.

- Come together as a community to feel, think, heal, and take action.

- Realize the pen is mightier than the sword—research, write, and talk before making judgments and decisions.

- Show goodwill to others. The mass shooting was an evil, corrupt act, but as individuals we can spread kindness. Take an extra five minutes to check on someone stressed about work. Read a book about someone completely different from you. Give someone an extra hug, prayer, or smile for no reason at all.

These are simple actions that will not solve the problems we face, but will move us one inch closer to a better college, better country, and better world.

TANGENTS & TIRADES

Political Plays: NFL Protests Provoke Discussions of Liberty

When Colin Kaepernick sat during the national anthem at the first 2016 preseason game for the 49ers, no one noticed. It was not until the third preseason game, when Kaepernick began kneeling, that his actions began to garner attention.

What began as a quiet, individual protest 13 months ago has exploded into a national controversy. On Sunday, Sept. 24, over 200 NFL players knelt, sat, or linked arms as a sign of solidarity following what some players and team owners have called "divisive" comments by President Trump.

Across the nation, the actions of the players have sparked heated debate; some view the protest as un-American and disrespectful to our country and the men and women who defend it, while others hail the movement as a crucial step towards addressing problems of injustice in America.

Right now, with the national anthem protest gaining more speed and attention, Americans must remember that a protest of this sort is completely constitutional, protected under the First Amendment right to freedom of speech. Now more than ever, we must recognize this right for those on both sides of the debate.

While those who view the kneeling as disrespectful are completely justified in and entitled to their opinions, the players and their supporters are just as justified in their reasons and rights to protest. The fact that this protest has become so intense is proof not of our differences, but that we can all find common ground in our commitment and willingness to fight for what we believe America should stand for.

This movement is a way to start a discussion about justice in America, but when we continue to allow single-minded bitter opinions to define us, we fail to take this opportunity to better our country.

-Andrea Traietti '21

Make the Move: Utilize Personal Counseling Center

We have just persevered through our fifth week of the Fall 2017 semester at Providence College. With a total of 15 weeks in the semester, we are now just over a third of the way through. Right now, the first wave of tests and presentations has arrived.

Therefore, it is inevitable that the emotional meltdowns and episodes of exhaustion are taking hold.

Do not feel like you are alone in this; not only do you have the company of fellow students, but the counseling center on campus is a great resource. No harm or shame can come from scheduling an appointment or two.

As a psychology major, one topic we are currently discussing in my personality class is the effect of communicating with someone out loud. Let me tell you, therapy is not a big hoax for money. Talking works!

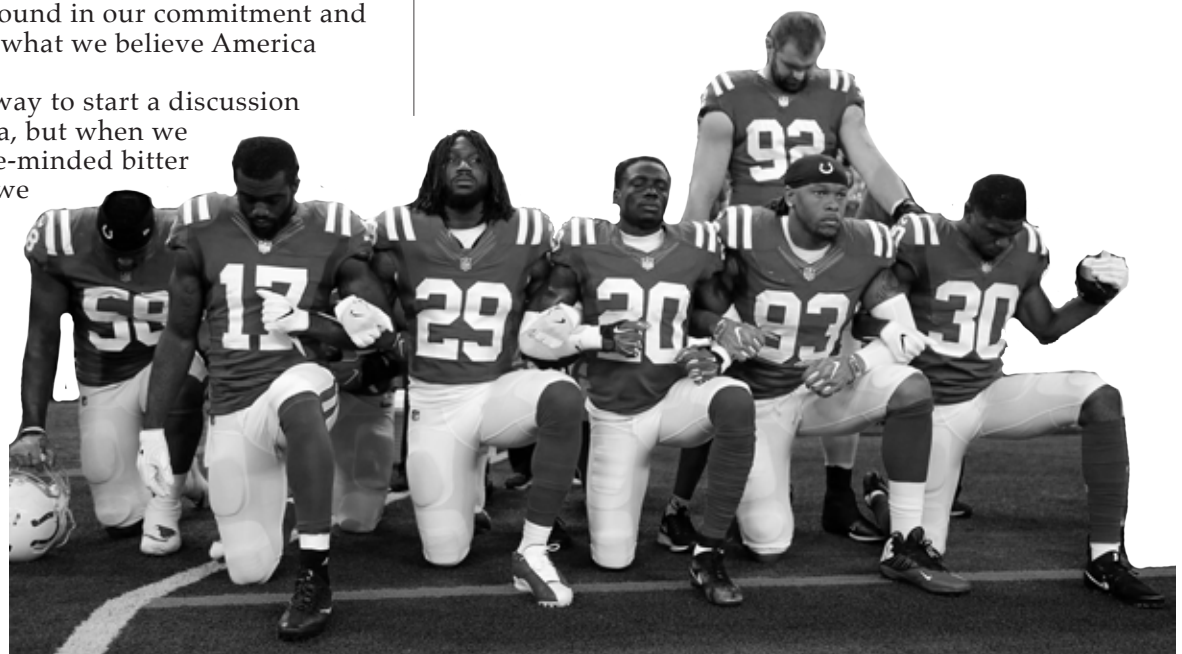
Located in Bedford Hall, the Personal Counseling Center at the College is a place you can go even if you just need a minute of silence or to catch your breath.

If you are not ready or comfortable making an appointment, just sit in the lobby and play with the zen garden. The staff will happily give you water or tea to help calm yourself while you sit and relax.

There is also a plethora of helpful books in a mini-library section that you can request to borrow and read on your own time.

Next time you are outside of Bedford Hall, just take it into consideration.

-McKenzie Tavella '18



NFL players take a knee during the national anthem.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT DUNHAM / AP PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHY



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL

LEFT: Aaron Ferrante '18 captures a photo of Claire Rigaud '19 on the apple picking trip to Jaswell's Farm. The Sunday afternoon trip was sponsored by Photography Club, Biology Society, and BOP.

BELOW: Jeremy Duffy '93, co-founder of the Guild Brewery, speaks to students about his business and experiences in the world of craft beer. Proceeds from beer sold at the event, which was sponsored by the Office of Institutional Advancement, benefited the National Alumni Association Scholarship fund.



KRISTINA HO '18/THE COWL



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL

ABOVE: Members of the Providence College Dance Club are seen rehearsing a performance in a long exposure photograph. The group is one of numerous campus dance groups which will perform at Late Night Madness on Oct. 14. The Motherland Dance group and the PC Dance team are among the others scheduled to perform.

RIGHT: Nick Mehlhorn '21 dribbles the ball down the field at Sunday's club soccer match against Tufts University, which the Friars tied up 1-1. The club team will face off against Tufts again on Oct. 9 at 4 p.m. at Hendricken Field.



LAURA CHADBOURNE '20/THE COWL

PROVING PHOTOGRAPHY

What's your favorite kind of pizza?



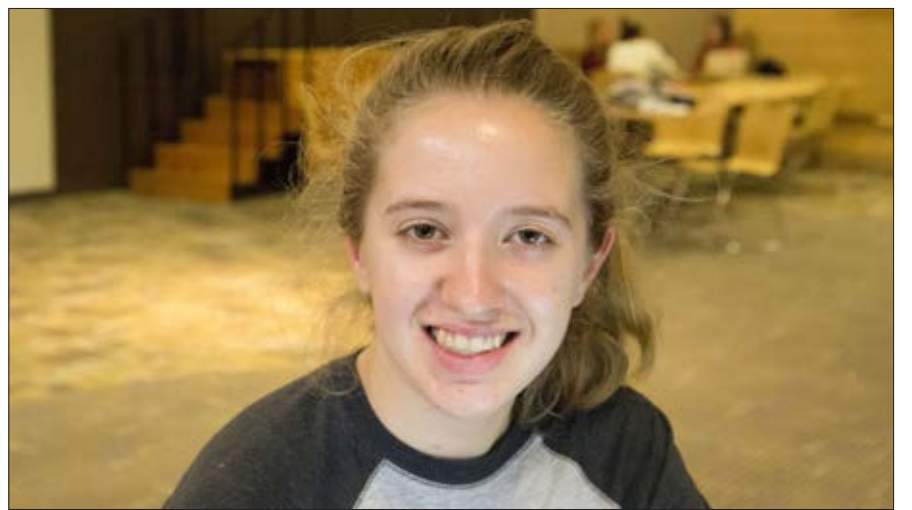
"Sausage."
Marissa Tashjian '20



"BBQ."
Danny Hallice '20



"Hawaiian and Pesto Margarita."
Rachel Laravie '18 and Amy Gilligan '18



"Cheese."
Vivienne Strmecki '19



"Thin crust, extra sauce, bacon, and light on the cheese."
Shania Lindsey '21



"Thick crust Hawaiian without cheese; sausage, peppers, and onions; and peppers and onions."
Grace McGoldrick '21, Jack Healey '21, and Raychel Pesci '21



"Big Tony's."

