

# The Cowl



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## Give Us Nug(get)s, Not Bugs!



by Matthew Mazzella '20  
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

On Sunday, March 25, a student at Providence College's Raymond Dining Hall found a cockroach in their serving of fried ravioli, and the picture of this finding went viral around campus. Since then, there have been multiple other sightings of insects in and around students' food at Ray.

Student outrage concerning the quality of their food has sparked the Instagram page "Sodex-no," which encourages students to send in pictures of their unsanitary findings to draw attention to the problem occurring in Ray. Stu Gerhardt, general manager of dining services at PC, was asked what happened regarding the roach situation. His response to the cockroach findings was "prior to the circulation of the photo, Reliable Pest Control came in twice a week to perform routine pest control prevention. Since the

dead roach in the ravioli was found right before Easter break, Reliable came in on Good Friday, 'bombed' the dining facility with pesticides, and cleaned the dining hall the following Monday. One or two German cockroaches were found, but no infestation was found, which leads us to believe it is an external problem."

Since the source of the problem is still being determined, Gerhardt and Warren Gray, assistant vice president of business services, believe that the roaches are being transported in the cardboard box shipments to the dining hall, as they are attracted to wet cardboard and can get in the bottom of boxes very easily. Gerhardt has issued a protocol for all Raymond workers to unload all shipments outside the hall so no insects make their way into the building from the boxes.

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NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THECOWL

## Freedom of Speech Event Draws Large Crowd



Dr. Joseph Cammarano and Grant Strobl speak at the event. NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THECOWL

by Brian Garvey '20  
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

Recently, students packed Ruane 105 to hear a debate of the "Freedom of Speech On a Catholic Campus" sponsored by the Providence College Republicans. The event, which took place on Tuesday, April 17, consisted of a panel of three speakers: Dr. Joseph Cammarano, associate professor within the political science and public and community service departments, Father Bonaventure Chapman, O.P., an assistant chaplain for Campus Ministry, and Grant Strobl,

a senior at the University of Michigan and the National Chairman of Young Americans for Freedom.

Hailing from Detroit, Michigan, Strobl is also the founder of Young Americans for Freedom at his school. He gained notoriety at UofM and in the news when he took advantage of a rule in the UofM handbook that allowed students to choose the pronouns by which they are referred. To generate awareness of the rule, he set his pronoun as "His Majesty," and encouraged other students to write similarly outlandish names. Grant has given over 30 presentations and speeches "about his experiences fighting for the freedom of speech on college campuses and how to promote conservative values to millennials."

While every seat in Ruane 105 was filled, the atmosphere at the event was quiet and respectful. The talk was formatted in an informal debate style, in which there were three questions provided by PC Republicans that were answered by each panel speaker; one from the theological perspective, the educational perspective, and the conservative millennial perspective. After each panel member responded to the question, two questions from the crowd were posed, with

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## Women's Tennis Senior Game

by Eileen Flynn '20  
Sports Staff

TENNIS

The Providence College Women's Tennis Team wrapped up their regular season play this past Thursday, April 12, on their home court. After a season full of indoor matches, the brisk air was welcomed by the players and brought a surge of energy to the team.

The team hosted Quinnipiac University for their Senior Day match, honoring the one senior, Katie Marvin '18, for PC. Over 80 people gathered to watch Marvin's last match on Providence College's campus. Each fan was given a pink Friar's Tennis T-Shirt to wear in the crowd. The cheers from the sea of pink right next to the courts added to the competitive atmosphere that afternoon.

Although Quinnipiac started strong, sweeping all three doubles matches, the Friars made sure to give their fans something to cheer about. Marvin won her singles match 6-4, 6-2 and teammate Aidan Epstein '20 won her match 6-2, 7-5. With both of these personal victories, Epstein was quick to name this game her favorite match of the season.

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### News

Find out more about events happening around campus for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

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### A&E

Black Panther rules the box office and brings underrepresented leads to the big screen.

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### Portfolio

Missing a spring concert ticket? Check out Listomania for things to do instead.

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## Student Affairs Hosts Sexual Assault Awareness Month *PC Engages and Informs Students Through Events*

by Kendall Cairoli '20  
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

April is Sexual Assault Awareness month and Providence College continues to participate in the international movement to bring awareness, education, and prevention to college campuses. However, for both PC administrators and student leaders, addressing the topic of sexual violence is a conversation that they believe deserves recognition and engagement beyond the month of April. "It would be naive to think that our work would be done in a month," said Kristine Goodwin, vice president of student affairs. "This is not a one month endeavor, but rather a 12 month endeavor."

In order to continue a transparent and educated discussion regarding sexual violence, both Goodwin and Title IX Coordinator, Dr. Jim Campbell, have diligently worked to develop programs that address the issues on the PC campus. Offering students resources and education about sexual violence not only brings awareness, but enhances solidarity and support for victims.

Programs like Haven—an online pre-orientation program that is required for freshmen to take before they attend school in September—are paired with two top rated sexual assault prevention programs during orientation week, like the Bystander Step Up Program. These programs aim to educate students early on in their college careers, in the hopes of preventing sexual violence throughout their time at PC. They also equip them with skills that will help themselves or others when confronted with the issue.

"At Providence College there is a large investment in bringing awareness of sexual violence. When students have a trust and confidence in their system, they feel safe and more

comfortable reporting their incidents of assault—that is vital to us," said Campbell.

To establish a safe space for students to report their experiences of sexual assault, PC has partnered with the local police department as well as external Title IX investigators, who help administer updated resources and tools that PC can implement into their own human resources. To gather student experiences and opinions, campus climate surveys are sent to students, which ask questions about student's experiences with sexual violence and harassment issues, along with a plethora of issues like gender and race issues.

From this survey, the administration is given student responses which help them tackle the issue of sexual violence in a more productive manner. Goodwin said, "When students fill out these surveys, we are able to triangulate all this data and grasp an idea of what is occurring on our campus and from there, we can gage the areas that we need to improve on."

Student voices are vital in combating the issue of sexual violence, which is why these surveys are a vital aspect in the progression towards a safer community that grants survivors and victims with the resources they need.

For Women Will, a PC organization that focuses on educating the community on issues of gender and sexuality, the month of April offers an opportunity to heighten awareness of the issue and the preventive steps that need to be taken in the future. One of the main events on campus was Take Back the Night, an event hosted on April 10 that created a safe space for students to share their experiences in a place of solidarity.

Ingrid Brugnoli-Ensin '18 is the president of Women Will and believes that hosting lectures and community wide events works towards expanding peoples' understanding of sexual violence. "There is a whole sexual assault spectrum, there are



BMSA hosted the event, "Why I Stayed," featuring Bevely Goodin.

LAURA CHADBOURNE '20/THECOWL

different experiences and different traumas endured, but every trauma is significant," said Brugnoli-Ensin. Take Back the Night and other events ensure that there are platforms on campus for individuals to feel safe in voicing their experiences, while simultaneously educating others in the community on sexual violence and its effects.

By expanding people's interpretations of sexual violence, people can learn what is okay and what is not, what classifies a healthy relationship, and when to notice when yourself or a friend is in an unsafe situation. With the countless resources that PC provides students, an underlining issue is still present, Brugnoli-Ensin explained, "There is a stigma regarding sex and sex education programs at a Catholic school, we can not really talk about the issue at hand without talking about sex, which gets messy and complicated." As a Catholic institution, the topic of sex is complex. Brugnoli-Ensin went on to explain that difficulty arises in the inability to approach subjects like the practice of safe and consensual sex, because pre-marital sex in general goes against Catholic beliefs.

When safe and healthy sex is not discussed or taught, but turned into a taboo subject, students can be misinformed about responsible and safe sex practices, which may result in a hesitation to report or come forward with their experiences of sexual violence.

Despite these broader issues, we can all do our part as individuals to ensure the safety of ourselves and others on campus. Being an active bystander in social situations can be as simple as walking someone back to campus on a Friday night. There may be no grand solution to this problem, but a month dedicated to sexual violence awareness may indicate how much more work and prevention needs to be done and the small acts we can take to move towards some progress.

As this month represents many things, Goodwin reinforces the idea that it marks a moment for us all to reflect on our role as community members, saying "This month is an opportunity for someone to be a better ally, to be a be a support system, we all need to ask ourselves, 'Am I doing everything I can, for myself or someone that needs me?'"

## Addressing Student Concerns on Raymond Cafeteria



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT SODEXNO

This photo went viral on campus after it was posted on Instagram.

### Sodexo:

Continued from front page

In regards to the insect found in a student's french fry, Gerhardt said, "Any time there is food found with a foreign matter in it, we will send that piece of food back to the vendor or manufacturer because it is crucial to find out how it got there." For example, the fry was sent back to McCain Potatoes to be inspected because if an insect was embedded in the fry, it could have not happened here."

Gray also mentioned that after the ravioli photo was circulated, the Rhode Island Department of Health was notified and an inspection of Raymond Dining Hall was issued, and a clean bill of health was issued. "We have decided after both instances that the pest control services come every day to ensure the problem is fixed," he said.

While the problem seems to be taken care of, students at Providence College are still upset, and hope to never see something like this occur again while eating at campus dining facilities. Gabrielle Montoya '20 said, "I think what happened was gross. Students eat at Ray every day, and sanitation needs to be taken more seriously when so many kids are being fed each day. If this keeps happening, someone could get

really sick."

Marie Sweeney '20 said, "My friends and I have been avoiding Ray once we learned about the bug problem. It's just pretty unappetizing. Students shouldn't have to fear that something is in their food, and they also shouldn't feel the need to spend their money off campus or use their Friar Bucks on other food because their meal plan provides them with insect infested foods."

The Dining Services team at the College have implemented new changes in protocol, but the sightings of roaches by students has not ended as hoped. A video of a cockroach running on a table in Ray has circulated around the internet, and is only raising more questions from students and parents as if the problem is really fixed. Since the last video of the cockroach, there has been no further sightings of any cockroaches.

Student liasons to Sodexo, Daniel Keating '20 and John Stablien '19, have met multiple times with Gerhardt to address student concerns. Keating reported to the Student Congress on Tuesday that the Board of Health did inspect Raymond Cafeteria last week, and declared that there is no infestation, and therefore the hypothesis that the cockroaches came from outside the cafeteria is likely.





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# Featured Friar: Jennifer Dorn '18

## Fulbright Scholarship Awarded to One PC Senior

by Ernie Andreoli '18  
News Staff

FEATURED FRIAR

Ten students from Providence College applied to receive a Fulbright Scholarship this year. A candidate qualifies if he or she is an undergraduate senior or has graduated within five years at the time of application, and Jennifer Dorn '18 was the only PC senior to receive this prestigious award in 2018. While Dorn stood outside of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts this past weekend, she discussed how thrilled she is to be a Fulbright recipient. "It is going to be fun and gives me opportunities to be creative," exclaimed Dorn.

As a theater arts and English double major from Dallas, Texas, Dorn has a passion for the performing arts and has participated in theater for 14 years. This past weekend, she attended the Institute for Theater Journalism and Advocacy, a workshop sponsored by the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. After qualifying for this workshop, Dorn had the opportunity to refine her skills in journalism, specifically theater criticism.

In addition to improving her analytical and writing skills, Dorn was fortunate enough to meet well-known theater professionals and critics, such as Sarah Kaufman, a dance critic for the *Washington Post* and the recipient of the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Criticism.

According to Dr. Darra Mulderry, an associate professor of history at Providence College and the director of national and international fellowships for PC's Center for Engaged Learning, the most difficult part of the application process is preparing a personal statement and a statement of purpose—each only one page long. "Jen was the first prospective applicant to approach me for this year's scholarship," noted Mulderry. "I wanted to do something different after graduation," stated Dorn. She explained that she was looking for opportunities to teach and/or travel

following her undergraduate years.

Dorn explained that after speaking with Dr. Mulderry, she went to an informational session on campus during the spring of her junior year. Beginning in the summer, she went onto the Fulbright's scholarship site and searched through prospective countries. While working in the admissions office as a summer assistant Dorn began writing drafts of her statements.

"The process included a great deal of writing, revising, editing, and also making sure that each word would culturally translate," noted Dorn. She was initially interested in diving deeper into an English Teaching Assistant (ETA) role in Latvia or Greece. However, the Czech Republic became a perfect fit because of her interest in the country's cultural history. "I have always wanted to travel to the country because of the rich artistic and sociopolitical forces at play," stated Dorn. She also revealed that the first president of the Czech Republic, Václav Havel, was a humanitarian deeply involved in the performing arts. She submitted her application last October, and received the scholarship on March 23.

Dorn explained that she will be assisting with English instruction for about 20 hours per week for 10 months in a track secondary school in Zábřeh, a town in the Olomouc region of the eastern portion of the country. "This opportunity will give me time to read, write, and do what I love," exclaimed Dorn.

In addition to teaching English, she will also be a cultural ambassador for the United States in the Czech Republic. For the Fulbright Scholarship, the education level where students are placed depends solely on the country. "Jen was placed in a secondary education setting, because the country desired one at that level," explained Mulderry. Coincidentally, the school where Dorn will be teaching English has a drama club. "I am playing around with the idea of pursuing a career in theater and arts education in the future," acknowledged Dorn. She was also accepted to Teach For America this year, and will be an elementary instructor in Tulsa,



Jennifer Dorn '18, Fulbright Scholarship recipient.

LAURA CHADBOURNE '20/THECOWL

Oklahoma, for two years beginning in 2019.

The scholarship offers fully funded living expenses for 10 months. Beyond this, Dorn will be a part of the Fulbright network, an extremely tight-knit community, for the rest of her life. The scholarship has been funded by United States State Department since 1946, and hopes to promote cultural awareness as well as build cultural bridges between countries.

Because the program requires learnedness and preparation for cultural ambassadorship, a bachelor's degree is required for all applicants. Students interested in the Fulbright experience should contact Dr. Mulderry. Those who hope to become a Fulbright scholar immediately after graduation should start their applications early in the summer before the start of their senior year.

## PC Republicans Hosts Discussion on Free Speech

### Free Speech:

Continued from front page

The first question posed was, "Regardless of the provocative nature of Catholic tradition in a progressive era, should the expression of religious ideals be protected by freedom of speech?" Fr. Bonaventure spoke extensively on this subject, stating, "Speech is about the true revelation of yourself. If your freedom is not for truth, then it is not really freedom of speech. Hindering truth is denying a right to a person. Every protection of religious truth, especially at a Catholic institution, is therefore a necessity."

The second question posed was, "Are some people's feelings of offense more important than others? If so, how is that category defined?" Strobl spoke the most on this subject, stating, "I wouldn't create a hierarchy of who deserves a right to speech because that implies we are going to censor those who are willing to speak. I think that is a dangerous path. I would rather approach this as fighting speech with more speech."

When asked by a student if even communist supporters should be given a safe space to speak on campus, Cammarano stated, "At an institution of higher education, a member of the communist party must have a safe space. A member of the Fascist Party, a member of the Democratic Party, a member of the Republican Party, a member of the Socialist Party, a member of the Libertarian Party, must all have the opportunity and freedom to speak."

The third question posed was, "Is the idea of protecting a person



Grant Strobl sits on a panel with PC faculty in Ruane.

NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THECOWL

from hearing viewpoints that they find offensive compatible with the project of education?" To answer this, Cammarano stated emphatically, "Hell no!" Fr. Bonaventure also stated, "Simply quoting authority won't do. There has to be reasonable dialogue. You can't just say 'someone said this' and assume it must be true! You have to tell me why. You have to deal with objections in order to learn."

Overall, the event was well-received by the students who attended it, and the decorum was respectful and restrained. "While Providence

College Democrats does not agree with the politics of Strobl, the main speaker from this event, many of the things said last night actually resonate with the condition of liberal or Democrat voices at Providence College," said PC Democrats in a statement about the event.

"It is no secret that PC is a generally conservative campus, and liberal organizations such as PC Dems have found it very difficult to promote events or bring speakers on campus," the statement continued.

The club went on to say,

"Protecting Freedom of Speech is not limited to and should not be limited to preserving conservative voices but to keeping an open platform for all voices. We hope that moving forward, Providence College can move towards removing unnecessary barriers to political activism for all ideologies."

Undoubtedly, every club, student, and professor can resonate with the message of free speech for every individual. For more information about Strobl, you can visit his website at [www.GrantStrobl.com](http://www.GrantStrobl.com).



# One Year Later: Juniors Still Wish to Live Off Campus

## Administration Explains Their Decision Behind the Policy

by Brian Garvey '20  
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

One of the most polarizing issues on campus in the past few years has been the off-campus housing situation. There have been plenty of debates concerning who gets to live off campus and when, with strong feelings on both sides of the argument.

This situation has also spilled over to the on-campus housing situations. The presence of more upperclassmen living on campus, as well as a steady rise in enrollment over the past four years, has contributed to an unhappy living situation for some students.

However, there are many misconceptions about the reasons behind restricting who can live off campus. There are three motivations for the change to the off-campus housing policy: the first being to increase revenue, the second being to make the campus the center of social life, and the third being to stick to the idea of being a purely residential campus.

In terms of revenue, Kristine Goodwin, vice president of student affairs at Providence College, stated, "We are a tuition-dependent institution, and the kind of revenue loss we were experiencing was significant. This was a primary reason for looking into the policy."

The administration believes that the school should follow through with the idea of being a "residential campus," in that students should be residing on campus and taking advantage of everything the campus has to offer.

