

The Cowl



SINCE 1935

Vol. LXXXIII No. 12 | December 6, 2018 | thecowl.com



UNDERTHEHOOD

Providence College's Student-Run Newspaper Since 1935

News	2
Opinion	5
Photography	11
A&E	13
Sports	18

Includes the best gift under the tree: A Portfolio Christmas Insert!

Colleges Against Cancer Holds Brovember *Students Promote Cancer Awareness Before the Holidays*

by Julia Acquavita '22
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

On Wednesday, November 28, Providence College's Colleges Against Cancer club hosted their annual "Brovember" event in McPhail's.

The event's main goal was to raise awareness for cancer and to spread knowledge about the fundraiser "No Shave November," a month-long journey during which participants forgo shaving to evoke conversation and raise cancer awareness. The night consisted of food, games, music, and friends all coming together to support a cause close to many people's hearts.

Students from every class filed into McPhail's, eagerly awaiting the event's activities and food.

As they first walked into the event, each table had scattered facts written on tiny bits of paper about cancer.

Shortly after students arrived, they helped themselves to a selection of Chick-fil-A and pizza. The attendees were able to educate themselves on the facts about cancer

while munching on delicious food.

The activities and music started with the St. Dominic Ensemble, a group that performs during the 10 p.m. Sunday mass each week. Following their performance was PC's co-ed A cappella group, Strictly Speaking.

Both musical groups brought their energy to the stage, encouraging the audience to sing along and dance.

The performances were followed by a trivia game that mentioned facts about the fundraiser.

Some of the trivia questions asked challenging questions about how much money No Shave November has raised to date, how

many mustaches have been grown since it began in 2004, and how many conversations were had as a result of No Shave November 2015.

Students' competitive sides showed as they quickly wrote down their answers in an attempt to win gift cards to Dunkin'. The trivia game ended with "Guess the Stache" where the participants had to look at a beard and guess which celebrity it belonged to. "Staches" featured in the trivia game included the character of Captain Jack Sparrow, actor Zach Galifianakis, and scientist Albert Einstein.

The three winners of the game won a \$5 Dunkin' gift card and a beer mug.

To end the event with a final activity and prize, the Love Your Melon club came and raffled off one of their winter beanies.

Grace Crowley '22, a member of the Colleges Against Cancer club, described the night as a "super fun environment filled with good food all for a great cause."

Overall, the night consisted of delicious food, energetic music, fun games, and special prizes that made it an event to remember.

Brovember was a great way to help spread College's Against Cancer's mission of spreading cancer awareness, reminding people to give back to those in need this Christmas season.



No Shave November is a nationwide campaign to help raise cancer awareness.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PREVENT CANCER FOUNDATION

PC Holds Holiday Themed Fun and Festivities *Students Get in the Holiday Spirit Before Finals*

by Kellie Johnson '22
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

All over campus, students are celebrating the holiday season and are having an amazing time being with one another for the remainder of the first semester.

This week on campus, many events were held, like skate night, tree lightings, holiday market, and Bingo. Unfortunately, with a busy finals



PHOTO COURTESY OF TASTE OF HOME.COM

Students can enjoy baking and eating holiday treats.

schedule it is hard to attend all of these festivities. However, a study break is always good, and it is the most wonderful time of year to have a break.

The skate night took place for a few hours at Schneider Arena on Saturday, December 1 as a way to kick off the holiday season and the final month of the year.

There was a huge turnout for the event. Students were constantly flooding in and out to have a good time with their friends. The skates were available to rent for free.

The event was well organized and an easy way to have fun on campus for the night.

Students loved the opportunity to embrace the winter. They said a lot of the friars and sisters on campus attended the event as well, so it was a good experience to bond with the Providence College community.

Most students, when asked about how they felt about the festival events, voiced their opinions about how they wished events like this happened more often on campus.

Along with the skating, students were invited to Slavin Lawn on Monday, December 3, for the Christmas tree lighting. Insomnia Cookies were served, along with hot chocolate. A capella groups performed songs and everyone gathered around for the tree to be lit. The tree was lit about 30 minutes after the event started, giving time for people to gather.

If you did not have the chance to witness the initial lighting, you can still enjoy the tree. It will remain on Slavin Lawn until the end of the semester.

Josh Flynn '22, who went to both events, described how he has been having a wonderful experience during his first Christmas season at PC.

While talking about the events, he mentioned how he would like to go to more events like these



PHOTO COURTESY OF DESIGN.TUTSPLUS.COM

PC students could attend free skate night in Schneider Arena.

on campus because he was able to have a great time with his friends, while not spending a large amount of money.

With upcoming stress and finals, students are encouraged to stay in the holiday spirit and PC is giving them many ways to do so. It is important to put the books down and enjoy the community you are a part of, and the Christmas events on campus are a great way to connect with the PC community in a fun and festive way.

Featured Friar: Kelli Jenney '19

A Senior Dedicated to Enriching Her Service and Spiritual Life

by Malena Aylwin '22
News Staff

FEATURED FRIAR

Kelli Jenney '19 has quite a busy schedule. She has been actively involved with many clubs throughout her three and a half years at Providence College.

With a double major in social work and history, Jenney is planning to continue to go to school to earn a J.D.

She is very passionate about social work and helping the homeless. "My passion for working with the homeless population came when I was a freshman at my high school," Jenney stated, "and started encountering people experiencing homelessness on a daily basis."

Jenney commented on how she has grown in knowledge on Catholic social thought and the importance of respecting the human dignity of every person at every stage of life in her religion classes, saying "I started to realize that our brothers and sisters experiencing homelessness are some of the people who receive the least amount of aid and support at a federal level."

Jenney discussed how she has seen these people go through some of the hardest experiences life has to offer. However, she noted, "they still find the strength to pick themselves up and try to better their situations."

Early last year, Jenney co-founded the Student Advisory Board for Mental Health and Wellness. The main mission of the board is to better educate the campus on the mental health resources PC provides while also improving the way we address mental health as a college community.

The board consists of nine members, plus the six founding members who listen to peers' suggestions and address issues with

the student population's mental health needs.

"We meet every week on Wednesday evenings to plan different events coming up, brainstorm new ways to connect with the study body, and talk about different concerns brought to our attention. We have a great relationship with the Personal Counseling Center and those working with the SAMHSA Grant, including Dr. Campbell and Cheryl Granai," stated Jenney.

Jenney is also heavily involved in Campus Ministry. Jenney talked about her strong connection to the program, saying, "Providence College's strong Campus Ministry program is one of the main reasons I decided to commit here. Coming from a Dominican, Catholic elementary, middle, and high school, I knew I wanted to go to somewhere that fostered an atmosphere where I could still explore my own faith while giving me the opportunity to serve others in the process."

Jenney went on to talk about how Campus Ministry gives students the opportunity to get involved and explore their own personal relationship with God.

She recalls going to the Connections Retreat her freshman year and meeting some of her best friends there. She has since taken on a role as leader and coordinator of the retreats.

She later stated, "Since PC is run by Dominican Friars, the College has provided me with the opportunity to get to know more Catholic priests and given me the opportunity to learn from them. All of the Friars say you will regret if you go through your four years and never get to know at least one of them."

She talked about some of the amazing and inspirational conversations she has had with Friars during her time at PC.



Jenney '19 thoroughly enjoyed her time serving others in Jamaica. PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLI JENNEY '19

"They genuinely want to get to know you and help you find your happiness and joy. I always say I have never used the word joy as much as I do as a PC student," said Jenney.

Jenney was also one of 11 students chosen to go on the International Immersions Trip to Montego Bay, Jamaica, which is run through Campus Ministry.

The group, along with Father Peter Martyr-Yungwirth, O.P., and Dr. Richard Barry of the theology department, worked with over 30 orphaned and disabled children through the Mustard Seed Communities organization.

"We mostly helped with feeding the children and caring for them during their different daily activities. The biggest lesson I took away from this experience was the importance of love and how love can come in many different forms," she said.

When talking about her past few years at PC, Jenney expressed how appreciative she is for all the

programs and events she has been involved with, stating, "Providence College has provided me with so many different experiences in such a short amount of time."

She later gave advice to fellow students and incoming classes, advising them, "Step out of your comfort zone and learn more about and from the people around you. All of us come from different places, cultures, traditions, and backgrounds. If you find a niche here that makes you feel more at home, that's great."

One thing that Jenney has taken away from her time at PC is that she has never felt like she was confined to one group.

She advises everyone to get to know and learn all different kinds of people and "be kind to your fellow Friars, no matter what differences you have."

After leaving PC in May 2019, Jenney hopes to someday end homelessness in America.

Delicious Dishes from Around the World

PC Cultural Clubs Celebrate Diversity

by Kyle Burgess '21
News Staff

ON CAMPUS

In keeping with a week full of themed cuisine nights sponsored by Providence College's numerous student-run cultural clubs, Friartown's Circolo Italiano brought the flavors of the Bel Paese to McPhail's this past Tuesday. Students had a wide array of traditional Italian dishes to choose from, such as chicken and eggplant parmesan, gnocchi, penne and broccoli, and desserts like cannolis and cheesecake.

Mangia Night continues to be a fan-favorite of students at PC as it has been for the past eight years. "What first inspired it was the traditional Sunday dinner which a lot of Italians do at home," explained Felicia Lopez '19, vice president of the club. "We wanted a way to bring our Friar Family and Italian culture together, hence why we invented Mangia as a means of keeping this tradition alive here on campus."

Il Circolo also has several functions in the works to continue sharing and showcasing their Italian heritage with the student body. On Thursday, December 6, for example, the club plans to collaborate with the College's Italian department to host a day of celebration of Italian heritage in Sullivan 212.

Additionally, the club hopes to ring in St. Joseph's Day with zeppoles and other Italian pastries this

coming March, along with a wine tasting event next semester for those 21 and older.

Alongside PC's Italian club, other student organizations such as Campus Ministry, the Gaelic Society in partnership with Students Obtaining the Meaning of Spanish (SOMOS), and the Board of Multicultural Student Affairs (BMSA) also held food-related events this past week.

Campus Ministry held a beignet run on Thursday, November 29 that helped raise funds for their upcoming NOLA immersion trip in 2019. This trip allows students to take part in working alongside the New Orleans community that is still recovering from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

BMSA hosted Cheesefest in '64 Hall on Monday, November 26, to share cheese-themed dishes from around the world with the student body. BMSA holds this event every year, making it a fun-filled and delicious event the PC student body always looks forward to.

"Cheesefest is an annual opportunity for PC to come together to celebrate the glory of cheese as well as elaborate culture and explore the tradition of food in various cultures and places around the world," Hannah Mackie '19, vice president of BMSA.

Other on-campus events included a potato mash co-sponsored by PC's Gaelic Society and SOMOS, which showcased traditional dishes of Irish and hispanic cultures. "We really loved the opportunity to co-sponsor with SOMOS because there are so many fantastic cultures represented on this campus and

BMSA gives us a chance to show them to the greater PC community," explained Camille Greaney '19, vice president of Gaelic Society. "I have always found that sharing food is a great way to come together and what better food to share than potatoes!"

With the semester coming to a close and finals just around the corner, these clubs have helped students take a break from the workload to enjoy some good food and learn more about the cultures at PC.



BRIANNA COLLETTI '21/THECOWL
Gaelic Society and SOMOS offer various potato themed dishes.

Bursting the PC Bubble

Looking Back on the Year's Biggest Events

by Kelly Martella '21
News Staff

WORLD NEWS

2018

Remembering some of the movies, natural disasters, political events and more from this year.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KISSPNG.COM

As the calendars turn to December, people reflect on the past 12 months, and it seems like every year people say it has been "the most eventful year" in history. This may be a bold claim, but 2018 definitely had enough events to fill the news.

Politics always seem to dominate the news, and this year was no exception. With a Republican-controlled Congress, many of President Donald Trump's policies were implemented in 2018, including major reforms to taxes and health care.

Foreign policy was also a main focus, as President Trump met with two of the world's most controversial leaders: Vladimir Putin at the Russia-United States summit and Kim Jong-Un at the historic North Korea-United States summit.

Immigration was another main topic in politics this year. In November, a migrant caravan from Central America reached the U.S. border, resulting in a clash between migrants and border officials armed with tear gas.

This news came shortly after another border issue, as illegal immigrants were separated from their families and hundreds of their children were housed in government custody.

Overall, the political climate in the U.S. remained polarized, as it has in recent years. This culminated in the November 2018 midterm elections, when the polls saw a record number of voters.

Ultimately, Democrats took over control of the House of Representatives, but Republicans kept the majority in the Senate.

In 2017, *Time Magazine* named "the silence breakers," those who spoke out against sexual assault and began the #MeToo movement, its Person of the Year.

The #MeToo movement continued in 2018 and spread far beyond Hollywood, as women and men of all backgrounds came forth and shared their stories.

It even reached the highest level of government when allegations came out against Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh. He was accused of sexual assault by Dr. Christine Blasey Ford during their high school years, and she testified to the Senate Judiciary

Committee in September.

Kavanaugh was confirmed and sworn in on Oct. 6 after an FBI investigation; however, the proceedings brought attention to sexual assault survivors, and Ford received public support.

Meanwhile, news surrounding the British Royal Family frequently made international headlines.

On April 23, Prince William and Duchess Kate Middleton had their third child, Prince Louis.

Millions around the world watched the Royal Wedding on May 19, when Prince Harry married Meghan Markle. The couple announced a few months later that they will be expecting a baby in 2019.

Sports occupied the news as well, starting with the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea.

Norway took home the most medals with 39 in total, but the United States had a fair showing, earning 23, nine of them gold, including team wins in women's hockey and men's curling.

Over the summer, the 2018 FIFA World Cup took place in Russia, with France beating Croatia in the final 4-2.

It was also an exciting year for American sports: the Philadelphia Eagles and the Washington Capitals took home their first championships in franchise history. The Golden State Warriors and the Boston Red Sox also added to their dynasties, with a sixth and ninth championship, respectively.

2018 was also a big year for pop culture. At the movies, superheroes seemed to be fan favorites, with

Black Panther, *Avengers: Infinity War*, and *Incredibles 2* as the top three grossing films.

Movie musicals were also a trend, with films like *The Greatest Showman*, *Mamma Mia 2: Here We Go Again*, *A Star is Born*, and *Bohemian Rhapsody* finding success at the box office, as well as their soundtracks on the album charts.

It was a notable year in music as well, and Drake's album *Scorpion* was the hit of the year. Starting with Ed Sheeran to most recently Ariana Grande, a wide variety of artists and genres had songs on the Billboard Hot 100 in 2018.

Unfortunately, a year in review would not be complete without remembering the tragedies as well.

Wildfires devastated California, leaving dozens dead throughout the state, and thousands more homeless or with lost possessions.

There were senseless acts of violence and hatred all across the country, from the bar shooting in Thousand Oaks, California to the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

However, tragedies can also unite people and empower them to make a difference. This was exemplified by students in Parkland, Florida, after 17 were killed at their high school, Marjory Stoneman Douglas. They became gun control activists and started a movement led by young people, eventually organizing the March for Our Lives in March 2018.

2018 has been an eventful year to say the least, and this is just a sampling of it. Whether it was good or bad, memorable or forgettable, we made it through another year...so here's to 2019.

Remembering George H.W. Bush

41st President of the United States Passes Away

by Hannah Langley '21
News Co-Editor

WORLD NEWS

The death of a prominent national figure, especially a former President of the United States, is always a tragic event.

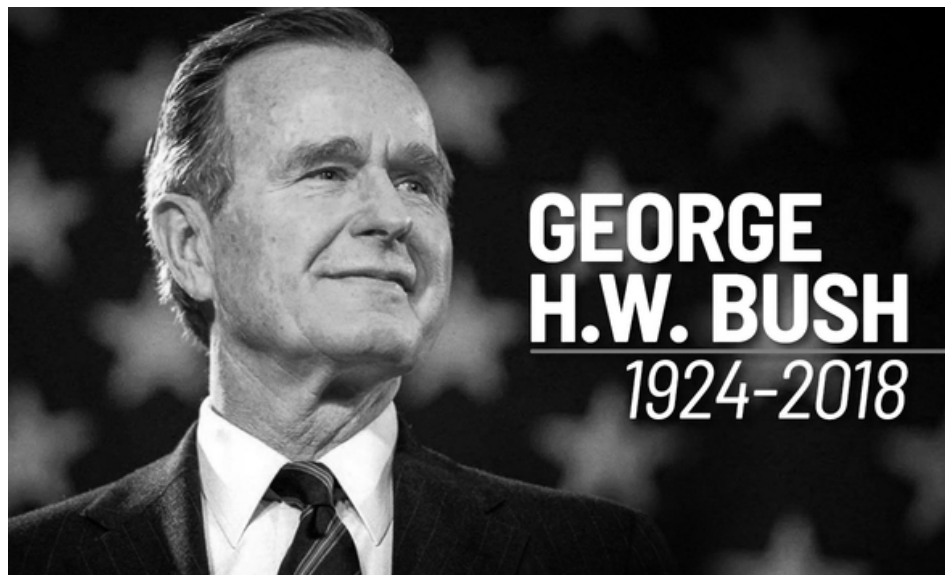
On Friday, November 30, George H.W. Bush, the 41st president and father of the 43rd, passed away late in the night at the age of 94.

