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APRIL 2, 2009

Administration Aims to Seek Student Input

BY DEVIN MURPHY '10
NEWS EDITOR

In effort to improve communication with the student body, Chris Fortunato, associate vice president of Student Affairs and dean of students, implemented several new programs to bring administrators and students together.

"From day one my first priority was to establish more meaningful connections with students," said Fortunato. "I think the more opportunities to do that the better."

The new program includes conversation stations and informal luncheons with Fortunato and other administrators. The conversation stations will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Fishbowl in the Slavin Center and in Aquinas Lounge. The informal luncheons will be held in Raymond Hall Cafeteria on Wednesdays from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

"Students shouldn't always have to come to Slavin Center," said Fortunato.

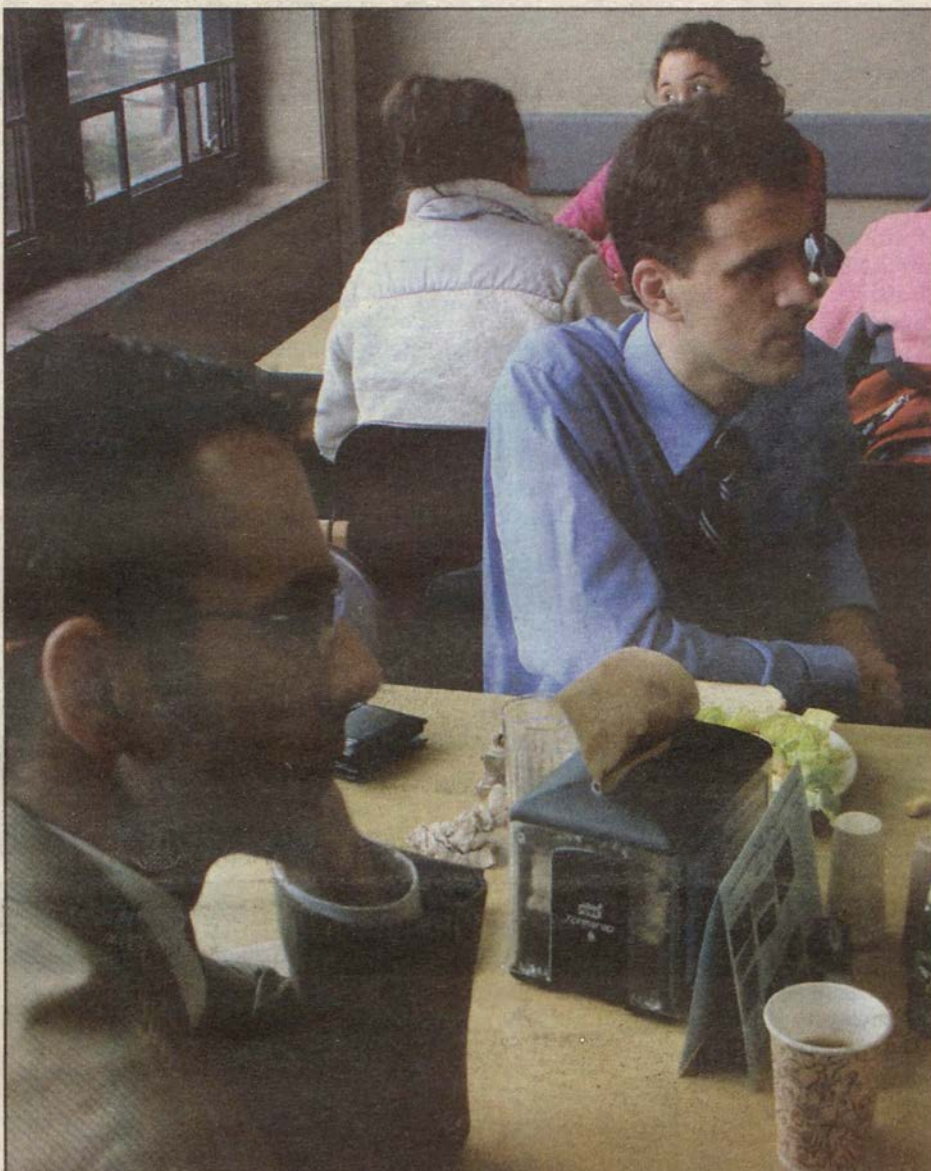
"On a personal note it's also one of the best things I get to do," said Fortunato. "There are 3,800 students at Providence College and we want to make sure we are hearing as much as we possibly can from all of them."