"Our studies have shown that there has been an increase in

participation and utilization in regards to involvement," said Steven Sears, associate vice president and dean of students. "Some of that success varies on the individual too, in that if you don't take advantage of what's offered to you, you may never experience the positive impact of things we are providing."

Another issue students have debated and discussed is the quality of residence halls. As stated above, the student population at PC has been on the rise, and as a result students have questioned why they are being asked to live on campus for an additional year. Joe McDonald '20 said, "I feel that after two years of penance in residence halls I should be able to make the choice to move off campus. Sometimes I feel as if there simply isn't enough rooms to go around."

Jana Valentine, director of residence life, stated, "I think that there is a perception that there is not enough space for everyone, but we can accommodate everyone on campus." Dean Sears also stated, "We are really looking to review our residence halls and the quality of our facilities." The board of trustees will also be voting on a residential master plan this coming June.

Off-campus housing is mainly controlled by the 02908 Club, with very few different options. This is due to the quality of 02908 homes, as well as the location and recognizable brand; most students have a 02908 shirt somewhere in their wardrobe. Bob McCann, a head partner of the 02908 Club, stated, "Some of the most attractive parts of 02908 reside in the fact that you have access to the house throughout the summer and over breaks. I also



The policy keeping juniors on campus was implemented last year.

NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THECOWL

feel that being off campus is part of the student experience, as I feel that the experience of being in your own nice house is unmatched." Some students, however, feel that more off campus options would be more desirable.

"I really like the quality of the house, but it's tough signing a lease in the first few weeks of sophomore year," said Ryan Gallahue '20. "Without the flexibility of being able to make decisions closer to senior year, it is tougher to choose off-campus housing over the simplicity of an apartment on campus senior year."

Other students also expressed complaints over the early lease, and Goodwin stated, "We are fundamentally opposed to students needing to decide their freshman

and sophomore years where and who they would be living with years later."

Ultimately, the administration wants students to know that if students want their questions answered, if they want to suggest changes, the door is always open. "The student voice at PC is so important. When Jana [Valentine] says come to office to talk, she really means that," Stanley Vieira, director of citizenship and off-campus life, said. "I've yet to see a Residence Life office that works so collaboratively with students. That's just what PC does."

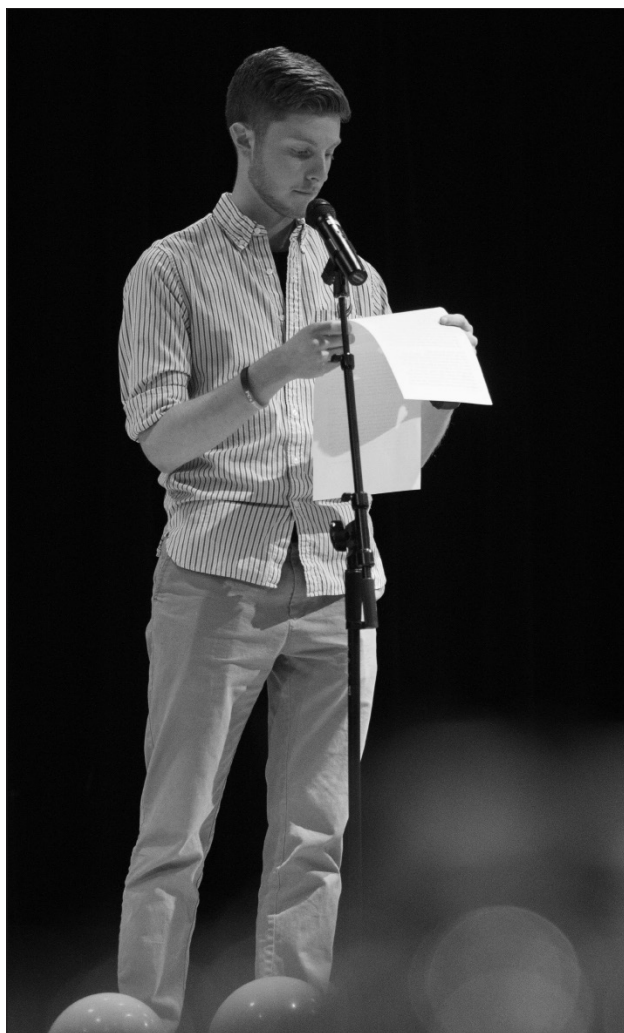
Students are more than welcome to visit the residence life office, as well as talk to their respective hall directors about questions or ideas they have.

# BOP and SHEPARD Host "Tell Your Story"

## PC's Proud Week Ends on a Reflective Note

by Catherine Brewer '20  
News Staff

ON CAMPUS



Brian Cain '18 shares a story in McPhail's.

FAITH ALLEN-HARRIS '21/THECOWL

"We need to educate this campus before we do anything else," expressed Magnoly Maria '19 of the mission behind PC's Proud, a celebratory and educational week of events promoting LGBTQ+ support at Providence College. On Thursday, April 12, students gathered in McPhail's at 5:30 p.m. for Tell Your Story, the culmination of the collaborative planning effort of the Board of Programmers (BOP) and SHEPARD. The campus hub was decorated with everything rainbow, from balloons to confetti, and students and faculty gathered with anticipation.

Tell Your Story offered a safe space for those who identify as LGBTQ+ and their allies to share their personal narratives about challenges they have faced as members of the community. To ensure that all voices were represented, BOP and SHEPARD had options: those interested in sharing their story could hop on stage and share it with the crowd, or they could submit it online for someone else to read, whether that be done with a name attached to it or anonymously.

Maria, a member of BOP and the Board of Multicultural Student Affairs (BMSA), explained that preparations for the event began long before the bulletin board debate of last month. At the beginning of the year, the BOP Diversity Committee decided that they wanted to plan an event surrounding the LGBTQ+ community because they felt that it was lacking support and inclusion on campus. "Their stories have been out there, but they've been pushed aside for a

really long time," Maria explained. Beginning with their hope to make campus feel more like home for students of marginalized communities, PC's Proud developed over time and with immense passion.

"I feel that this event definitely is a good way to sum up the march," expressed SHEPARD's treasurer Sarah Kane '19 in light of last month's LGBTQ+ solidarity march. Kane explained that while the story submissions had been trickling in slowly, a flood of them were sent in on Wednesday night, lifting a weight off of the planning committee's shoulders. Prior to the event, Kane was most excited for the LGBTQ+ community and its allies to be brought together by storytelling in a healthy and supported way.

Keysha Rodriguez '19, an ally at the event, explained that she felt fostering an inclusive community on campus was a prevalent and pressing issue. "These events allow the campus to see that people are here and deserve respect," stated Rodriguez as she cut a rainbow-colored ribbon that would soon be folded to create pride pins. In her opinion, exclusion has resulted from a lack of conversation and education, and events like Tell Your Story help to "get the ball rolling."

According to Kane, the next event that SHEPARD is helping to plan is CarnivALL. This celebration of all identities is set to take place on May 4 from 4 to 8 p.m., and the community can look forward to inflatables, food trucks, and much more.



# Social Work Class Aims to Start Student Advisory Board

## PC Students Working With the Personal Counseling Center

by Hannah Langley '21  
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

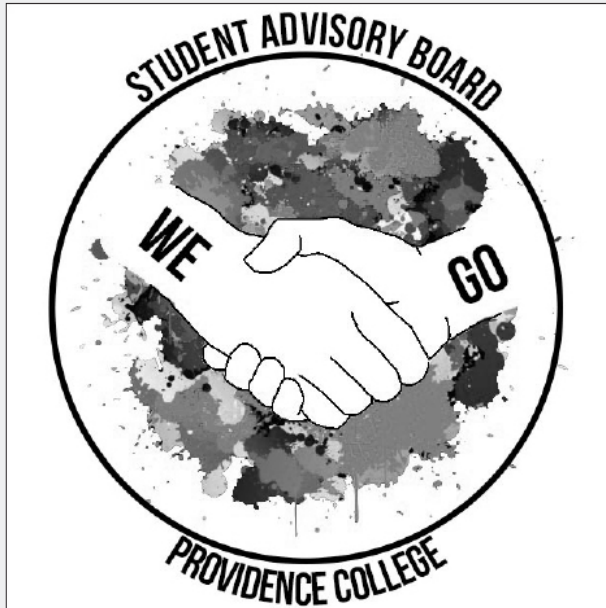
College can present many stressful situations in the life of students, and Dr. Susan Grossman's community and political practice social work class is working to address this problem. The class, which consists of seven Providence College juniors, explained, "There is a lot of disconnect between the student body and the Personal Counseling Center about the resources and programs offered."

To bridge this gap, the students have implemented a Personal Counseling Center Student Advisory Board, which will work in conjunction with the Personal Counseling Center, PC's Care Team, and the chaplains in Campus Ministry. According to the class's proposal, this group will "support the Counseling Center in providing resources and services that satisfactorily meet the varied... needs of all students."

According to Kelli Jenney '19, one of the students working on this project, the advisory board will "include students from every school of study and represent all races, genders, and class grade, as well as student clubs, organizations, and athletes." By representing students from various areas in the PC community, the advisory board will "enhance the Personal Counseling Center's services... through its advocacy, feedback, and democratic representation of the student body," as stated in the class's proposal.

This initiative began last semester when classmates Brian Barr '19, Clara Che '19, Thomas Heavren '19, Kelli Jenney '19, Kelsey Doyle '19, Katherine Nardodillo '19, and Mackenzie Lawler '19 worked with Generation Citizen, a national organization where democracy coaches come to local schools and work with students on addressing prevalent issues and helping them solve these problems.

"One thing we found to be a community issue at PC was the concern about student mental health and the lack of knowledge regarding the resources available," said one of the social work students. To determine whether or not this was an issue the



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF KELLI JENNEY '19

majority of PC students at cared about, the students created a survey to gather their data. Nearly 250 PC students participated in the survey, and the students got an overwhelmingly positive result. "We found that 89.7 percent of students who took the survey wanted a student-run organization to support mental health," stated one of the students. From there, the students structured their advisory board based on other data collected from the survey, which included student knowledge of basic provisions and safety regarding mental health.

As the proposal states, the goal of this advisory board is not only to facilitate the communication between the Personal Counseling Center and the student body, but also to plan events to promote mental health awareness as well. To promote this, the class has created three different committees that students can apply for when joining the advisory board. These three committees—Outreach, Events, and Awareness—will promote the connection between the student body and the Personal Counseling Center through scheduling events and programs, addressing the concerns of the

school community, and furthering student education on mental health.

Another interesting aspect of the advisory board is its specificity in addressing issues with student-athlete counseling. "If a student-athlete wants to go to the counseling center, they can only go to a psychologist who will provide them with counseling about performance-related problems," said Che. "The sports psychologist is only available for a limited time frame," explained Heavren, "so each athlete gets probably a fifteen-minute time slot." This is an area of controversy, as student-athletes' schedules and lifestyles can become extremely hectic and stressful. The class wants to encourage student-athletes to join the advisory board so that issues like this can be addressed and, hopefully, resolved with work and better communication between the Personal Counseling Center and the student body.

Dr. Grossman commended her students for the dedication they have put into creating this program. "This was all class-driven work, and all the work was done as an incredible unit. They decided their issue and worked on everything themselves. This was a genuine grassroots community-led project," said Grossman.

While Grossman praised the students for their work, everyone in the class talked about how they could not have accomplished what they have done without her help and support. "Dr. Grossman doesn't give herself enough credit," said one student. "She was really a driving force and a great support." The students also talked about how they are extremely proud of what they've achieved and proud of the fact that they are going to leave a lasting impact at PC with this advisory board, saying, "This is our way of making our mark."

"The Personal Counseling Center is in support of having a committee form to help us with improving communication with the campus," said Dr. Rosemary Mugan, director of the Personal Counseling Center, "and are excited about the student interest...about the reduction of stigmatization around mental health issues."

The Personal Counseling Center Student Advisory Board will be a concrete institution by the end of this semester, and students can expect to see an application available soon.

# Preview: Providence College Hosts Relay for Life

## Colleges Against Cancer Plans for a Day of Relay

by Hannah Langley '21  
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

In one way or another, cancer has affected almost everyone today. In response to this, Providence College's Colleges Against Cancer is holding its annual Relay for Life event, a fun-filled day of activities aimed at raising money for cancer research.

Relay for Life is an event sponsored by the American Cancer Society that helps to not only promote cancer awareness, but raises money towards cancer research in the effort to "save lives, celebrate life, and lead the fight for a world without cancer," as stated on the Relay for Life website.

This nationwide event is held at various schools and in various communities through the effort of people and students, like Rachel Fischer '18 and Megan Yaeger '19, who care deeply about finding the cure to this terrible disease. With the help of the PC administration, in conjunction with the American Cancer Society, Fischer and Yaeger have been able to continue the tradition of holding the Relay for Life at PC.

Throughout the day, activities such as lawn games and fun races will be taking place, as well as performances from entertainment clubs, including PC's A Cappella Club, the Dance Team, and Motherland Dance Group. There will also be open exercise classes, such as Zumba and yoga. One difference in this year's relay, Yaeger mentioned, was the decision to have it throughout the day, rather than overnight, as has been done in the past. Yaeger believes that by having

the event during the day, it will "bring a new, refreshed energy to the event and hopefully bring in more participants." She says they are "excited about the change and hopes the PC community is as well."

To promote awareness and participation in the event, tables were set up in Slavin Student Center and Raymond Dining Hall throughout the week, where students could learn more about how to register and donate. Any previously registered student who raised \$100 or more was invited to a special event on Wednesday night where they received a Relay for Life T-shirt to wear to the event.

Many students have already registered and even created teams for the event in an effort to raise money towards cancer research. For many students, such as Kelly Galeota '21, fundraising and taking part in the event has a special meaning. "My mom was diagnosed with breast cancer when I was five-years-old and diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer throughout her body a year and a half ago," explained Galeota. "Relay for Life means so much to me, because the community gets to come together as a team to support all people who are fighting this horrible disease." Galeota's mother, Sue, is just one of the many people affected by cancer, and PC's Relay for Life will help benefit not only her life, but the lives of many.

PC's Relay for Life will be taking place on Saturday, April 21, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Smith Lawn. Students can still register for the event for \$20, which will go towards the donation to the American Cancer Society, by signing up at <http://www.relayforlife.org/PC>.



Last year's Relay for Life was held in Peterson.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RACHEL FISCHER '18



# BOP Puts on Autism Awareness Event in McPhail's Students Partake in the Light it Up Blue Initiative

by Rachel Philbrick '20  
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

On Tuesday, April 10, the Board of Programmers (BOP) hosted an event in McPhail's designed to raise autism awareness across campus.

The event involved cupcake decorating using blue frosting, a tribute to the Light It Up Blue initiative, as well as providing students with materials to make their own bracelets, which included small puzzle piece charms to represent the complexity of the autism spectrum.

Decorated entirely in blue, the event served as a form of raising awareness and educating the student body as to what it means to have autism. April serves as Autism Awareness Month, and April 2 is dedicated to annually observe world Autism Awareness Day. Autism Speaks, an autism advocacy organization, launched the Light It Up Blue initiative which is dedicated to spreading awareness and promoting a sense of camaraderie to those affected by autism. The organization particularly focuses on reaching out to parents concerned that their child may have an autism spectrum disorder to seek early evaluation, because early intervention can be very helpful.

The Autism Speaks website offers insight on the organization's goal:



BOP members show off why they "light it up blue."

NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THECOWL

"My hope is that if I do inspire you in any way, it is to inspire you to realize that oftentimes in order to make a difference you have to be willing to BE different."

Autism is a complicated disorder that consists of a complex spectrum. Autism, or autism spectrum disorder, involves a range of conditions that cause difficulties with social skills, behavioral functioning, and both verbal and non-verbal communication.

Autism is not just one disorder; rather it is a range of differing functioning levels. The spectrum is a reference to the varying strengths and weaknesses that these individuals

possess.

**"What you see is just a piece of who I am."**

Autism affects a very diverse group of people, from those who have autism to those that have some type of relation to someone with autism. This became evident as a range of students began strolling into the awareness event on Tuesday. The seats at the blue tables were filled with students eager to feast on some cheesy pizza and support a great cause.

Marissa Marino '21 explained that she came to this event because "I am

an Elementary and Special Education major. Last year I was asked to submit my final project, which I chose the topic of autism to cover. My cousin is on the spectrum and served as the main reason driving me to choose learning more about autism. I also came here generally to support the spread of awareness." Marino attended the event with her friend who is also passionate about shedding light on autism.

**"I light it up blue for greater understanding and acceptance"**

After speaking with a member on BOP, Katie Fair '18 explained that she was responsible for the event and that BOP actually teamed up with other clubs on campus to make this event possible. Fair stated, "This event is a lot different than the other BOP-planned activities. It has a lot of meaning behind it and I made a real effort to plan a more diverse night for everybody." Fair scanned the room with a smile and her goal of providing an inclusive atmosphere for a worthy cause seemed to be accomplished.

Autism Speaks provides an informative website containing various tools for anyone interested in learning more about the community. From research to advocacy, as well as fun events that the organization plans annually, anyone looking to support the spread of awareness can visit the website at: <https://www.autismspeaks.org>.

# Social and Political Activist Obianuju Ekeocha Visits PC "Neocolonialism in Africa: Repeating the Past but Worse"

by Alexandra Huzyk '20  
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

In between visits to Washington, D.C., and the Canadian Parliament, Obianuju Ekeocha, a Nigerian social and political activist, gave a talk to the Providence College community titled "Neocolonialism in Africa: Repeating the Past, but Worse." Ekeocha talked about the ideological neocolonialism that donors use in their funding strategies within Africa.