Bush was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease several years ago, and his health had been declining ever since. His death came only eight months after the passing of his wife, Barbara Bush.

Bush was considered a skilled politician not only by his fellow members of the Republican party, but also by many Americans. His career both before and after his presidency provides examples of his political prowess.

Bush was born in Milton, Massachusetts and later moved to Greenwich, Connecticut, where his father was a state senator.

Early in his life, Bush joined the United States Navy and became a pilot



Former President George H.W. Bush passed away at age 94. PHOTO COURTESY OF TRISTATEHOMEPAGE.COM

who fought in World War II. Following the war, Bush married and had six children, including George W. Bush, 43rd President of the United States, and moved his family to Midland, Texas.

Bush's career as a politician took off following his move to Texas. Over time, Bush would serve in the House of Representatives for Texas, as President Richard Nixon's U.S. ambassador to

the United Nations, President Ford's U.S. envoy to the People's Republic of China and Director of Central Intelligence, and President Reagan's Vice President.

After his election to the presidency in 1988, Bush implemented many reforms, including the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Clean Air Act.

Some of his largest achievements were in foreign affairs, as he helped

end the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States peacefully and handled the fall of the Soviet Union with humility.

He also helped unify Germany in the North Atlantic Trade Organization alliance after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Bush supported efforts to create peace between the United States and other nations in the Middle East and with Saddam Hussein. The Gulf War was also a prominent global issue during his presidency.

Memorial services for the former president began in Washington D.C. on Monday, December 3 and will continue until Thursday, December 6, where he will be taken to Texas.

On Wednesday, December 5, the nation will be able to watch a funeral service on live television at 11 a.m. on major television networks.

Several eulogies will be given, including one by former President George W. Bush.

A smaller funeral service will be held at St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Houston, Texas. Bush will be buried at the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library in College Station, Texas, where his late wife and daughter Robin are buried.



Congress Updates

by Margaret Mahoney '21
Student Congress Publicity

CONGRESS

On Tuesday, December 4, Student Congress welcomed Patti Goff, assistant vice president for Integrated Learning and Administration, Sarah Burrows, senior associate director of the Center for Career Education and Professional Development and Martin Connell, associate director of professional skills.

Burrows and Connell presented on the new program through the Center for Career Education and Professional Development called the "Friar Four Career Core." The Friar Four Career Core is designed to teach students important professional skills that they may not explicitly learn in the classroom.

The first focus of the core is building students' experience with professionalism and work ethic. This component of the core includes workshops in office etiquette, job negotiations, and giving effective feedback.

The second portion of the Friar Four Core is technology and analytics. The technology portion will offer certifications and workshops in Excel, PowerPoint, and Word.

The third element focuses on communication and influence, which includes workshops on interviewing, personal branding, and digital communications.

The fourth topic covered is teamwork and collaboration. The teamwork and collaboration portion of the core includes workshops on conflict negotiation and managing difficult situations.



Eco PC Updates

by Maddie Stephen '21 and Payton Morse '20
Eco Representatives

ENVIRONMENT

With the semester coming to a close, the holiday season is rapidly approaching. The holiday season is a time of great happiness and cheer, but also a time of great waste.

However, there are many ways you can reduce your waste so that the holidays do not have a major impact on the environment.

A great place to start reducing your waste over the break is with wrapping presents. In fact, every year, 30 million trees are chopped down in order to produce wrapping paper. However, most wrapping paper is not recyclable.

Keep an eye out for wrapping paper made out of recycled goods, or use recyclable wrapping paper.

Other methods include wrapping presents with colored newspaper or recyclable gift bags, that you can decorate while at the kitchen table for some quality family time.

Rather than purchasing new supplies and goods each season, consider reusing materials from past holidays.

When you open a present that

has a pretty bow or ribbon, tuck it away in a box and then save it for the next gift.

This also goes for decorations. Rather than buying new lights and decorative Santas to put around the house each year, store them all away in a closet to save them.

This will not only help reduce your consumption but will save you money when you do not have to purchase new supplies and decorations.

Lastly, think twice before purchasing and sending out Christmas cards to all your loved ones. The cards themselves, and the envelopes that you stick them in, results in a lot of unnecessary paper and resource consumption.

Although most of the cards and envelopes themselves should be recyclable, there is no guarantee that they will be recycled.

Most likely they will be put in the trash and not the recycling bin. If all the Christmas cards sent this year were placed next to each other, they would stretch around the world 500 times.

Therefore, instead of purchasing the cards, try making them yourself with recycled paper. They will be much appreciated. Or, cut back even more by sending an e-card this holiday season.



Know a Fellow Friar You Think Should be Featured in *The Cowl?*

Contact Us at:

news@thecowl.com

Donate Your Time This Christmas *Giving Back in Non-Monetary Ways*

by Katherine Belbusti '22
Opinion Staff

SOCIETY

There is something about the Christmas season that puts so many people in a good mood.

With the exception of the occasional scrooge, the holiday season brings out the best in a lot of us. Specifically, the holiday season sparks an overwhelming urge to give back and do good.

The issue, or rather setback, is selecting the best way to give back. The easy option for some seems to be money or presents; the simple way out is to donate \$20 and call it a day.

That is not to say that that money will not go towards something good, because it definitely will. For example, in some of the dorms on campus at Providence College, there is the Adopt a Family program which asks that you donate any sum of money that will then go towards purchasing necessities for a family in need.

In addition, starting right before Thanksgiving, the dorms put boxes in the lobby courtesy of Samaritan's Purse, as part of Operation Christmas Child to buy and donate items such as toys and clothes from a provided list.

While PC provides us with ways to give back this holiday season, many of them are monetary.

Unfortunately, that is pretty much the only thing college students do not



Volunteer in soup kitchens this holiday season, like the Rhode Island Food Bank Community Kitchen.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES JONES/RHODE ISLAND MONTHLY

have a lot of: money. However, there are other ways to give back during the holiday season.

Donate your time instead of your money. It often means more to shelters to have volunteers working hands-on, especially when it comes to working with children.

Time is scarce during finals season, but after your finals are over and you are back home, spend some time volunteering in your community. You might be surprised how rewarding it feels.

If you wish to donate time, you can also organize collection drives. Organizations always need volunteers

who are able to collect and organize others who wish to help and give back.

Although giving back centers around giving, there are other ways to do good for those around you, especially during the holiday season.

Smile at the strangers walking past you. Give the person who looks like they are having a bad day a hug. While these things sound cheesy and like they might not help, that is not the case. Everyone wants to feel needed, and by doing these little things, you show that you care.

Any way that that you give back this holiday season is better than the alternative, which would be to do

nothing at all. There is so much to gain from giving back.

Though this might sound a little ironic, giving back during the holiday season benefits both parties. As nice as it is to receive during the Christmas season, it is even more rewarding to give.

The holidays are an especially emotional time for most. Perhaps it is because of the stress of buying gifts or maybe it reminds one of the loss of a loved one. Regardless, any opportunity to help stay in that wonderful holiday spirit is worth it. After all, it is called the most wonderful time of the year for a reason.

Checking Your Privilege at PC *PC Democrats Event Inspires Discussion About Social Issues*

by Bridget Blain '19
Opinion Staff

CAMPUS

Even though college is often considered to be the final step before entering the "real world," college campuses can often feel like their own little private world. The priorities of academic life and involvement with clubs on campus can lead to students not being fully aware of what is going on outside of their own lives.

This past Thursday, Providence College Democrats hosted a panel to discuss strategies to break the PC bubble in order to create more opportunities for students to have conversations about privilege and other social issues, not only with their professors, but with each other outside of class.

Members of the panel were asked to talk about topics such as how to recognize one's own privilege and the importance of taking the time to learn about other student's life experiences.

Panelists also discussed how to best create a dialogue in the classroom to help students become aware of their privilege and how to use it to help make changes here at PC and out in the real world when they graduate and are no longer shielded by the campus bubble.

One of the ways in which almost all of the panelists agreed that PC can help foster these conversations is through academics.

An issue that was brought up by the panelists is that while PC does have a diversity requirement, it is easy enough for students to not even take a class that fulfills that requirement until their senior year.

Putting off fulfilling this requirement only hurts students as they may miss out on learning

opportunities and important discussions during the majority of their college years.

As these conversations typically start in the classroom, more of an emphasis should be placed on students gaining a better understanding about social issues throughout all four years of college.

If students are given more chances to learn how to recognize the importance of acknowledging their own privilege and how to advocate for those who may not have the same privileges, they will leave PC with the knowledge and awareness necessary to make a real impact in the world.

Recognizing and admitting one's own social privileges is often an uncomfortable and painful process. For college students, it can be very easy to only focus on academics and their social life and not have to think about what is going on outside of campus. For other students, ignoring the outside world may not even be an option as political decisions or other events may have a direct and immediate impact on their lives.

In order to gain a better understanding of the different life experiences of others and to create a more inclusive environment, an emphasis needs to not only be placed on the importance of learning about systemic privilege during class time, but also on how to have productive conversations about privilege outside of the classroom as well.

Colleges across the country need to constantly evaluate whether or not they are encouraging their students to learn and grow, not only as students, but as humans who will soon be entering the workforce and will have the opportunity to make real change in the world.

Changes cannot be made by our generation if we are not willing to have difficult conversations with each other.



The mural in Moore Hall represents a step in the right direction towards continuing to promote diversity at the College.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE NEWS

An Opportunity for Inclusion

Embracing non-Catholic Religious Holidays

by Emily Ball '22
Opinion Staff

SOCIETY

Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Boxing Day, Chinese New Year—all of these holidays are part of various religions and cultures and there are millions who celebrate them. As a Dominican institution, Providence College celebrates Christmas. Various Christmas-themed events take place and Christmas trees decorate most buildings. However, PC should celebrate and respect the holidays of other religions as well.

Some may argue that PC's label as a Catholic college infers that the school should solely promote Catholic holidays. However, PC is a diverse campus with students coming from different countries, different backgrounds, and different religions.

In fact, PC was the first college in Rhode Island to welcome students of every faith, and students with no faith. The College also has a long, close connection with the Jewish community. In fact, some of the College's most devoted teachers and alumni are Jewish.

Because of the large number of students who practice religions and come from cultures other than Catholicism, PC must be inclusive towards their traditions.

The PC website stresses the College's emphasis on embracing the diversity of the students from different cultures and religions: "As a Catholic and Dominican institution, diversity is a key component of our collective pursuit of truth, promoting rigorous exploration of diverse ideas and theories, critical engagement with the world, cross-cultural understanding, innovation in problem-solving, and collaboration across differences within and beyond the classroom."

In order to embrace the diversity on campus, PC must include celebrations and events for the non-Catholic holidays that many students do celebrate; have a night to play dreidel in McPhail's for Hanukkah, or serve traditional African food in Raymond Dining Hall for Kwanzaa.

Students who do not celebrate Christmas may feel left out when they walk past the Christmas trees and events posted promoting only Christmas celebrations. Including other holidays will unify the campus on the basis of our differences.

Further, diversifying the campus' holiday celebrations will allow other students to experiencing the traditions of different cultures

and religions. A big part of the college experience is trying new things and experience new ideas; having a diverse range of events for all of the holidays will allow students to do so.

"I think it would be really interesting to be able to experience Hanukkah celebrations or any other holiday other than Christmas," Chris Matthews '22 said. "I know not all of the students here are Catholic so I think having events for the other religions would be beneficial."

PC should include events on campus that celebrate holidays other than Christmas. This change would not only promote inclusion, but also unify PC students.



In order to better embrace other religions' holidays, there should be a menorah lighting for students who celebrate Hanukkah.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ISTOCK

Stop Overusing "Sorry"

Frequent Apologies Devalue Meaning Behind the Word

by Julia McCoy '22
Opinion Staff

SOCIETY

It's quite common, whether on campus or off, to say sorry more than once a day. But how many times are we actually apologetic rather than just not wanting to cause a minor inconvenience?

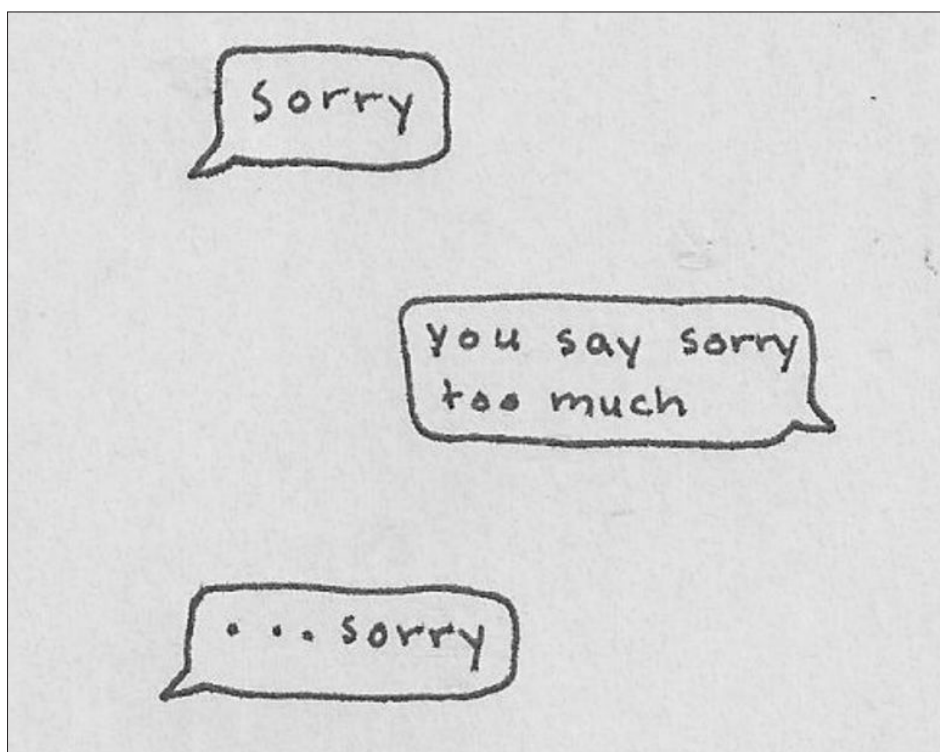
"Sorry" is a word frequently used by females. It is commonly used as a way to avoid confrontation.

However, an issue arises when women begin to use this word excessively. Women begin to say sorry as if everything is their fault. It seems like it is their obligation to take the blame for even the slightest inconvenience in someone's life.

In the course of a day, many situations present themselves in which someone is slightly inconvenienced. For example, if an elevator door is closing and someone gets on last second, causing a slight delay, the person entering the elevator is very likely to say sorry.

Are we genuinely apologetic for getting on the elevator, something anyone would do in our position? No.

What actually occurs is much more a result of social pressures. Women are socialized to be more passive and apologize in advance in order to avoid any sort of confrontation. As a result, an overcompensation of passivity engenders an excessive amount of apologies.



Oftentimes, we apologize so much that we do not even know what we are saying sorry for.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WE HEART IT

Abigail Pruchnicki '22 said, "When I say sorry, I usually feel like I'm not actually sorry. I feel like I have to say it so someone will not judge me."

Like many others, Pruchnicki addresses an issue of social pressure. Instead of addressing an actual issue and understanding the reasons for which she should be excused, many girls feel they need to apologize for things that have not yet been presented as issues.

When asked about why she apologizes, Kristen Moran '22 said, "It is not always genuine, I just don't want people to be mad at me. I feel as if I have to say it so people don't judge me."

In a constant state of worry regarding what people think, girls are hyper aware of their actions.