Eventually every dean and director on campus will take a turn at the conversation stations and the luncheons.

There is also a new dean's corner on the College's Web site where students can leave comments and questions for Fortunato. He said he has already begun receiving some.

Fortunato described the traffic at the conversation stations as fairly light last week. However, he said he told administrators to expect student traffic not to

LUNCHEONS/Page 7



MATT LONGOBARDI '10/The Cowl

Chris Fortunato, associate vice president of Student Affairs and dean of Students, and Steven Sears, Ph.D., dean of the Office of Residence Life, field student questions at an informal luncheon on Wednesday, April 1.

POTVIN SPEAKS AT FFE CONFERENCE

BY ALLISON O'CONNOR '10
NEWS STAFF

On Saturday, March 28, Providence College Future Friar Executives [FFE] held the third annual Business Conference, entitled "Pathways to Success."

FFE has been nominated as "Most Outstanding Organization in 2007 and 2008." Due to its contribution to the College community, its creativity, planning, organization, implementation, promotion, and appeal to the student body, last year's Business Conference was nominated as "Most Outstanding Event 2008."

"Pathways to Success" was open to students from all majors and grade levels at the College, and was designed "to further educate students to take their learning experiences out of the classroom and into a more professional business-oriented environment," said Elizabeth Ross '09, who worked as conference co-chair.

The event was held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Moore Hall, and included a wide variety of sessions from which students could choose to attend. Workshops included financial guidance, marketing and advertising, sales, investing, and choosing a career path. A "3 Under 30" panel was held from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. in which "young alumni spoke about the transition from PC to the real world, their experience at school, and how it has added value to their current profession," said Kevin Higgins '10, conference co-chair.

The panel was a great opportunity to connect students with various alumni, hear their stories, and learn from their experiences.

"Every speaker touched on the liberal arts education they received here and how it has helped them," said Higgins. Young alumni informed current PC students about how their Providence education has contributed to their current professional success, and has provided them with information and tips on entering the workforce after graduation.

"The succession of events was seamless, and can definitely be attributed to the hard work of the committee," said Jessica Pepin '10, FFE member.

The highlight of this year's Pathways to Success Business Conference was keynote speaker Brian Potvin '91, who currently works as senior account executive at Procter & Gamble Co. At PC, he was actively involved as a member of Student Congress and Friars Club.

"I really felt that PC gave me a great

FFE/page 4

Relay for Life Raises Over \$118,000

BY LAUREN BALLBACK '11
NEWS STAFF

Peterson Center was the most popular spot on the Providence College campus on March 26. Nearly one quarter of the Providence College student body gathered in the gym for the

College's annual Relay for Life. From 6:00 p.m. on Friday to 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 27, 891 students took part in the relay. Teams of students took turns walking around the track in the gym for 12 hours to raise money and awareness for the American Cancer Society. By the end of the night all the PC participants raised \$117,218, more than any other college in Rhode Island. As a result of continued online fundraising, PC's Relay for Life had raised over \$118,000 by Wednesday, April 1.



KELLY PHILIPS '11/The Cowl

Cancer survivors took the honorary first lap at Relay for Life to kick off the marathon fundraising event for cancer research.

"Last year we raised around \$63,000 and so our goal this year was to get to \$80,000, and we surpassed that on bank night," said Ari Rilovich '11, co-

chair of the event. "But we kept that a secret. And then the day of Relay, the

RELAY/page 5

INSIDETHECOWL

World	8
A&E	16
Commentary	19
Roving	23
Portfolio	25
Sports	28

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World
Obama rethinks Middle East policies

Page 8



A&E
Get on the flavor trippin' bus with A&E

Page 16



Sports
LAX stays undefeated in league play

Page 32

Women Will Hosts Guest Speaker on Eating Disorders

On Wednesday, March 25, Women Will sponsored an eating disorder panel discussion in the Aquinas Hall study lounge. Keynote speaker Betsy Cable, a social worker in Rhode Island specializing in mental health, eating disorders, adoption, and addiction, led the discussion.

"We want to make it so students on the PC campus can talk about something that is as taboo as eating disorders," said President of Women Will Whitney Henderson '09.