Ekeocha began the lecture by providing brief demographic and historical context of Africa as a continent. Africa is composed of 54 countries and is home to one billion people, with around 3,000 native languages spoken. Ekeocha said that although there are many different tribes and ethnic groups and no one true African culture, "there are common threads that run through the various African countries."

Ekeocha also explained that colonialism in Africa began at the Berlin Conference, which took place in 1884. This conference is known as the "Scramble for Africa." At the Berlin Conference, the European powers of the 19th century divided up African land for colonization. Ekeocha said, "Great Britain was the greatest colonial power, as well as France."

This period of colonization, which lasted between 70 and 75 years, "was really about geopolitical domination." In the 1960s, African countries were granted their independence from their respective European colonists. Ekeocha explained that since then, Africa has developed various problems in the areas of economy, politics, security, infrastructure, development, and healthcare. As a result of these struggles, donors come in to give money and resources. Some countries, Ekeocha says, "are addicted to the foreign aid and the opulence that the donors have to give."

Ekeocha also explained that this relationship between donor and country creates a power imbalance. The African countries believe that the donors are coming in as friends and as equals, which is not the case. "They are coming with very



Obianuju Ekeocha gives a lecture in Moore Hall on Western influences and neocolonialism in Africa.

NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THECOWL

clear definitions and views of the world that are not necessarily ours," Ekeocha said. "They define for us what is human life and what are human rights."

Donors also determine what is worth funding, without necessarily considering the real problems at hand or the input of citizens. Ekeocha said, "Donors are completely blind and deaf to everything that we hold dear," including rich African culture. When countries do not comply, leaders are shamed and punished.

To elaborate on this power imbalance, Ekeocha revealed that a startling amount of funds are given to what are called population programmes. "This includes all aspects of sexual reproductive health and rights [SRHR] like contraceptives, condoms, comprehensive sexuality education, and abortion," Ekeocha shared. She also explained that most of the funding that is given to these population programmes pays for expensive billboards and contraceptives which have debilitating side effects.

After, Ekeocha showed the audience graphs depicting the percentages of aid from the U.S. and the UK which are allocated to SRHR; 31.4 percent and 43.8 percent, respectively. In comparison to

the funds given to population programmes in all other areas of the world, Africa receives much more in this particular sector. "This is exactly what I would define as phenotypic racism," said Ekeocha.

Funding for population programs also goes towards providing resources for abortion and advocacy. "In Africa there are only 4 countries that have legalized abortion and those are south Africa, Tunisia, Cape Verde, and Mozambique," Ekeocha said. Countries have the legal capacities to legalize abortion, but oftentimes choose not to because it conflicts with the public's opinions. "There is that strong protective instinct in Africans," she said, which can be reflected in one's feelings regarding abortion.

Ekeocha emphasized the fact that women are speaking out, and yet donors continue to ignore their thoughts and cultural beliefs. In this way, Ekeocha says, "Our donor has become our master," for their donors foster a sense of paternalism and contribute to ideological neocolonialism.

The lecture concluded with a sneak peek of a documentary that Ekeocha is working on named *Strings Attached*.



# Congress Updates

by Connor Nolan '19  
Student Congress Publicity

## CONGRESS

At this week's general meeting, Student Congress welcomed Jim Campbell, Title XI coordinator, and Cheryl Granai, coordinator of outreach and prevention, to speak on a wide range of topics and field the members' questions. The first topic regarded the work the health advisory committee has been doing to possibly offer health services and counseling for graduate students. Dr. Campbell stated that if this were to happen it would be offered for full-time grad students, who number close to 200 this year.

He also added that this will lead to certain issues if approved, including overcrowding of health services appointments and the discrepancy in price between undergraduate and graduate students. A student asked if the plan would be to grow undergraduate services and then make it available to graduate students or to make what is available now open to all. Dr. Campbell responded that our school has a good usage of the health center and counseling, which makes it a resource issue to expand to graduate students.

He also said that they are attempting to create classes or programs for undergraduates that would reduce need for counseling by better preparing students for struggles they will face. They have also been taking suggestions from multiple departments on the matter. The questions shifted towards the resources available to students online with one member of the congress asking why the website has not been kept up to date with new information regarding the health center and counseling.

Dr. Campbell said he will raise the issue but that the delay may have to do with the

busyness of flu season. When a follow-up was asked, he also said they have some ideas on how to improve the website and will be looking into it. A student asked why there is still a disconnect between faculty and the health center regarding the need for a note if absent from class. He responded that the need for notes overcrowds the health center, and that teachers are directly notified when a student has a major illness, but when it comes to short term illness the teachers should not expect a note.

Granai then spoke on how they have been reaching out to students on leave by phone or letter in order to follow up on any problems and offer the services of the College. They were very proud about this, saying that other schools do not do this. This idea came from a Butler Hospital program run by Brown University that showed that keeping in contact leads to less health issues including suicide. She asked the members of congress to continue work on mental health initiatives on campus, and to help keep track of the number of attendees to report back to the government.

Questions followed on leave and students returning from leave acclimating to campus. They stated that this is the reason for the new program, and that they will continue to communicate until the student feels acclimated to the campus again upon return. When asked how congress can continue to help, they wrapped up by suggesting that we continue these relationships into the future. Also, clubs should work together on these initiatives in order to reach as many students as possible. The Congress would like to thank them for their time and commitment to the College.

There were not enough elected members present for voting, so this week's old business was tabled until next Tuesday's meeting, which is the last meeting of the 68th Student Congress.

# Women Empowerd Puts on Naturalista Expo

by Sarah Gianni '18  
News Staff

## ON CAMPUS

Embracing your unique, natural beauty was the theme of the 2018 Providence College Naturalista Expo. The event was held on Wednesday, April 18, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in Moore Hall 125, and sponsored by Women Will. A variety of PC organizations cosponsored the event, including Brotherhood, Motherland, Simply Healthy, Afro-Am, Black Studies, Women's Studies, and ISO. The expo showcased different vendors from around the Providence and Boston areas, who all promote natural hair and body products for individuals of all cultures.

Attendees had the opportunity to browse the different tables set up around the perimeter of the room, test various products, and mingle and enjoy food and desserts. "This is the third annual Naturalista Expo and so far we have consistently had a great turnout," said Mackenzie Williams '17G. "I'm

most excited to browse through the different head wraps that are being sold, because there a ton of different styles here at the Rooted Wraps table." Some of the vendors at the expo included Sukhy's Threading, Mixx Hair Bar, L&J Barbershop, and Rooted Wraps (to name a few). Those interested had the opportunity to enjoy a fresh eyebrow threading or line up haircut from the representatives at Sukhy's threading and L&J Barbershop. Emily Espinal '19 said that her favorite part of the expo has always been the variety of natural skin and hair care products. "I started my natural hair journey during my freshman year, and I'm always looking for new products I can use to style it naturally," she said.

"I've enjoyed coming to the expo the past few years because there are a range of brands that are all focused on natural style." The Naturalista Expo was powerful in its ability to provide a space for PC students and community members to embrace and celebrate natural beauty regardless of culture, race, or gender.



Junielly Vargas '21 and Caroline Rivera '21 sample body butter.

NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THECOWL

# World News Brief: What's Happening in Syria?

by Gabriella Pisano '18  
News Editor

## WORLD NEWS

For the past seven years, Syria has been in the midst of a civil war. With different groups attempting to take control of the government, other countries are getting involved in the conflict.

On Saturday, April 7, a chemical weapons attack in Douma, Syria, reportedly killed at least 70 people. After a joint inquiry by the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical weapons, the attack was attributed to the Syrian government. Both the Syrian government and Russia denied reports of the attack, claiming that all reports are fabricated.

In response to the Douma attack, the United States, the United Kingdom, and France fired 105 missiles to destroy chemical weapons factories in Syria on Saturday, April 14. This marked the biggest military attack by western powers against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government. According to Pentagon officials, at least one building was leveled and Syria's chemical weapons program was set back for years.

The missiles targeted three areas that were believed to be centers of chemical weapons manufacturing. The three areas include a scientific research center near Damascus, a chemical weapons storage facility west of Homs and a

storage facility and command post near Homs. After the missile strike, President Trump tweeted, "A perfectly executed strike last night. Thank you to France and the United Kingdom for their wisdom and the power of their fine Military. Could not have had a better result. Mission Accomplished!"

There have been mixed reactions to the actions taken by the U.S., the UK, and France. According to *USA Today*, "Russia's U.S. embassy released a statement warning that the airstrikes will 'not be left without consequences.' It said that 'all responsibility' rests with Washington, London, and Paris."

President Trump explained the reasoning behind the attack stating, "The purpose of our actions tonight [was] to establish a strong deterrent against the production, spread and use of chemical weapons."

Leen Hamdan, a university student who lives in Bazreh, the district in Damascus where one of the bombed research centers was located, said, "Of course, I am against this strike because it's an aggression against our country. It's just an excuse like what happened in Iraq. No country has the right to intervene in other countries."

There has been growing concern surrounding the legal justification of the military strikes. Moscow's ambassador accused the U.S. of striking a sovereign country, to which Kelly Currie, the acting duty representative of the U.S., responded with an accusation against Russia claiming that they distract from the atrocities the Assad regime commits.

# In Memoriam: Barbara Bush

by Sabrina Guilbeault '18  
News Editor

## WORLD NEWS

On the night of Tuesday, April 17, Barbara Bush, former first lady and wife of the 41st President of the United States and mother of the 43rd president, passed away at 92-years-old.

"Barbara Bush was a remarkable woman," tweeted 44th President Bill Clinton. "She was fierce and feisty in support of her family and friends, her country and her causes. She showed us what an honest, vibrant full life looks like."

It was announced this past Sunday that Mrs. Bush decided to not seek additional medical treatment for her declining health and would "instead focus on comfort care."

She and Abigail Adams are the only first ladies in U.S. history to also see their sons as presidents.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the Bush family as they honor the remarkable life of former first lady Barbara Bush," said the Obama Foundation via Twitter, calling her an example of the humility that reflects the very best of the American spirit.

According to an article by CNN, Mrs. Bush was at her husband's side for his nearly 30-year political career, and was not only a defender of him but also an ally.

She was a proponent of women's rights, and sometimes her ideology clashed with traditional Republican party politics—she once said that abortion should not be politicized

while her husband was president.

In the 1980s while her husband was vice president, Mrs. Bush created the nonprofit Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy. She and her husband raised more than \$1 billion for literacy and cancer charities.

"I chose literacy because I honestly believe that if more people could read, write, and comprehend, we would be that much closer to solving so many of the problems that plague our nation and our society," she had said.

In an opinion article by the *Washington Post*, it was said that Mrs. Bush "understood that with the role of first lady came not just an opportunity to live well but also the obligation to do good."

Mrs. Bush was born in New York City in 1925, and married George H.W. Bush in 1945 while he was on leave during his deployment as a naval officer in World War II. She is survived by her husband, George H.W.; sons George W., Neil, Marvin, and Jeb; daughter, Dorothy Bush Koch; and her 17 grandchildren.

Her funeral will be held at St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Houston on April 21, 2018, with burial at the George Bush Presidential Library in College Station, Texas.

"I always knew Barbara was the most beloved woman in the world, and in fact I used to tease her that I had a complex about that fact," said her husband in a statement on Wednesday. "We have faith that she is in heaven, and we know that life will go on as she would have it."



## A Nightmare Abroad: Survivors Speak

by Paige Calabrese '18  
Associate Editor-in-Chief

STUDY ABROAD

Studying abroad was by far one of my favorite experiences of my college career. I challenged myself through immersion in a totally different culture, made incredible friends, and travelled to dozens of cities across Europe and North Africa. Although going abroad should be nothing less than a fulfilling, life-changing experience, I was reminded last week of the serious dangers associated with traveling abroad that students need to be aware of.

On the evening of Wednesday, April 11, my friend sent me a link to an interview on *NBC Today* that featured three young women who had all studied abroad in Spain. They all took trips with the popular tour company, Discover Excursions, used by hundreds of study abroad students, those who are primarily studying in Spain. I also studied in Spain and went on multiple trips with Discover Excursions, so I was shocked when I opened the link.

In the interview with Megyn Kelly, the three women described how a tour guide and the owner of Discover Excursions, Manuel Blanco Vela, known to many students as Manu, assaulted or attempted to assault them. As I watched the interview I was disgusted and shocked. Gabrielle Vega, one of the survivors in the interview, claims she was raped in 2013 on a trip to Morocco with Discover Excursions



PHOTO COURTESY OF NBC6

Gabrielle Vega shared her survival story in an interview with Megyn Kelly.

during her semester abroad. She was 19 years old.

Vega had posted on Facebook about her experience with Vela and the subsequent trauma she developed as a result of her assault; Vega's goal was to seek out other survivors who suffered at the hands of Vela so that he could be held accountable for his misconduct.

After the interview, other survivors began reaching out to Vega to share their stories. As of April 14, more than 50 women who have been assaulted, harassed, or harmed by Vela have notified Vega, according to her Facebook profile.

While I was abroad, my friends and I took multiple trips with Discover Excursions and the idea of being in danger of a serial predator never occurred to any of us. When traveling

with a tour group or agency, one expects to be able to trust the guides and all other employees charged with leading people through a foreign country.

When I travelled with Discover Excursions, I never thought twice about accepting a drink from one of the guides—who were all men not much older than the students—or about spending time with any of them outside the regular tour schedule.

Vela was a guide on each trip I went on with Discover Excursions and spent time with us both on the tours and around the city we lived in. To think that myself, one of my friends, or a Providence College classmate studying abroad could have been assaulted by him is beyond sickening.

Vela exploited his position as a tour director by attacking and violating

young women during what should have been one of the most incredible experiences of their lives. Several of the survivors reported the assaults to Discover Excursions regarding Vela's behavior, but no action was taken in response to these complaints. Therefore, Vela continued to act as a tour director and was consistently supplied with victims.

As I write this article, Vela has not been arrested or charged with any crimes; however, Discover Excursions is now closed and all of their scheduled trips have been cancelled. Because no formal legal actions are being taken against Vela by Spanish authorities, there is nothing stopping him from forming another travel company or obtaining another job at a similar company.

As long as Vela is allowed to roam free and work in close proximity to women, he is a danger to the public, especially study abroad students. If you are planning on studying abroad in Europe, exercise caution when participating in tour groups not affiliated with your academic program and avoid any tour or travel agency that employs Vela.

If you are a former study abroad student who has been affected by the misconduct of this man or someone else, you can contact the Personal Counseling Center, the V.A.S.E (Victim Advocacy, Support, and Education) Coordinator, the Title IX Coordinator, Public Safety, or email [desurvivorsspeakup@gmail.com](mailto:desurvivorsspeakup@gmail.com) if you wish to share your story.

## Food Quality Is Bugging Students *PC Needs to Address Dining Hall Issues*

by Andrea Traietti '21  
Opinion Staff

CAMPUS

At colleges everywhere, there is a commonly held understanding that dining hall food is simply never going to be that good, and cannot compare to a home cooked meal. Especially at Providence College, most students have come to terms with the fact that food quality is one of the College's biggest weaknesses. As students make their way over to Raymond Dining Hall, they are not expecting a five star meal, and most are okay with that. But at the very least, all students should be able to expect a bug-free meal every time they eat in the dining hall.

In recent weeks, news of the bug problem has spread across campus via various social media accounts. A few photos of food with bugs have circulated around: one of a french fry with a bug encrusted in it, and another of a dead bug lying on a plate of fried ravioli. Shortly after these photos were posted, a video of a similar looking bug crawling along the side of a Ray countertop was shared.

The bug issue has sparked a conversation about some of the more general problems with the food at PC. Several other photos reveal different concerns: raw meat in hamburgers, moldy sandwich bread, and a weird looking green glob of some unidentifiable substance in a glass of water. And few PC students have forgotten about the photo of the infamous dead mouse behind the juice machine posted last year.

The photos, albeit funny on account of their captions, are actually quite concerning. The fact that so many students find the photos funny on account of their relatability is a big problem.

Obviously not every student has found a bug in their food, but nearly every student has had at least one really bad experience eating at PC. It is entirely understandable that there will be mistakes when it comes to food, especially when serving such a large number of people, but one bug is one too many, especially when it comes to the safety and health of students.

Clearly, PC needs to make a change. The students who attend school here—and pay anywhere between \$2,070 for the lowest meal plan and \$6,030 for the unlimited plan, required for all freshmen—deserve better.

Without a doubt, the PC students who have to pay for and eat the food here should come first. However, the concerns about the food at PC are creating a rather serious issue in terms of the College's overall image, outside of its students. Various outlets offering reviews of the College, which are frequented by prospective students, have less than stellar reviews of the food.

Niche, a popular website that ranks colleges and offers an overall grade of each school, gave PC an A grade. For the most part, PC received an average of a B+ to an A on specific rankings, like quality of the professors, dorms, campus, and student life. However, Niche gives PC a C- when it comes to food—the lowest grade on PC's report card, and the only one in the C range.

Rate My Professor, a website popular among college students, gives PC a three out of five rating when it comes to food, once again earning the lowest spot out of any category. Even *Princeton Review*, a frequently accessed resource for students applying to college, pointed out that besides diversity, dining is the one area that students really want to see improvement.