-The Cowl Staff

NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL

Photos by Maggie Branham '18, Staff Photographer

“Your Chair, Your School”

Providence College Juniors Beanbag Business Hits the Ryan Center

Beanbag Chairs:

Continued from front page

I had the opportunity to sit down with Shane Curran '19, Michael Cruz '19, and Andrew Drogan '19 to talk more about their brand.

RC: What motivated you to start College Cushion?

SC: It actually started as a joke freshman year. Cruz was complaining about how uncomfortable the chairs were in McDermott, and we were joking about how much better we could do. We started with an expensive design, but we ended up designing a beanbag chair with the Providence College logo on it.

RC: What has been the process since deciding to get started?

SC: We've been at this for about a year and a half now.

MC: We started doing more research that summer and saw that there was no college furniture with the school logo on it. We started looking into manufacturing, pricing, and licensing.

AD: It was a pain, but it could have been worse to deal with.

RC: What challenges have you faced in launching College Cushion while balancing your schoolwork?

AD: We haven't had a day off. We really have to prioritize, and we're still learning. Even now, every week we learn something new that can make our work easier.

MC: We have to allocate lots of free time for logistics, cost, and efficiency. We spend most of our Saturdays in a basement filling beanbags or talking to UPS trying to get shipping costs down.

SC: There was a time where the entire website went down in the middle of class and I'm sitting there recoding all the website buttons at a time where I shouldn't have had my laptop out. My professor was staring me down for the entire class.

RC: What has been your most memorable experience so far in this process?

MC: Driving to New York to pick up the product on a Wednesday night. We got to New York at midnight. Before we left, the car wouldn't start. So, we got there at midnight, left my house at 3 a.m. to



A graphic displaying the Providence College Cushion.

PHOTO COURTESY OF COLLEGE CUSHION.COM

pick up our inventory in New Jersey at 6 [a.m.], and we made it back for class the next morning.

SC: We were two lonely SUVs in a port full of 18-wheelers, so that was funny. All these truckers who knew what they were doing, and then there were three college kids trying to figure out where to pick up their shipment.

AD: I wasn't going to go at first. I emailed my teacher at the last second. I didn't want to have the reputation as someone that missed class right at the beginning of the semester.

SC: We did it for the experience of doing it all ourselves and managing everything. We didn't want some big corporation to do it for us, and it saved us a lot of money. Next time we'll take an easier route. We barely fit everything in two SUVs.

RC: How do you each contribute to the work?

AD: Honestly, we do it all together. We're all friends, and business hasn't separated us yet.

SC: Nobody really has one task, but Drogan deals mostly with customers, Cruz mostly does finance, and I deal with most of the legal aspects to make sure our license doesn't get revoked.

MC: I haven't had a Saturday where I've been

able to completely relax because I still have homework to do after I put in all the work on the product.

RC: What is it like seeing the product finished and used by students?

AD: It's good, but we're not satisfied. We're not done, it's not the end. But, I was shocked to finally see it. We thought for sure there would be some obstacle we couldn't overcome, but we haven't had that yet.

RC: What plans do you have for College Cushion after graduation?

SC: We all agree that we want to expand slowly. We're seeing how it goes here; this is the best-case scenario with the students and alumni that like the product. From there, we'll expand to other local schools if it goes well. From there, we'd like to bring it to the big Southern schools.

RC: Anything else we should know about College Cushion?

SC: Buy one! We funded it all ourselves.

For more on College Cushion visit their website at collegecushion.com or any of their social media outlets. The PC College Cushion is available now.

Cthulhu On Campus: Providence College Alumni Screen Short Film

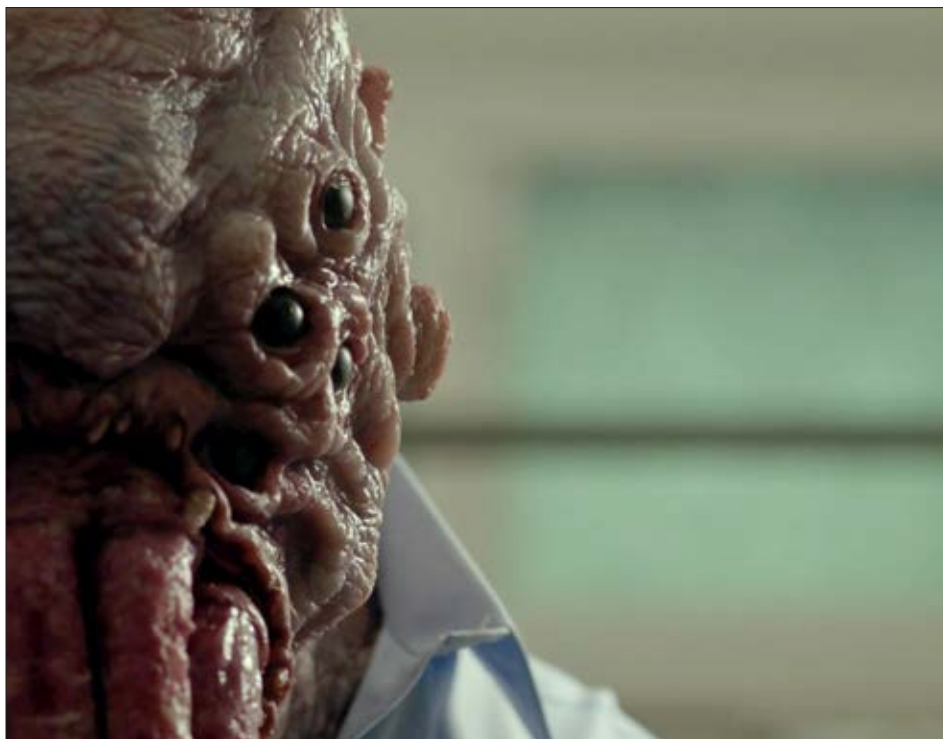
by Patrick Fuller '21
A&E Staff

FILM

Two Providence College alumni walk into a bar. No, this scenario is not a setup for a joke. However, this situation is the birthplace of the short film *The Call of Charlie*, a kind of largescale joke in its own right. Director Nick Spooner, used to working with commercials, noted that “alcohol was involved,” in the creation of this far-fetched idea.

As Spooner answered questions from the front of the Guzman lecture hall on Sept. 28, writers Guy Benoit '91 and John Simpson '85 nodded in agreement. The Providence College Department of English, Department of Theatre, Dance, and Film, and the Alumni Association invited the creators of *The Call of Charlie* onto campus to show their horror-comedy creation to students. *The Call of Charlie* displays what happens when you set someone up on a blind date with Cthulhu. Cthulhu is the ancient, octopus-faced monster worshipped by cultists in the short story “The Call of Cthulhu,” written by H.P. Lovecraft.

As one might expect, bringing this fictional creature to life was no small feat. Spooner mentioned struggling to find a means to create the mask of Cthulhu out of a sketch he made himself. Eventually, he stumbled upon some ambitious teenagers at Basement



Cthulhu gets ready for his blind date in *The Call of Charlie*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOSTONHASSLE.COM

FX, a silicon mask manufacturing company in Wisconsin, who were willing to make Spooner's vision come true.

Special effects alone made up a lot of the film's charm in that everyone was equally confused as to how Cthulhu was blinking, moving its tentacles, and making strange sounds; a creature from fictional mythology was made eerily realistic. At the same

time, the short film managed to elicit both laughter and shock as characters interacted with each other at a casual dinner party. All of this emotion was consolidated into a mere 15 minute screenplay.