Cable, who studied psychology and social work at Connecticut College and Boston University, is a licensed social worker and a mother of four. Coming without a prepared speech, Cable discussed personal life experiences and her knowledge of eating disorders. She noted that when she was in college, eating disorders were not spoken of.

"It's so great that eating disorders are being discussed in college settings," said Cable. "When I was in college, I hadn't even heard of them."

Cable touched on all kinds of eating disorders, including anorexia, bulimia, and compulsive overeating. She also discussed symptoms of eating disorders, ways to confront or help a friend with an eating disorder, causes of eating disorders, and culture and media in relation to eat-

ing disorders.

"The media portrays a distorted image of beauty which definitely has an effect on eating disorders," said Cable.

After Cable's speech, students asked questions and shared personal stories about eating disorders.

"The discussion made me realize how prevalent eating disorders are, especially for college kids," said Holland Martini '12. "You realize how severe eating disorders can get if they aren't recognized."

Cable's relaxed manner while discussing such an intense topic definitely eased the tension in the room.

"The speaker's easygoing-ness and openness to the topic added to the comfortable and safe environment for people to speak up about their concerns," said Bridey Elliott '12. "I'm grateful to have sat through such a talk."

According to Cable, as many as 10 million females and one million males in the United States are estimated to be battling eating disorders such as anorexia and bulimia. Approximately 25 million more are struggling with binge eating disorder.

"It's tough to give up an eating disorder because in many cases eating disorders serve as coping mechanisms," said Cable. "If one person is helped to some degree by this, it's worth it."

— Meghan Conway '12

BOP and Balfour Center Sponsor Festival for Unity Week

Providence College Unity Week 2009 was kicked off on Monday, March 30, in '64 Hall with an ethnic food festival. The event was sponsored by the Board of Programmers, specifically the multicultural committee, Ali Slachta '10, John Sullivan '09, Mikaela Manning '11, and Amanda Vargas '10.

"BOP wanted to join with the Balfour Center for Multicultural Affairs to help get Unity Week started this year," said Slachta. "Providence has so many great ethnic restaurants and we thought bringing in such delicious food would be an awesome way to get everyone hyped for Unity Week."

The food festival consisted of Peruvian, Indian, Portuguese, Greek, Jamaican, Thai, Chinese, and French food. Set up in buffet style, there were stations for each cuisine set up around the perimeter of '64 hall, surrounding round tables for students at which to sit and eat. The food included *arroz con marisco* from Machu Picchu, Chicken Tikka from Rasoi, Moussaka from Andrea's, Ziggy Marley Wings from Tina's Jamaican Caribbean Restaurant, vegetable lo mein from Red Ginger, nutella crepes from La Creperie and more. Students were also entertained with ethnic music.

"I attended last year and the food was great," said Gregory McQuade '10. "I was really excited to come again this year."

While sampling a variety of international dishes, students listened to

Edward Twyman, Ed.D., dean of Multicultural Affairs in the Balfour Center, discuss the importance of diversity on campus.

"If you don't have the ability to go out and make friends with different backgrounds, you put yourself at a disadvantage," said Twyman.

While thanking those involved in Unity Week 2009, Twyman also discussed the value of giving back to the community and doing things for others on campus.

"We have a responsibility to give back to others," said Twyman. "The question is, are you able to put your own issues on the back burner and help someone else?"

Twyman mentioned that Unity Week consists of learning about diversity through educational programs and fun activities such as the food festival.

"I'm very pleased about the amount of diversity among students who are involved in Unity Week," said Twyman. "Students seem to be really interested in supporting this cause."

Information pamphlets were available at each cuisine station explaining what some of the foods were, cultural facts, and nutrition.

Many students took advantage of the food festival as a chance to eat something new and hang out with friends.

"I'm so happy to see different ethnic groups sitting together at the same table."