If PC is not willing to strive to fix these problems

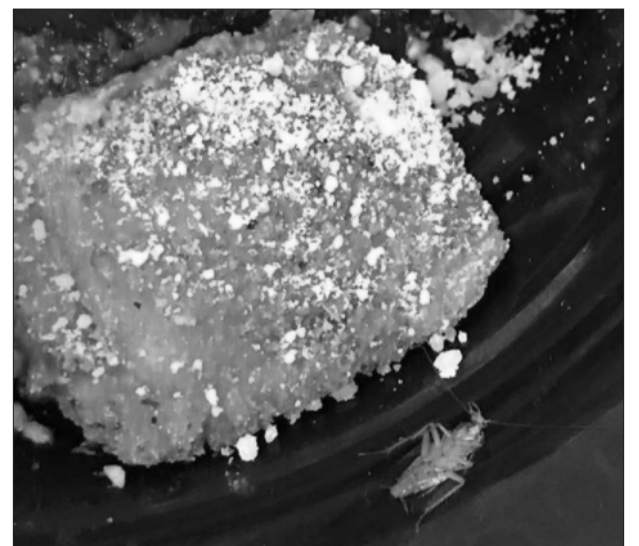


PHOTO COURTESY OF INSTAGRAM

A student found a dead bug on their plate of pasta in Raymond Dining Hall.

with the food for the benefit of the students who attend the College, at the very least, they should make a change in order to improve the image of the school and appeal to prospective students who care about the quality of the food they will be eating.

Overall, a small change can go a long way. In general, both Raymond Dining Hall and the Alumni Food Court are well-kept and clean, and the entire staff is fantastic. If PC can simply manage to improve the quality of its food, PC Dining Services on the whole would be getting much better reviews. Even better, students could trust that the food they eat is safe to consume, and feel that they can depend on PC for a healthy meal.



# Writer vs. Writer: PC's Core Curriculum

by Katherine Torok '20  
Opinion Staff

CAMPUS

The liberal arts core curriculum at Providence College serves as the foundation for students' education. Between the rigorous Development of Western Civilization program and an abundance of core requirements—which cover topics such as intensive writing, fine arts, diversity, and oral communication—the liberal arts are rightfully stressed throughout academics on campus.

While a large handful of students on campus have chosen to major in various types of business or STEM-related subjects, it is crucial for students to still receive some sort of liberal arts education in order to better prepare themselves for life after college and the future in general.

Dr. Stephen Lynch, English professor and the director of the Liberal Arts Honors College, explained, "Science and technology have done wonders for us, and I would not want to live in a world without them. But science and technology provide tools—and tools don't tell us how to use tools. We now have the capacity to manipulate the genes of virtually all plants and animals (including humans), but science and technology in themselves cannot determine whether that is good or bad or how such power should be used or controlled. For that we need a broad range of knowledge in the humanities and the social sciences. With the advances in sciences, we need the humanities and social sciences more than ever."

Even though many news websites, such as *U.S. News & World Report*, put out recent lists that dub various types of engineering and business as the "Top College Majors" or "College Majors with the Highest Starting Salaries,"



NORA JOHNSON '20/THE COWL

Students must take four semesters of DWC on top of a comprehensive core curriculum.

it is important to think about all the overlooked skills that come with having a liberal arts education; some of these include critical thinking, an increased awareness of social factors and culture, and soft skills. These are skills that computers and technology cannot possess, and are what make humans so unique.

While the liberal arts core curriculum at PC may seem tedious from time to time, it ultimately allows students to become better equipped to face society's unforeseen challenges. Not everything can be solved through a computer program or math equation; thus, it is necessary for students to spend time developing key social skills that are only accessible through studying liberal arts.

by Laura Arango '20  
Opinion Staff

CAMPUS

Providence College is known for its Development of Western Civilization program and its emphasis on humanities courses. Likewise, Providence College has an excellent biology program that attracts many students, and this is the selling point for many students during the college-searching process.

For those who major in the humanities, it may seem that the core curriculum at PC is unparalleled; for who that major in something

outside of the humanities sphere, however, the academic core can feel overwhelming and impossible to accomplish.

The core curriculum at PC requires two courses in theology and philosophy in addition to four semesters of DWC. Along with these, the civic engagement, diversity, intensive writing I/II, oral communication proficiency, fine arts and natural science requirements it makes it nearly impossible for a science-based major to graduate on time without taking extra summer or winter courses.

With the amount of money that students have to pay to attend PC in general, it is ridiculous that the core curriculum at PC could put students in a position where they may have to pay thousands more dollars to graduate on time, or on the other hand, thousands more dollars to stay an extra semester.

In addition, the intensity of the core curriculum can make it very difficult for students to balance all of their classes per semester. Oftentimes, it feels as if as soon as I catch up on one pile of work, there's another four waiting for me to tackle.

The nature of the core curriculum and its attempt to build well-rounded students is important, however, it needs some remodeling. Instead of taking two semesters of theology or philosophy: one would suffice and the College could make certain classes count for numerous proficiencies at once.

At the very least, the amount of money it costs to take summer or winter classes should be reduced. Alternatively, there should be more realistic information given to potential PC majors in terms of exactly what their schedule will resemble for various semesters.

# Social Media Giants Must Prioritize Privacy

by Gabrielle Bianco '21  
Opinion Staff

SOCIETY

When Facebook was founded in 2004, no one could predict the impact it would have on life in the 21st century. Despite its ability to help people connect and share ideas around the world, its disadvantages have become glaringly apparent in recent years.

The most dangerous problem to arise has been the recent security breach with Cambridge Analytica. This recent controversy has caused people to consider Facebook's role in protecting its users' privacy and the role of propaganda in the media.

In March 2018, the Federal Trade Commission launched an investigation into how Cambridge Analytica, a right-wing voter profiling firm, accessed Facebook users' information in order to inform their operations. The company harvested its information through an app called "This is Your Digital Life" and was able to obtain personal information from over 87 million Facebook users.

The data collected by Cambridge Analytica is thought to have been used in efforts to support the presidential campaign of Donald Trump and Brexit. Many were angry at Mark Zuckerberg, the founder and CEO of Facebook, for allowing the security breach to occur.

On April 10, Zuckerberg was questioned in front of the Senate, and on April 11, he was questioned in front of the House Energy and Commerce Commission. In his prepared remarks, Zuckerberg took responsibility for not protecting his users' privacy.

Zuckerberg said that Facebook will be taking measures to ensure that their users' privacy is more



Facebook creator and CEO Mark Zuckerberg testified before the Senate on April 10.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW HARNIK/AP

protected in the future, including actions such as investigating third party apps and increasing transparency.

While Zuckerberg's intentions moving forward seem to have users' best interests in mind, they cannot erase the damage that has been done. People using Facebook place their trust in the company.

Now that this trust has been broken, it will be very difficult for Facebook to defend its credibility as a brand that prioritizes the safety of its users. When a tool as simple as an app can be used to access personal information, there is no way of knowing who will take advantage of this opportunity and potentially use the information collected for insidious means.

In addition to raising concerns about the right to privacy, the Cambridge Analytica scandal arouses concerns regarding political freedom. At the Senate

hearing, Zuckerberg acknowledged the fact that Facebook did not take appropriate action to curb Russian interference during the election on their site.

Since individuals' personal information was harvested to benefit a political machine, there is concern that Facebook and other social media sites will be further used as tools to influence users and spread propaganda. These concerns threaten not only individual liberties, but the integrity of democracy in the United States.

While social media has the power to facilitate amazing connections, there is ample opportunity for its capabilities to be used in improper ways. If social media is going to continue to exist in society, giants of the industry such as Zuckerberg and Facebook must take the necessary steps to ensure that their products are not doing more harm than good.



# Social Media is Skewing Our Relationships

by Kelsey Dass '18  
Opinion Staff

SOCIETY

Just about every other person you meet on a college campus is currently in a relationship, has been in one before, dated, or casually hooked up with another person they have come to really like.

Modern technology and ideologies surrounding dating have diminished the value and significance of relationships to an all-time low. Social media has altered our standards for trusting and evaluating our relationships.

From the literature we read in school to the movies we watched on the weekends, our generation grew up falling in love with love. Every one of us recalls reading Shakespeare's epic love story, *Romeo and Juliet*, the tale of two star-crossed

lovers separated by their feuding families.

A more modern example of a love story that people idealize is Nicholas Sparks' *The Notebook*. Almost every person who has seen the movie has fallen in love with the love between Noah and Allie. The letters he wrote for her each day and the individual journeys they experienced despite their broken hearts, is what drew so many people into their relationship.

So why is it that for our generation, this version of love and relationships is so unattainable?

To start, our increasing use of technology has immensely impacted our relationships. On average, Americans are devoting 11 hours per day to screentime. Half of our days are spent scrolling through Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, and other social media outlets.

To make matters worse, these systems are constantly advancing, now allowing us to follow people's every move with their "stories" and live

video feeds. We can quite literally step into the life of another person through the rectangular screen in our own hand.

The issue is that we are actually using social media as a representation of trust in our relationships. Every person is aware of the feeling they get when a person they like or have been dating "likes" one of their Instagram posts. For some reason, through some psychological conditioning, we have been taught that this means they are communicating that they genuinely like us. In actuality, that person also just "liked" posts from many other people as well.

It does not just stop there. We have grown to trust the number of times we have exchanged Snapchats with the person we are dating. One red heart next to a person's name means you have been best friends for two weeks straight, so this tells us we have basically been dating for two weeks. Just you wait, if you make it to two months straight you get two pink hearts, which probably means you should go straight to Facebook and change your relationship status to "It's complicated." Just be careful of the grimacing emoji, because that most likely means that person is cheating on you with your best friend.

When America fell in love with *The Notebook*, they fell in love with the journey and the time it took to bring them back together. However, modern-day industries have worked hard to bring us what we want in just seconds. Take Tinder, for example. This dating app functions by location and you can limit the radius in which you are looking. No longer is the girl you saw in the bar a mystery. A person could simply jump on Tinder, swiping left and right until they find a familiar face.

In addition to the speedy process, these dating apps allow us to communicate what we want from a person without saying a word. There are specific apps that are known for just hookups, and others for more serious relationships.

The social media dating world has eliminated our need to communicate much of anything, yet has accelerated our relationships to lightning speed. This accelerated process of building relationships has not only lowered their significance, but has dramatically altered our values.



NORA JOHNSON '20/THE COWL

## Campus Survey Fails to Address Slut-Shaming

by Lela Biggus '18  
Opinion Staff

CAMPUS

The campus climate survey on sexual misconduct and relationship violence that was recently distributed to the student body is considerate, thorough, and extensive. However, it misses one key aspect of the sexual harassment problem: slut-shaming.

The term "slut-shaming" is thought by many to be problematic and counterproductive, but it is the only term that properly expresses its meaning. Slut-shaming is the stigmatization of sexual promiscuity in women.

We are all aware of the gaping double standard. It is perceived as more socially acceptable for straight men to have sex with however many women they like while women have no such privilege.

The appearance of slut-shaming on college campuses carries deeper, site-specific implications. Institutions of higher education continue to be masculine spaces, even as women increasingly outnumber men on college campuses nationwide.

Universities in the United States have been reserved for men since the 1600s. Thus, academia and collegiate activities carry a determinedly masculine association. Only recently were women—women with white skin and resources, that is—given the chance to advance themselves through higher education. Of

course, the intersection of race and class complicate this history.

When a woman enters a space traditionally reserved for masculine activities, a certain standard of professionalism and respectable behavior is placed upon her. She must, through her behavior and stellar achievement, prove that she deserves to be there.

The issue of slut-shaming on the Providence College campus stems from the expectation for women on college campuses everywhere to go above and beyond what is expected of men. Slut-shaming is the manifestation of this power imbalance between men and women in a place that was never reserved for the latter.

Unfortunately, the campus climate survey lacks questions challenging students to reflect on slut-shaming. In a unique instance, the survey asks students to mark the degree to which they agree with the statement, "If a woman hooks up with a lot of men, eventually she is going to get into trouble."

This question is the closest thing to "slut-shaming" found on the survey, but it is actually about victim-blaming, which is an entirely different problem. The campus climate survey simply does not address the problem of bullying or harassment directed at female students who choose to be sexually active.

The social acceptability of slut-shaming on our campus is a part, if but a small part, of our campus

culture—a culture undeniably tied to the school's strong religious affiliation. Those who were raised Catholic know the indoctrinated sense of urgency surrounding the preservation of a woman's sexual purity. Though contemporary Catholic thought on feminine purity brings modern nuances and does not always imply strict restrictions on women's bodies, the unconscious association of sexual purity with superiority persists.

It would be paradoxical for the College's Catholic affiliation to be a contributing factor to a campus climate of harsh and unnecessary criticism. For this reason, future campus climate surveys should challenge students on their participation in slut-shaming. They should also ask students the reasons behind what they believe about

another woman's right to engage in sexual activity.

Individuals that hold a religious, cultural, or personal belief in maintaining a level of sexual purity should be respected for that. There is nothing oppressive in the Church's teaching for a believer who holds these values true.

However, there is something very oppressive about expecting others to hold the same values as you and shaming them if they do not. For women who do not believe that they must uphold a sense of sexual purity, their body is theirs to dictate.

One preventative measure that must be taken against slut-shaming is to identify it as a serious issue through the next campus climate survey, and to establish a new campus norm surrounding empathy and acceptance for future Friars.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARKETING LAND



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# We Can Do Great Things

by **Marla Gagne '18**  
Editor-in-Chief

EDITOR'S COLUMN

On Tuesday nights, you will usually find me in my literary non-fiction class in a dark room of lower level Ruane. For two and a half hours we talk about how to craft the perfect non-fiction story, and we even workshop our own pieces. But this Tuesday, we transported to Aquinas Lounge to hear published author Stefan Merrill Block talk about his newest novel, *Oliver Loving*, and his own writing experience.

Block is a personable author who,



even after 10 years of being published, seems just as excited to talk about his writing as he did on his first book tour. He is artistic and thoughtful, and gives such a realistic view of writing as a roller coaster process filled with many mistakes and grand moments.

*Oliver Loving* is a story he has been working on for over six years, as he struggled to find the right way to tell this story of a small town, family, and school shooting; he even threw away a fully finished manuscript and started over again.

For a room full of many English majors and aspiring writers and publishers, Block did something very difficult—he made us believe that we could do it too. He showed us his flaws and his strengths and said this could be us. He was 23 when he signed his first book deal, just a year older than me, and has been writing ever since.

Right now, many students are suffering through the April blues of what to do after this semester. April is the time for seniors to look into jobs and decide on graduate schools, and for underclassmen to find internships and summer plans. The world can seem hostile and confusing and our dream job or career can quickly slip away in

the face of fierce competition. But Block shows us that real people can do great things. For him, becoming an author took a dose of luck and a push from his then-girlfriend to get a literary agent, but mostly his hard work and strong passion for writing.

Reading articles for this week's edition, I was impressed by how many Providence College students are already harnessing their talent and showing their potential for great things.

The News section showcases students making change, including a social work class making a student advisory board to personal counseling to promote mental health awareness, Jennifer Dorn '18 winning the prestigious Fulbright award to teach English in the Czech Republic, and students preparing to host the annual Relay for Life this Saturday to raise money for cancer research.

This list could go on and on, but these few examples show that PC students are doing great things to proudly represent our community and make a difference throughout the world. And as we enter into the world of the unknown, we should keep that hope and confidence that we too can be an author, or any of our dream jobs.

## TANGENTS & TIRADES

### *Technology Allows Socialization*

Walking around campus between classes, you can often see a sea of students, heads down, staring at the lighted screens of their smartphones. Images like this are often used in newspapers and magazines to bemoan the disconnectedness of life in the Internet age. Writers often lament the way that young people are constantly on their phones instead of speaking to the people around them.

But what you cannot see when you look at this scene is all of the socializing that people are actually doing through technology.

The world has never been more open or accessible than it is right now. It can be just as easy to talk to a person halfway across the globe as it is to talk to somebody in the building next to you. As someone who went abroad and made friends in different countries, being able to have a normal conversation on an instant messaging platform instead of waiting weeks and weeks to exchange physical letters is an amazing thing.

It is true that there definitely are ways to mindlessly waste time on your phone, but there were plenty of ways to do that before the advent of technology as well.

While that person staring at their phone or computer screen might not be talking to the stranger sitting next to them, they could be engaged in just as meaningful a conversation with someone on the other side of that screen.

-Taylor Godfrey '19

### *Bathroom Buddy Storms Boston Marathon*

While spectators and runners alike were taken aback by the horrendous weather conditions of this Monday's 122nd running of the Boston Marathon, what was even more surprising was the sportsmanship and teamwork displayed by one elite American runner.

Over an hour into the race, 34-year-old Desiree Linden made the surprising decision to wait and be the essential bathroom buddy to American teammate Shalane Flanagan, after Flanagan abruptly stopped to use a port-a-potty.

While the two runners had been seen communicating throughout the early miles of the race, this bold choice to stop running and join her teammate embodied the kind of sportsmanship and teamwork that typifies the spirit of the Boston Marathon. Even though Linden had told news reporters she chose to wait, believing she too would soon fall back in the race, she provided invaluable support to Flanagan, helping her catch up to the lead pack.

The support and dedication Linden demonstrated to her teammate and to the sport of running ultimately allowed her to push forward in the race, becoming the first American woman in 33 years to win the marathon.

The magnitude of this kind of feat should not be understated. With 25 of the leading elite male and female runners not able to finish this year's race, Linden sustained extreme mental and physical toughness in the face of unpredictable conditions throughout the 26.2 mile course from Hopkinton to Boston. Yet beyond this toughness, Linden's choice to fulfill the role of bathroom buddy to Flanagan exemplified the importance of teamwork and solidarity that lies at the heart of the Boston Marathon.