To think this whole piece came about in such a short time is amazing. Benoit estimated, “From the gag at the bar to the shooting...about three months went by.” In this time, there

was no cutting corners. The crew hired a strong cast consisting of Brooke Smith from *The Silence of the Lambs* and Roberta Valderrama from *The Purge: Anarchy*. At one point, they even had Marilyn Manson lined up for a minor part as Spooner thought, “It would be really funny to get someone big to play a really insignificant role.”

The short film succeeded. In 2016, the year the film debuted, the team won the Audience Award at the H.P. Lovecraft Film Festival in Portland, Oregon and was nominated for the Best Screenplay Short at the Nightmares Film Festival. The following year, the cast and crew won the Best New England Film at the Boston Underground Film Festival, Best Effects in a Short Film at the Horrible Imaginings Film Festival, and was nominated for Best Horror Short at the Cape Fear Independent Film Festival.

These accolades make up a small portion of 21 wins or distinctions and 66 festival selections. Independent bloggers, such as Joseph Perry of the horror movie site *Gruesome Magazine*, rave about this film calling it “a wry, sly horror comedy that satirizes social affectations.” The story of the bachelor Cthulhu, however, may end here. Spooner, Benoit, and Simpson denied a sequel, but followed up with a hopeful spoiler: although they will not make a sequel, they have “two different suburban horror features in the works.”

Death of a Salesman Resurrects at Trinity Repertory Theatre

by Elizabeth Jancsy '18
A&E Staff

THEATER

It can be hard to determine what makes a play a classic. Some may say it is in the characters and their development throughout the play, whereas others may say it is the writing and realism of the words spoken between characters. Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* is one of those classic plays; not simply because of the characters or dialogues, but because of its chilling message that has touched audiences since 1949.

Death of a Salesman is a tale about Willy Loman and his desire to achieve the American Dream. Along with an intensely dark family dynamic, Willy becomes obsessed with success and wants nothing but the best for himself and his two sons. Willy soon finds out, however, that the finish line to success is miles away and the obstacles to get there are too great.

When this play first opened on Broadway in February 1949, it became an instant hit, winning the Tony Award for Best Play and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. The show went on for 742 performances before later gaining buzz again in numerous Broadway revivals.



Promotional poster for *Death of a Salesman*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TRINITYREP.COM



Billy Hutto (left), Stephen Berenson (center), and Matt Lytle (right) star in *Death of a Salesman*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TRINITYREP.COM

The reason this play was such a success then, and continues to be today, is the story of the play. The American Dream is something prevalent in everyone's lives and the desire to be successful is a universal feeling and, oftentimes, a universal struggle.

On Sept. 28, Trinity Repertory Company in Downtown Providence held the first preview of their production of the show, which is set to open in early October. The theater was buzzing as everyone took their seats, anxiously waiting to see Trinity's take on this theatrical staple. After witnessing all two hours and 45 minutes of it, it is safe to say it did not disappoint.

The most striking moments in the play were the scenes featuring Willy Loman (Stephen Berenson) and his son, Biff Loman (Matt Lytle). Both actors perfected the imperfect relationship between these two characters. The dynamic of the two lies between pure love and intense hate for one another. Willy wants what is best for Biff and believes he has so much potential, yet is frustrated by the fact that

Biff seems to be throwing it all away. Biff, on the other hand, is confident in his plans for the future and wants nothing more than his father to mind his own business.

Both Berenson and Lytle played convincing parts, as they went back and forth with each other; the powerful intensity at which each challenged the other was clearly visible on stage. Most notable was the chilling scene towards the end of the play when, after the two men fight over Willy's unrealistic expectations for Biff, they hug and cry. Biff sees that Willy just wants what is best for him and Willy is finally happy that Biff recognizes his side.

Seeing this play in person and done so well by Trinity Rep makes it easy to understand why it has stayed in the theater world for so long. The scenes that moved people when it premiered brought tears to the audience's eyes. It is a play that still calls on the trials and tribulations of pursuing the American Dream, which is something that all Americans can relate to.

Wonderful Wonderful: The Killers' New Album Slays the Charts

by Julia Vaccarella '20
A&E Staff

MUSIC



The Killers promoting their new album, *Wonderful Wonderful*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ATWOOD MAGAZINE

Despite widespread rumors that the group had agreed to part ways altogether, The Killers are back again. With the recent debut of their fifth studio album *Wonderful Wonderful* on Sept. 22, the Las Vegas natives are once again topping the charts.

The Killers are notably recognized for their explosion into the alternative music scene in the early 2000s. Some of their most popular songs include "Mr. Brightside" and "Somebody Told Me," both of which come off an earlier album entitled *Hot Fuss* (2004).

The lead-up to the release of *Wonderful Wonderful* was initiated by frontman Brandon Flowers and guitarist Dave Keuning. In 2015, the band started planning the album and spent time recording from September 2016 to May 2017. *Wonderful Wonderful* boasts 10 songs, all of which are absent of features. In total, the record has a 43 minute duration.

Prior to the Sept. 22 release of the entire album, The Killers released and performed two singles on this album, "The Man" and "Run for Cover," both of which were available on iTunes and other music streaming platforms.

Metacritic, a music review site which bases its ratings on a variety of sources, has assigned *Wonderful*

Wonderful a rating of 71 on a scale of 1 to 100.

Critical rating aside, Flowers has commented on his own personal attachment to the album. He stated to a source at *Entertainment Weekly*, "In your head it's about being tough and bringing home the bacon, but what I've come to find is it's really more about empathy and compassion." In a *Rolling Stone* article from August, Flowers said that he "put [in] more of an effort to be more personal on this record."

On the album, Flowers explores the struggles that he and his wife have faced in coping with her depression and post traumatic stress disorder, which is heard particularly on the track "Rut."

"Tyson vs. Douglas" also adopts the emotionality that is present in all of the songs of *Wonderful Wonderful*. Here, Flowers sings about the 1990 fight between Buster Douglas and Mike Tyson, which he watched as a young boy. The song explores the vulnerability of childhood and what it is like to see the demise of someone who was one time revered as an undefeatable hero.

The Killers' tour officially kicks off on Oct. 8 at Austin City Limits in Austin, Texas, and will conclude internationally in Melbourne, Australia, on May 5, 2018.

With the positive reception of *Wonderful Wonderful*, fans are hopeful that The Killers will continue to create and perform new music.

Tomb Raider Returns with a New Face

by Blaine Payer '18
A&E Staff

FILM

It has been 13 years since the video game heroine Lara Croft of *Tomb Raider* graced movie screens, and fans of the beloved franchise are ready to see one of pop culture's most iconic characters come to life once again.

Although a spandex-clad Angelina Jolie comes to mind when one thinks of Croft, Academy Award winner Alicia Vikander has accepted the challenge of filling her predecessor's tank top, and has not disappointed thus far. If the new full-length trailer can tell fans anything, it is that Croft appears to be back and better than ever, and yes—she is packing heat.

The *Tomb Raider* video game series first debuted in 1996 on a personal computer, PlayStation, and Sega Saturn platform to wide acclaim. The premise is simple: Lara Croft, an archaeologist and the titular Tomb Raider, goes on Indiana Jones-inspired adventures trying to find artifacts in ancient tombs and ruins.

In Crystal Dynamics' 2013 reboot, the video game introduced Trinity, an evil organization attempting to locate and acquire the artifacts that Croft's father discovered in order to use their supernatural powers to rule the world. The 2013 reboot is where the new film picks up, with Vikander playing a younger Croft embarking on her first adventure.

"Lara Croft was the financial benchmark of success," William Wilson of *Forbes Magazine* reports, "*Tomb Raider* was the first video game film to prove that the genre can be profitable and that female driven characters work." The original Jolie project, *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider*, raked in an impressive \$274 million at the box office, setting off a chain of video game-to-film projects like *Resident Evil* (2002), *Doom* (2005), and *Silent Hill* (2006).

Recently, however, film adaptations based on videogames have performed poorly among critics and audiences alike. Last year's *Assassin's Creed* underperformed at the box office and was met with an abysmal 18 percent score on



A still of Alicia Vikander as Lara Croft in *Tomb Raider*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROTHERS

the review aggregate website Rotten Tomatoes.