— Meghan Conway '12

CAMPUS CALENDAR

APRIL 3 - 9

3 Fri	4 Sat	5 Sun	6 Mon	7 Tues	8 Wed	9 Thurs
5:00 p.m. PC A Cappella Invitational, Slavin Center, '64 Hall	12:00 p.m. PC Women's Tennis vs. Sacred Heart, Providence College, Varsity Tennis Courts	2:00 p.m. <i>Urinetown</i> , Smith Center for the Arts, Angell Blackfriars Theatre	6:00 p.m. OAS Workshop Series: Public Speaking, Phillips Memorial Library, 223	9:00 am - 7:00 p.m. Blood Drive, Slavin Center, '64 Hall	4:15 p.m. Future Friar Executives Board Meeting, Slavin Center, 112	4:15 p.m. Holy Week: Mass of the Lord's Supper, St. Thomas Aquinas Priory
8:00 p.m. <i>Urinetown</i> , Smith Center for the Arts, Angell Blackfriars Theatre	8:00 p.m. Mr. Providence College Pageant, Peterson Recreation Center, Fieldhouse	6:00 p.m. Harlem Renaissance, Slavin Center, McPhail's	6:00 p.m. Class of 2010 Congress Meeting, Slavin Center, 114	10:00 p.m. Rejects on the Rise Comedy Show, Smith Center for the Arts, Blackbox Theatre	7:00 p.m. Speaker: Dick Hoyt, Slavin Center, McPhail's	
					7:30 p.m. College Republican Meeting, Slavin Center, Room 112	



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Accuracy Watch

The Cowl is committed to accuracy and carefully checks every article that goes into print to ensure that the facts are presented clearly and truthfully. If you find an error in any article, please e-mail the editor at thecowl@providence.edu. Corrections will be printed as necessary on page 2.

Cotter Trying to Keep City Libraries Open

BY TED DeNICOLA '11
NEWS STAFF

Tom Cotter '10, a Public and Community Service major, has taken action for a cause that he believes affects the Providence College community. He is working in favor of the Providence Community Library [PCL], which is trying to save the City of Providence library system.

SPECIAL FEATURE

"There is a battle over control of the Providence libraries," said Cotter. "The Providence Public Library Association [PPL] currently controls all branches of libraries in Providence."

According to Cotter, because of budget cuts and a current power struggle, the PPL wants to close five of the nine libraries.

The community congress is heavily involved in this controversy. The Smith Hill Community Development Corporation, Chad Brown CDC, and Elmhurst CDC meet once each month to support the PCL plan. Their concerns have been presented to Mayor David N. Cicilline.

"There are nine libraries in total that need to be saved," said Cotter. "In response to this, the Providence Community Library has formed."

"Councilmen and Providence Mayor David Cicilline are leaning toward the PCL plan," said Cotter.

The PCL is a non-profit organization with a streamlined administration. Increased revenue will come from this shift in authority. Currently, the PPL takes pays its top five members \$450,000 combined.

"That is pretty high for a non-profit organization," said Cotter.

The PCL wants to decentralize the administration of the current library system. They are also seeking to cut the number of administration members, along with their salaries. They do



SARA SPIRITO '11/The Cowl

Tom Cotter '10 stands outside of closed library in Providence.

not, however, want to cut the number of staff members.

"A library is social capital," said Cotter. "It only adds to the value of a community. The PCL has received the budget plans for the PPL. They have found out that the funds only sustain the three regional libraries and the main city library's daily activity until June of this year."

Cotter has been working to publicize the PCL's efforts to keep the libraries operational.

"I'm just a guy," said Cotter. "Technically I could be a part of it [the PCL]. I have been doing a lot of getting the word out and conditioning," said Cotter.

The PCL has a viable solution for keeping these libraries open. The four-branch library system would not be able to handle the number of patrons who them. According to Cotter, the PPL spent over \$2 million dollars renovating these buildings in 2000.

Cotter said that the PCL's system of

keeping the main Providence library branch downtown is similar to that of Boston's library system.

"Having regional branches run by a different organization, in this case the PCL, is the same system that serves as a success in Boston," said Cotter. Cotter has personal connections with the Smith Hill Library, where he works.

"The Smith Hill Library has the only public Internet access in the area for both kids and adults on Smith Hill," said Cotter. "The libraries are a safe place for kids to occupy after school in a time when afterschool programs are being shut down left and right."

The city is expected to adopt either the PPL's plan or the PCL's plan for the libraries in July 2009.

"Basically, we can only wait on a decision until then," said Cotter.

According to Cotter, the PPL suggests that schools and libraries should be collaboratively run.

It was suggested at an open forum that Providence College should help to keep the libraries operational. The suggestion is just a tentative idea as it was not brought up during the board and budget meetings.

According to Cotter, the PPL wants to transform the four remaining libraries into community centers.