-Sarah Kelley '18

### *Teach-In: Great Event, Terrible Name*

Glancing at the rows of white-clothed tables in '64 Hall, students were noticeably absent from the "Teach-in" on April 9. Aiming for a young crowd filled with open minds and differing perspectives, the organizers instead received scores of middle-aged faculty, all agreeing and nodding their heads to one platitude after another.

If event organizers want a serious discussion infused with a true diversity of opinions, the event's name needs to change. Not only does the name "Teach-in" confuse what the event actually entails, the word "teach" frightens those skeptical that the event is truly a discussion. Billed as a true dialogue, perhaps more than a spattering of perspectives will enlighten discussion, allowing a fundamentally good idea to reach its full potential.

Knowing nothing besides the name of the event, I had no idea what to expect filing into '64 Hall. Fixating on the word "teach," I assumed an hour of lectures lay in front of me, with the thought never crossing my mind that I would have to say a word. Yet the actual event format was the total opposite of what the poor marketing implies. It truly was a free-wielding discussion, serving as a venue for people to speak their minds and have assumptions challenged. While the largely uniform audience suffered from monotony, the potential exists! Why not bill the event as what it is: a discussion?

Similarly, if the goal of the event is to welcome new voices into a cloistered discussion, selling it as a "teaching" event deters those skeptical of social justice. In fact, it plays into the opposition's fears, as paranoia distorts the word "teach" into "indoctrinate." Cognizant of skepticism across the political spectrum, event organizers should assuage these fears, not pour gasoline on the fire.

-Nicholas Moran '19



# PHOTOGRAPHY

April 19, 2018



KIM LEZAMA '18/THE COWL

**LEFT:** Runners sprint during the Ocean State Invitational track meet on Saturday, April 14. Read more about the meet on page 27 of this issue.

**BELOW:** Jessica DeCurtis '09 speaks about women in the workplace and her experiences working at PricewaterhouseCoopers at an event sponsored by Women in Business. PwC is the single largest employer of Providence College graduates, with over 160 alumni across the corporation.

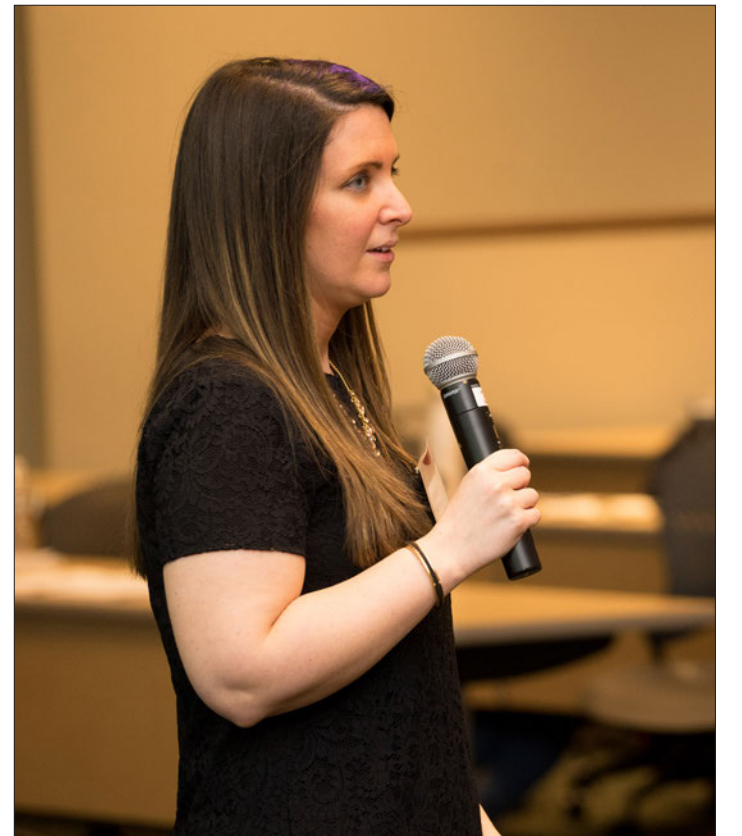
**BELOW LEFT:** Nikki Silva '19 prepares to pass the frisbee at a club Ultimate tournament on Saturday, April 14.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Caprial Harris '19 and A.J. Roskam '18 perform in a skit with Six Gents. The Providence College comedy club's last performance of the semester will be on May 1.

**BELOW:** Klisman Sousa '18 dribbles down the field as the Providence College Men's Soccer Team played Bryant University in a scrimmage on Saturday, April 14.



JOANNA MEYER '20/THE COWL



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL



KIM LEZAMA '18/THE COWL



# ROVING PHOTOGRAPHY

*What is the best campus hiding spot for an epic game of hide-and-seek?*



**"Behind Peterson."**  
Maria Santos '20



**"McPhail's on a Sunday."**  
Max Seferian '18



**"Off campus and the men's lacrosse locker room."**  
Kayla Luciano '18 and Michael Meeks '18



**"Back stairwell near *The Cowl* and the elevator in the Concannon Fitness Center."**  
Kathleen Lovett '20 and Melissa Bambery '20



**"Ceramics building."**  
Cameron Villaruel '21



**"A secret room in Harkins."**  
Marvin Taveras '19



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL

**"In my secret dog house."**

**-Huxley the Dalmation.**



## The Big East Welcomes eSports Club to its Conference

by Ryan Cox '18  
A&E Staff  
ON CAMPUS

Who said the Big East has to be strictly physical sports? This weekend the Providence eSports Club, a team of students competing in video game tournaments, sent teams in *Rocket League* and *League of Legends* to Big East playoffs. This is the first semester that the club has been in existence, and teams have only played together for a few weeks. Providence eSports also has *Hearthstone* and *Overwatch* teams that play in third-party tournaments through Tespa, a collegiate eSports organization.

The club's co-presidents are Zachary Gandara '19 and Matthew McGuane '20, and the club is

made up of about 70 members, a mix of casual and competitive players. "The club accepts people who play all games, on any platform," said Gandara. "You don't have to be a competitive player to join. We want it to be a fun environment for everyone, not just for competitive players."

Gandara and McGuane admitted that putting teams together took some time, but was worth the time and effort. "The school came to us and basically said, 'you know the students, you know who would be interested.' So, we scouted to get the teams together and coordinated captains just by knowing everyone," said Gandara. "PC got into it because of pressure from Big East. Other schools have had teams for a while," such as DePaul University and Villanova University.

Because of the timing of the tournament and how

quickly it was put together, seeding was determined by a Swiss-style tournament, where every team plays every other team in the pool before the top four teams moved on to semifinals. Providence College was expected to finish last because the team was so new, but finished fourth overall in *League of Legends*, losing to the champion, DePaul.

"For such little time and having been seeded so low, the team did an incredible job," said Gandara. In addition to playing on the club's *Overwatch* team, Gandara also leads the club's production team, which includes streaming the matches, hiring commentators, and keeping the match coverage running smoothly.

For their first semester in operation, and the first year that eSports have been recognized by the Big East, the streams did exceptionally well, with around 700 viewers watching the live stream via the Electronic Sports League (ESL).

As for non-Big East play, the competitive teams within Providence eSports have competed in tournaments through Tespa, mainly on Activision Blizzard games, such as *Overwatch*. Gandara, a member of *Overwatch* is currently ranked 200th in the United States.

Gandara hopes that in the future the team can have a space dedicated for the club, instead of reserving the lower level of Ruane for playing and production. The Office of Student Activities and Cultural Programming has expressed their desire to give the club space in the Slavin Center. Administrators hope that the central location will allow the student body to rally behind the newly-formed team.

Within the Big East, the eSports division plans to establish a regular season and a tournament system similar to the Big East athletics playoffs. The NCAA has yet to recognize eSports as an official part of collegiate athletics, but pressure from the Big East and the growing popularity of eSports are pushing the NCAA toward recognizing eSports soon.

Providence eSports is now open to all interested members, both those who want to play competitively or those who wish to play casually.



eSports Club members from left to right: Liam Kelley '20, Joey Trasatti '21, and Se Woong Park '19. PHOTO COURTESY OF ZACHARY GANDARA '19

## John Krasinski Leaves Movie-Goers Speechless

by Blaine Payer '18  
A&E Staff

MOVIES

Do you hear that? That is the sound of *A Quiet Place* tip-toeing into the horror movie history books. John Krasinski's nearly silent directorial debut crushed the box office and charmed the critics last weekend, raking in \$50 million and quickly becoming the No. 1 movie in America.

With its innovative style and strong media campaign, *A Quiet Place* is likely to go down as a staple of the genre whose appeal stretches farther than unconventional gimmicks and Jim from *The Office*.

The first notable and untraditional aspect of this film was certainly its advertisement campaign, which surfaced several months ago. Rather than go the usual route and show its trailer on television and in movie theaters, Krasinski and his producers decided to turn to social media to garner excitement for the film.

Erik Childress of Rotten Tomatoes calls *A Quiet Place* "a word-of-mouth monster," citing the social media campaign as an enormous factor in its success thus far. A similar tactic was used by Warner Bros. when campaigning for *It*, last year's underdog success story that has become one of the highest-grossing horror movies of all time.

Krasinski's film is already the fifth film of 2018 to gross \$100 million domestically and shows only a 34 percent drop in its second weekend, one of the lowest for a horror film in recent years.

It also beat out both Steven Spielberg's passion-project *Ready Player One* for total domestic pull and was only narrowly outsold this weekend by Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson's critically lukewarm arcade

game-turned-blockbuster *Rampage*. With an audience score only 10 percent lower than its critical score, *A Quiet Place* also proves that even if audiences are showing up to see familiar names like Krasinski and Emily Blunt, they are leaving the theaters in awe and, likely, terrified.

The film proves to be a rollercoaster of surprises from its opening moments right up until the credits roll. The tension is at times unbearable, in no

small part aided by the overwhelming silence, and lingers for the duration of the film with very few exceptions. Making a film almost completely void of dialogue was a risky move by Krasinski and surely worried some would-be fans coming into the film, but his masterful and patient directing made it so that the film never dragged or exhausted the gimmick.

The silence also had a profound effect on the audience, which, for the first time in years of seeing films at the Providence Place Mall, was completely silent the whole time. You could hear a pin drop in a packed theater, the sound of which likely would have caused much of the audience to jump and shriek.

The final element that impressed me, besides Krasinski and Blunt's stellar performances, was the quality of the sound-hunting monsters. With a budget of only \$17 million, it is clear that money was carefully allocated and spent where it matters. The largely computer-generated beasts never appeared cheesy or poorly done. Their presence was felt even when they were not on screen, and their image will surely remain with viewers long after the credits.

Hopefully this does not turn out to be Dwight's most elaborate prank yet, since as of now *A Quiet Place* has the potential to be Paramount Pictures' highest grosser in five years, as well as one of the best films of the year.



John Krasinski (left) and Noah Jupe (right) keeping quiet to avoid the "sound-hunting monsters." PHOTO COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES



# PC Alum Preserves History with *U Street Contested*

by Sara Conway '21  
A&E Staff

ON CAMPUS

As a historian and documentary filmmaker, Michael T. Barry, Jr. '16 creates "films that provide a voice to people and topics" that are "often forgotten or marginalized," according to *The Activist History Review*.

A Providence College alumnus, Barry earned a Master's degree in American and Middle Eastern history in 2016, and is currently working towards a PhD in history from American University. In 2014, his film *Sincerity: From X to El-Shabazz* was released, winning a Carter G. Woodson Award the same year. Two years later, *The Universal Soldier: Vietnam*, Barry's second documentary, received the award for the Best Feature Award at the 2016 Nyack Film Festival.

His newest film was released in March. The film focuses on Washington, D.C.'s vibrant U Street and aims to bring light to the history of the neighborhood which is often ignored. This film features interviews and commentary by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, a National Book Award winner and the founder of the Antiracist Research and Policy Center at American University, Dr. Derek Hyra, the founder of the Metropolitan Policy Center also at American University, the Twins Jazz Club owners, Kelly and Maze Tesfaye and Love-Leigh Beasley, and the organizer of Funk Parade, Chris Naoum.

The African-American roots of U Street and its thriving culture rivaled that of New York's Harlem Renaissance, but was pushed aside by the popularity of the latter during the



A "U St. Mural" by mixed media artist and designer Michael Crossett.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MURALSDCPROJECT.COM

1920s. Many are unaware of U Street's history and the fact that it was home to artists, thinkers, and musicians such as Duke Ellington. However, riots and rebellions destroyed the neighborhood, especially in response to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As a result, the old was pushed out and the new forced itself in, initiating yet another example of urban gentrification. Attempts to re-establish business in the neighborhood brought in those with more money and, with it, "cultural decimation." U Street shifted from being a predominantly black neighborhood to one of white millennials. The flood and ignorance of the new was "ruining the history and culture" of those originally in the neighborhood.

*U Street Contested* aims to "preserve"

and "honor" the history of U Street by recognizing and promoting it. The film does so by highlighting the importance of mom-and-pop shops in keeping the U Street culture strong, such as the Twins Jazz Club. These places, however, do struggle to survive against the competition of the area.

Another effort to revitalize the history of U Street manifests in the Funk Parade. The springtime festival launched in 2014 with the purpose of supporting the U Street neighborhood in its collaboration with local clubs and artists. This event extends all day and into the night, bringing thousands of people and different pieces of the city together in an endeavor to "minimize the gap" and celebrate the history of U Street.

*U Street Contested* emphasizes the importance of acknowledging the

history of an area and doing so "as often as possible." A solution to "break[ing] the segregation" rises in the engagement between the people in the area, as seen in the efforts of the Funk Parade.

Barry hopes that his new documentary "can bring people together to discuss the changes occurring in [other people's] communities" through its "activist spirit." In an interview with *The Activist History Review*, an online resource dedicated to connecting the past with the present through an activist lens, Barry emphasizes that he believes that history "can bring about lasting and substantial changes in our nation and world."

Barry and his films bring attention to those forgotten histories, a fact that should inspire the Providence College community and beyond to enact change.

## The Dating Project Aims to Redefine "Hookup Culture"

by Catherine Goldberg '20  
A&E Staff

FILM

The "hookup culture" on college campuses today is the social norm, but no one seems to talk about it. At Boston College, Professor Kerry Cronin teaches a philosophy course in which she gives students extra credit to go on "traditional dates" to recover the "lost art" of dating. Her philosophy class stoked a nationwide movement, and writer and producer Megan Harrington teamed up with Cronin and a group of five single people in Boston, New York City, Los Angeles, and Chicago to release a new documentary *The Dating Project*.

The film was shown for one night on April 17 at various theaters across the nation and many theology, philosophy, and DWC professors at Providence College encouraged a number of students to go. Ultimately, the film is about discovering what it is like to be a young person amidst our current culture, and discovering our own self-worth when pursuing relationships. The film shows snippets of her philosophy course, in which she teaches on the different levels of dating.

She requires her students to ask the person they are pursuing out on a date face-to-face. She lays down rules for them, such as "if you ask, you pay!" By engaging with her students in a humorous and non-judgmental way, she is able to truly understand the problems of the culture.

When she notices that her students are surprised that they need to talk to a person face-to-face, she questions, "So, to talk one-on-one with someone in person is more difficult than having sex with someone you don't know in the dark?" When the majority of students nod in agreement with red faces and embarrassed smiles, the contradiction of the "hookup culture" truly shines through. As



A promotional poster for the new documentary film, *The Dating Project*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DATING PROJECT/VIMEO

her students attentively take notes and get excited to take on the project, it is obvious that many young people are lost when it comes to developing authentic relationships in this generation.

The documentary is especially appealing to the PC community, as college students are susceptible to the hookup culture that is so similar to that of Cronin's workplace, Boston College. The way people seek and find love in this day and age has changed radically. The "hookup culture" has started trends of just hanging out, texting, engaging on social media, and having one night stand.

Because of this, dating has become practically outdated. Ultimately, what the film and Cronin are trying to do is start a movement to encourage students, and all people, to overcome the hookup culture and make beautifully fulfilling relationships.

In fact, a number of her students have gotten married after taking her course, just by the simple advice of going on a "traditional date." Perhaps it is a project that seems simple on paper, but in reality it is daunting for college students. *Pauline Media Reviews* says the film "has the potential to create a cultural avalanche!" So get out there and #DateDifferently!



# New York's Favorite Summer Concert Returns

by Julia Vaccarella '21  
A&E Staff

MUSIC

With Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival kicking off this year's spring music festivals, the beginning of music festival season is upon us. Governors Ball, first launched in 2011, is returning yet

again. This year it will be held June 1-3 at the same location as last year, Randall's Island Park in New York City. The three-day event will feature a variety of artists and spotlight different musical genres.

Founders Entertainment is the company that handles the production for Governors Ball, which in past years has attracted well over 100,000 spectators. Single-day tickets are

currently being sold online, as is entry for all three days of the festival. In addition to great music, there will be food trucks and exposure for many known New York restaurants. There is also a lineup of food vendors just as anticipated as the musical lineup.