Critics thus far appear optimistic about the franchise reboot, with some noting that Warner Brothers are taking the film down the same path they went with Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight* trilogy.

They took a well-known character—Batman—with a sturdy fan base and portrayed him in a more serious, action/drama light uncharacteristic of previous portrayals of superheroes. When viewed against the backdrop of 2001's *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider*, a campy action/adventure flick, the new film looks bigger, badder, and generally more dramatic than its predecessor.

A difference that many critics and fans have noted between the first look at Vikander's Croft and Jolie's, as well as the direction of the video game reboot, is that the new Croft has become less of a sex symbol and more of a tried and true action heroine.

Vikander, who has a notably different look than Jolie, one of Hollywood's most iconic sex symbols, has traded in Croft's spandex short-shorts for a smart pair of loose cargo pants. She also appears to be more proficient in using her hands, crafting weapons, and performing death-defying stunts, like jumping off the wing of an airplane onto the precarious perch of a nearby cliff.

Fans need not worry, however. Although Croft's look and style has changed, she still would not be caught dead without her trademark pistols, which Vikander kindly informs the gun salesman that she will take two of, paying homage to the 1996 video game cover.

Has Hollywood found a new female action star in Vikander, or will *Tomb Raider* meet a fate that has plagued so many video game adaptations in years past? Audiences can find out when *Tomb Raider* is released in June 2018.

Album Review: *A Crow Looked at Me*

by Alexis Jais '18
A&E Staff

MUSIC

If our loved ones cannot live forever, at least their memory can exist in the form of our favorite songs or poems. This attitude has ensured that death remains a favorite and popular muse for artists. Artists can imply a lack of understanding of the severity and

finality of death, or possibly a sort of numbness that has yet to evolve into true understanding and mourning.

Either way, the tendency for people to use art as an opportunity to personally process death is something that Phil Elverum of the band Mount Eerie and the Microphones was prompted to address in his most recent album. *A Crow Looked at Me* was released after Elverum suffered the traumatic loss of his wife of 13 years to

pancreatic cancer in July 2016.

Elverum and his late wife Geneviève Castrée, who was an illustrator and musician, have a now 3-year-old daughter who is present in some songs on the album as a painful yet precious reminder of Castrée's existence in their lives. *A Crow Looked At Me*, which Elverum released this past March, features 11 lo-fi songs recorded primarily in the family's home in Anacortes, Washington. Elverum set

up a microphone in his and Castrée's bedroom and used no instruments other than an acoustic guitar and his voice to record the simple yet heart-wrenching tracks.

The songs themselves feel more like a spoken-word eulogy to his wife. The result is a provocative and highly personal commentary on the true horror and numbness which comes with the death of a loved one. The first of the album is a track called "Real Death" which highlights the inherent permanence of death with strikingly plain descriptions of the last few days and weeks of Castrée's life.

The songs seem to imply that Elverum is frustrated with a common trend to romanticize death and make it seem easier and more beautiful than perhaps it really is. One might venture to ask whether the existence or lack of art could mean the death is yet too fresh, and once the mourning process enters a stage slightly less raw, words might flow more easily.

Regardless, Elverum earnestly shares intimate thoughts, stories, and opinions depicting the extent of his sadness. He quietly and non-invasively urges the listener to truly feel death deeply when it happens.

Maybe Elverum would not want this album to be dissected too closely, but rather taken as it is: unembellished and highly candid. It is a new way to experience death through art in that it takes the ability to see death for what it really is. Though fans can hope the mourning period is not too drawn out for Elverum, an integration of this newfound pain and passion will likely appear in his future music for some time to come.



Phil Elverum of Mount Eerie and the Microphones carries his daughter.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SPIN.COM

Discover Rhode Island: Newport

by Catherine Goldberg '20
A&E Staff

TOURISM

Recently, Raymond Dining Hall served some classic "Ocean State eats." The lines of hungry students packed the dining hall, as they awaited Rhode Island's most iconic dishes: breaded calamari, coffee milk, and spinach-feta pie. While Sodexo attempted to make students feel at home in Rhode Island, there is no better way to get to know the state than venturing off campus and exploring its historical roots.

Veering off from the city of Providence and to the city of Newport is a great way to discover the Ocean State. The trip is simple, and can be done byRIPTA, Uber, or ferry. Famous for its stunning shorelines, three-and-a-half-mile cliff walk, gilded mansions, and yacht-filled harbors, it is truly an American treasure. Lined with classic New England shops, from The Black Dog to delicious fudgeries, your money can be spent on something homegrown. With that being said, it is also brimming with authentic dishes, and nothing says Rhode Island more than fresh seafood.

On Oct. 14 and 15, Bowen's Wharf Seafood will host their annual Seafood Festival. This waterfront event is a tradition in downtown Newport and is a great way to kick-off the festivities of fall. Historic Bowen's Wharf truly honors the harvest of the sea, offering all of Rhode Island's most quintessential dishes and drinks—from tender grilled calamari and lobster rolls to cold brewed Narragansett ybeer and vanilla frappes. From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.,



Locals enjoy fresh seafood at the 27th Annual Bowen's Wharf Seafood Festival in Newport.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DISCOVERNEWPORT.ORG

Bowen's warmly welcomes people of all ages, and as Providence College students living on budget, nothing is better than a festival that is free of charge with vendors offering special prix fixe menus.

After indulging in all that "wicked awesome" seafood, what better way to work off the calories than a cliff walk. Much of the walk goes through areas where many of the famous Newport mansions are situated. The breathtaking views make for endless Instagram opportunities. A word of advice, though, with the steep inclines and jaw

dropping vistas, one should wait until making it to solid ground before hitting up the Narragansett taps.

When approaching our state border, drivers see a vibrant blue sign which reads, "Discover Beautiful Rhode Island." Rhode Island is a treasure just waiting to be discovered. Providence is at its core, but getting to know the surrounding regions encapsulates the true essence of its beauty. Discover beautiful Rhode Island, and visit Newport along the way.

Rock Legend Tom Petty Dies at 66



Grammy award winning artist, Tom Petty.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @TOMPETTY/TWITTER.COM

by Joe Clancy '18
A&E Staff

MUSIC

"I wanna free fall out into nothing/ gonna leave this world for a while, / and I'm free falling." The world of rock and roll lost another rock legend, Tom Petty, on Monday, October 2 after he suffered a heart attack. He was 66 years young.

Petty started playing music professionally at the age of 17 in 1967. He had always been a huge fan of rock and roll and realized that he wanted to make music his life after seeing The Beatles perform on *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

Petty came into the spotlight in the 1970s, specifically when he and his band, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers released the hit "Breakdown," in 1976. Petty's fame continued to grow

through the late 1970s with hits like "Refugee" and "Don't Do Me Like That."

In the 1980s, Petty's career really took off. In 1989, Petty released three massive hits: "Free Fallin'," "I Won't Back Down," and "Running Down a Dream." "Free Fallin'" went on to reach number seven on the Billboard charts. Petty then went on to join the Traveling Wilburys where he performed with his hero and former Beatle, George Harrison.

Petty also went on to record with drummer for The Beatles, Ringo Starr. In the past 20 years he had put out hits like "Learning to Fly" and even tried out acting. Petty played the Super Bowl halftime show in 2008 and was still touring up until the end—once his music career started, it never stopped. Petty will forever be remembered as, in the words of *Rolling Stone*, a "dynamic and iconoclastic" rock legend.

Falling in Love with Insomnia Cookies

by Joe Clancy '18
A&E Staff

FOOD

It is that time of year again, the days are slightly less warm, the nights much cooler and un-air-conditioned rooms both on and off campus are farther from Dante's Inferno in temperature. It is finally fall, which means long weeknights, exciting football and baseball games, the stress of nailing your Halloween costume, and, of course, pumpkin spice courtesy of Insomnia Cookies.

Insomnia Cookies are perhaps the quintessential dorm room cookie. Founded in 2003 at the University of Pennsylvania by the Mark Zuckerberg of cookies, Seth Berkowitz, the chain delivers late night cookies to universities in the Providence area,

although they do not deliver to Providence College. Located on Thayer Street, it is a short drive away from campus and provides students with a fun opportunity to explore off campus.