According to an article from *Greater Good Magazine*, writer Emma Seppala said, "Women do, in general,

report experiencing more compassion in their lives than men report doing," having been socialized differently from infancy.

This is likely a result of the different ways in which men and women were raised. From childhood, girls are told to act "like a lady." They are taught to be conservative in stating their opinions and in causing any sort of mild discomfort for the people around them.

"I have to say sorry for doing things that are not ladylike or out of character for myself," said Pruchnicki.

To maintain an image that is pleasing to an outside perspective, women must apologize for things that might not be pleasing to those around them. Women find it necessary to apologize for asking too many questions, which will only benefit them in the end.

Consider this next time you go to apologize to someone: are you genuinely sorry? do you feel the need to be excused for something you did?

If the answer is no, consider another phrase. Perhaps "thank you" when someone holds a door a second too long or waits on the elevator for you. "Excuse me" is a great alternative when you almost bump into someone.

In short, "sorry" is a loaded word that carries much more significance when it is not heard various times a day. Consider the weight of your words and they will become more meaningful than ever before.

**Providence College's
Student-Run Newspaper Since 1935**

Publisher: Kristine Goodwin

Co-Publisher: Dr. Steven A. Sears

Advisor: Richard F. Kless

Journalism Consultant: Michael Pare

Editor-in-Chief: Taylor Godfrey '19

Associate Editor-in-Chief: Abigail Czerniecki '19

Managing Editor: Tom Tobin '19

Social Media Curator: Jamie Warren '19

News Co-Editor: Thomas Edwards '20
News Co-Editor: Hannah Langley '21

Opinion Editor: Hannah Paxton '19
Asst. Opinion Editor: Andrea Traietti '21
Asst. Opinion Editor: Katherine Torok '20

Arts & Entertainment Co-Editor: Kerry Torpey '20
Arts & Entertainment Co-Editor: Patrick Fuller '21

Portfolio Editor: Connor Zimmerman '20

Sports Co-Editor: Meaghan Cahill '20
Sports Co-Editor: Jack Belanger '21

Photography Co-Editor: Nicholas Crenshaw '20
Photography Co-Editor: Laura Chadbourne '20
Photography Co-Editor: Nora Johnson '20

Head Copy Editor: Annie Shelley '19
Asst. Head Copy Editor: Courtney Day '19

Junior Head Copy Editor: Madeline Burns '20

Copy Editors: Karlene Cudak '19,
Hannah Echo '19, Elizabeth Gleason '21,
Joanna Grillo '21, CJ McCartin '20,
Kathleen Moore '20, Megan Stuart '19,
Olivia Walsh '19

Disclaimer

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

Letter/Guest Submission Policy

The Cowl welcomes guest opinions and letters to the editor from members of the Providence College community and outside contributors. All submissions must include the writer's name, signature, a phone number, and an email address where he or she can be reached. Letters should be no more than 250 words in length and will be printed as space permits. Guest commentaries should be limited to 500 words in length, and only one will be published per week. *The Cowl* reserves the right to edit articles for grammar. Submissions must be emailed to *The Cowl* office no later than 9 p.m. on the Sunday before publication. We do not print previously published articles. Email responses to commentary@thecowl.com, and remember a guest submission is only an email away.

Accuracy Watch

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

Advertising

Contact *The Cowl* with advertising requests and questions at cowlads@thecowl.com or, if necessary, via telephone at 401-865-2214. Visit www.thecowl.com/advertise for rates, publication dates, and other information about advertising with *The Cowl*. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement at any time for any reason. We reserve the right to label an advertisement with the word "Advertisement" when, in our judgment, this action is necessary to clearly distinguish between editorial material and advertising.



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

To the Class of 2019: Pursue Goodness in Final Semester at PC

by Abigail Czerniecki '19
Editor-in-Chief

EDITOR'S COLUMN



Whether we like it or not, in just one week we will be second semester seniors. I have been avoiding any conversations, emails, or thoughts about graduation and even about my future plans, but avoiding the concept of graduation does not prolong our time at Providence College.

The fall semester has been memorable, but what is important is with whom you are making your memories.

Whether those memorable moments were made with our class during Senior Ring Weekend, during a class with those in your major, or maybe the moments you remember best were simple and just with a friend or two.

All of these moments are built into our fall semester, and even

though we leave PC, PC will never leave us.

This should not be a time of sadness as our class enters into our last semester at PC, rather, it should be a time of togetherness, and of course, getting our ducks in a row in order to have some type of future. Let us support one another before we venture off to our paved futures.

Take the time that we have left to reflect on what you have accomplished or what you still hope to accomplish.

Cherish the essence of our Friar Family and pursue the discovery of something new—pursue goodness. Make more memorable moments before we can no longer call ourselves PC undergraduates, and can no longer call PC home.

TANGENTS & TIRADES

Hot Take: Ice Cream Sundays over Nugget Thursdays

All Providence College students look forward to lunch at Ray on Thursdays, when heaps of chicken nuggets paired with delectable curly fries grace the main station. Although chicken nugget Thursday is the highlight of the week for many, there is another strong contender: hard ice cream Sundays.

Every Sunday night at Ray, a selection of hard ice cream is available for dessert. On all other days of the week, ice cream is limited to soft serve, with the only options being vanilla, chocolate, or swirl.

On hard ice cream night, however, multiple varieties ensure that all students get a taste of their favorites, or maybe try a new flavor. Typical flavors include mint chocolate chip, birthday cake, cookie dough, and similar staples. To be festive, holiday flavors are offered at corresponding points of the year, such as pumpkin in the fall or peppermint at Christmas.

The joy of hard ice cream night is never knowing exactly which flavors are offered; every week features a different variety of delicious ice cream. Chicken nugget Thursday, on the other hand, is the same every single week. Nuggets, curly fries, eat, repeat.

The same meal for lunch every week starts to become old at a certain point. The novelty wears off, and cravings for a sandwich or frustration because of the long lines overcomes the desire for nuggets. The unpredictability of hard ice cream Sunday guarantees enthusiasm every week.

Be sure to remember this underrated tradition and grab a scoop next Sunday.

—Elizabeth McGinn '21

Stop Sneering at the Stars: Give Astrology a Chance

People often roll their eyes when the topic of astrology is brought up in discussion. Critics of astrology ridicule the idea that earthly events and affairs can be influenced by the way celestial bodies in the universe align.

Although there is little scientific evidence that supports the validity of astrology, horoscopes still have a lot to offer.

Horoscopes are a quick source of entertainment that can easily add a little more fun to your day. Even if you do not follow the advice given in your horoscope, it is still amusing to see what it predicts will happen in your future.

The same logic applies to the topic of fortune cookies. After ordering Chinese take-out, people look forward to opening the fortune cookies that typically come along with their meals. Even if they do not believe their fortune is accurate or take any action after reading it to make it come true, people are nonetheless eager to find out what the little piece of paper has to say.

Though it is ill-advised to make any major life decisions solely based on what your horoscopes say, this does not mean that people should be so quick to dismiss them. Horoscopes can help boost your self-confidence and optimism and, in a world where things can often feel out of control, they can offer some sense of order and guidance. As long as they are taken with a grain of salt, horoscopes are relatively harmless and enthusiasts of astrology should not be mocked for joining in on the fun.

—Kelly Wheeler '21

Share Study Space This Finals Season

Finals season is here, which means the stress to find that perfect place to study is more intense than ever. With classrooms occupied for exams and the influx of students in the library, locating the space one needs for reviewing material is often more stressful than the exams themselves.

This competition leads to all sorts of desperate measures. From attempts to reserve rooms to marking them as their own, students at Providence College have thought of it all, except for the impact their actions are having on their fellow students.

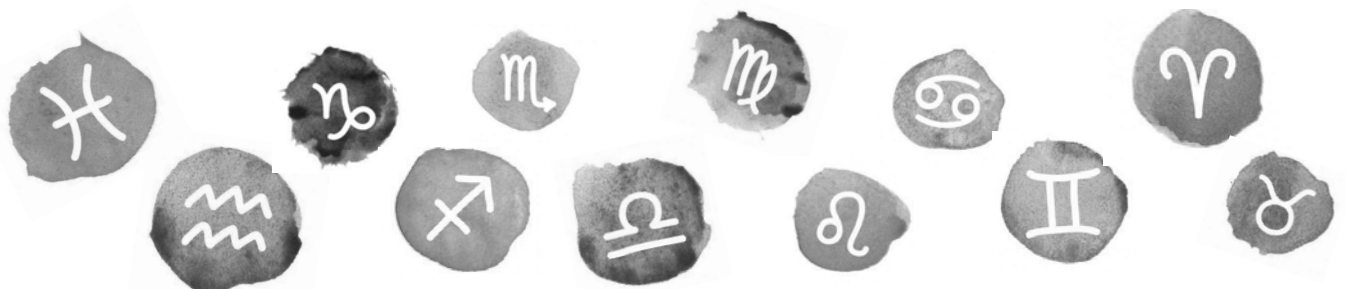
For students who are studying in large lecture halls, it is especially frustrating when others come in, claiming they have a study group there and kick others out. These lecture halls are not owned by the students, and commandeering rooms through these methods is extremely disrespectful.

Similarly, attempts to mark a room as one's own, by leaving their things there, shows a distressing disinterest in recognizing that exams are stressful for all students. This behavior is increasingly concerning when students vacate the room for hours at a time.

Sure, there is a fear that the room will be snatched from their hands, but that does not give them the liberty to prevent others from using the space in the meantime.

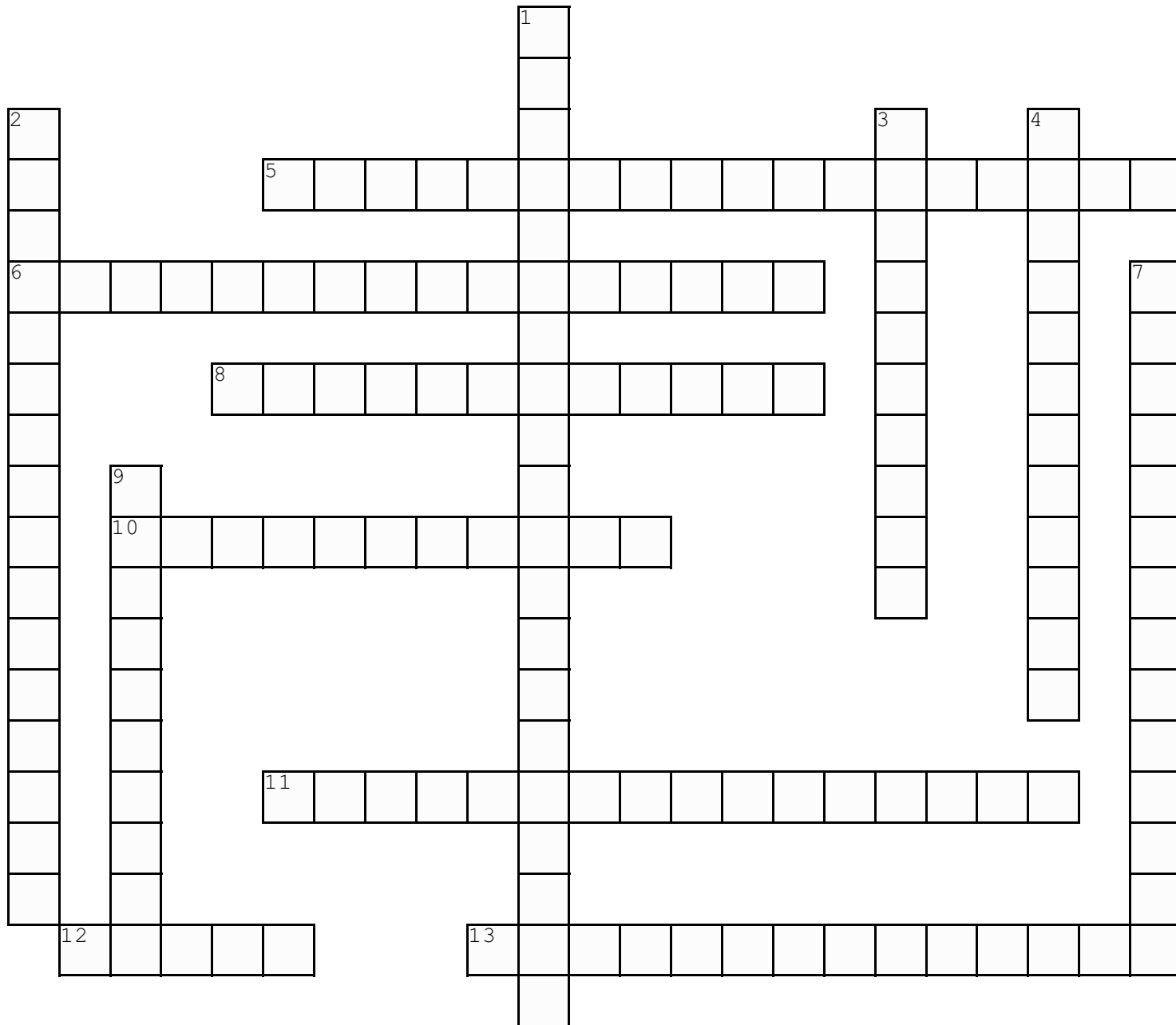
While there is no easy way to eliminate the stress induced by final examinations, we can all do ourselves a favor by sharing the spaces on campus with other students, reducing these worries and helping finals week go much smoother.

—Joshua Chlebowski '21



Complete the Christmas Song

Complete the crossword below



Across

- 5. 'I really can't stay...'
- 6. 'Rockin around...'
- 8. 'City sidewalks, pretty sidewalks dressed in...'
- 10. 'Silent night, holy night all is calm...'
- 11. 'You better watch out, you better not cry...'
- 12. 'I just want you for my own, more than you can ever know all I want for Christmas...'
- 13. 'Here comes Santa Claus, here comes Santa Clause right down...'

Down

- 1. 'Last Christmas I gave you my heart but the very'
- 2. 'A beautiful sight we're happy tonight walking in a...'
- 3. 'Frosty the Snowman, was a jolly happy soul with a corncob pipe and a...'
- 4. 'I want a _____ for Christmas'
- 7. 'Joy to the World...'
- 9. 'I saw Mommy kissing...'