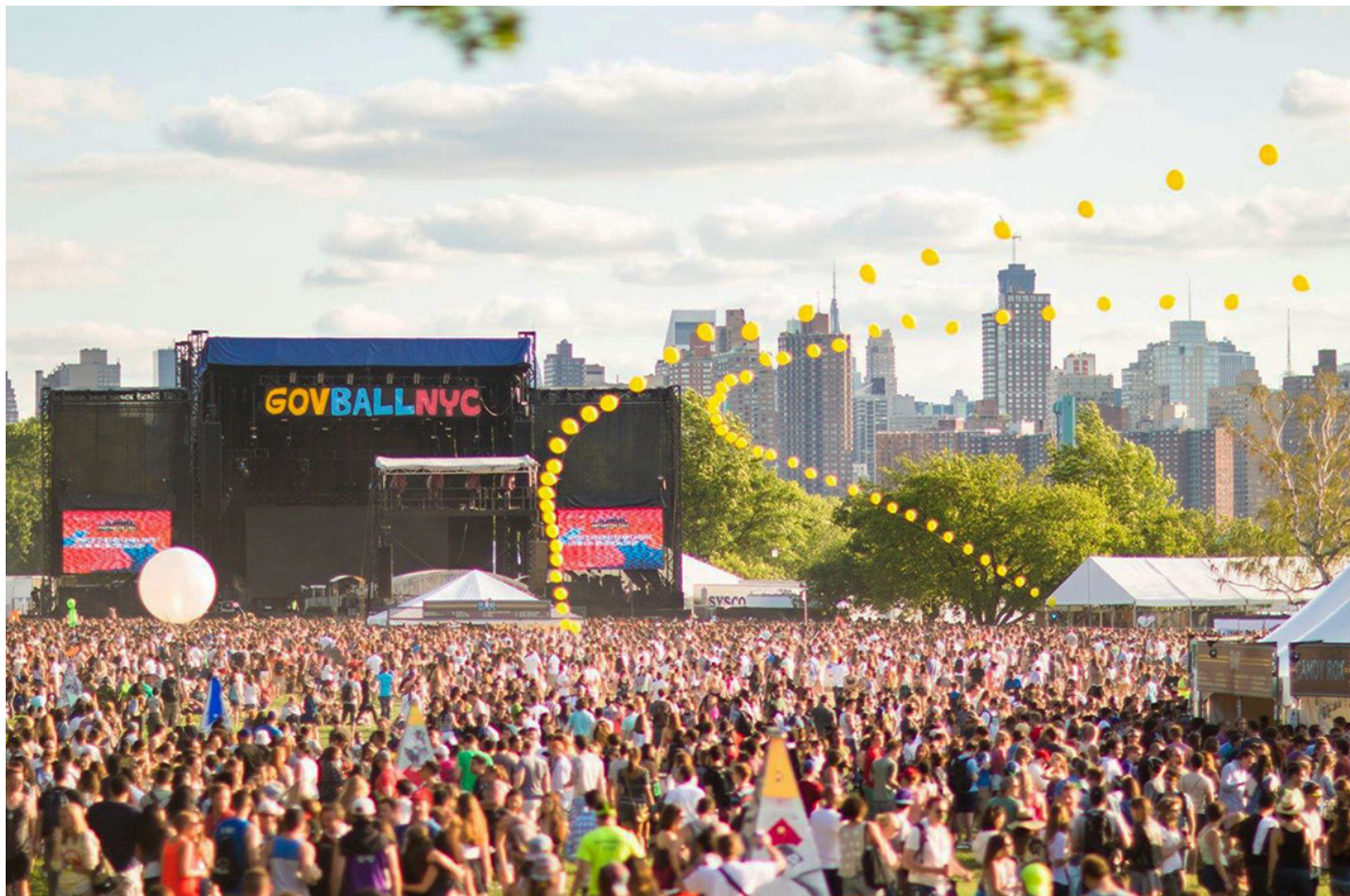
Two of the headliners for 2018 include Eminem and Travis Scott. Although both artists are known for creating rap music, they will be

performing on different days of the festival. Eminem, a classic name within the genre, will have plenty of songs to perform from his 2017 album, *Revival*, and his long list of past records. Travis Scott, who rose to popularity with his song "Goosebumps," also has plenty of set list options to choose from—his new album was released this past Dec.

Other well-known rappers like 2 Chainz, Lil Uzi Vert, and Post Malone are all on the musical lineup, performing on different days. R&B newcomer Khalid, who was nominated for five Grammys earlier this year, is also slated to make an appearance on June 3. Not all of the acts chosen by Founders are rap artists. In fact, opening the show on the festival's first day is Jack White, whose musical style leans towards rock and alternative music.

White is also part of the duo The White Stripes, which produced, "Seven Nation Army." Electronic/EDM artists will also be in attendance, such as Diplo, who recently released a solo album. He has partnered with Mark Ronson, who appeared on Bruno Mars' "Uptown Funk," on a duo team that they have called Silk City. Diplo and Ronson are currently set to perform on Saturday, June 2. Additionally, another EDM duo will be performing on this day: Galantis.

It seems as though this year's Governors Ball will feature a wide array of artists from big name singers to up-and-coming performers; it is this versatility that attracts so many people year after year. Forbes speculates that it will "include some of the city's biggest comeback shows ever along with breakout acts you can't miss."



"New York-ers" gather for three days for what is said to be the most upbeat concert of the summer.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SIDEWALKHUSTLE.COM

## What Makes *Black Panther*, *Black Panther*

by William Burleigh '19  
A&E Staff

FILM

T'Challa is still king. *Black Panther* has officially surpassed *Titanic* in the domestic box office. On Saturday, April 7, *Black Panther* outdid the 1999 epic's \$659 million when it reached \$665 million. It is now the third highest-grossing film in North American box office history (not adjusting for inflation). It ranks number three behind 2015's *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*' \$936 million and 2009's *Avatar*'s \$760 million.

*Black Panther*, the 18th film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe superhero franchise, has taken the box office by storm since its Feb. 16 release, breaking numerous records: it is currently the highest-grossing film of 2018, raking in over \$1.3 billion worldwide. *Black Panther* has also become the highest-grossing superhero movie of all time, passing *The Dark Knight* and Marvel's own *The Avengers*.

*Black Panther* features almost an entirely black cast, starring Chadwick Boseman, Michael B. Jordan, Lupita Nyong'o, and many more. *Black Panther* has been praised for its diversity not only onscreen but also behind the camera. Young African-American director Ryan Coogler had only ever made two other feature films and now holds the records for biggest box office debut for an African-American director and highest grossing film by an African-American director.

The film's success and relevance extends far beyond its box office domination. The film also received universal critical acclaim and rave reviews—and not just for being an entertaining action movie. Since its release, *Black Panther* has been lauded by the black community for its cultural significance, and specifically, its emphasis on and commitment to underrepresented voices in a Hollywood blockbuster. This is an increasingly important task for mainstream films, as black audiences have been massively marginalized in the history of cinema.



Lupita Nyong'o (left) and Letitia Wright (right) both play strong roles in new movie hit, *Black Panther*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DISNEY/MARVEL STUDIOS.

One reason the film has been so vastly successful is because it offered black audiences a cinematic experience they have been sorely missing: a black superhero. White audiences have enjoyed nothing short of a plethora of superheroes to choose from: Iron Man, Batman, Superman, Captain America, Spider-Man and Thor alone have made a combined 35 appearances in major superhero movies since 2002. In this way, black audiences who sought inspiration and entertainment from a superhero who looked like them have been left underwhelmed for many years.

The need for representation obviously transcends the superhero genre. The history of film as a whole has been dominantly populated by white voices. The most iconic characters of all time—James Bond, Indiana Jones, Luke Skywalker—are all white. If you Google-search "best actors of all time," the automatic top 50 listed results display only four people of color. Searching results for "best directors of all time" displays only two people of color in its top 50. Some of the greatest movies—*The Godfather*, *Casablanca*, *It's A Wonderful Life*, *Fight Club*, and *The Lord of the Rings*—feature no black characters

and require African-American audiences to view their stories through the eyes of white characters.

And yet *Black Panther* has still made more money than all of them in just eight weeks. Now more than ever, black audiences are finding themselves represented in mainstream films. Two years ago, *Moonlight* (2016) won the Academy Award for Best Picture. Last year, *Get Out* (2017) made \$176 million and won Best Original Screenplay. This year, director Christopher Nolan, *The Dark Knight* trilogy, *Inception*, has predicted that *Black Panther* will become the first ever superhero movie to be nominated for Best Picture.

Ultimately, *Black Panther* and its box office records serve as a testament to the strength of diverse voices and the increasing need for more representation in Hollywood films of all genres and budgets. *Black Panther* will of course be remembered as an entertaining movie. But, more importantly, *Black Panther*'s cultural relevance, as both the first mainstream black superhero movie and a major blockbuster will resonate universally with audiences of different backgrounds as a source of hope, affirmation, and inspiration.



# Boston Venues Give Music Fans Variety

by Patrick Fuller '21  
A&E Staff

## MUSIC

Temperatures remain close to freezing but the date screams spring. With the first weekend of Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival behind us, we search for similar experiences closer to home. While the weather makes outdoor music-watching uncomfortable, if not impossible, the city of Boston hosts a wide variety of legendary indoor venues to fill the gap.

Royale Night Club on Tremont Street holds a capacity between the intimate Paradise Rock Club and the larger House of Blues. According to boston.com, the New York-based live music company, The Bowery Presents, signed a deal with Royale in 2010 to put on 100 shows a year at the venue.

Royale co-owner Dave Ralph told a local Boston music blog that he planned on supporting many up-and-coming acts over the next couple of years. For instance, over the course of the proceeding months, Royale plans to host Unknown Mortal Orchestra, Marian Hill, Shakey Graves, and Bishop Briggs, among others.

On Saturday, April 14, Rainbow Kitten Surprise took the stage at Royale backed by bluegrass band Caamp. Mailing from Boone, North Carolina, the five-piece band recently released the album *How To: Friend, Love, Freefall* which sets "dizzying rush of words... to a thrillingly unpredictable sound that transcends all genre convention, endlessly changing form to accommodate their constant shifts in mood and spirit."

The album, produced by Grammy Award-winner Jay Joyce (Cage the Elephant, the Head and the Heart) and recorded at Neon Cross Studio, is the band's debut release for Elektra Records. The band mostly focuses on vocals. Lead singer Sam Melo uniquely blends the mellowness of vintage folk with the flavor of his hip-hop including, Schoolboy Q and Frank Ocean.

These two sounds clashed under an array of colored lights as bassist Charlie Holt covered



Rainbow Kitten Surprise pose for a promotional photo.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHAKORIHILLSGRASSROOTS.COM

harmonies with long hair. All five members shook their way through the fire-and-brimstone "Fever Pitch," while the two guitarists joined forces with Melo for first-album classics like "American Shoes," "Seven," "Cold Love," "First Class," and "Cocaine Jesus."

Quickly, the audience realized that this performance was more than just another check off the list of tour stops. Although it was only the band's third time playing in Boston, it was also the band's third time selling out in Boston. Everyone's financial support was paid back in full with passion and energy.

This all-out effort was no more evident than in the final song of the night, a hardcore rendition of "Run," the band's first song from their self-titled first album. By the end of the concert the crowd was left in a state of shock, by the bass, the red strobe lights, and the vocals.

Hopefully, with the turn of the seasons and the ensuing turn of the weather, we all can come to experience that post-concert depression. You certainly do not need to go to Indio, California, to experience the newest music and live concert season to the fullest.

## 5 Things To Do this Weekend in Providence:

1. Visit the RISD Museum.
2. Attend the Relay for Life here on campus!
3. Get some work done at the Providence Athenaeum.



The Providence Athenaeum.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BLOGDAILYHERALD.COM

## SPRING DANCE CONCERT 2018

PC Dance Company  
Student Choreography

Friday | April 27 | 7:30PM  
Saturday | April 28 | 2:00PM

For Tickets...  
Smith Center Box Office  
401.865.2218

or visit...  
providence.edu/theatre

Events in the Smith Center are accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability and require an assistive device, service, or other accommodation to participate in these events, please contact the Central Reservations Coordinator at 401.865.2070 Monday to Friday from 8:30 to 4:30 PM well in advance.



4. Go see a movie at Cable Car Cinema or Showcase Cinemas at the Providence Place Mall.
5. Enjoy a lovely evening at the Peterson Recreation Center.



Sponsored by the PC Title IX Office and the Division of Student Affairs  
In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month

# PC Stands with Survivors of Sex Trafficking



Join us **Tuesday, April 24th at 6pm in the Moore Hall Lounge** to learn more about Sex Trafficking in the US and Abroad.

Donate a journal, art supplies, stuffed animals, a monetary donation, or make a card and you will be **entered to win one of our amazing prizes**. Starbucks, Swag, La Salle's...AND MORE! All card making supplies will be available at the event.

All proceeds will be donated to Day One and the International Justice Mission. These organizations advocate for change, aid survivors through the justice process, and connect them with resources to become emotionally, psychologically, and physically well again. All cards will be sent to survivors of sex trafficking in New England.





*If you are a person with a disability and require an assistive device, service, or other accommodation to participate, please contact the Central Reservations Coordinator at 401-865-2070, M-F, 8:30-4:30.*




## Student Move-Out Time!

From **TUESDAY, MAY 8**, through **TUESDAY, MAY 22**,  
the Providence College Recycling Program  
will be collecting donations of  
**NON-PERISHABLE FOOD** and **CLOTHING**  
(in **GOOD** condition, please).

Please drop off donations in labeled boxes in the lobby of your residence hall.

• Food will be donated to the RI Food Bank  
• Clothing will be donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society



**QUESTIONS:**  
PLEASE ASK YOUR RA OR CALL THE RECYCLING OFFICE, X 2625  
**THANK YOU FOR REUSING!!!**

## ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AND CREATIVITY



**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2018**

**SLAVIN CENTER**

Please note that you do not need to attend the entire event. A lively selection of research presentations, visual art exhibits, and performances will take place throughout the afternoon.



**9th ANNUAL  
CELEBRATION  
of STUDENT**



### SCHOLARSHIP and CREATIVITY





**Wednesday, April 25th**  
Slavin Center at 12:30

This event showcases the excellent scholarly, creative and service work that our students are doing on campus, in the community and around the world.

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Written by Jen Silverman  
Directed by Mary Farrel

## THE MOORS

April 13-15 & 20-21

Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30,  
Sundays at 2:00



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# SNOW

by David Martineau '18

Portfolio Editor

FICTION

"It's really cold out today!" I said, my hands trembling as I stuffed them in the pockets of my thin coat. Beside me, Johnny walked with his head lowered in a sullen silence. He had been unusually quiet since we left school, but I didn't bother to ask why, because I already knew.

"We're not going to get caught, you know," I said after a few moments. When he didn't answer, I added, "Besides, what were we supposed to do? The next tram wasn't for an hour. Do you want Mom and Dad to worry?"

Johnny shot me a glower, the same look he'd give me whenever I jokingly reached for a classroom window during school hours, even though we both knew that they couldn't open. For identical twins, we certainly weren't much alike—Johnny had always been more serious than me, and much more concerned with The Regulations. I knew from the moment we snuck out of the tram depot that he was poring over The Rulebook in his head, trying to determine exactly what punishment we'd be facing if we were caught.

I sympathized with his concerns, if only slightly, and sure, I could understand the Sovereignty's decree, at least from an objective standpoint. Our tutors had always been careful to instruct us in what they called "Correct Compliance," which is basically just another way of saying, "Follow The Rulebook," which had been set up soon after the Sovereignty rose to power in the wake of the Great Extinction. Because the human race had become so small, it was necessary to ensure that all healthy offspring reached maturity without complications, so that they could restore human society to its former strength.

Our tutors knew better than most of us what the consequences of being noncompliant were, so they did their damned best to make sure that they weren't liable for any "errors" we made. I never really paid attention to their lectures on following The Rulebook. All I bothered listening to were their two main points: "Never instigate or respond to physical violence," and "Never go outside."

I liked to joke around with Johnny, and so whenever I got the chance, I pretended to be on the brink of breaking The Regulations. Moving to jump out of a window, escape through an air vent, or mime a punch in his or another's direction always got me the same glare of disapproval.

This time, though, there was no joking around. I almost couldn't believe it when he had agreed to sneak out of the depot with me, even though I argued quite logically that the distance between the depot and our house was short enough that we could walk it in far less time than it would take to wait for the next tram. I wasn't going to wait an hour to get home just because our last health seminar got out late when I could take a short walk outside and make it there in half the time.

As we kept walking, I could see that Johnny was getting nervous. He had probably moved on to Phase Two of his usual ruminations, in which he pondered not only the immediate consequences of noncompliance, but its long-term effects on our eligibility and status. That was another common lecture in our health seminars, where it was stressed that even the most innocuous of errors could result in lasting

damage to our bodies, which would lessen our appeal as "progenitors of the revived human race." A major noncompliance—like the one we were committing right now—could affect our rank in the selection process, in which young men and women are paired together for the purposes of procreation. Johnny, being the stickler that he was, couldn't tolerate the thought of being considered unappealing as a mate.

I had to snap him out of the mood he was in—



after all, if he grew sullen enough, he might just rat us both out to our parents when we got home. Looking around, my eyes fell on the ground, which was covered by a layer of snow that had fallen overnight. Grinning, I bent over as I walked, scooped up a handful of the frigid snow, and tossed it casually at Johnny. "Heads up, sour-puss!" I called out.

The snow struck Johnny on the shoulder, leaving streaks of white on his coat that resembled an explosion of paint. He froze in his tracks, as much from the shock of being struck as from the coldness of the snow. Then his face grew red like fire, standing out against the bland gray of his jacket and the white smear that now marred it. "Michael!" he shouted, using my full

name, as he did whenever he was angry with me. "What are you doing?" He frantically tried to wipe the snow off of his shoulder. "Do you want us to get caught?" he raged.