Offering delicious flavors including traditional chocolate chunk, sugar, peanut butter chip and, one of their best flavors, double chocolate mint chip. This fall, however, Insomnia is offering the new spiced pumpkin nut cookie. The cookie is not just the simple pumpkin spice fall treat.

Although it does offer that warm sweet flavor that is reminiscent of the changing weather and foliage, the cookie offers a nice nutty taste that complements the pumpkin tremendously. It is soft and filling for when the weather gets crisper. Go check out the new spiced pumpkin nut cookie today!



Insomnia Cookie's new spiced pumpkin nut cookies.

PHOTO COURTESY OF INSOMNIA COOKIES

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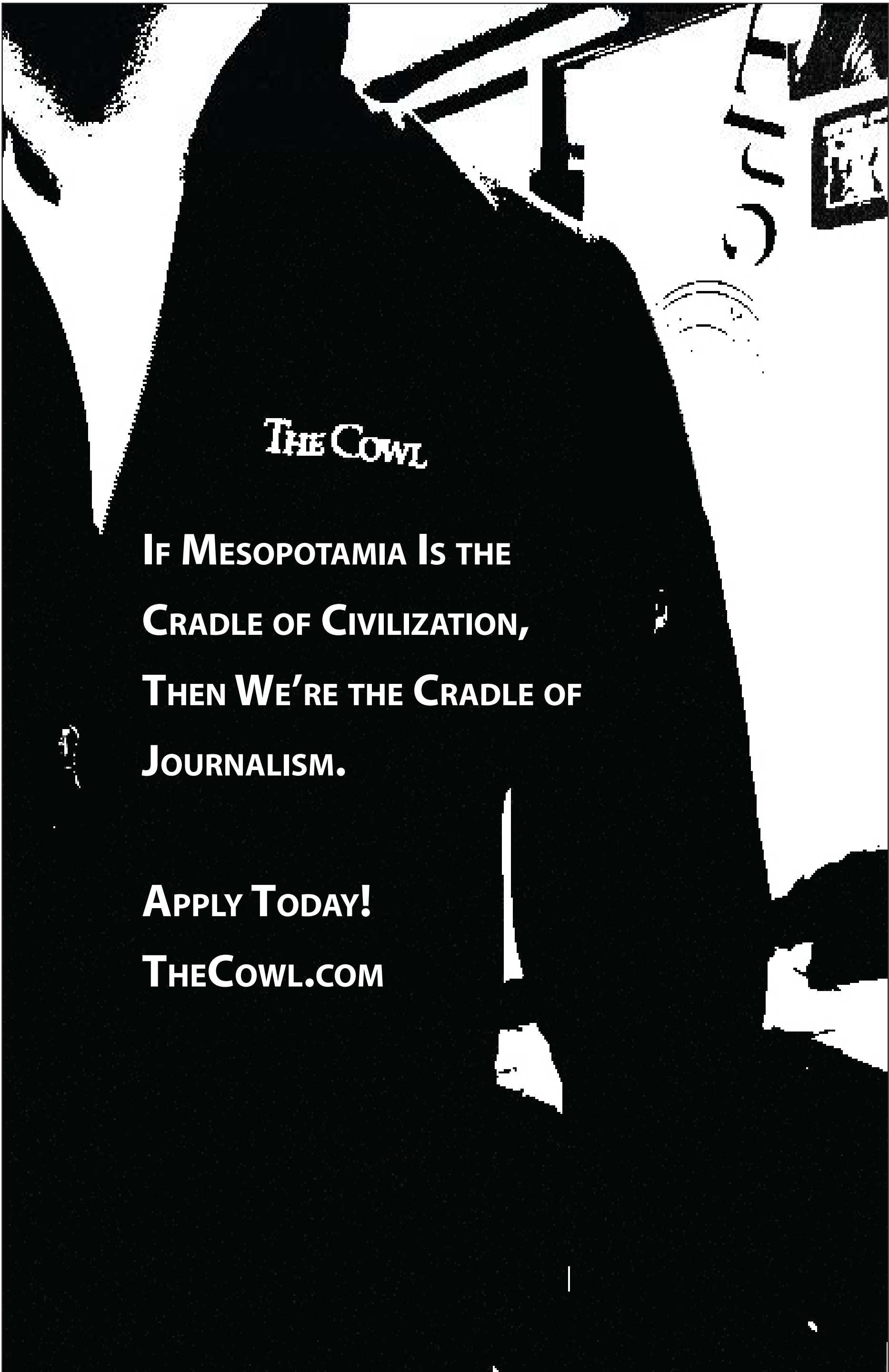


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THE ARRIVAL ON EUROPA

by Marisa DelFarno '18
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

Another space race had begun. It was not with the Russians this time. Instead, it was against China. Predictable. One world power against another. We probably could have foreseen this. After being shelved decades prior, Human Outer Planets Exploration, also known by its corny acronym, HOPE, was no longer something purely conceptualized. It was now a reality, with a slight change in destination. Instead of traveling to Callisto, our actual safest bet, we were traveling to Europa.

NASA had finally received the proper funding they needed, and a small crew of six were plopped onto a ship, isolated deep in the fabrics of nothing but the dark abyss, traveling to Europa, one of the Galilean moons that is always rumored in the Popular Science written articles to be habitable for human life. A moon named after one of Zeus' bazillion mistresses.

It would take six full years to get to Europa, and another six years back to Earth—a 12 year road trip. The whole purpose of our journey was simply to explore, and be the first to reach uncharted territory.

We already established ourselves to be sung about in future textbooks by going the furthest from Earth than any human in history, but that was not enough. We had to push the envelope one more time. One of us had to get out of the ship, and Frank was our guy. He was about to go on a moon with a temperature of -200 degree Celsius. Antarctica is a lot warmer than that. Like a lot warmer.

Also, Europa has enough radiation suitable for your run-of-the-mill, post-nuclear apocalypse film, though its sister, Callisto, has the least radiation out of all Jupiter's moons. We wondered why we even chose Europa, a moon clearly hostile for human life, but I realized our sole endeavor was to triumph in this space race.

To top everything off, we lost connection to Earth four months ago. We tried everything to get communication back, from digging like dogs through the wiring in the walls to dissecting computers delicately with tweezers, but all we received was radio silence. Considering the advancement in technology, and the importance of the mission, we thought NASA would provide a solution from their end, but no. We got nothing.

Since at the time, we were four months away from Europa, there was no way we were going to stop and steer our way back home. We did not want to waste a total of 12 years of space travel. We had to reach our destination, and eventually we found ourselves parked in a spacecraft on the jagged surface of Europa, six years away from human civilization.

Aaron, the crew's pilot, would always joke that a Chinese flag would be planted there when we arrived, much to the dismay of the perpetually serious Thomas and Patrick, who were navigator and commander, respectively. Brooke and I, the crew's technicians, would lighten up and laugh, but ultimately we could not fully immerse ourselves in humor.

Instead, we shared the same sense of unease and worry. Either my nerves or the freeze-dried stuff we were subsisting on with its endless expiration date made my stomach feel hollow. We arrived, and we had to make sure protocol, procedures, etc. were all set. In fact, we were nearly four hundred million miles from Earth; or in other words, four hundred million miles from any source of help.

However, despite the stress and tension, we still could not help but soak in our surroundings. It was like being in one of those stunning, space themed screen-savers, or watching a sci-fi film with topnotch, realistic CGI on a mountainous screen. Seeing Jupiter, so massive, so close to little Europa, was something so indescribable that words did not do any justice.

Back on Earth, we have all seen that strawberry moon that appears around June, and we easily got astonished by that, but our view of Jupiter surpassed that coolness by millions. The scariest fact was that Jupiter's beauty mark, that colossal hurricanic spot, could easily fit two Earth sized planets. One Earth alone can comfortably fit in it like a baseball in a glove and here we were, compacted like some old sardines, getting the full perfect view of it, between swallowed by Jupiter's magnitude. When confronted by such immensity, it's like being an ant crawling on the sidewalk in front of the Empire State Building.

It was showtime. Frank was fully equipped; his suit almost cumbersome due to all its gadgets and padding. He was so rigid and compressed by the EMU that he looked like the Michelin Man. But he was ready...I think. His ever-so quiet and mysterious demeanor was haunting. He stood there stoic like a statue, waiting to be released from the ship.