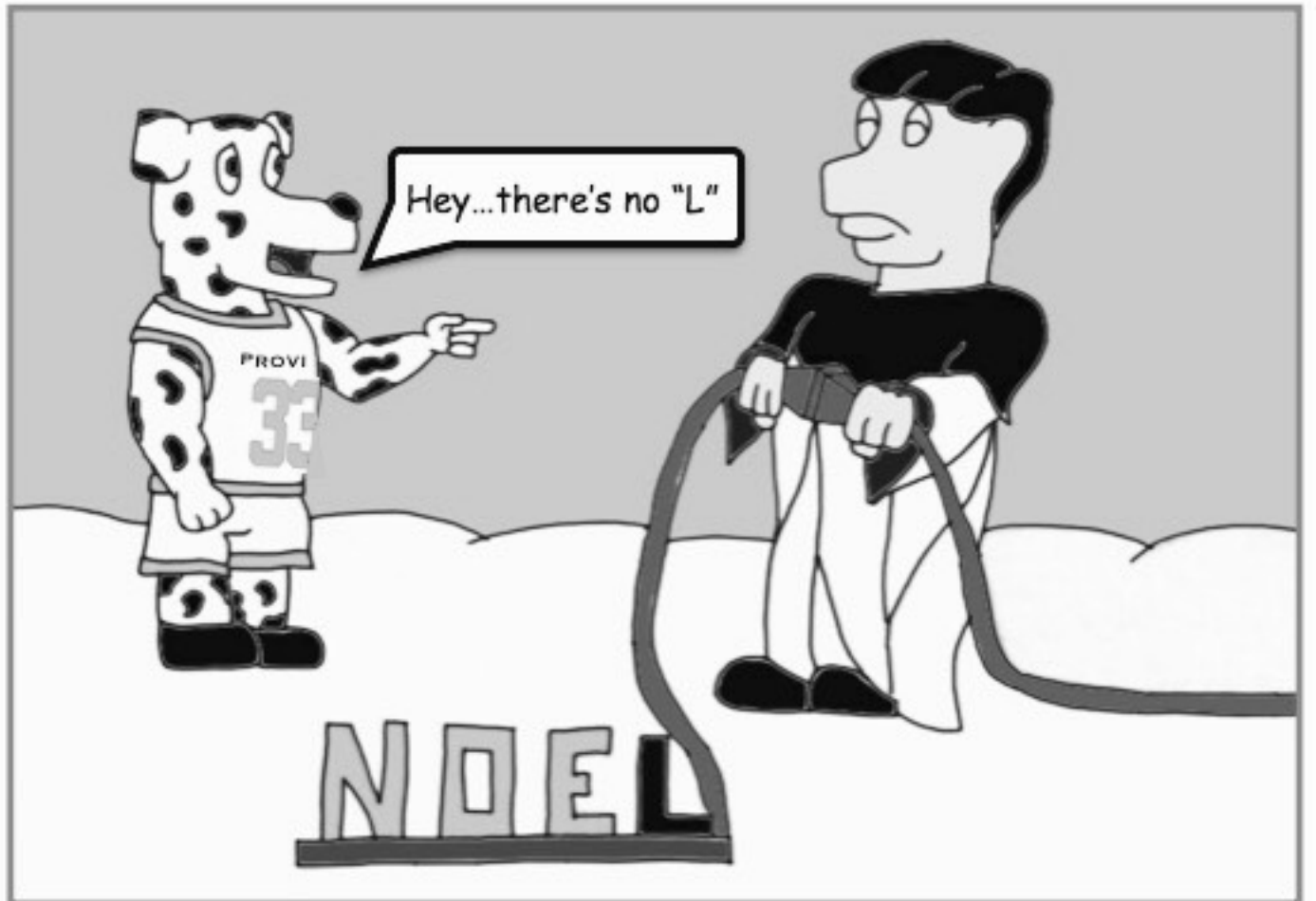
Last Week's Answers

Across

- 2. Bruins
- 5. Huskies
- 7. Raiders
- 8. Quakers
- 11. Cardinals
- 13. Scarlet Knights
- 17. Blue Devils
- 18. Gators
- 19. Spartans
- 20. Crusaders

Down

- 1. Buckeyes
- 3. Cavaliers
- 4. Tigers
- 6. Eagles
- 12. Nittany Lions
- 14. Green Waves
- 15. Wildcats
- 16. Friars



CARTOON BY MARK FAIRCHILD '20

Happy Holidays from *The Cowl!*

Submit your
applications
for next
semester to
[thecowl.com/
join!](http://thecowl.com/join)



PHOTOGRAPHY



CAMERON VILLARUEL '21/THE COWL



CAMERON VILLARUEL '21/THE COWL

ABOVE LEFT: Deyreni Ferreras '22 walks the runway at the Motherland Fashion Show on Friday, November 30.

ABOVE RIGHT: Ashley Maitland '19 poses during the Motherland Fashion Show, which was themed "Embracing Our Identities."

RIGHT: Ryan McIntyre '21 shows off his skating skills at open skate night in Schneider Arena.

BELOW: Nate Watson '21 jumps over University of Rhode Island forward Cyril Langevine to shoot in the first half of the Providence College Men's Basketball game against their in-state rival on Saturday, December 1; Alpha Diallo '20 maneuvers around URI forward Jermaine Harris as the Friars move toward their 59-50 win.



CAMERON VILLARUEL '21/THE COWL



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL

ROVING PHOTOGRAPHY

What is your favorite holiday tradition?



"Decorating the Christmas tree."
Mia Giselle Binuya '22



"Decorating my stocking."
Sean Richardson '20



"Spending quality time with my family."
Jordyn Soriano '21



"Going to NYC with my family."
Felicia Lopez '19



"Cooking Nigerian food."
Goodness Adekoya '19



"Opening one present early on Christmas Eve."
James Germano '22



"The annual Festivus airing of grievances."

-Kramer

PHOTO COURTESY OF NBC

Photos by William Bozian '19, Staff Photographer

A Christmas Carol: Providence's Favorite Holiday Tradition

by Brigid Walshe '19
A&E Staff

THEATER

One of the most beloved Christmas traditions in Providence is Trinity Repertory Company's annual production of Charles Dickens' classic tale, *A Christmas Carol*. For the past 41 years, Trinity Repertory Company (Trinity Rep) has produced *A Christmas Carol*, usually putting their own unique, modern twist on the timeless classic. This year, the theater did a more traditional production of the story set in 19th century London.

Stephen Torne, who has been with Trinity Rep for 19 seasons, portrayed the main character, Ebenezer Scrooge. He co-directed the production last season, as well as portrayed roles in both *Othello* and *Ragtime*.

The production also featured many actors who are currently enrolled in the Brown University / Trinity Rep M.F.A. program, where participating students in the program will receive a M.F.A. in Acting or Directing. There are also two different ensembles in the production that switch on-and-off with every show to portray the various children in the story, the most famous being Tiny Tim.

The coolest thing about this year's performance is that it features a different local choir for their 56 performances during the season. Originally, the artistic team reached out to over 85 different choirs in communities in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts. The choirs that are performing in the production this season are a mix of school, church, community, and college choirs.

The choirs are made up of a gamut of different individuals from all different types of backgrounds. Groups such as the Providence Gay Men's Chorus to RPM Voices represent a local organization who teach and participate in the African American choral traditions.

For the performance on Nov. 30, an A capella group



A Christmas Carol is onstage at Trinity Rep through Dec. 28.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RHODE ISLAND MONTHLY

from the Gordon School, a private school in East Providence, performed wonderfully. The artistic team for *A Christmas Carol* actually had to modify the music in order to account for their adolescent voices. While the choir played a minimal role in the play itself, they had the chance to do their own "solo" during curtain call, which was a great addition.

For the past 12 years, the theater has always ended their performances with Scrooge coming before the audience and asking them to donate to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. This idea came about

back in 2006, when someone suggested that the production should bring to life Scrooge's newfound sense of charity and kindness. This has been a major success for both the theater and organization, which has received more than \$400,000 in contributions from theatergoers over the past decade.

Trinity Rep, which is located in downtown Providence, will be offering performances of *A Christmas Carol* until Dec. 30. Those interested can buy tickets on their website www.trinityrep.com or call their box office at (401)-351-4242.

Beyond Oppression and Struggle: Oscar Films Should Celebrate Black Excellence

by William Burleigh '19
A&E Staff

FILM

Last week, *The Cowl* discussed *Widows*, a new gritty heist thriller from director Steve McQueen, which was released on Nov. 16. *Widows*—which follows the wives of four thieves who die in an explosive armed robbery attempt in Chicago and their scheme to finish the job after their husbands' deaths—has been praised for its direction, screenplay, and performances.

But ultimately, *Widows*' greatest achievement is its ability to offer black actors a cinematic voice through a form of storytelling which they are not frequently offered. Far too often, Oscar-caliber films depicting black stories focus on a far-too-narrow definition of what it means to be authentically black. These films tell stories about racism and racial struggle, which is not necessarily a bad thing, as they are issues that need to be discussed. However, while these types of films are oftentimes told through an uplifting or optimistic lens, they are almost always rooted in sorrow and historical oppression.

Notable Oscar-nominated films in recent years that exemplify this issue are *The Help* (2011), *Django Unchained* (2012), *Selma* (2014), *Hidden Figures* (2016), *Fences* (2017) and McQueen's own *12 Years a Slave* (2013). All of these films were well-received and highly acclaimed. But each of them centers around stories that take place during either the pre-Abolition time of slavery or the pre-Civil Rights era of segregation.

Simply put, these films focus

mainly on black struggle, without looking beyond themes of prejudice in order to pursue the more entertaining, hopeful stories afforded to white actors and filmmakers. This trend is further exemplified this year with Oscar candidates such as *Green Book*, *BlacKkKlansman*, and *If Beale Street Could Talk*.

Green Book, set in 1962 in the deep South, explores the relationship between Dr. Don Shirley, an acclaimed black pianist (Mahershala Ali), and his white chauffeur. *BlacKkKlansman*, which takes place in the early 1970s, focuses on an African-American police officer (John David Washington) who infiltrates the Ku Klux Klan. *If Beale Street Could Talk*, adapted from a James Baldwin novel and set in the early 1970s, examines issues in the criminal justice system through the story of a young woman who sets out to clear the

name of her wrongly accused husband.

These films have all received acclaim and certainly deserved production. However, their focus on telling stories that are almost exclusively interested in exploring the complications of race and racism reinforces the incorrect and harmful notion that tales of racial adversity and suffering are the only avenue through which black creatives can obtain prestige.

Consequently, films that are able to subvert this trend by giving black actors roles in films that do not solely center around racism should be lauded for their achievements. Thankfully, there have been several examples recently, with *Widows* being a prime example.

While *Widows* does offer insightful critiques on classism and police brutality, they are themes more subliminal than heavy-handed and

are presented in a subtle manner that never overwhelms or distracts the viewer from the primarily thrilling storyline. *Black Panther*, one of the most acclaimed films of 2018, is another example of a film with a positive message and Oscar ambitions.

It touches on the history of slavery and white supremacy, but never lets these themes hijack the film's main purpose of being an upbeat and exciting superhero adventure. It celebrates black excellence instead of becoming overly mired in the history of oppression. Likewise, Michael B. Jordan's *Creed* franchise is a series that emphasizes boxing talent over racial identity. The titular Adonis is never limited or constricted by his blackness, but instead judged solely on his ability to become a boxing champion.

Overall, stories about racism and black struggle deserve to be told. They serve as stirring, emotional, and important reminders of the historical struggles that black people have always faced in America. However, putting an emphasis on crisis in black storytelling only contributes to an inauthentic and incomplete cinematic representation of what it means to be black.

Black filmmakers should have the creative freedom to expand the boundaries of black story-telling by eschewing the limited and stereotypical understanding of what constitutes a film that is Oscar-worthy and black.

Films about the lives of people of color do not need to primarily center around slavery, oppression, or racial struggle in order to be considered prestigious. *Widows*, *Black Panther*, and *Creed* are proof of that.



Pictured above: *I Am Not Your Negro*, *Moonlight*, and *Fences*.

PHOTO COURTESY OF EBONY.COM

FORESHADOW: A Serial YA Anthology of Short Stories, Published Digitally

by Sara Conway '21
A&E Staff

LITERATURE

Foreshadow: to indicate a future event. Emily X.R. Pan and Nova Ren Suma, both *New York Times* bestselling authors, used this definition as inspiration to create their own online Young Adult (YA) literary magazine.

Pan and Suma's first connection occurred through Twitter, which possesses an active writing and bookish community. In an interview with *School Library Journal*, Suma states that the two authors were initially brought together because of writing; she was given a chance to read Pan's *New York Times* bestselling novel, *The Astonishing Color of After*, early even before Pan signed with an agent.

On a train ride to Washington, D.C., the authors discovered that they both dreamed of creating an online literary magazine that centered around YA stories. It was here that the idea for *FORESHADOW* was born.

FORESHADOW stands out among other anthologies and online literary magazines as it will have a finite publishing period (hence "serial anthology"). Pan and Suma decided to publish their anthology for one year with the publication of issues beginning in January 2019 and ending in December 2019.

Each issue of the anthology will feature three YA short stories by well-known authors in YA literature, as well as a piece by a "New Voice." This title is reserved for a writer who is emerging in the industry.

FORESHADOW demonstrates a "commitment to showcasing underrepresented voices, boosting emerging writers, and highlighting the beauty and power of YA fiction," as the anthology's main purpose. The team behind *FORESHADOW*, along with the anthology, hopes to "contribute to the changing landscape of young adult publishing to become more inclusive and diverse." The creators are particularly dedicated to highlighting stories told by marginalized and underrepresented voices.

When asked about the significance of the title, "foreshadow," Pan and Suma answer that they "hope that the new writers" discovered in the anthology "will be authors whose books [readers will] covet tomorrow."

This theme of foreshadowing also manifests through the one word titles of the published stories. The anthology asks authors to choose their own title, musing over the question: If you could distill your story into one word, what would it be? Foreshadowing is all about leaving clues; the title of the story indicates to readers what can be discovered or expected when they read on.

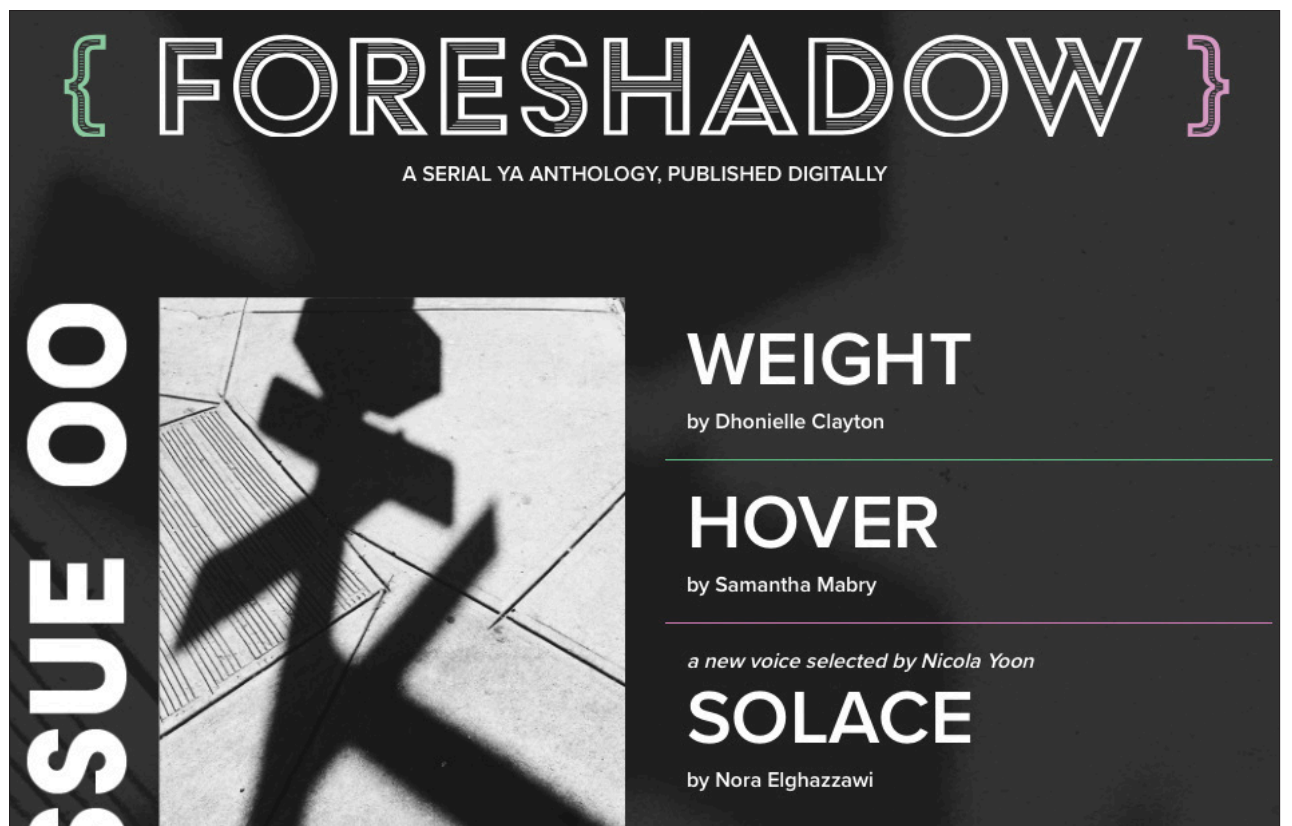
Doing some foreshadowing of their own, Pan and Suma released Issue 00 this past summer in order to give readers a taste of what is to come. Issue 00 features stories by Dhonielle Clayton, author of the *New York Times* bestseller *The Belles*, Samantha Mabry, author of *All the Wind in the World*, which is longlisted for the National Book Award, and the first "New Voice" of *FORESHADOW*, selected by Nicola Yoon. The #1 *New York Times* bestselling author writes of the "New Voice" piece: "In the space of just a few pages, 'Solace' takes us on the

beautiful, hopeful journey of a young woman trying to find her way back to herself. It's a lovely story of new love, recovery, and a magical garden."

The subsequent issues of *FORESHADOW* will follow the example that Issue 00 provides: an established author like Nicola Yoon will "select, introduce, and hopefully elevate new writers."

Most of all, Pan, Suma, and the rest of the *FORESHADOW* team want the stories in their anthology to be read; thus, they created the issues so that the pieces can be easily printed or read offline and accessible to everyone.