The thought that the snow on his jacket would be a clear indicator of our noncompliance came a moment too late. I felt a brief stab of panic, but I managed to rein in my fear. "It's okay, it's okay," I stammered, trying to calm myself as much as I was trying to calm him. "We can get it all off." I hurried over to help him, and soon enough, we had erased every last trace of the snow on his jacket, except for a dark smudge where the fabric had soaked up some of the moisture. *It'll be fine*, I thought. *It'll dry off by the time we get home.*

Not a moment after we removed the snow from his jacket, Johnny's hands lunged forward and shoved me away. "You idiot!" he shouted. "You can't just leave well enough alone, can you?"

I raised my eyebrows in surprise—after all, Johnny had just violated the second of the two major tenets of The Rulebook. Then again, we were already guilty of one violation, and no one was around to see the other. "I'm sorry," I said, lifting my hands in a calming gesture. "I wasn't thinking."

"No, you weren't! You never think! You couldn't have just waited for the next tram, couldn't you? You had to do it your way!"

Now I began to get angry, the heat flushing to my cheeks a clear sign. "You didn't have to come with me, lamebrain," I snapped. "You could've stayed in the depot."

"Yeah, and leave you to get caught all by yourself...or to make fun of me whenever I got home." Johnny's face lost a bit of its anger, which was replaced by shame and regret. "All I want is for our family to be safe. I don't know if what the Sovereignty says is right...but I do know that if we get caught, it won't matter either way."

I didn't have anything to say to that. I knew he was right, just like we all did. The thought of being punished for a mistake as silly as the one I had made us both commit now terrified me. Was an hour really too long to wait?

I reached out and placed a reassuring hand on my brother's shoulder. "Don't worry," I said. "We'll be fine. We just need to get home quick..."

A low humming sound cut off Johnny's intended response, and we both turned, somehow knowing the terrible truth before we saw it.

A sleek black vehicle, hovering about a foot off the ground, was approaching along the abandoned street. It stopped a few feet in front of us. Its doors hissed open automatically, allowing two figures to exit. I couldn't figure out if they were male or female, for both of them were clad in heavy black gear made from some baggy material. Their faces were covered by masks with breathing tubes coming out of them, attached to tanks on their backs. They looked like something I had seen in my nightmares, but I knew that I wasn't about to wake up in my bed, safe and sound.

Without a word, they grabbed me and Johnny and threw us into the vehicle, where we sat behind a glass partition which separated us from their section of the transport. When the doors hissed shut after them, my brother and I were plunged into darkness, unsure of where we were going or what would happen next.



# Bilded: Two Stories

by Jonathan Coppe '18  
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

## I.

Noah Donahue looked at an icon.

The church he had entered was kept quite dim. It lit up and down by alcoves of warm candlelight illuminating the side chapels of icons and statuettes, so that the nave—with its vast greenish-grey vaulted ceiling—held only a bare and fragile light. The effect was haunting. As one looked up at that high ceiling, its pale shadowiness, carrying flickers of light like waves on an ocean, seemed almost delicate, like paper—or unreal, even.

But somehow it seemed more real than the icon. When Noah looked in front of him at the Virgin Mary after staring for a long time at the ceiling, he felt a familiar tension. He strove in vain to find something in its face: compassion, drive, knowledge, determination, courage, tenderness, rapture... He could find nothing, and its eyes fixed forward, toward nothing, for no reason, with no reaction.

Could a human face feel like less alive than a dark stone ceiling?

Noah's heart folded in on itself that night as he answered that: *yes, yes it could.*

He rose from his *prie-dieu* with a sigh and started toward the exit. Before he left, he looked once more at the ceiling, and, as the distant light of the candle flames danced in waves upon it, he smiled to see that it was alive. He cried for just a moment, and left.

## II.

Nyle Osmund woke up to terrible light.

He coughed and tried to swallow but his mouth was sandpaper. No use.

He had been dreaming that he was at a party in the daytime, outdoors with beer and smiles and a big barbecue buffet. But someone whose face didn't quite exist had been following him at every moment. He always felt this faceless figure watching him but whenever he turned he was nowhere to be seen. When he finally turned and caught him, he saw his face and discovered that he had woken up into the terrible, terrible light of the 10 a.m. sunshine.

He coughed again and found that he was naked in a hotel room and that he was not naked alone. A smooth, tan female back with a river of straight brunette hair lay next to him, face and breasts down on the mattress. He ran a hand through his own curly, dirty-blonde hair (he spent probably too much money on realistic blonde highlights). He sat up.

*God, look at her breathing.*

He watched her shapely and tender back go up and down, up and down, up and down. He began to breathe more calmly himself. His nightmare disappeared. He would not recall it again.

He could remember only the vaguest things about her. There had been something—someplace with colorful lights—blues and purples. Her eyes were blackish brown, she wore a black leather jacket.

There was no doubt it had been a wild night, but now she was asleep, and her back heaved up and down with her breath. Even the terrible light that woke him up had softened into peace and even love.

He thought for a moment about staying.

*But if I don't remember, who's to say she will?*

And he realized it was probably better that he go. If she didn't remember and she didn't want him ("I'm not really a big charmer. I have to get pretty drunk before..."), well... No, it was better to go.

He leaned over to the bedside stand and scrawled out his phone number. "Call me." He sketched a winking smile beside it. He knew it wouldn't be answered. He was leaving her, after all.

He crept carefully out of bed without waking her. "Thank God." (He lamented in his heart that he hadn't woken her.) He found his clothes and put them on. Reaching the door, he looked back at her beautiful frame. Still her shoulders moved up and down, up and down. He smiled to see that she, at least, was alive. He cried for just a moment, and left.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF E-MAGINITIVEWITING.COM AND PINIMG.COM

# RESPECT THE WOOD

by Marelle Hipolito '21  
Portfolio Staff

PROSE POETRY

"Respect the wood," you joked. "I always hated the little rings the cups made, it ruins the wood." We were buying souvenirs, and we came upon a whole wall of coasters. There were different kinds: cork with quotes on them, cloth with hearts hand-sown in, and ceramic with little chickens painted on them. You opted for the ceramic squares, and I got the cork circles. We bought them, and then went on our way through the village, back to the bus that would bring us back to the hotel.

When you use those coasters now, does it bring you back to that month? All those deep talks in the middle of the night, and all those crazy last minute decisions and adventures we decided to take? Because when I use my coasters, from then until now, that's all that I can think of.

All our friends that you also ghosted have been telling me the same thing, from then until now. "Forget him," they all say. "Forget he exists, forget that he was ever part of that trip. Separate and drop him from all the memories of that trip." Each time they say that, I just sigh and shake my head slowly. They're never going to understand who you are to me. They're never going to get that in fact, you were the trip I took, that you were the adventure that I went on, and that you are the memories of it all. So when I bring out the cork circles for their drinks when they come over, and they sigh, I just look to the small picture frame, hiding on the end of the bookshelf. It's the first photograph I took on that trip, and the best. Your back was to me, and you were looking at the sun. Although your figure was a distinct outline against the sun, it was bright enough to be a part of the sunlight. I take in the memory of the time I took that picture, and look at the wooden frame surrounding it. "Respect the wood," I say.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PINIMG.COM AND VANDYSAFE.COM



# One Crazy Moment

by Connor Zimmerman '20  
Portfolio Staff

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PROSE POETRY

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I want to go back to that one crazy moment:

It was a dark night in a party where I felt particularly estranged. It started like any other late night, with the same people who talked to me in friendly but shallow exchanges. That was until we exchanged glances. I felt paralyzed as I questioned what should be my next move, to stay or advance? You gave a wave and flashed a smile that outshined all the stars in the sky. A thousand thoughts flew across my mind, but only one mattered—the one that told me to not let this conversation end with a good-bye. When I finally came near you, my voice failed me. But you were there for me and helped to keep the moment alive. We listened, laughed, and learned more about each other than I normally would share. For you, it was a burden that I was willing to bear.

I want to go back to the moment that brought us closer together:

I could see that you were having the time of your life. The truth was that this was one of the few nights that I was without strife. We made our move to leave and started to head back. I was desperate for anything that would make this moment stay on track. You said you were hungry and wanted to grab some food, and I almost died of thanks. The cold air sent shivers down our spines and brought us closer together. Never will I be angry at winter again. I wish I could have stayed in that moment, with you and me talking for what seemed like forever. However, I just could not keep it in anymore and told you how I truly felt, something I thought would never happen ever. Your next words impressed themselves upon me like a tattoo: "Why, then, have you never asked me out?"

I want to go back to the moment when you made it real:

The words you said made me feel angry and ashamed. I was not angry at you, no, it was myself that I blamed. You asked the question because you doubted what I said, but the actual truth is far from your thoughts. I had never worked up the courage, even when I was intoxicated, because I thought I was never worthy of you to take the next step. Whenever I look in the mirror, I can only see my flaws, but our conversation made me realize that you saw something new. Whatever it was I do not know, but you gave me the confidence to be true. I promise from now on to never let you think you are not worthy. You should know how I feel every time you are in my sight. I hope this is not the end, but at least we will always have that night.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PINIMG.COM

# SUMMER ON THE ISLAND

by Sam Pellman '20  
Portfolio Staff

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POETRY

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The sunlight struck her bed gently  
She slowly opened her eyes and a moment of panic hit her heart  
She glanced at her phone which read 11:16 a.m.  
But then she remembered she was in her bed at home, in no rush to be anywhere  
Maybe just the beach was waiting for her

She rolled over and threw on the first bathing suit she could find, her hair in a messy bun  
Walking to the bathroom she didn't once look in the mirror, but brushed her teeth quickly  
She jumped down the stairs and grabbed an ice cold water, she knew she'd need it later  
Her keys in her hand, she leaped out of the door into the car

Her beach chair was already in the backseat and so was her towel  
She rolled every window down and adjusted her sunglasses  
Her country playlist was already playing when she plugged in her phone  
She whipped out of the driveway, the wind in her hair

The parkway exit quickly approached and she braced herself for the strong winds  
She didn't mind that it knotted her hair, its freshness felt amazing  
She stuck her hand out of the window and sang along to her favorite Thomas Rhett song  
The outside temperature read 77 degrees and not a single cloud was in the sky

It was in that moment she remembered why she stuck out all that hard work of the semester  
So she could feel this exact feeling, the only feeling of bliss she's ever known  
Summer on Long Island is worth the freezing snowy and rainy days  
It was worth everything to her

The air was warm and the sun was shining  
Just for a moment everything was perfect  
She soaked in the moment just as she planned to soak in the rays later on the sand  
It was the days like these where she forgot about all the commotion in her life  
And simply smiled at the idea of living a beautiful life.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FREECLIPARTIMAGE.COM AND YOPRICEVILLE.COM



# Listomania

What to Do if You Don't Have a Spring Concert Ticket

Go in the Friar Dom Costume

Cry

Ride the RIPTA

Have Your Parents Email About it

Extort Your Roommate For a Ticket

FaceTime Someone at the Concert

Put on Your Own Concert

Listen to the Walmart Yodeling Kid Remix on Repeat

Pretend to Be a Backup Dancer

Order Chinese and Watch a Movie

Eat Italian Food

Dance Alone in the Great Room

Disguise Yourself as a Security Guard

Go to the Pregame and Take a Nap

# Memory—Two Halves

by Kiley McMahon '20  
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

As I flip the pages of the torn up scrapbook,

*I remembered the moment like it was just yesterday.*

my mind boggles as I envision him and I,

*I looked into his eyes lovingly and cautiously.*

modest, humble, and conservative attire of gowns and suits,

*The silk and leather which flowed from our shoulders to our toes,  
in a perfectly attuned manner.*

dancing flawlessly to the beat of the music,

*Our bodies meshed instantly to the generational tune of the Beatles,*

as the heavy metal music alarms our minds and meticulously floods our hearing,

*as its tune rang in and out of our gill-shaped eardrums.*

## Tiffany & Earl

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

Dear Tiff and Earl,

What's your opinion on breakfast for dinner?

Sincerely,

Green Eggs and Ham

Dear Green Eggs and Ham,

I am a huge fan of brunch all day, any day, at any time of day, so long as that includes bottomless mimosas. I guess then that puts me in the category of being an avid supporter of brinner as well, which is the term most often used for breakfast for dinner. Pancakes with strawberries and whipped cream? Yes. Eggs Benedict and a side of home fries? Absolutely. Avocado toast and a strawberry banana smoothie? Most definitely. We are in the golden age of brunch, and I most certainly believe that this phenomenon should be extended into dinner.

Keep brunching,



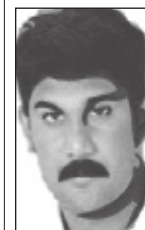
Tiffany

Dear Ham Sammy,

My opinion on breakfast for dinner is the same as my opinion on Russia and Putin. I can't get enough. Breakfast for dinner is as dangerously entertaining as Russia's threats on the United States. You don't necessarily know what will happen to your body within the next two hours after eating Ray breakfast or when you see Putin in a tuxedo. Both, are mysteriously sexy. His balding head glistens just like the eggs in Raymond Dining Hall in a delicious way that gets me a little too excited, if you know what I mean.

The threats from Russia hang over our heads just like the intense desire for syrup on Ray waffles. Who knows, you may even find a bug in your waffles like we may find Putin bugging our government buildings.

Hungry for Putin,



EARL

*This is a satirical column that does not reflect the views of Providence College or The Cowl.*



## Shohei Ohtani Starts Off Hot Rookie Shows Promise Hitting and Pitching

by Thomas Zinzarella '21  
Sports Staff

BASEBALL

For most baseball fans, this past off season's free-agency period was a lackluster performance by all 30 teams. There was almost a consensus around the league that each general manager wanted to wait until next off season to snatch bigger prize free agents such as Manny Machado and Bryce Harper.

One player who filled the news void this off season was none other than 23-year-old Japanese phenom Shohei Ohtani. Ohtani, who has been nicknamed the "Babe Ruth of Japan," came over unexpectedly and left every MLB team chasing after the future star. Ohtani voided the opportunity to wait for the big payday in two years and settled with the Los Angeles Angels for the league minimum of \$545,000 per year over the next three years.

So why the nickname and the hype? Ohtani brings skills that have never been seen before in the major leagues. He is a two-way player who excels as both a hitter and a pitcher. Scouts have compared his hitting abilities to those of Ken Griffey Jr. while his pitching has resembled Stephen Strasburg.

After a string of less than stellar performances on both the mound and at the plate during spring training,



Shohei Ohtani is off to an unexpected hot start to the season.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

Ohtani has finally lived up to the hype. In 30 plate appearances so far, Ohtani has 11 base hits, maintaining a .367 average and a slugging percentage of .767. He even hit a home run off of the reigning CY Young Winner, Corey Kluber, in his second game of the season.

Ohtani has been even more dominant on the rubber, holding

hitters to a mere .093 batting average and a slugging percentage of .163. In his first home debut as pitcher against the Oakland A's, he carried a perfect game into the 7th inning before it was broken up by Marcus Semien.

Ohtani's success has shaken the whole baseball industry as more front offices begin to look into the two-way player. Brendan McKay, who was the

Tampa Bay Rays' first round draft pick from this past June's draft, is a two-way player and is thriving in the minors.

Many believed that after McKay was drafted, he would exclusively be at first base. Currently playing for the Bowling Green Hot Rods in the Midwest League (Single-A), McKay is off to a red-hot start batting .438 with six RBI in 16 plate appearances. On the hill, McKay has compiled a 3.60 ERA in five innings pitched while striking out eight. The Rays' front office believes it can work and why not? McKay did the same through his career at University of Louisville.

Another two-way player is the Reds' No. 2 overall pick this past June, 18-year-old Hunter Greene. Greene, who has been praised for both his glove work at shortstop and his 100-mph fastball on the mound, was allowed by the Reds' to test the waters at both the plate and on the mound in his first minor league season this past summer.

Although it has been decided that Greene's future will be on the mound, the Reds' decision to let him pitch shows that Major League clubs are starting to think about using these players' various talents and experimenting with the two-way player possibility.

He may only be 23-years-old, but the future of the two-way player in the MLB resides on the shoulders of Shohei Ohtani.

## #Humboldt Strong

by Sam Scanlon '19  
Sports Staff

ICE HOCKEY

The Humboldt Broncos, a Canadian hockey team in the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League (SJHL), were slated to faceoff against the Nipawin Hawks in game five of their seven-game semi-final playoff series. The Broncos trailed 3-1 in the series and were in jeopardy of being eliminated from the playoffs in their next game.

The Broncos were set for a crucial game in Nipawin in the early afternoon on April 6, and only about a two hour bus ride stood in the way of the Broncos taking the ice. Long bus rides are just a part of the business for junior hockey teams. They are a chance for players to relax with their friends and teammates, watch movies together, and joke with each other before big games like the one looming over the Broncos.

Some time into the ride, the bus carrying 29 members of the Humboldt Broncos hockey team, traveling north on Highway 35 in Saskatchewan, Canada, collided with a tractor-trailer at an intersection with Highway 335.

The crash left the team bus in ruins as it slid on its side down the highway, roof torn off, projecting the bodies of the players and staff from inside onto the highway.

Sixteen lives were taken, including 10 players, two coaches, the radio announcer, the team statistician, the



Flowers are placed on the Broncos home ice to remember the teammates who died.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JONATHAN HAYWARD/CP

bus driver, and the athletic trainer. The remaining 13 people on the bus escaped with injuries ranging from critical to minor, with some being deemed miracles for surviving the devastation.