Brooke placed her hand on the door latch, a concerned look in her doe eyes directed towards Frank, easily conveying the two words "Good luck." Thomas placed his hands on Frank's padded shoulders, another expression of good luck. Patrick was adjusting Frank's suit like a mom adjusting a kid's winter coat. And Aaron just had to shout out, "break a leg!"

Frank and I exchanged looks. I smiled and wished him luck. Frank was still quiet,

but he sheepishly smiled back. He held his bulky helmet in his hands like a pumpkin, took a quick gaze at it before he plopped it on his head. Only our own reflections were seen, our anxious faces, almost on par with Munch's *Scream* painting. Frank's face could not be seen beneath his murky helmet.

Brooke released the latch and Frank, in his clunky suit, went through the narrow, cramped hallway, shutting the door that separated us from him, and opened another one to free himself from the ship. For a moment, my anxiety almost switched to jealousy, seeing Frank released from the ship while we looked on like caged animals, but then again, given the weight of the current situation, I was glad that all I got to do was watch.

He was out. Quickly, we all glided towards the monitor to watch Frank take the Armstrong step out of the ship. He raised his right foot and lodged it onto the icy, eerily pristine, ground before the amazement could hit us, and he did the same with his left foot. His leap was, of course, slightly inelegant and clumsy, but he slowly familiarized himself to the gravity, making little leaps and jumps to get himself around. The cabin, though brimming with apprehension, roared with cheers.

Frank hopped around for a little, but still was silent. I could not envision the awe he must have been experiencing, the surreal sensation of treading on the raw, unexplored grounds of Europa. It was like his whole life was building up for this moment, to be the first man to lay a foot on Europa. In the monitor, he started to camouflage himself along the icy rocks; his body slowly fading as he walked away like a cowboy in an old, black and white, gritty western.

The cabin was silent now. I could almost hear the glimmer of sweat dripping from everyone's forehead, in addition to the sounds of our hearts pounding so heavily. We had the dial on max. Thomas shot me a slight grimace, and Patrick had his shaky hand on the radio, ready to adjust it, when the awaited beep came through. Everyone's muscles froze, with our ears giving full attention. We hovered over the radio like a child hovering over an unopened present. The already mousey Frank was almost voiceless. My gut clenched. His response was nothing more than two repeated sentences.

Man's first words on Europa: "My God. My God."

Brooke, hastily plucking the mouthpiece of her headset, immediately started to shout, "What?! What is it!?"

Frank, taking a long, almost unnecessary pause, quivered back. "We lost."

HIDDEN BENEATH



by Marisa Gonzalez '18
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

Beneath the murk,
Beneath the sea,
A World is hidden,
From you and me.

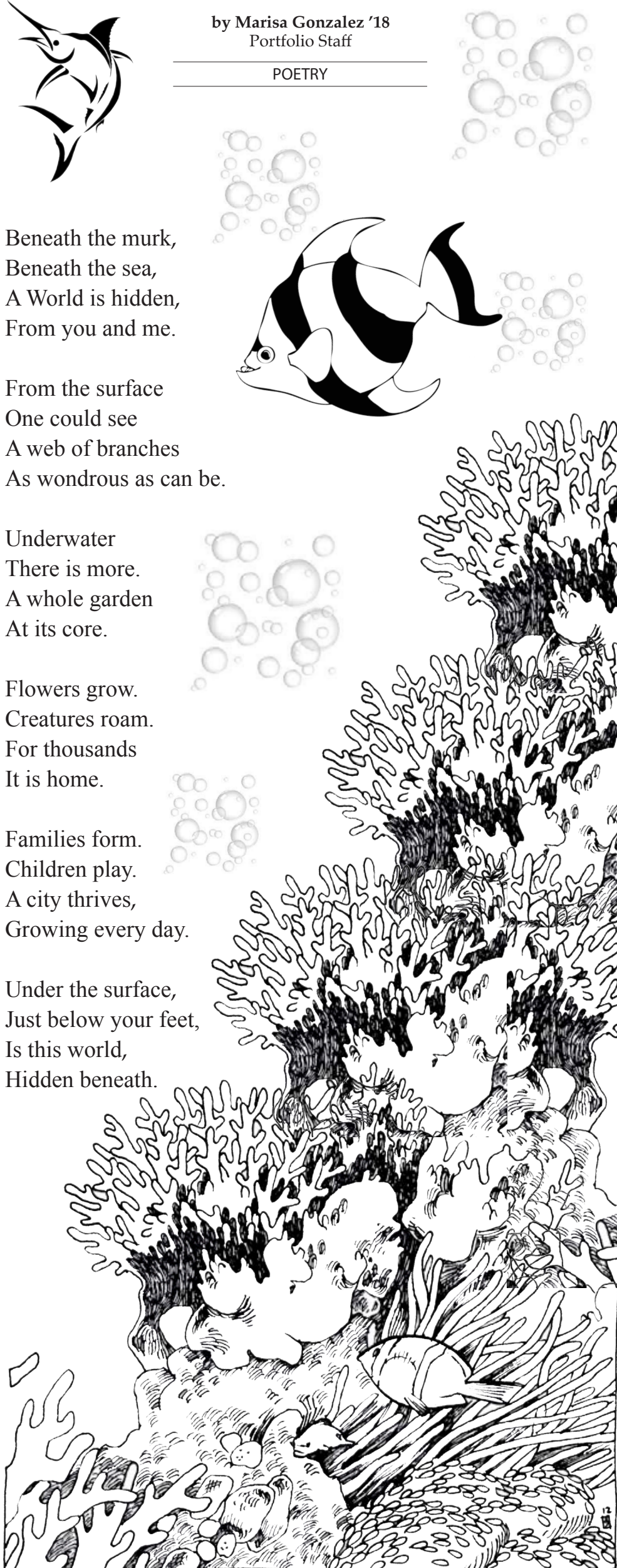
From the surface
One could see
A web of branches
As wondrous as can be.

Underwater
There is more.
A whole garden
At its core.

Flowers grow.
Creatures roam.
For thousands
It is home.

Families form.
Children play.
A city thrives,
Growing every day.

Under the surface,
Just below your feet,
Is this world,
Hidden beneath.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CLIPARTLIBRARY.COM, CLIPARTPANDA.COM, MOZIRU.COM, AND PINTEREST.COM

giving UP

by Connor Zimmerman '20
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

I wait for you, just trying to think
About how I can ease the pain,
Being torn between my heart and brain.
Because it's all about to sink.

We walk along two different roads,
Time always keeping us apart,
Constantly stabbing us in the heart.
Never living the show, just episodes.

I just feel so paralyzed,
'Cause we both know that it's true:
I've been giving up on you.
It has all been compromised.

So please don't give me that glare,
You know that we've lost our spark,
And we're stumbling in the dark.
We're just living in despair.

If I could fix what is broken,
I would strive to bridge our divide,
And never have you leave my side.
The final word must be spoken.

Once we're done I have just one thought,
Your longing green eyes streaming with blue:
I hate that I gave up on you.
In the end, I was made to be distraught.

PHOTO COURTESY OF REFINERY29.COM

Listomania

Things Our Professors Say

"We *have* to talk about the hot poker up the butt."

"Legit. Wait, do kids still say that?"

"It did NOT involve penetration!"

"Stop being high and contribute to the conversation."

"Yes, these people are naked."

"I'm sorry, I didn't mean to slap you."

"So you would eat somebody?"

"You'd better be texting, not doing anything else down there..."

"My goal is to help you all have happy marriages."

Unintelligible Ranting About Keyboards.

"Have you met my dog? He knows German."

"Stop turning up at noon! I can hear you across the street!"

"Here's a sculpture of a Woman holding Woman's Best Friend*."

"You're not being devious enough..."

"I can tell this is a group that drinks."

"You guys are being too diligent, stop taking notes."

"Will your company last 27 billion years? Not unless you go galactic."

*A wine jug

Tiffany & Earl

Making PC an emotionally stable place, one letter at a time.

Dear Tiff and Earl,

Why is Ruane Café NOT open on weekends? I find this a terrible and grave injustice. How can I live without my nightly Allie's Donut and caramel macchiato?