Through this accessibility, *FORESHADOW* provides emerging writers the chance to become known to the world. Suma states that both she and Pan had their "first breaks publishing stories in literary journals." She contemplates further that *FORESHADOW* could be the platform for other writers to jumpstart their own writing careers.



Issue 00 of *Foreshadow* features stories from Clayton, Mabry, and Elghazzawi.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FORESHADOWYA.COM

Imagine Dragons *Evolve* From Their Origins

by Julia Vaccarella '20
A&E Staff

MUSIC

Nevada-based rock band Imagine Dragons has released a new album titled *Origins*, a decision which many fans have questioned, considering that it has only been a little over a year since the group's last album release. *Evolve*, which debuted in late June 2017 and included the popular track "Believer," certainly increased the band's popularity, as they experimented with different genres. However, many long-time fans are now questioning whether Imagine Dragons is trying to distance themselves from their alternative-rock sound that originally defined them.

Origins delves deeper into different genres than *Evolve*, which is in large part still heavily rooted in an alternative style. The new record makes multiple attempts to integrate electronic beats into lead singer Dan Reynolds's powerful and unique vocals. Ultimately, the seemingly diverse mix of songs jumbled together in *Origins* has caused disappointment and confusion among listeners. Moreover, many fans have questioned the band's intent.

There are two main points to consider regarding the way Imagine Dragons has approached its new record and the timing of its release. The first is that the band, like many others, is aiming to become more accessible to listeners who may not be as deeply ingrained in rock and/or alternative music. They have



Imagine Dragons' most recent album has deeply polarized their fan base.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MUSIC MAYHEM

done so chiefly by adding more of a pop sound to their music and releasing *Origins* so soon after their last record. Secondly, it is also just as likely that Imagine Dragons is trying to evolve from the style of music that they started their career with.

Despite this, it is almost certain that Imagine Dragons will still do well with *Origins*. Even several weeks after its release, the album still remains in the top 20 of the Billboard 200 charts. Although Imagine Dragons' shift away from rock has upset some listeners, it is likely that the band will continue to thrive. They have shattered multiple records

over the years and emerged in the spotlight with little effort or publicity.

As to be expected, many critics have commented on *Origins* and what the album means for Imagine Dragons going forward. *The Guardian* has offered commentary on the band members' rationale for *Origins*, asserting, "Perhaps it all hints at a gulf between how Imagine Dragons see themselves—fearless sonic explorers and sociopolitical philosophers straining at the very confines of commerciality—and what they are: a band who've hit on a winning formula, where

mainstream pop music is larded with just enough references to classic rock to lure in not just lovers of the Top 40, but the kind of people who normally sniff at mainstream pop."

The fact that some listeners are eager to appreciate anything that Imagine Dragons put out is a testament to what the band has done over the years and who they are musically. While it is sometimes necessary to grow and experiment, many fans are still hopeful that Imagine Dragons will stick to what they do best, rather than deviating from rock and alternative music altogether.

Bruce Springsteen Performance Coming to Netflix

Legend Makes Broadway Show Accessible

by Anne Delello '20
A&E Staff

THEATER

It is safe to say that Bruce Springsteen's venture into the world of theater has been a success. His one man show *Springsteen on Broadway* arrived at the Walter Kerr Theatre on October 3, 2017, and will soon finish on December 15, 2018, following three extensions due to several sold out shows. However, this is not the end. Those who did not have a chance to catch the live show can stream it on Netflix the day after the finale.

The show is loosely structured around Springsteen's 2016 autobiography *Born to Run* and features 15 of his greatest hits from throughout his career. *Rolling Stone* gives a brief summary of the show, saying that Springsteen recounts "his childhood years, his search for a voice and his discovery of rock and roll as the sound of salvation." On stage, Springsteen plays the guitar, harmonica, and piano to perform different renditions of America's favorite hits. He even brings his wife, Patti Scialfa, on stage for a song occasionally.

This past week, Netflix released a trailer for *Springsteen on Broadway*. In the trailer, Springsteen references the harsh yet loving voice of his father, and how it intermingled with the unwavering support of his mother throughout his life.

When describing his career, Springsteen says, "This is your life. I wanted to be able to celebrate and honor its beauty and I wanted to be able to be a critical voice when I thought that's what the times called for." Audiences will be able to gain insight into who the American icon is by

taking a closer look into his life and his career.

The three runs of sold out shows speak for themselves when considering his popularity among the masses and critical reviews that support its success. *Rolling Stone* referred to the show as "an intimate triumph" as well as, "compelling and profound." Moreover, the *New York Times* went so far as to say, "There may never have been anything as real and beautiful on Broadway." *The New Yorker* described it as "a romantic and intimate spectacle."

The show brought in millions for Springsteen. According to the *New York Times*, tickets cost \$510 at face value and the show has grossed over \$76 million during its three three-month long runs.

Even more impressive is the sheer number of people who have spent the money to go see this show, which tops 151,419. This will also increase rapidly when millions of Netflix users are able to watch it. If the success of the show in theaters is any indication, then it is sure to be a hit when the special is released on Dec. 16.



Bruce Springsteen plays the piano during his solo performance on Broadway.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROB DEMARTIN/PLAYBILL

Rapper Earl Sweatshirt Returns to Spotlight

Album *Some Rap Songs* Reveals His Stream of Consciousness

by Peter Keough '20
A&E Staff

MUSIC

Thebe Kgositsile, better known by his stage name, Earl Sweatshirt, is a man who values his privacy. The song "Veins" from his new album *Some Rap Songs* includes the bars "It's been a minute since I heard applause / It's been a minute since you seen or heard from me I've been swerving calls." These lyrics reflect the ebb and flow of Kgositsile's life over the course of his career.

Sweatshirt's rapid ascent to fame at the age of 16 was tied to his association with former hip-hop collective Odd Future, which included notable members such as Tyler, the Creator and Frank Ocean. However, this success came with setbacks, as Earl's celebrity only served to heighten much of his anxiety and mental issues.

Due to the consequences of rising to stardom, Kgositsile's musical creations have been few and far-between over the years. Between his start in 2010 and present day, he has only released a total of four projects. Between releases, Kgositsile tends to lay low and keep to himself. The title of his 2015 release, *I Don't Like S**t, I Don't Go Outside*, perfectly encapsulates this aspect of the rapper's personality.

Because of this attitude, in conjunction with his releases being so sparse, Kgositsile's new album was the subject of a massive amount of hype and speculation. With such a nonspecific title and two sparse lead singles that provided little idea of the conceptual focus or direction of the work, *Some Rap Songs* was somewhat of an enigma prior to its release. After it was released on Friday, November 30, however, it quickly became an extremely



Some Rap Songs comes years after the rapper's last project released in 2015.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES

divisive topic of conversation for rap fans, and for good reason.

Some Rap Songs sits at a total runtime of 24 minutes, with a track list of 15 different songs. The longest of these songs, "The Mint (feat. Navy Blue)" is a mere two minutes and 45 seconds, and the shortest, "Loosie" has a runtime of only 59 seconds.

Craig Jenkins of *Vulture* writes that *Some Rap Songs* "serves compact, brass tacks rap, all hypnotic loops and life lessons, the kind of epiphanies that hit you when you've seen too much of the true

human condition, in strength and in depravity." This analysis really gets at the core of what Kgositsile is seeking to convey on his latest venture.

The rapper's bona fide lyrical focus on the negatives of life that plague him and his psyche are still present on this project. However, this does not mean that the entire thematic focus of his album is on difficulty and despair.

Some Rap Songs portrays a version of Sweatshirt at seemingly the most comfortable we have seen him, as he navigates the 24 minutes of crackling and glitched-out loops of

beats with dexterity and sincerity. He covers topics such as his depression, relationships, and even the passing of his father (renowned poet Keorapetse Kgositsile) with ease, creating in full a project that comes off more as a stream-of-consciousness than a series of separate songs.

The album ends with a fuzzy instrumental guitar and brass track entitled "Riot!" which caps off Kgositsile's personal deliveries with a somewhat sunny and positive outlook on the future, so it seems like things may be looking up.

Wrestling Club

All are invited to join PC's Wrestling Club. Whether you are advance in wrestling or never hit the mat a day in your life, we welcome you to PC Wrestling Club. This is open to all, so stop by and see what we've about.

Come Build a Legacy!

Practice Schedule: Monday @7:30pm, Wednesday @5pm
Friday @ 5pm, Saturday @ 10am
Able to work around your schedule

Location: Peterson Recreation Center

Contacts:

Coachcole401@gmail.com (Coach Mooney) or 401-654-8864
rmastroi@friars.providence.edu (Ryan Mastroianni) or 508-567-7189
boneil@friars.providence.edu (Brain O'Neil) or 617-800-4300



The Food You Love The Name You Trust!

HOME OF THE GANGSTER W 3PS!

BIG TONY'S Pizzeria

\$21.99 Bada Bing Special
20 Wings, 1 Large Cheese Pizza & 2 Lt. Soda
For a limited time. Must mention offer when ordering. Not valid with any other offer. No coupon required.

\$15.99 Two for Tuesday
2 Large Cheese Pizzas with 2 Cans of Soda
For a limited time. Must mention offer when ordering. Not valid with any other offer. No coupon required.

\$6.99 Walk in Wednesdays
All you can eat Pizza Slices (Regular or Gourmet)
For a limited time. Must mention offer when ordering. Not valid with any other offer. No coupon required.

\$14.99 Three Don Deal
3 Full Size Med. Cheese Pizzas
For a limited time. Must mention offer when ordering. Not valid with any other offer. No coupon required.

490-0000
Fax: 401-490-0028

Voted #1 Pizza

5% OFF Student Discount

www.bigtonyspizzeria.com

Delivery till 4:00 AM

Including:
Providence College & RI College Providence - North Providence - Johnston
525 Eaton Street Providence, RI 02908

bop Study Breaks

In McPhail's at 9:00 PM the following nights:

Sunday, Dec. 9: Wings Over

Monday, Dec. 10: Mike's Calzones

Tuesday, Dec. 11: Wendy's

Wednesday, Dec. 12: Chick Fil A

Thursday, Dec. 13: Jersey Mike's

Friday, Dec. 14: Big Tony's

Happy Holidays from BOP!

The Food You Love The Name You Trust!

HOME OF THE GANGSTER W 3PS!

BIG TONY'S Pizzeria

\$21.99 Bada Bing Special
20 Wings, 1 Large Cheese Pizza & 2 Lt. Soda
For a limited time. Must mention offer when ordering. Not valid with any other offer. No coupon required.

\$15.99 Two for Tuesday
2 Large Cheese Pizzas with 2 Cans of Soda
For a limited time. Must mention offer when ordering. Not valid with any other offer. No coupon required.

\$6.99 Walk in Wednesdays
All you can eat Pizza Slices (Regular or Gourmet)
For a limited time. Must mention offer when ordering. Not valid with any other offer. No coupon required.

\$14.99 Three Don Deal
3 Full Size Med. Cheese Pizzas
For a limited time. Must mention offer when ordering. Not valid with any other offer. No coupon required.

490-0000
Fax: 401-490-0028

Voted #1 Pizza

5% OFF Student Discount

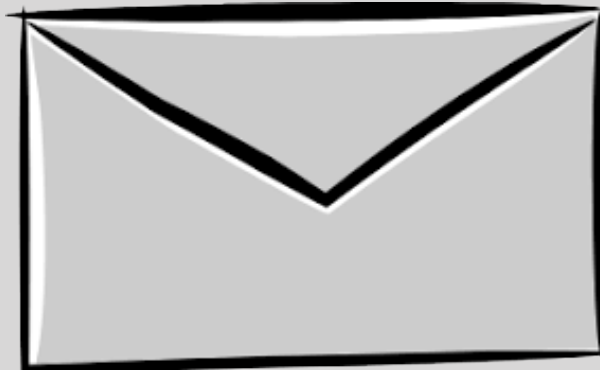
www.bigtonyspizzeria.com

Delivery till 4:00 AM

Including:
Providence College & RI College Providence - North Providence - Johnston
525 Eaton Street Providence, RI 02908

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
TO OPINION@THECOWL.COM



Can't Get Enough *Cowl*? Follow us on social media!



@TheCowl



@TheCowl



@The_Cowl

See Your Ad Here!



Email our Managing Editor at
cowlads@thecowl.com

December 6, 2018

Twenty Friars Named to All-Big East Teams *Soccer Teams and Field Hockey Each Send Five Players*

by Cam Smith '21
Sports Staff

FALL SPORTS

The fall sports season has come to a close, meaning that the time to honor athletic accomplishments is now upon us. All six Providence College Division I teams, who finished their seasons by the end of November, saw players receive All-Big East honors. Three of these six teams saw a whopping five players receive conference accolades.

The PC Women's Soccer Team was one of the teams to nab five All-Big East awards, marking the most in program history. Katie Day '19 is the second PC women's soccer player ever to earn back-to-back All-Big East First Team Honors. The dominant defender started every game for the Friars this season, including one in which she headed home the game-winning goal against Marquette University.

Shelby Hogan '20RS, Kayla Steeves '19, and Hannah McNulty '21 were awarded Second Team Honors, while Hannah Morgan '22 was named to the All-Freshman Team. Hogan had a tremendous year in her second season as the team's goalkeeper, while McNulty led the Friars in goals scored with 10.

On the PC Men's Soccer Team, five All-Big East awards were also handed out. Tiago Mendonca '20RS took home First Team Honors as the crafty midfielder led the Friars in goals (five), points (10), and shots (40). Colin Miller '19RS and Klisman Sousa '19RS picked up Second Team Honors. Miller, the starting goalkeeper for the past three seasons, reached eight shutouts for the second time in his very successful career, finishing the season with nine. Two impressive



PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

Kenney produced on both sides of the field for the Friars this season. The senior was the leader on defense, and also provided five assists on offense.

newcomers in Ramzi Qawasmy '22 and Gil Santos '22 were named to the All-Big East Freshman Team. Qawasmy logged the second-most minutes of anyone on the team while Santos hammered home three goals.

The field hockey team rounds out the squads to pick up five All-Big East Honors, as the team saw one member named to the All-Big East First Team and four named to

the All-Big East Second Team. The team's five All-Big East selections are the second-most in program history. Corinne Kenney '19 was the player to find herself on the First Team. She anchored the Friar defense while also setting a career high in assists with five. Her selection only adds to her long list of accolades, including being an All-Academic Team honoree.

Maddie Babineau '21, Izzy

Mendez '20, Mary O'Reilly '20, and Lydia Rice '19 were the four additional players who garnered All-Big East Second Team Honors. Babineau started all 18 games for PC this year and posted career highs in points (12), goals (three) and assists (six). Mendez accumulated a team-best seven goals, while O'Reilly pitched in 10 points. She also received various academic honors. Rice's lone season in goal for the Friars was a superb one, as she had five shutouts and had the highest save percentage across the entire conference.

Moving away from the field and onto the race course, four different Friars picked up All-Big East Honors for the cross country teams. On the women's side, runners Abbey Wheeler '20, Regan Rome '18G, and Tessa Barrett '18G all finished top 20 at the Big East Cross Country Championships, determining their status as All-Big East. Wheeler capped off a tremendous season with a fourth overall finish in a time of 20:35.3.

For the men, Ryan Gallagher '21 also earned the Honors due to his top-20 finish at the championships.

The final All-Big East honoree was volleyball star Allison Impellizeri '19. She was named to the All-Big East Second Team after leading the Friars in kills (326) and total blocks (86). Impellizeri also ranked fifth in hitting percentage in the Big East.

As the athletic calendar moves to the winter season, the Friars who will take to the court and ice can only hope to match the all-around success of the fall athletes.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

Men's soccer's future is bright with two freshmen, including Ramzi Qawasmy '22, making the All-Freshman Team.