The hockey community as a whole was shattered that day. Eventually, the whole country of Canada, as well as the United States, felt the impact of this terrible tragedy as President Donald Trump tweeted his sympathies to the families and friends, and New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft sent his condolences with a large array of flowers.

Countless heartbreaking tributes were given across the National Hockey League, including the Chicago Blackhawks and

Winnipeg Jets playing their April 7 game with the name "Broncos" on the backs of their jerseys instead of their own last names. Many NHL teams stood united at center ice before their April 7 games to pay tribute to the Broncos during a moment of silence.

Pittsburgh Penguins captain Sidney Crosby, one of the top players of this generation and undoubtedly the favorite player of numerous Humboldt Broncos, had a special Penguins jersey made which read "HUMBOLDT 18" on the back and had the entire Penguins roster sign it and sent it to the Broncos. The Stanley Cup, which is awarded to the NHL Champion, recently made its way

to Saskatchewan to visit the injured Broncos in the hospital.

Along with an extremely successful GoFundMe campaign and countless tributes from NHL teams and players, people across the world mourned alongside Humboldt and honored them by putting their hockey sticks outside of their doors and wearing hockey jerseys on April 12.

After this horrible tragedy, the entire Providence College community prays with Humboldt and stands beside them as they mourn the loss of so many members of their beloved hockey team. We are all Broncos.



# PCI: Who Will Win the Stanley Cup?

## Boston Bruins

by Jeremy Perrigo '18  
Sports Staff

PROFESSIONAL HOCKEY



The first round of the National Hockey League playoffs is underway, and as opponents have begun to compete in eight different best-of-seven series, it is starting to become clear as to which teams are poised for a long postseason run.

Favorites heading into the first round of action ranged from the Winnipeg Jets and Nashville Predators in the Western Conference, to the Boston Bruins and Tampa Bay Lightning in the East. Each of these teams has lived up to expectations early on in the first round, as all four teams are leading their respective match-ups through three games.

However, one of these teams stands out among the rest.

No other team has managed to put forth an on-ice performance equal to that of the Boston Bruins. The Bruins won Games 1 and 2 of their series against the Toronto Maple Leafs by scores of 5-1 and 7-3 respectively.

In Game 2, 21-year-old Boston winger David Pastrnak recorded a point in six of his team's seven goals, capping off the night with a hat trick and three assists.

Also in Game 2, Bruins goaltender Tuukka Rask made huge saves to keep the Maple Leafs from mounting a comeback, stopping 30 of 33 shots en route to victory.

While Rask's save percentage of .917 and goals against average of 2.36 appear to be, well, average over three games, the quality of the big saves he does make at key times in games is a large part of the reason why Boston finds themselves up 2-1 in the series heading into Game 5 Thursday.

Toronto is notoriously a high-powered offensive team lead by generational talent Auston Matthews. It speaks volumes that it took Matthews until Game 3 to record his first point; a goal that ended up becoming a game-winner in the Maple Leafs' 4-2 victory

Monday night.

While the Bruins took a step back in their third meeting with the Leafs, it is important to notice that the other Stanley Cup favorites that rival Boston have struggled as well.

After winning Games 1 and 2 of their series, Winnipeg traveled to Minnesota only to drop Game 3 by a score of 6-2. The Jets had only allowed three goals to the Wild in their first two games.

Nashville defeated the Colorado Avalanche 5-2 and 5-4 at home before traveling to the Mile High City to lose 5-3 to an Avalanche team that only managed to qualify for the playoffs in their final game of the regular season.

After it looked as though Tampa Bay would cruise to an easy series win over the New Jersey Devils, taking the first two games of the series by scores of 5-2 and 5-3, the Eastern Conference Champions, the Lightning traveled to Newark only to surrender four third period goals en route to a 5-2 Devils win.

Boston arguably has the hardest match-up of any of the powerhouse teams mentioned above, yet they have managed to score in big numbers, while maintaining reliable goaltending at the other end of the ice.

If the Bruins are able to sustain a steady scoring pace, and at the same time remain sound on the back end, then they should be a shoe-in to win the Stanley Cup regardless of their opponent.

## Vegas Golden Knights



by Ethan Ticehurst '18  
Sports Staff

PROFESSIONAL HOCKEY

However, the Predators have seemed to be weaker so far in the playoffs, having lost a game to the Avalanche while the Golden Knights have completed the sweep against the Kings in the first round. The momentum is on the side of the Golden Knights and the skill level of these teams is close to even.

There is a side to sports that is often overlooked, and a strong emotional aspect to sports that is sometimes forgotten. Some of the best seasons in recent sports history have happened after an influential and, unfortunately, usually tragic event.

The Red Sox won the World Series in 2013 after the Boston Marathon bombing, the Yankees went to the World Series after 9/11, and the Houston Astros were champions after the devastating effects of Hurricane Harvey.

Last year was a tragic year in Las Vegas, after the Mandalay Bay shooting caused the death of over 50 people. But, as it has commonly done in the past, tragedy tends to bring people together more than divide them, and the Golden Knights have been spurred on by the togetherness that the tragedy created.

Awful things have happened, but the Golden Knights have done their best to go out and represent the people of their city in the best that they can and by winning the Cup, they can bring something worth celebrating to Vegas.

In their first season in the league, the Golden Knights will complete what is already one of the most shocking and historic seasons in the history of sports by kissing the Stanley Cup and become this year's Stanley Cup Champions.

Expansion teams have historically begun their season on a weak note throughout the history of professional sports, across every sport. For maybe the first time ever, the world is experiencing an expansion team that has a chance to win a championship and it is exciting. This season is exactly what sports fans and the NHL dreamed about when the team was first announced.

After a strong regular season, which finished with a number one seed in the playoffs, it is not too hot of a take to pick the Golden Knights to win the Cup. Their only real competition in the Western Conference is the Nashville Predators, who went to the finals last year and finished with the most points in the West.

PCI

## Tennis:

Continued from front page

Epstein stated how Marvin's energy and bright personality will be missed next year, "She always knows how to make a serious situation fun." Epstein expressed how proud she was of Marvin to stick with tennis for all four years of college, unlike a few players that started out with her.

"Katie and I play next to each other and are there to cheer each other on throughout our matches." This bond does not just exist on the court; Epstein explains how Marvin plays an important role in her pre-game ritual as well. "Me and Katie go get LaSalle before every home game and then join our team in the training room to mentally and physically prepare ourselves for the match."

Marvin, Epstein, and the rest of the Friars have had to fight through a tough schedule this spring. PC beat Sacred Heart University 5-2 earlier in the season, but fell to tough opponents such as Harvard University, Marist College, Brown University, Villanova University, and St. John's University. The competition, however, has only helped prepare the team for their upcoming Big East Tournament in Cayce, South Carolina that starts on April 25.

Epstein and the rest of the Friars are patiently



Katie Marvin '18 returns a serve versus Quinnipiac University.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIANNA COLLETTI '21/ THE COWL

waiting for the draw to come out later this week and to find out who they will play.

"I am excited to go and to see all the Big East teams in one place" Epstein states.

The tournament is set up differently this year. There is no cancellation draw and, therefore, is

single elimination.

When asked what her team is doing to prepare for this tournament, Epstein explains that three players have recently been fighting the flu however, they are working hard and playing as much tennis as they can.



# Ray Treacy Track Sees First Meet of the Season

by Jack Belanger '21  
Sports Co-Editor

TRACK AND FIELD

Providence College held its only home track and field meet of the year as the Ray Treacy Track hosted the first day of the Ocean State Invitational. Fourteen teams came to Providence for the invitational. The first day included events such as the 800-meter, the mile, the 3,000-meter steeplechase, and the 5,000-meters. Brown University hosted day two of the invitational where most of the events were held, including all of the field events.

The Friars had plenty of notable performances on both the men's and women's teams. Some of the Friars' best performances occurred the first day on campus. In the men's 5,000-meters, PC had two members finish in the top 10, as Marcus Karamanolis '19 placed third and David Rosas '21 finished seventh.

In the 3,000-meter steeplechase, Ocean State Athletic Club's and former Friar Jordan Mann '16G, who was an All-American in the event in 2016, came in first and set a facility record with 8:48.27. Liam Harris '20 was able to grab second place in the event at 9:10.87. On the women's side of the 3,000 meter steeplechase, Columbia University's 2017 All-American Nell Crosby took first place in an event that only featured four runners.

PC had the most success on the first day in the women's mile run. A trio of Friars consisting of Millie Paladino



Abigail Harrington '21 runs in the 400 meter finals, where she would finish seventh.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KIM LEZAMA '18

'19, Catarina Rocha '18G, and Abbey Wheeler '20 were able to place in the top ten. Paladino took first place while Rocha, who won the Big East cross-country title in the fall, finished fourth and Wheeler finished eighth. Paladino and Rocha both broke the current facility record of 4:50.74, and Paladino set the new record with 4:40.07. On the men's side Nick Carleo '19 missed first place by less than two seconds to take second place and Mike O'Leary '19

finished fifth.

On the second day at Brown, Jared Grossi '20 finished fourth in the men's 400-meter run, finishing at 50.86, which was six-tenths of a second slower than first place finisher David Cusack of University of Massachusetts at Lowell. Sprinter Daniel Rooney '21 ran a close race in the 400-meter hurdles against Brown's Bretram Rogers but ultimately finished second in the event, coming in .28 seconds behind.

While PC did not have many athletes compete in field events, Chris Shanahan '21 finished fifth in the javelin throw out of 11 competitors.

The PC track and field teams will head to Worcester this Saturday for the Holy Cross Invitational and then will have a dual meet vs. Brown on College Hill. Next week, the team will head to Philadelphia for three days before going back to Brown for the Brown Invitational.

# U.S. Female Runners Shock the World

## American Women Sweep Places 1-7 at the Boston Marathon

by Meaghan Cahill '20  
Sports Co-Editor

BOSTON MARATHON

While the race may have seemed more like a swim meet than a running event, Desiree Linden shocked thousands—and herself—when she became the first American female runner in 33 years to win the historic Boston Marathon.

"It was such a miserable day...I was freezing and my muscles were tight, and I was like 'This is not my day.' So I did kind of toy around with the idea of stepping off," Linden confessed after her win.

That notion of wanting to back out of the race propelled Linden's unusual actions of following fan-favorite Shalane Flanagan off-course for a bathroom break. At that point, Linden confessed she was "happy to run through the wind for [Flanagan] and just kind of be a block [to the wind]."

It was during that break that Linden was re-inspired by Flanagan to go out and win the race. She commented, "There was just so much pride on the American side this year. We wanted it so bad. Thirty-three years since an American winner, and I felt like there was some team camaraderie out there."

Near the end of the race, Linden pulled ahead of Flanagan and after 2 hours, 39 minutes, and 54 seconds of running, the two-time Olympian crossed the finish line on Boylston Street.

On her historic finish, Linden commented, "It's the moment you dream of during the tough days when you don't wanna go out and run, when you're a little kid and you're getting into the sport, and you turn [on] the TV, and you see the Boston Marathon. You dream about breaking that tape. It was the culmination of years of hard work, and years of dreaming, and years of never giving up."

Linden was not the only American runner who surprised viewers on Patriot's Day. After years of being beaten out by female runners from Kenya and Ethiopia, Americans placed first through seventh in the race as follows: Linden (1st), Sarah Sellers (2nd), Krista DuChene (3rd), Rachel Hyland (4th), Jessica Chichester (5th), Nicole Dimercurio (6th), and Flanagan (7th).

However, it was not the fact that the Americans swept the top spots that was the most surprising, but rather the fact that aside from Linden and Flanagan, these runners were mostly unknown. No one predicted them to win. While both Linden and Flanagan are Olympians and well-known for their running success, Sellers and DuChene are more commonly known as being a nurse anesthetist and a mother of three, respectively.

Sellers, much like Linden, surprised herself with her second place finish, stating after the race, "Some of the women I was passing, it was just complete disbelief. I look up to them extremely and in no way do I consider myself on their level at all." She was in so much disbelief over her placing that she had to question officials to

make sure they were positive they were looking at the right division. And while this year's marathon has Sellers determined to "run another marathon...in better weather," Flanagan has announced that she "thinks this was [her] last Boston Marathon," admitting that "This course is really hard. The conditions are really hard. And I'm not averse to hard things, but I think I'm good with Boston. I think this was it."

Regardless of the unfortunate weather conditions, the runners of the Boston Marathon never ceased in their fight to the finish. And the women running this year were able to make it more memorable due to their achievements rather than the horrendous rain and wind.



Linden holds up American Flag in victory after Marathon finish.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BOSTON GLOBE/GETTY IMAGES



# Gaiters Determined “Beast of the East”

by Joe Myko '19  
Sports Staff

MEN'S RUGBY

The world's biggest college rugby tournament, The Beast of the East, was held last weekend, on April 14-15 in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. Sherbrooke, Quebec's Bishop University Gaiters triumphed as the eventual winners in the men's Division 1 section of the competition, finishing with an impressive 16 points and a 4-0-0 record. The women's Division I league was won by Vassar College—also finishing with an immaculate record.

The annual competition is always hosted by the Providence Rugby Football Club, held at Gardner Seveney Sports Complex. The competition has been growing in prominence since its establishment in 2007. Last year saw the University of Connecticut triumph as the men's Division I winners, with Vassar College securing the women's Division I title.

This year's installment featured three separate divisions for the men's and women's team—with the men's DI league hosting seven teams, DII hosting 17 and D3 hosting 20. The women's DI hosted six teams, with the DII hosting 17, and DIII hosting 21.



The Quebec Bishop Gaiters celebrate one of their wins.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BISHOP'S UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

The Providence College Men's A team competed in the second division of the competition this year, ultimately finishing with zero points and a 0-2-0 record. The Providence College B team also finished with an identical record from their performance within the competition's Division 3 standings.

The A team began the day with a 9:20 a.m. fixture against Plymouth State University on Saturday, April 14. Their second and ultimately final match in the competition came at 5:40 p.m. on the same day, when they eventually lost 19-10 to the University

of Albany Men's Club Rugby in an unfortunate affair.

Looking towards other notable results from the tournament, Plymouth State University finished on top of the men's Division 2 table. The University of Maine at Farmington finished winners of the men's third division. The UAlbany women's rugby team ultimately won the Division II title, whilst the The University of New Haven women topped the Division 3 groupings.

The PC men's rugby team has been in operation for over 30 years at

the school, competing as one of the sport's most high quality programs within New England. The New England Rugby Football Union, as well as the USA Rugby Organization, recognizes PC's sporting outfit, who compete each season within the Rugby Northeast conference.

For those interested, the school's website also advertises that “All Providence College students are welcome to join the team, regardless of playing experience. Practices are held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons on Hendricken Field.”

# Dance Team Ends Year With Success

by Sullivan Burgess '20  
Sports Staff

DANCE

From April 5 to 7, the Providence College Dance Team made their way down to Daytona Beach, Florida to compete in their second appearance at the 2018 NDA National Championship.

Last year, the Friars made their debut at the 2017 NDA National Championship and outperformed expectations by placing seventh in the country in the jazz category. It was safe to say that the bar was set for this year, and the only way to succeed was to work twice as hard and completely outperform once again.

This was exactly the mindset that coach Claire Creighton had going into Nationals. Creighton, in her third year coaching the team, looked to find a way to exceed the already high expectations for her team. Competing once again in the jazz category and for the first time in the hip-hop portion of the competition, the Friars had to put together two intense, two-minute dances for the events.

After performing for the student body at the Nationals Send-Off in Alumni Hall, the team was ready for whatever Daytona had to offer them. For captain Katie Printer '18 and co-captain Daniela Roberto '18, this Nationals was bittersweet. They were both proud of the process they used to get themselves to Nationals, yet sad knowing this would be their last season as dancers for the school.

Knowing this was the last time they would be dancing motivated not only them, but motivated both the captains and their teammates. Despite having the job of pushing the team to their highest potential,



The members of the 2017-2018 Providence College Dance Team.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTINA HO '18/THE COWL

the captains made sure to take time to appreciate what they were a part of.

This year's motto for Nationals was “The work is worth it,” and that is definitely what the Friars used to conquer all that had stepped in their way of achieving their goal of advancing. For the jazz portion of the event, the Friars missed their advancement by just .18 points of qualification. They seemed, however, to find their rhythm in hip-hop.

In the final round of Hip-Hop, the Friars gave it all they had and did not look back. Their performance earned them fifth in the country behind Webster State University, Stephen F. Austin University,

Boston University, and Sacred Heart University.

Coach Creighton was more than proud of how the team performed, especially in a new category, at their second time at this competition. Creighton stated, “This not only exceeds our expectations from all the long and dedicated practices each dancer went through, it also makes a name for ourselves to show future dancers that Providence is dedicated to making the most out of the dance team in order to make it the best.”

This team is shaping up to be one of the most elite collegiate dance teams, for in their second time National Championship, they moved on to the finals.

When asked what the next step to improving the already successful team was, Creighton's response was simply, “Bigger and better.”

Her goals are to make the program much larger, as well as making this passion and strength long-term, as they now prepare for their third Nationals appearance next year.

For the incoming dancers who will soon try out, Printer and Roberto offered strong words of encouragement to future classes. Both stated how all dancers have nothing to lose in trying out, and how being on the team is equivalent to a family, providing constant memories of great practices and fun times all around.