Sincerely,
Weekdays Are For Losers

Dear Weekends are for Losers,

I have no idea why the Ruane Café is not open on weekends. I agree, it not being open is stupid, especially as fall is upon us.

Anything pumpkin spice is my drink of choice, and having to go a whole weekend without a \$5 Starbucks drink is brutal.

I don't have an answer for you, but I'd be happy to lead the charge and get this changed.

Love,



Tiffany

Dear Loser,

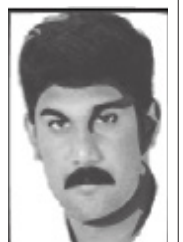
Why are you so worried about the Ruane Café? Don't you get your fill of Sodexo during the week? I say SodexNO!!

Plus, eating a donut and drinking that sugary slime every day isn't healthy. You know what is healthy? Everything that comes down from the beautifully greasy Yuck Truck.

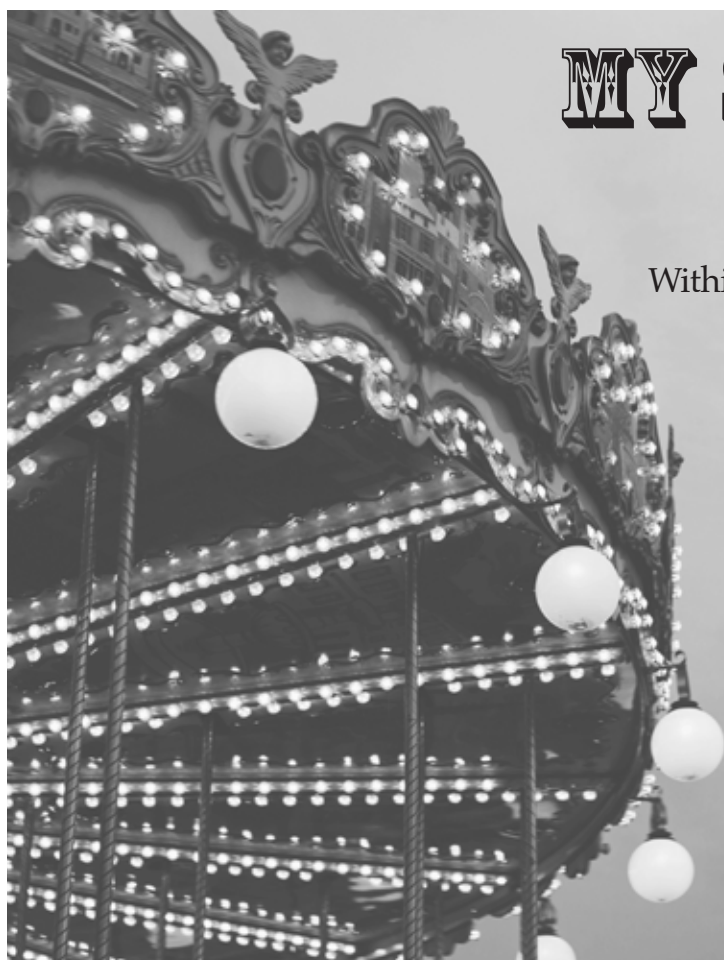
Leave your fake love for Italian beverages and bastardized pastries behind. Embrace the truly American cuisine that only an establishment such as Haven Bros. can purvey.

Better luck this weekend,

EARL



Have a question for Tiff & Earl? Send your submissions to portfolio@thecowl.com



MY SOUL

by Jonathan Coppe '18
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

I passed tonight beside some trash
Within the nooks and crannies of a midnight street,
Remains of a festivity since passed,
A joy once in this space but now moved on.
Is not this space so like my soul,
This sometime temple of a distant joy,
Now only a wasteland for litter?

Or rather a spectacle, once bright and sweet
That shone and drew the smiling eyes of all?
The spectacle now demolished, cleared away,
The mixed, neglected refuse forms a scene
Meant only for the tragic souls of this world,
To see and feed their rambling melancholy.

Was all this meant when that poet said,
"My soul is an empty carousel at sunset?"

College Basketball in the Hot Seat

NCAA Scandal: 10 People Arrested on Bribery Charges

by Chris McCormack '18
Sports Staff

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

It was a sad week for college basketball last week as 10 people, including four assistant coaches, were arrested for their part in a corruption and bribery scandal that put all eyes on the NCAA. Former Providence College Head Coach Rick Pitino was put on unpaid administrative leave and was eventually relieved of his coaching duties at the University of Louisville completely.

The investigation performed by the FBI began last year when a financial adviser Marty Blazer was charged by the Securities and Exchange Commission with fraud allegations and accused of taking \$2.35 million from five of his clients who were professional athletes. As part of the plea agreement that Blazer ultimately signed, he agreed to work under the FBI as a key witness and helped provide evidence that contributed to the 10 arrests made last week.

During his time at PC, Pitino helped coach the Friars to a Final Four in the 1987 NCAA Tournament. As one of the most successful coaches in NCAA, many people looked up to Pitino. However, in recent years he has been the face behind many scandals and this one seems like it is going to put him out of a coaching job for the rest of his life.

Pitino has been the center of attention for three other major scandals over the past 10 years. In 2009, a woman named Karen Sypher demanded money and cars from Pitino after they engaged in a sexual encounter in 2003. Sypher was ultimately arrested and Pitino faced no consequences.

In 2015, a former escort in the Louisville area published a book that documented the times she was paid by a graduate assistant to go to the dorms and visit potential recruits. Pitino claimed to have no idea these things were going on and the program was eventually suspended from participating in the 2016 NCAA Tournament.

Finally, the findings of last week's investigation shows a coach from an unnamed program matching the description of Louisville allegedly paying \$100,000 to a basketball recruit's family.

These three investigations will result in Pitino's legacy being forever tainted. The latest investigation is just one of many for the NCAA and players illegally receiving money from teams.

Pitino is the biggest name in this scandal but there are many others



COACH RICK PITINO LEAVES MEETING WITH UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL CLEVENGER

involved from other schools such as Auburn University, University of Southern California, University of Arizona, Oklahoma State University, and the University of Miami.

Arizona's assistant coach Emmanuel Richardson is one of the coaches who was arrested last week. He is accused of accepting bribes from agent Christian Dawkins as well as financial adviser Munish Sood in exchange for pushing Arizona players to them as they reach the professional level. Richardson was relieved of all duties at the university.

Like Richardson, Auburn's associate head coach Chuck Person was also arrested. He is accused of accepting a \$50,000 bribe from Rashan Michel, owner of a clothing line based in Atlanta. Richardson accepted the bribe on the terms he would convince

his players to sign with the clothing line once they make it to the pros.

Oklahoma State assistant coach Lamont Evans is also accused of accepting a bribe of \$22,000 from Dawkins and Sood. He was a former coach at the University of South Carolina. At both Oklahoma State and South Carolina, he influenced players to sign with Dawkins and Sood.

University of Southern California assistant coach Tony Bland is accused of being bedding with the two bribers. He allegedly took a bribe of \$13,000 and had Dawkins and Sood pay \$9,000 to the families of two USC athletes.

All of these coaches, along with Dawkins and Sood, have been arrested and charged with fraud. It is the sad truth that this probably will not be the last time we hear about coaches and players violating NCAA standards.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CASEY SAPIO
COACH EMANUEL RICHARDSON FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

A Weekend of Celly's for Women's Hockey

by Meaghan Cahill '20
Sports Assistant Editor
WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Along with fall, hockey season has officially arrived in Friartown as the Providence College Women's Hockey Team kicked off their season this past weekend. The team went into their first official game of the season with a solid preseason 3-2 win over Laurentian University.

Coming off of that win, the team traveled to Schenectady, New York, where they dominated Union College with a score of 7-3 which featured seven different goal scorers for the Friars.

Following the Union game, the Friars made a quick trip back to campus where they played their season home opener on Sunday against The University of Vermont. It was a game that was not to be missed as, even though there was a rocky start in the first period that resulted

in them being down 2-1, the Friars pulled ahead on the scoreboard to conclude the game with a 6-2 victory. Once again, the team had six different goal scorers, including Hayley Lunny '21, who scored her first goal as a Friar.