Women's Soccer



Katie Day '19
 Defense
 Big East First Team
 60 consecutive starts to finish career

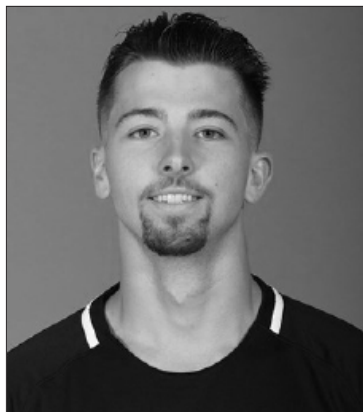
Shelby Hogan '20RS
 Goalie
 Big East Second Team
 10 Shutouts, Tied School Record

Kayla Steeves '19
 Midfield
 Big East Second Team
 Finished season with two goals and three assists

Hannah McNulty '21
 Forward
 Big East Second Team
 10 Goals, Third in Big East

Hannah Morgan '22
 Defense
 Big East Freshman Team
 Started 17 games, most among PC freshmen

Men's Soccer



Tiago Mendonca '20RS
 Midfield
 Big East First Team
 Five goals and 10 points, led team in both categories

Colin Miller '19RS
 Goalie
 Big East Second Team
 Nine shutouts, first in Big East

Klisman Sousa '19RS
 Midfield/Forward
 Big East Second Team
 Finished season with one assist

Ramzi Qawasmy '22
 Defense
 Big East Freshman Team
 Logged 1,783 minutes, second most on the team

Gil Santos '22
 Forward
 Big East Freshman Team
 Three goals and seven points, both second most on the team



PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS
 After a solid freshman year, the future at PC looks bright for Morgan (above).



PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS
 Santos (above) has the potential to be the top goalscorer next year after finishing second this year.

Field Hockey



Corinne Kenney '19
 Midfielder/Defense
 Big East First Team
 Finished season with career-high five assists



Maddie Babineau '21
 Midfield
 Big East Second Team
 Started 18 games, set career high in points with 12



Izzy Mendez '20
 Forward/Midfield
 Big East Second Team
 Seven Goals, first on team



Mary O'Reilly '20
 Midfield
 Big East Second Team
 Set career-high in points with 10



Lydia Rice '19
 Goalie
 Big East Second Team
 .755 Save Percentage, lead all of the Big East

Cross Country



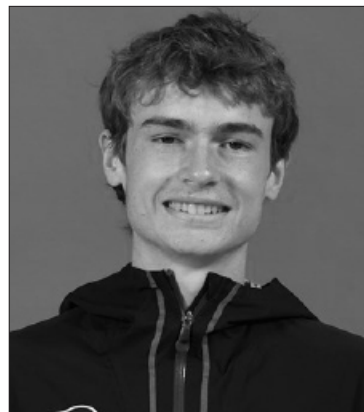
Abbey Wheeler '20
 Big East Honors
 Won NCAA Cross-Country Athlete of the Week twice



Regan Rome '18GS
 Big East Honors
 Finished first on team and 28th overall in the Northeast Regional Race



Tessa Barrett '18GS
 Big East Honors
 Finished 14th at the Big East Championships



Ryan Gallagher '21
 Big East Honors
 Won Big East Runner of the Week after finishing second at the Central Connecticut State University Mini Meet



Allison Impellizeri '19
 Middle Blocker
 Big East Second Team, lead team in kills and blocks

Volleyball



PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

Gallagher (above) was one of the most improved runners on the team this year.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

Despite a rocky season, Impellizeri (above) was able to keep the Friars in most games.

Men's Hockey Beats UNH

by Sam Scanlon '19
Sports Staff

MEN'S HOCKEY

Every Hockey East series, game, and goal are incredibly crucial at this stage of the season. As the halfway point in the 2018-19 season approaches, Providence College's matchup against the University of New Hampshire Wildcats last weekend was no different. The No. 10 NCAA Division I ranked Providence College Friars came into the weekend following a disappointing Thanksgiving trip to No. 7 University of Denver, falling in the first contest and tying in the second.

Friday night's tilt started off on the right foot as Jason O'Neill '21 deposited his second goal of the season just 20 seconds in. O'Neill's wrister came from a low angle and was able to sneak by the UNH netminder to put the Friars up 1-0 early in the game. Following a Josh Wilkins '20 injury, O'Neill had to slide into the first line center role this weekend. Although Wilkins left a large offensive void this weekend, an increase in O'Neill's production is pivotal for an offense who is capable of dismantling defenses across the NCAA.

UNH struck back in the second period as a Friars' powerplay mishap led to a 2-on-1 for the Wildcats the other way. A one timer made its way past Hayden Hawkey '19 and into the back of the net for the equalizer. The rest of regulation would remain scoreless and the Friars would enter their second overtime in a row.

Once again, Hawkey stood tall in



Jay O'Brien '22 scored his first goal in a Friars uniform in a 3-1 win at New Hampshire. PHOTO COURTESY OF PC ATHLETICS

his crease making 23 saves, including a number of acrobatic ones down the stretch late in the third period and throughout overtime. Unable to capitalize past the opening 20 seconds, the Friars had to settle for a second straight tie.

Game two appeared to be more of the same, any sort of offensive production was hard to come by. Dominating the Wildcats in shots, UNH was able to capitalize on their first high quality chance in the second period on the powerplay. The third period was well underway and the Friars still had not been

able to find the back of the net. However, the timely spark came from an unlikely source as all 6'6" of Vincent Desharnais '19 took a feed from Brandon Duhaime '20 in the high slot and sent it past the UNH goalkeeper to tie the game at one with just over nine minutes left to play.

For the second night in a row, a 1-1 scoreboard hung over center ice in the waning moments of the game. With a little under three minutes left to play, Duhaime took the puck and found the speedy 2018 Philadelphia Flyers' 1st round draft pick (19th

overall), Jay O'Brien '22, streaking down the ice. O'Brien, who has been unable to find the back of the net this season, broke in on a breakaway and slid it across the goal line with 2:32 left in the contest. Following the game, Head Coach Nate Leaman reflected on the goal in his post-game press conference by saying, "big finish for Jay O'Brien. That was great for him to get his first goal at a time that we needed him."

Spenser Young '20 provided the insurance tally as he netted his fifth marker of the year. The final score was 3-1 and the Friars were able to grind out a huge 4-point weekend in the Hockey East. Leaman added, "[I'm] really proud of the team how they stuck with it and found a way to win a game on the road...It's nice that the guys came back and responded with a good team win."

The Friars close out the first half of the season on Friday with a contest against Merrimack College before heading into break. The action picks back up just after Christmas as they travel to Dartmouth College to participate in the 2018 Ledyard Classic. They will take on Ivy League opponents Brown University and Dartmouth University, two games that the Friars should use to get their offensive weapons back on track.

A weekend series against Miami University (OH), a team that Hawkey kept off the board in Erie, Pennsylvania, is next in January followed by a critical weekend against Hockey East foes Boston College and Boston University just before the Friars return to campus. A stretch that can propel the Friars into a successful second half run is within reach.

Women's Hockey Clinches Mayor's Cup

by Gavin Woods '22
Sports Staff

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

On Dec. 4, the Providence College Women's Hockey Team added to their already impressive record with a staggering 8-0 road win over the Brown University Bears at the 24th Mayor's Cup. The Friars are now 14-3 and hold the eighth position in the top 10 Division I women's team standings.

Providence bounced back in a big way, following their disappointing 1-2 loss to the University of Connecticut Huskies. The Friars first found the back of the net with an unassisted goal with 10:53 to go in the first period by Emily Landry '19. Providence then followed up with a beautiful assist from Sara Hjalmarsson '22 to Cassidy MacPherson '19 before the end of the period.

The Friars continued to push the puck early in the second period, resulting in Hayley Lunny's '21 rebound goal from Annelise Rice '21. Roughly four minutes later, PC capitalized on a powerplay when Meaghan Rickard '20 found Kate Friesen '19 to extend their lead to 4-0 with 12:21 left in the period.

The Friars showed no signs of slowing as the final period began. MacPherson secured another goal, this time unassisted, just 1:59 into the third period. Maureen Murphy '21 was next with a goal, assisted by Christina Putigna '19 with 9:25 left in the game. In the final five



Emily Landry, who scored the Friars first goal, moves to block a shot against UCONN. NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL

minutes, Ciara Barone '22 scored, and Caroline Peterson '22 scored her first career goal for PC off an assist from Murphy.

For the Friars, the story of the game was possession. Head Coach Matthew Kelly emphasized, "Moving our feet and moving the puck—that was the biggest thing. We were working

the puck low to high." When asked how the team was able to shut out Brown's leading scorer, forward Sena Hanson, Kelly responded, "We were definitely playing more offense than defense, and I think that helps. It also limits the chances that a player like that can get." Even when PC was on defense, they remained composed

and dominant throughout the game. Obviously, the shutout points to an impressive display by both the defense and goalkeepers Madison Myers '19, with 12 saves in the first two periods, and Clare Minnerath '20 with three saves in the third.

Despite the contradictory final score, Kelly did have praise for the Bears of Brown, saying, "They've had some big wins this year. Look at some of the teams they beat: Cornell University, Colgate University, and the University of Connecticut. They are a team that, if you give them time and space, will be opportunistic with their chances."

This was no ordinary game, however. The Friars faced off with the Bears for the 24th installment of the annual Mayor's Cup. The Mayor's Cup was created to celebrate the exciting rivalry between two talented teams in Providence. Brown took the first Mayor's Cup in 1966, with a 4-3 win. The Friars, however, have now won the last five meetings, and lead the Bears 11-10 in the series. Kelly seems to think the trophy on the line may have contributed to success for the Friars, "Definitely different when you're playing for a trophy. It always amps everybody's focus and attention to detail. It's fun. We had one of these opportunities back in the Nutmeg Classic, and we won that. So, we had some experience, going for a trophy."

The Friars look forward to the Crusaders of the College of Holy Cross, facing off with on Friday, Dec. 7 at Schneider Arena.

Providence College Investigates:

Who will win the College Football Championship?

Clemson University Tigers

by Sullivan Burgess '20
Sports Staff

PCI

This year in the 2019 College Football Playoffs, the no. 2 Clemson University Tigers (13-0) will win the National Championship in Santa Clara, California. While the road ahead may be tough, the Tigers have the tools and skills to be victorious at the end of the season.

In their first matchup of the playoffs at the Cotton Bowl in Arlington, Texas, the Tigers will face the University of Notre Dame, who is the no. 3 seed at 12-0 this season. Meanwhile, on the other side at the Orange Bowl, the No. 1 seed University of Alabama will face the no. 4 seed University of Oklahoma.

While the game against the Fighting Irish will be tough, the Tigers will ultimately succeed. Clemson's offense and defense have been unstoppable this season, with six potential NFL first round picks next year.

Though they were off to a slow start, the now-starting quarterback, Trevor Lawrence, has proven to be a threat one game at a time, adjusting quickly to any situation at hand, ultimately increasing their confidence. This season, Clemson has scored at least 27 points or more



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE MCCARN

Clemson has had the best defense all year, but the offense will bring them a championship.

in all 13 of their games.

On the defensive side of the field, the Tigers are allowing the least amounts of yards per games in the country, at 2.40 yards. Their defensive backs have been nothing

but quick in their strategy which allows them to beat their opponents. Clemson has managed to force nine interceptions this season.

The Tigers' defensive line has been the best in all of college football.

Clemson as a team is third in the country in sacks with 45.

Against a team like Notre Dame, who has no down field threats, Clemson's front seven will be looking for them to run, which only plays into the Tigers' strength. Teams have averaged 93 rushing yards per game against Clemson, which is third lowest in college football.

Notre Dame's offensive line will need help against the strong pass rush, which will cause their tight ends to come in to block, freeing up the Tigers' linebackers to make plays.

After defeating Notre Dame, the Tigers would look to take on Alabama for the third time in the last four years. In 2016, Alabama defeated Clemson 45-40 in the championship game, then one year later Clemson came back and won 35-31.

Alabama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, hurt his ankle against the University of Georgia in the Southeastern Conference Championship, allowing Jalen Hurts to return to the starting lineup and rally back from a 21-point Georgia lead.

Overall, these are two well-coached teams with good quarterbacks and defensive threats that can pressure offense. They both will prove to be extraordinary football teams, but Clemson will win for the second time in the last four years.

University of Alabama Crimson Tide

by Thomas Zinzarella '21
Sports Staff

PCI

With the college football season nearly over, all eyes will turn towards the four-team College Football Playoff which boasts no. 1 University of Alabama Crimson Tide, no. 2 Clemson University Tigers, no. 3 University of Notre Dame, and no. 4 University of Oklahoma Sooners. My pick to win this year's playoffs is the Alabama Crimson Tide.

Why Alabama? The Crimson Tide has been one of the best college teams for the past decade, winning the College Football Playoffs last year. Alabama also has one of the best coaches in the country, Nick Saban, who owns a 5-2 overall CFP record. Alabama will square off against the No. 4 University of Oklahoma Sooners, a team that has been hyped around QB Kyler Murray and deservingly so. Murray, this past June, was drafted into the MLB by the Oakland A's with the ninth overall selection in the first round.

Murray has carried his skills from the diamond to the gridiron with his elusive quickness and power of arm that she has shown as a centerfielder. Murray is the projected winner of the Heisman Trophy, which is awarded to the best College Football Player every year.

The opening game against the Sooners should be a great test for Alabama. There may not be a better coach in the offensive game than Lincoln Riley. The Sooners are averaging 49.5 PPG which is no. 1 in the country. The concern is going to be the defensive side of the



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN COX/GETTY IMAGES

It is going to be a tough task for any team to upset Alabama, who has played well on offense and defense.

ball. Oklahoma did bring in former East Carolina University Head Coach Ruffin McNeill, who has pushed the Sooners defense to new levels, especially in the Big 12 Championship win against the University of Texas. The Sooners defense will have to hold off the no. 2 offense in PPG in Alabama, who averages 47.9 points. The Tide also holds a spoil of riches in the quarterback position with Jalen Hurts and Tua Tagovailoa. It was

a reversal of the National Championship game when Hurts came in for the injured Tagovailoa and marched the Tide to victory over the University of Georgia in the SEC Championship game last weekend.

The Sooners may be the toughest opponent that the Tide will have to face, especially because Oklahoma has been playing better since the firing of defensive coordinator Bob Stoops.

The Tide will have to face the Clemson Tigers or the Notre Dame Fighting Irish, both teams that Alabama has beaten in championship games before. The Tide will have their hands full with the Tigers since they arguably have the best defense in the country with a lot of speed on the defensive line. Either way, it should be an entertaining College Football Playoff, with Nick Saban hoisting the trophy once again.

Women's Basketball Starting to Find Stride

Team Goes 1-1 at the Ocean State Tip-Off Tournament

by Scott Jarosz '21
Sports Staff

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Providence College Women's Basketball Team had mixed results at this year's Ocean State Tip-Off Tournament. The tournament consisted of all four Division I teams in Rhode Island, including the University of Rhode Island, Brown University, Bryant University, and PC. This year, the tournament was held on the URI campus at the Ryan Center from Dec. 1 to Dec. 2.

PC's women's basketball team came into the Ocean State Tip-Off Tournament with a three game winning streak and a 3-2 record overall. The previous three wins came over Sacred Heart University, Boston College, and Yale University. PC's first test in the tournament was a first-round game against URI, a team that also boasted a 3-2 record entering the matchup. The game tipped off at 12 p.m. on Saturday. PC came out of the gates somewhat slowly, shooting just 11/28 (39.3%) from the field in the first half. Despite its low field goal percentage, PC managed to hold its own in the first quarter, trailing 23-19 at its end. PC struggled much more in the second quarter, scoring just 11 points while URI scored 18. PC's struggles could be contributed in part to turnovers, as the team racked up 13 of them in the first half. By the end of the first half, URI led PC 41-30, with Maddie Jolin '19 and Jovana Nogic '19 leading PC in scoring with eight points each.

PC came back far stronger in the second half, outscoring URI 19-17 in the third quarter and 16-14 in the fourth quarter. Unfortunately, the team's strong second-half effort was



CAMERON VILLARUEL'21/THE COWL

Earlette Scott '22 was inserted for the first time into the starting lineup versus Bryant after scoring a season high of nine points against URI.

not enough to overcome the first-half deficit; PC eventually fell to URI by a score of 65-72. PC's record dropped to 3-3 on the season but

there were some positive takeaways for the team. Nogic finished the game with 20 points, including six three-point field goals. Forward

Mary Baskerville '22 also notched a career-high point total of 11 points and retrieved eight rebounds.

Jolin added 10 points and six rebounds for the team as well. After the loss, PC went on to play Bryant University in a consolation game on Sunday.

Sunday's game versus Bryant also tipped off at 12 p.m. at PC. Bryant entered Sunday's matchup with a record of 2-5. This time, PC was more than ready to play and started the game strong. The team outscored Bryant 19-10 in the first quarter and Nogic continued to play strong, scoring 10 points in the first half alone. The team boasted a 53.8 field goal percentage, shooting 14/26 from the floor. At the half, PC led Bryant by a score of 33-31.