The weekend was a dominant start to the season for the team, as within two games, 10 different players have already notched a point in the goals scored box. 15 of the 18 Friars that dress for the games have already earned points.

The success of the weekend opening for the women's hockey team is looking to continue throughout the season as they strive to win Hockey East. Last year, they ended their season with a heartbreaking loss to UVM that denied them from advancing further in the Hockey East Tournament.

However, while many players graduated, only two were considered a detrimental loss in terms of playing time. The team is fairly young, with



FRANSOO'20 DEFENDS TWO BOSTON UNIVERSITY PLAYERS

Photo Courtesy of Providence College Athletics



FRANSOO'20 CELEBRATES WITH MYERS'19 AND SANSONE'18

Photo Courtesy of Providence College Athletics

seven players each from the freshman, sophomore, and junior classes. The team is led by four seniors. The experience needed to know how to navigate through Hockey East is definitely there for the team, as well as the relationship between the players in knowing who, how, and where different members like to play. As seen by their success in the first week of their season, the Friars know how to play with one another, which will help them make the push towards the post season.

Most of the team's top players from last year will still be in the lineup. This includes defenseman Whitney Dove '20, who had a remarkable breakout season her freshman year with the Friars. She was one of the many recipients of the Hockey East Rookie of the Week acknowledgement, and went on to finish third in all of Hockey East for defensive scoring. She also was awarded the Hockey East Rookie of the Year award—the first defenseman to ever win the award in the history of the league—and was unanimously selected to the Hockey East All-Rookie Team.

Dove scored a goal apiece against

Union and UVM, and was named this week's Hockey East Defensive Player of the Week. She is also joined by players Neve Van Pelt '20, who finished her freshman year with the highest face-off win percentage in all of Hockey East, and Blair Parent '18, who has twice been recognized as a Hockey East Top Performer.

Lunny, a native of Bedford, New York, is joined by local Rhode Island player Giana Savastano '21. The rest of the freshman class includes Canadian players Chloe Gonsalves '21, Ariane Julien '21, and Camryn Tait '21; Sandra Abstreiter '21 from Germany; New Yorker Maureen Murphy '21.

Kate Friesen '19 and Madison Sansone '18 will serve as captains and be assisted by Parent and Brooke Boquist '18.

The team can look to their four seniors for guidance and leadership throughout the season. The fourth senior on the team is Alanna Serviss '18.

The women's hockey team plays next in Friartown on Oct. 6 at 7 p.m. against Quinnipiac University.

Burke Takes the Court

by Eileen Flynn '20
Sports Staff
PC ALUMNI

There are few things that Providence College students enjoy more than bragging about successful alumni. Students are filled with pride thinking about the adults who had the same professors and sat in the same cafeteria, and are now achieving incredible things in the real world.

Not only do they act as an inspiration for students to study harder, but alumni success stories help contribute to the life-long connection that comes with being a part of the Friar Family.

Doris Burke '87 is one name that students have been increasingly mentioning on campus over the past couple of days.

Doris Burke has been a prominent basketball analyst since 1990, but within the past week, Burke was promoted as a regular ESPN NBA game analyst. This accomplishment makes her the first woman in history to be assigned to cover a full NBA season.

Burke moved to Providence College in 1983 as a recruited freshman. Burke excelled on the court and by the end of her senior year, she held countless records. She was the

College's female athlete of the year in 1987 and left the team as an all-time leader in assists.

Her talents would later make her the fifth woman to be inducted into the Providence College Hall of Fame. Burke received her degree in health service administration/social work as an undergraduate and then later received her master's degree in education.

Her Providence College education gave Burke the skills she needed to continue to be involved with the sport she loved, even after she was forced to hang up her black and white jersey.

Burke jumped into the reporting world quickly after graduation. She began as a broadcast journalist in 1990 which led her to join ESPN and ABC networks in 1991. In 1996 she was back within the familiar Big East atmosphere, but this time, on the sidelines and analyzing the teams playing.

Burke continued to positively impact the sports world with her basketball intuition. She received the Rudy Award for Best New Face in Sports Television in 2003.

Burke has been seen most recently as lead ESPN NBA sideline reporter in the important games, including the most popular NBA finals. This past year, Burke was the recipient of the 2017 WISE Women of the Year award.

Students continue to be amazed and inspired by this Providence College alum and the career she has built for herself.

Oct. 8 will mark the first day for Burke as a full-time ESPN NBA game analyst. Burke is returning

to campus for Providence College's Late Night Madness event. There is no doubt the cheers will be resounding as one of PC's most renowned alumni once again takes the court.



BURKE SPEAKING TO GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS GUARD STEPHEN CURRY

Photo Courtesy of Bob Donnan

Which NFL Franchise is “America’s Team”? Green Bay Packers

by Jack Belanger '21
Sports Staff

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL

I wish I could proclaim the Patriots as “America’s Team,” but most of the country would be quick to disagree. While the Pats have been the best team recently, outside of New England they are probably one of the most disliked teams.

Being “America’s Team” is more than just being the best, you also have to have fans from all around the U.S. root for you at some point, while having a consistently strong home fan-base. The Green Bay Packers edge out the Pats because, unless you are a die-hard Chicago Bears fan, nobody really hates the Pack nor consistently roots for them to lose.

Green Bay fits the bill as “America’s Team” for a variety of reasons that help them edge out all the other 31 teams from the product on the field to the attention off it.

First, the Packers have consistently been one of the best teams on the field in recent years, making the playoffs for the past eight seasons

while winning a Super Bowl during that run. Being one of the best teams in the league is key to be a favorite since nobody wants to root for a perennial loser (sorry, Cleveland).

But they also have not had a dynasty where people are hoping they lose. Behind the success is Aaron Rodgers, one of the most exciting players to watch with his ability to pull off a big play when needed.

Off the field, one of the more likeable features about Green Bay is they are publicly owned by many stockholders and are run by a board of directors. This means the team does not have to worry about a single owner who is the face of the franchise (i.e. Jerry Jones and the Cowboys).

Green Bay has one of the strongest fan bases in the league despite being one of the smallest markets. Deflated balls or not, the Packers have not been accused of cheating, leaving no room for people to question their success.

While the greatest quarterback and coach may very well reside in Foxboro, it’s hard to portray anyone in Green Bay as a villain in the league.



AARON RODGERS CELEBRATES A WIN WITH SIGNATURE TOUCHDOWN POSE.

Photo Courtesy of Eric Edholm

Dallas Cowboys

by Nicholas Buckley '21
Sports Staff

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL



BOBBY CARPENTER AND KEITH BROOKING BOTH CELEBRATE A TOUCHDOWN AGAINST THE SEAHAWKS.

Photo Courtesy of Ronald Martinez

If asked who is “America’s Team”, most people would think of the Dallas Cowboys, especially those who grew up watching them in their prime.

One of the largest forces in football, the Cowboys have dominated the league for years. Although it must be said that the Cowboys have not been the superpower they were back in the day, one can not take away from what they have done for the NFL community and the sport as a whole.

The Cowboys have been in eight Super Bowls and won five, and numbers like these can only be matched by few other teams.

Players such as Emmitt Smith and Troy Aikman, two of the best football players in history, also play their part in the Cowboys massive fandom.

Being a team with Hall of Fame-tier players on the rosters almost every year is a great way to catch the eye of NFL fans around the country. Once the attention was there, the Cowboys just needed results, which

for many years they delivered season after season.

These days the charge is led by QB Dak Prescott and RB Ezekiel Elliott. Last year the team blew any and all expectations, claiming the No. 1 overall seed in the NFC. The two rookies meshed perfectly with veterans like WR Dez Bryant and TE Jason Witten, both future hall of famers. While falling short in the playoffs, the organization and fan base knew that the future had arrived. This year they look to continue the resurgence of one of the NFL’s largest powerhouses. If successful, the rest of the league better take notice, or risk getting left behind.

Just to further prove the Cowboys are America’s football team, look at their revenue. Valued at a little over four billion dollars, the Cowboys are not just the most valuable football team, but the most valuable sports team in the world. At the end of the day it is hard to argue numbers, and to be valued as highly as the Cowboys are just goes to show how large their fanbase is across the country.

And not to mention the fact that the Cowboys’ nickname is “America’s Team”.