Bryant continued to challenge PC in the second half as both teams scored 21 points in the third quarter. However, PC was ultimately able to distance itself in the fourth quarter, outscoring Bryant 18-12. PC won the game 72-64 and improved its record to 4-3 this season. The team has now won four of its last five games. Nogic continued her impressive performance in the second half, adding 12 more points for a game-high total of 22 points. Another player who helped power PC's offensive attack was Andrea Cooper '21, who tallied eight second-half points and finished with 14 total points. The team now looks to prepare for its next game, which is scheduled to take place Saturday, December 8 against University of Massachusetts, Lowell in Lowell, Massachusetts.



CAMERON VILLARUEL'21/THE COWL

Kaela Webb '22 gave the Friars 12 points off the bench in the two tournament games. Webb has averaged 7.7 points per game, the most out of the PC freshmen.

A Look Around Friartown

Men's Basketball:

12/1 vs University of Rhode Island, win 59-50

12/4 at Boston College, win 100-95

Upcoming:

12/7 vs University of Massachusetts-Amherst

12/16 vs University of Central Connecticut

Women's Basketball:

11/29 vs Yale University, win 59-42

12/1 at University of Rhode Island, loss 65-72

12/2 vs Bryant University, win 72-64

Upcoming:

12/8 at University of Massachusetts-Lowell

12/15 Northeastern University

Men's Ice Hockey:

11/30 vs University of New Hampshire, tie 1-1

12/1 at University of New Hampshire, win 3-1

Upcoming:

12/7 at Merrimack College

Women's Ice Hockey:

11/30 at University of Connecticut, win 4-1

12/1 vs University of Connecticut, loss 1-2

12/4 at Brown University (Mayor's Cup), win 8-0

Upcoming:

12/7 vs The College of the Holy Cross



PC Takes On Northeast Rivals

by Jack Belanger '21
Sports Co-Editor

MEN'S BASKETBALL

With conference games less than a month away, it is easy for Friar fans to look forward to seeing the Providence College Men's Basketball Team get another chance to upset Villanova University and Xavier University in front of the home crowd at the Dunkin' Donut Center. After having played against weaker competition in Iona University and Fairleigh Dickinson University, teams who, to the average fan, are fairly unrecognizable.

Yet, as the calendar turned to December, the Friars had three games in a row against northeast teams that Friars fans love to hate.

On Dec. 1, the Friars faced off against in-state rival University of Rhode Island at the Dunk in front of a sellout crowd. PC was looking for revenge after the Rams snapped the Friars' seven-game winning streak last season at the Ryan Center in Kingston, Rhode Island. Both teams have brought new faces into the rivalry as a total of six freshmen played in the game. URI also featured a new coach in David Cox after long time coach Dan Hurley left to coach at the University of Connecticut.

PC got the early jump out of the gates led by A.J. Reeves '22. Reeves scored eight of the Friars' first 10 points, including back-to-back threes to force URI to call an early timeout. PC controlled both ends of the court and finished the half leading URI 39-27. Reeves would lead the Friars in scoring for the day with 15 points.

Both teams struggled to score in the second half as they combined to make only ten shots. PC's zone defense held the Rams to 20 percent shooting in the second half, while only going 1-11 from the three-point line. Cox credited PC's physicality for forcing URI to miss some easy shots. PC's offense was equally as bad as the Friars were able to score 20 points in the half but managed to keep the game just out of reach for URI. Head Coach Ed Cooley referenced the defensive battle as a "typical PC-URI rock fight."

On a day when Alpha Diallo '20 and David Duke '22 drew most of the defensive attention, and combined for nine points, it was the under-the-radar performance from "silent assassin" Isaiah Jackson '19RS that made the difference for the Friars. Jackson, who began the season in the starting lineup but has since been coming off the bench, played 26 minutes and gave the Friars 13 points and nine rebounds in a game where points were hard to come by.

"He is such a calming influence," Cooley said of Jackson, "he doesn't say much, he just produces. Whether it's a free throw, a loose ball, a big three, he is always communicating. He's our leader."

URI brought a full-court press with less than five minutes left with the game still in reach, but the Friars were able to make enough plays down the stretch to win 59-50 and finish the home stand at a perfect 3-0.

Three days later, PC faced off against the Boston College Eagles who have also gotten off to a hot start this season coming into the game at 6-1. The Friars were looking to win at Chestnut Hill for the first time since 2004, when

Cooley was an assistant coach for BC.

Once again, PC's offense came out hot scoring 39 points in the first half, but struggled to slow down the Eagles who had four players score seven or more points, including nine from star player Ky Bowman, as Boston College dropped 43 in the half. Nate Watson '21 led the Friars in scoring at the half with eight points to go along with six rebounds.

The Friars took advantage of the Eagles' lack of size throughout the game. BC was missing their 6'11" forward Nik Popovic due to injury. PC scored 44 points in the paint as Watson had a double-double, recorded 19 points and 10 rebounds.

In the second half, BC took a seven-point lead early after a Bowman layup to make it 53-46 in favor of the Eagles with 17:03 left to go in the game. The Friars fought back to take the lead on multiple occasions as the score would go back and forth down into the final minutes of the game.

With 11 seconds to go, the Friars found themselves down 84-87 with one last chance to send the game into overtime after a Friars timeout.

With the clock running down, Duke ran the ball down the court and found Reeves coming off a screen at the top of the key for a last second three to tie the game at 87 and force overtime. Reeves finished the game with 24 points, which was the most for PC.

In overtime, the Friars had the lead for most of the five minutes and kept the lead at hand by going 9-14 at the free throw line to outscore BC 13-8 and win the game 100-95, the Friars first true road victory of the year.

The Friars, now 7-2, will take on the University of Massachusetts-Amherst Minutemen on Friday, Dec. 7 at home. The Friars lost in Amherst last season 72-63.



NICHOLAS CRENSHAW '20/THE COWL
Reeves finishes a reverse layup for two of his 15 points against URI.

THE PORTFOLIO EXPRESS



Starlight

by Jessica Polanco '20
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

It was 4:30 in the evening and Lorrinda was relieved to go home. It was her first day at work, and she was exhausted. Despite the traffic, she got home just in time to make dinner for her family. Once she entered her home, she headed straight to the kitchen and connected her phone to the aux to play her favorite Christmas song, "All I Want for Christmas is You" by Mariah Carey. She pulled out the pots from under the stove and began prepping some salmon and peeling potatoes. She sang and sang while she cooked so that she forgot about how long and exhausting her first day at work was.

Suddenly, the doorbell rang, and Lorrinda made her way to the front door. Eli and Sophia were pulled into their home by the aroma of the food cooking. They threw their book-packs and jackets to the side and ran into the kitchen. "MOM!!! You're cooking our favorite dish! YAY!!" Their smiles spread from cheek to cheek, and the innocence in their eyes illuminated a warmth in Lorrinda's heart. "Yes babies," and gave them both kisses on their foreheads, "how was school?"

"Good mom, today we wrote our letters to Santa. I told him that I want the new Lego collection, and the Heelys in all black. I even promised him that I will make him cookies and milk if he comes mom!" yelled Eli.

"Yeah Mom, it was so fun. I told Santa I wanted a mermaid tale blanket in purple and the Bratz doll collection. I even prayed in my head before I signed it. I've been good all year so I think Santa will come Mami!" screamed Sophia.

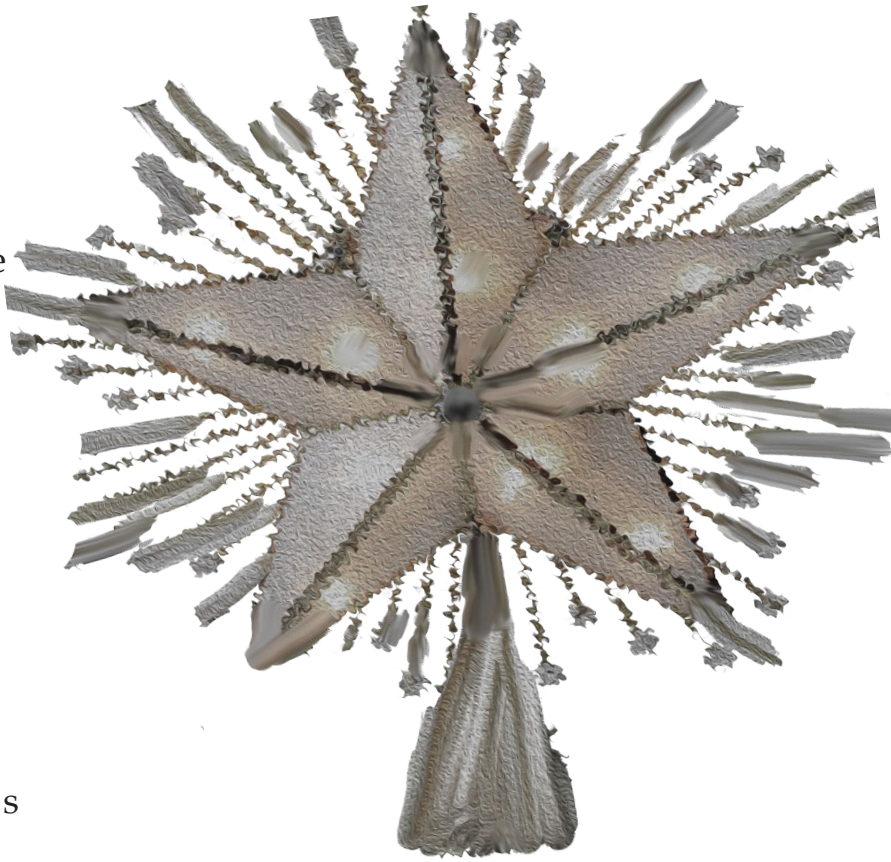
Lorrinda laughed while she began plating the mashed potatoes. "Oh, I don't know babies, we'll see if

Santa comes and pays us a visit this Christmas. We can definitely make him some cookies for his visit."

"I hope so Mami, you say he will come every year but he never does!" pouted Eli.

"I think this Christmas will be a good one, don't worry." She said smiling, knowing that this year would be the first year she would be able to make it special for her twins.

During dinner, Joey came in. He was dressed in his construction clothes. Eli and Sophia screamed, "DAD!!!!" He tried to smile back at his family but the exhaustion was married to his facial expression.



Lorrinda kissed him and mentioned that his food was in the microwave. "Thank you, my love. I'ma go shower and then come back down to join you guys."

The Polar Express was playing on the TV once Joey came back downstairs. He grabbed his dinner and joined his family on the blanket laid on the floor. The children began to drowse off and minutes later the snores began to take control of the room. Joey finished his plate and returned to the living room floor. He tucked himself in after checking if Eli and Sophia were good, and smiled proudly. Lorrinda made sure all the Christmas lights were on. As she clicked the Christmas tree lights

on, she grinned at the fact that she was finally living the holiday the same way her friends would boast about during this time of the year. She strolled to where her family laid sound asleep. Lorrinda cuddled behind Sophia and closed her eyes and prayed to her Savior before she fell asleep.

Suddenly, a warm breeze ran through the living room and Sophia woke up crying. Her cries were accompanied by the fire alarm screaming. Joey's eyes burst open like a dropped eggshell. He jumped up, carried Eli from the floor and yelled "WAKE UP! WAKE UP! WE HAVE TO GET OUT NOW!" The fire trucks sirens were getting more and more intimate. Lorrinda finally woke up from her deep sleep, she began crying and whispered, "Why is this happening to us?" She knew she would not get an answer and picked up Sophia from the floor and ran outside. Taking a glance at everything they worked so hard to finally have, her looks kissed them warm goodbyes. Every item she glanced at formed a deeper pond of tears in her vision. It made it harder for her to see and the smoke in the house did not make it any better.

The Calderon's finally made it outside. They stood shivering above the snow, witnessing their house get watered down, noticing everything had gone with the fire. Eli and Sophia sobbed, the innocence of their eyes left without any warning or remorse. A firefighter approached the family with a long face. "I'm sorry Mr. and Mrs. Calderon, everything in the house is gone. You and your family are welcome to go to the Crossroads Family Shelter nearby. If you need any transportation, we will be glad to drive you."

"Thank you," Joey said, barely. The firefighter continued, "The only thing that survived was the starlight topper from the Christmas tree."

Fast Fiction

What is the True Meaning of Christmas?

Insuring your roof
from reindeer damage.
by Connor Zimmerman '20

This ugly year is over,
Christmas oncoming.
by Sam Ward '21

Children experiencing
the magic of believing.
by Gabriela Baron '20

Celebrating together
and never alone.
by Sam Pellman '20

Playing in the snow at
21 years old.
by Dawyn Henriquez '19

A way to keep Santa fed.
by Sarah Kirchner '21

PHOTO COURTESY OF WALLPAPERCAVE.COM AND SPACETIMECUBEVIS.COM

A Christmas to Remember

by Julia Zygiel '19
Portfolio Staff

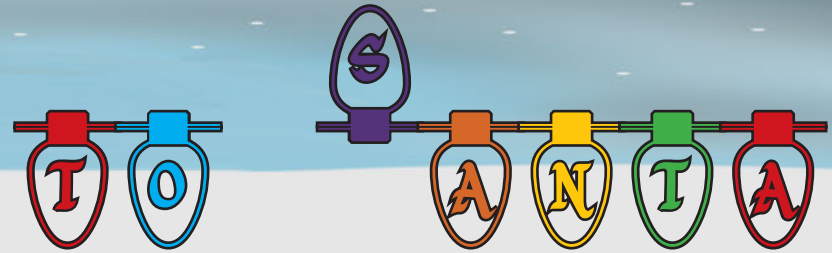
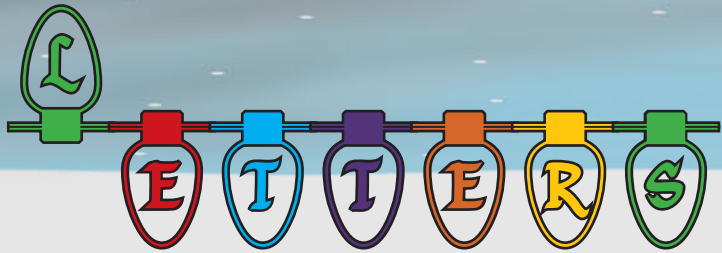
FICTION

Black ice stripes the concrete path to our front door. The rest of the snow from the mid-December squall has already melted, but the ice remains, filling my head with visions of broken hips and legs. Our son-in-law has offered time and again to salt the driveway and path, but Lottie always interrupts my "yes please," insisting that we can do it ourselves, forgetting the fact that neither of us could lift those heavy bags, or push the machine without throwing out our backs. Stubbornly she insists, and stubbornly she has held onto my heart for 51 years.

Ensuring that my steps are rooted, I make it to the door and pat my thighs to remind myself of the small velvet box still burning a hole in my pocket. I enter to a chorus of Merry Christmases. Lottie sits at the head of the table, like she has since our first Christmas in the home we built together. I kneel down next to her seat, and worry briefly that I won't be able to stand up again. Her knotted fingers caress my cheek, and she smiles coyly, announcing to our descendents that her beautiful boyfriend has finally arrived. I fumble around in my pocket and reveal her engagement ring, swathed in velvet and glowing like the moon. Her hands suppress a gasp and I think I see a flash of recognition in her dark brown eyes. Foolishly, I tell myself she's remembering my first proposal 46 years ago, the same as this one, only carried out on sturdier limbs.

Before I can ask she whispers yes, beating me to the punch like always. The ring clicks softly as it knocks against her golden wedding band. She doesn't notice. We kiss, and I am grateful to remain silent. Tears have taken my words hostage. She cries of happiness, and we embrace. The air fills with sighs and sobs of a family that may soon be forgotten.





Dear Santa,

I already talked to one of your helpers (I'm old enough to know he's not the real deal) but I thought I'd write you a note just in case he forgets to tell you. This Christmas, surprisingly, I don't want any presents. I don't want action figures, movies, comic books, or gadgets. Nothing. All I really want is my family to come back. When I first woke up and saw they were gone, I was super happy. I could finally have some peace and quiet. I was the man of the house; I went grocery shopping, put on after shave, and did some, uhm, "redecorating." But after a little bit of freedom, I started having a change of heart. I miss my parents. I miss Megan, Linnie, Jeff, and even Buzz. I want to see my cousins, my aunt...and Uncle Frank if you get around to it. I really don't want to be home alone anymore. Especially on Christmas; no one should be alone on Christmas. I know you are very busy this time of year, but I'd be so thankful if you could help bring my family back. I promise I've been good!

Thanks Santa,
Kevin McCallister

Dear Santa,

I have a bit of an unconventional Christmas request this year.

I just took my last exam of the semester and I'm pretty sure I failed. So, I've decided to drop out of college and become an elf. I know what you're thinking—that I should stay in school, that I couldn't have possibly failed that badly, that there are so many other possible jobs I could go for even if I were to drop out of school. Well, I've already made my decision. And I'm assuming my parents aren't gonna be that happy about it, so I figured the safest place for me to be once I break the news to them is as far away from them as possible (i.e., the North Pole).

But listen, Santa, I'm not just trying to take advantage of you here. I really do think I'm qualified for this job. For one, I'm pretty short, so that automatically puts me far above a lot of the other candidates. I also have tons of experience eating large quantities of sugar in a single sitting, which I'm sure should count for something. Finally, I have a talent for procrastination, so you could hand me any job and I'll be able to keep myself busy for the whole year (because, really, what else do you do all year when it's not Christmas?).

In conclusion, I would make a fantastic elf.

Sincerely,

Your Future Favorite Elf

P.S. - I'll be waiting with my bags packed on Christmas Eve. See you then!



Dear Santa,

There are a few things I want for Christmas this year, but I'll warn you, they are more abstract than tangible. But you're magical so I know you'll be able to pull it off. First off, and this one's pretty tough; I'm going abroad this next semester and I'm worried. I'm worried my dog won't remember me. So what I would like you to do is make her able to teleport. So whenever I need one of her snuggles, I can just teleport her to Paris. This way, my mom won't get too mad and I'll make sure she can never forget me. Plus, I'll take her on walks around the Eiffel Tower and she'll be immersed in the Parisian lifestyle. Secondly, I would like it if you could make my stomach full after one meal so I can control my unhealthy overeating habits. It gets really embarrassing when my stomach is growling in the middle of an exam. I can't keep coughing to cover it up anymore. I also would like if you made my skin tan all year long because everyone knows you're happier when you're tan. Lastly, and this one is important: I want you to make sure no one is alone on Christmas day. This one is big because no one deserves to be alone, especially on the most magical day of the year. Christmas is about giving and not so much what you receive. I think the presence of the ones who love us is more than enough to make this magical day even more magical. I know these are tricky tasks, but I know you are equipped to make them come true. Make me proud Santa.

Your favorite,
Sam

Dear Santa,

I am writing to inform you that, per our agreement, you are to deliver an Xbox One as well as three trending games to my home on the 24th of December, or Christmas Eve. The cookies and milk will be placed on the kitchen table, the presents should be placed underneath my family's Christmas tree.

*****PLEASE ENSURE TO MARK THEM WITH MY NAME!!**

Otherwise my dumb younger brother will surely claim them as his own, and he can't even get to the top 10 in Fortnite.

If you recall last year's events, I asked for a Nintendo Switch and you did not deliver as promised. My parents regretfully informed me that it was due to my unsatisfactory grades in math. Luckily, they covered for you by giving me a Switch and the Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild game for my birthday. I assure you that my grades this year are adequate for something as simple as an Xbox One, and if you fail again I will not be as lenient as I was last year.

You may see me when I'm sleeping, but I know where you live.

Sincerely,
Lucas



The Family Tree

by Connor Zimmerman '20
Portfolio Editor

PROSE POETRY

Each needle properly in place. All the lights strung and shining. Tinsel showing the reflection of the people standing around the tree. They look at it one last time before they decorate it, bare but beautiful.

Amanda goes to grab her guitar ornament, the acoustic with a guitar wire as its string. She walks around the tree, looking for the perfect spot, as the ornament dangles between her fingers. As she looks, the memories flood her mind. Belting out the chorus to Brown Eyed Girl with her father in the car, her dad showing her how to string her guitar for the first time, her family at her first open mic event at the coffee shop 10 miles down the road. She finds a spot on the right side of the tree, and hangs the ornament from two branches (just for safety).

Dan is digging through the boxes until he can find his favorite ornament. He finally finds the ornament of a cast that was at the bottom of the box. Whenever he sees it, he laughs. He was hospitalized last Christmas with a broken leg, and his family stayed all of Christmas Eve with him. When he woke up there was a present on the table near him. It was the ornament of a cast with a note that said, "We will always be here for you, even when you're broken." He hangs it proudly on the front of the tree right in the center.

One by one the memories decorate the tree. Instead of the ornaments weighing the branches down, the connections and bonds that they represent make it look stronger to them. Finally, Mom and Dad grab the angel in the last box. Dad climbs the ladder, as Mom hands the angel to him. As he puts it on top of the tree, a tear falls down his eye. To explain to his kids why their grandfather had passed away a couple of Christmases ago, he told them that he was an angel that would always watch over them. He said that even though he couldn't be at Christmas anymore, he was there in spirit and that this angel was the way that he could be there with them during Christmas.

When they look at the tree, they don't see the decorations. They see their hopes and their struggles. They see the connections they have with one another. The tree may change every year, but the memories do not. They look at the tree one last time before they go to bed, full of life and love. This is their family tree.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABY

by Mark Fairchild '20
Portfolio Staff

CARTOON



BELIEVE IN SANTA

by Sarah Kirchner '21
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

"Do you believe in Santa, Alexa?" I asked my sister under the sheets of our couch fort. We laid on the cushions eating Santa's cookies and drinking his milk. Mom and Dad were up in bed already, and I convinced Alexa to stay with me until we saw Santa.

"Harry, that's a ridiculous question." My sister laughed and squeezed my hand. "Why?" Sometimes, I didn't understand Alexa. Teenagers were always weird. Alexa said so. She said all the guys were smelly and filled with hormones, except her boyfriend. I didn't know what hormones were, but my parents talked about them a lot too. They said Alexa's were crazy right now. I thought my sister was the exception, though. She seemed normal to me. Whenever I came home from school, she would play cards with me. She taught me all sorts of cool games, like Gin and Spit. They were more sophisticated than Go Fish and War. Alexa treated me like I was her age, not a little kid like my parents thought.

"Well, Harry, it's a complicated answer." She turned her head to look at me. "Do you believe in Santa?"

"Of course! I don't see how else we'd get all those presents every Christmas. Mom and Dad aren't that creative to find us gifts like Santa gets us."

Alexa laughed, "That's very true."

"So, do you?" I pressed on. Alexa didn't seem as into the magic of Christmas this year. When we were decorating the tree, she looked happy, but she kept looking at her phone. She was always calling or texting someone. My parents said it was because she was a teenager and sometimes they forget about having fun, but Alexa loved having fun. She picked out the Christmas tree with us when we had the first snowfall. She and I ran through the rows of trees playing hide and seek. I thought that

was fun, but as soon as we got into the car she would pull out her phone.

"Of course, Harry," Alexa sighed. Her phone buzzed next to her and she quickly sat up to read the text. Immediately, her smile turned around.



"What's wrong?" Her voice cracked, and I squeezed her arm harder. Jake was her boyfriend. She always talked about him and was texting him. I met him a few times. He seemed cool; he just didn't like playing with me like Alexa did. He lived next door, so they were always spending time together.

"What about him?"

"He doesn't understand Christmas like we

do, buddy. I don't think he believes in Santa." She gave me a smile, trying to keep the mood light.

"Why not?"

"He thinks it's all stupid."

"I don't think it's stupid. I think we're lucky someone always wants to bring us toys once a year," Alexa laughed at that. "And we get to eat lots of good food," that made her laugh even more. I smiled at her, happy to see her like that. She deserved someone who believed in all the magic like she did. I knew she believed in the magic. Jake was taking that from her this year, and that wasn't fair to my sister. "He's probably on the naughty list. You shouldn't be with someone on the naughty list. He seems stupid."

Alexa let out a long breath. "I think you're right, Harry." A tear fell from her eye, but I quickly brushed it away with one of our blankets and handed her another cookie. "Thanks, buddy."

"I think we need more cookies for Santa."

"Let's get on that then. We'll quickly make some right now, before Santa comes." Alexa jumped up and hit her hand on the cushion. I laughed and crawled up with her, "I love you, Harry." She pulled me in for a strong hug.

"I love you too! But we gotta get going on those cookies if we're going to make sure Santa gets some! It's almost midnight!" I shoved away from the hug. "He could be here any minute!" Alexa kept laughing at me. "I'll go check the Santa tracker on the computer so we know how much time we have." I started out of the fort, but Alexa caught my arm and pulled me back in for another hug.

"Merry Christmas, Harry."

"Merry Christmas, Alexa," I shook my head at my sister. Teenagers were so weird.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CLIPART.INFO AND PINTREST.COM

Christmas Poem I

by Sam Ward '21
Portfolio Staff

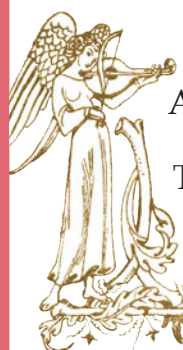
POETRY

Though, first and fifteenth left no guarantee,
Wrapped presents with bows stuck under the tree,
But the sentiment meant so much more to me.
O holy Child of Bethlehem

More than the Xbox or bikes you bought,
The treasures would be for naught,
If it had not been for your careful thought.
Descend to us, we pray

When the snow carries the day away,
I know spirits rise from eternal decay,
A holiday mood not present yesterday.
Cast out our sin and enter in

And when tomorrow comes, hold me still,
Make sure I act with goodwill,
The change does not start on Capitol Hill.
Be born to us today.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NORTHLECHRISTMAS.COM

by Erin Venuti '20
Portfolio Staff

PROSE POETRY

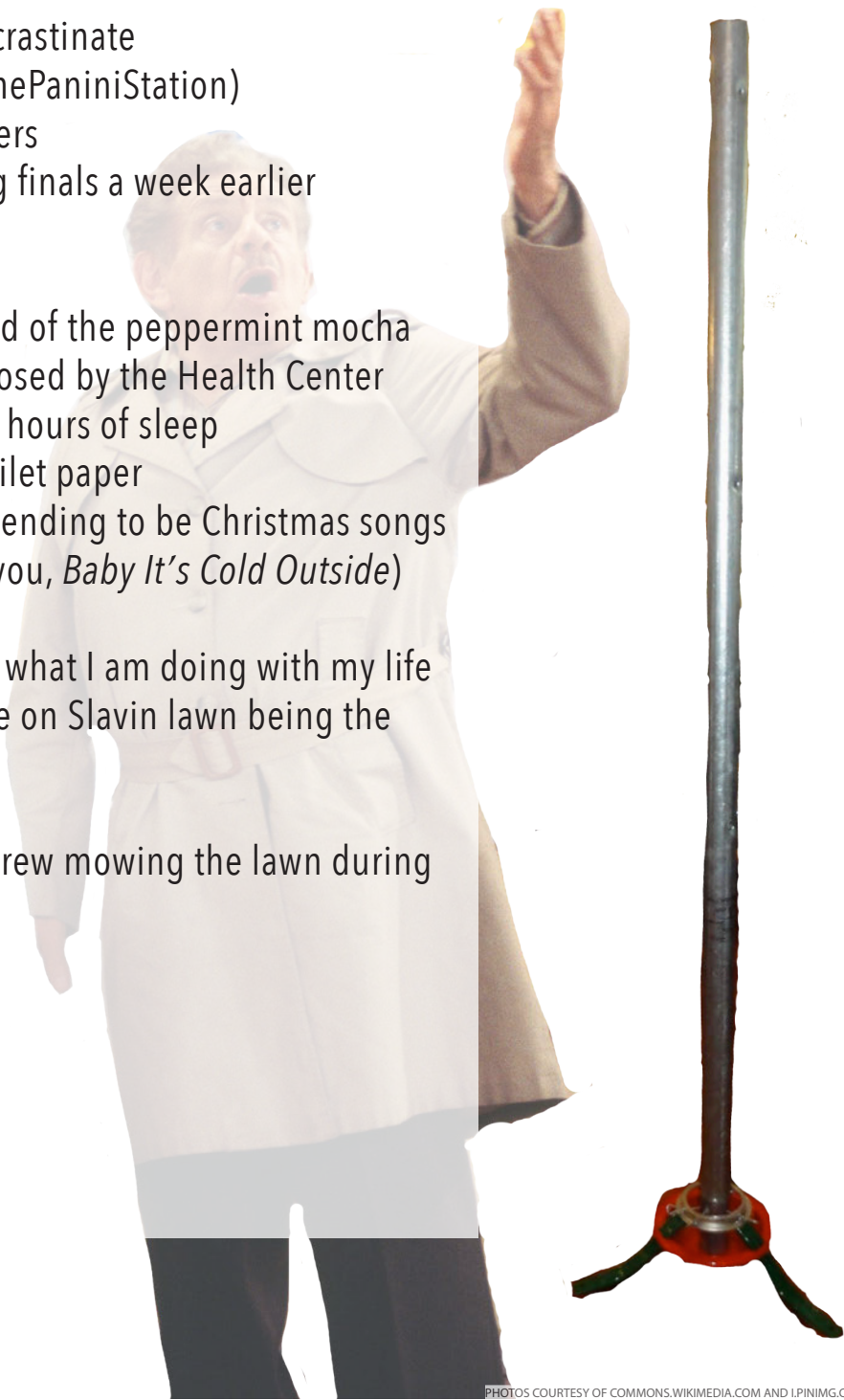
With each Christmas season, the sky descends upon the earth, sprinkling the world with stars. As she drives through town, she passes constellations on either side of the road — berries of light growing in gardens, golden icicles draped from roofs, the curious, childlike flicker of a candle in the window. In the town center, the elms disappear and are replaced by spirals of yellow, narrow where the trunk should be and blossoming outward as far as the branches might stretch.

The radio sings quiet carols and she can't help but listen in silent awe. She's seen 21 Christmases and for each one she's been a different person: an infant, still wrapped in swaddling clothes herself; a girl with a toothy grin and a bow, eager to see what Santa will bring tonight; a young woman, simply grateful to be home. But the lights are always the same, the same houses, the same bushes, the same trees. They've come to remind her, even on the coldest nights, the lights will still shine.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PICSART.COM

The Festive Airing of the Grievances

- All I can do is procrastinate
- Ray (#BringBackThePaniniStation)
- Ban electric scooters
- Professors moving finals a week earlier
- Saturday finals
- Dorm fines
- Dunkin' getting rid of the peppermint mocha
- Getting misdiagnosed by the Health Center
- Running on three hours of sleep
- Running out of toilet paper
- Winter songs pretending to be Christmas songs (We see through you, *Baby It's Cold Outside*)
- Secret Santa
- Family asking me what I am doing with my life
- The Christmas tree on Slavin lawn being the size of my thumb
- Group projects
- The landscaping crew mowing the lawn during the winter



PHOTOS COURTESY OF COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.COM AND LPINIMG.COM



Dear T + E,

My friend and I cannot settle this debate. He claims that *Die Hard* is just a movie that takes place during Christmas, while I argue that Christmas is one of the integral themes in this amazing movie. I was hoping you both could settle this debate. Is *Die Hard* a Christmas movie?

Yippee ki yay,
Christmas Lover

Dear Christmas Lover,

Die Hard is my personal favorite Christmas movie of all time. Around the holidays, I always watch it with my family while we decorate. It's such a fun tradition! My kids always love when the line comes up, and I scream, "Yippee Ki Yay Mother Lover!" at the top of my lungs. We then watch the *Silent Night, Deadly Night* saga!

Merry Christmas!



Tiffany

Dear Yippie Lover,

There's really no debate here, so please ignore that idiot Tiff. *Die Hard* isn't a Christmas movie any more than my mother is one of Santa's reindeer. If you want an action movie at Christmas, look no further than *Krampus*. After all, instilling deep fear into young children is the best way to prepare them for the harsh realities of the real world. Rudolph, eat your heart out.



Watch out,

EARL



GRAPHIC DESIGN BY CONNOR ZIMMERMAN '20

**Tiff & Earl are fictitious & satirical characters. Their answers do not reflect the views of Providence College or The Cowl.*

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WECLIPART.COM, MOZIRU.COM, AND STATIC.GRAINGER.COM



SANTA'S COMING