"They would probably be used for after school programs," said Cotter. "These clearly are not serious ideas. They are only trying to blow sunshine at us. These libraries are always packed, especially after school. When the economy is this bad, we need more libraries. They are essential to promoting education, and providing afterschool care for children and the resources that people would otherwise not normally have."

Cotter explained that in this recession we cannot afford to forfeit education. Afterschool care is not as affordable as it has been in the past, and parents are working longer hours and taking pay cuts in order to ensure that

they remain employed. Parents need a place where there are both supervision and resources to manage their children while they are working.

"As a community, Providence College can surely recognize the needs of our neighborhood," said Cotter.

Cotter wants to see the Providence College community become more directly involved in helping to save the city's libraries.

"The Providence College community is a superpower in this neighborhood," said Cotter. "One of the biggest things that we can do as students is sign petitions and let the government bodies know that we are interested in this cause. I would encourage the student body to sign the online petition. The more, the merrier."

Cotter said that there are four steps that the PCL is encouraging the community to take advantage of and to support it.

First, sign the petition on the Web site, <http://libraryreform.wordpress.com/>. Next, ask at least two other Providence residents to sign the petition. Third, contact any neighborhood organization you belong to or work with. Lastly, write a personal letter to the Mayor.

The PCL's goal is to send one hundred personal letters to the mayor in order to help its cause. According to the PCL, they do not even have half of these letters in hand.

Cotter suggests visiting <http://providencecommunitylibrary.org> and <http://libraryreformgroup.wordpress.com> for more information regarding the battle for control of the Providence libraries. Anyone interested in joining Cotter is encouraged to e-mail him at tcotter1@providence.edu. Anyone interested in contacting the PCL can do so by sending an e-mail to www.providencecommunitylibrary@isp.com.

"Our campus is pretty socially aware. We do a lot of working concerning social justice. This is such an easy way to positively impact our neighborhood," said Cotter.

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Congress Offers Suggestions for Career Services

BY SARA BETH LABANARA '11

NEWS STAFF

On Tuesday, March 31, Student Congress heard a presentation by John Nonnamaker, executive director of the Office of Career Services, which was followed by constructive comments and questions from Congress members. With a new executive director in place, the Office of Career Services is aiming to reevaluate its position at Providence College. Nonnamaker was eager to receive feedback from Congress members about what the Office can improve.

"Listening to you guys today will help me to get a sense of your perspective of our office," said Nonnamaker.

Before beginning his presentation, Nonnamaker articulated his praise for PC students. He said that they are just as impressive as the students he has worked with at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of California at Berkeley.

Nonnamaker asked students where they turned to for career advice.

No one answered with the Office of Career Services. Nonnamaker intends to change students' reliance on the office.

"Our job is to make sure that you utilize our services sooner and more often," said Nonnamaker.

Then he asked Congress members about their general perception of the Office of Career Services.

Members said that they usually receive e-mails from the Office, which they think is a useful publicity tactic.

"I think a lot of people feel you're doing a good job reaching out to students whether it's by publicizing smaller events or bigger events," said Mark El Bach '11.

Liane Nadeau '11 suggested that the office make it clear to students that they do not need to already have a resume before making an appointment.

"A lot of people don't realize that you can go there starting from square one," said Nadeau.

Next, Mike Nagle '11 said that he feels that the Office is perceived as catering mainly towards business majors. As a sociology major Nagle feels that the opportunities for him in the Office of Career Services are limited.

Jaimie Scambio '10 added that the Office does not cater to underclassmen as heavily as it does to upperclassmen. She said that she thinks that underclassmen are somewhat intimidated by the office and that is something which should be improved.

"It was intimidating as a freshman and sophomore to actually go in [to the Office of Career Services]," said Scambio. "I think if students knew that there were resources for underclassmen as well as upperclassmen it may get them in the door a little faster."

Billy Byrne '09 said that the Office needs to diversify its job and internship opportunities.

"A complaint that I've heard about the office is that it's very cookie-cutter," said Byrne. "Like a high school that sends its students to the same colleges, the Office tends to send students to the same jobs and internships."

William Mastrianna '11 agreed with Byrne and said that the Office needs to expand the geographic limits of its offered internships beyond the city of Providence.

"It seems that the options drop the further away you get from Providence," said Mastrianna.

Nonnamaker then brought attention to one key benefit of the Office of Career Services which is the PC Alumni Network.

"Alumni are out there, they'll do anything they can to help you out and I encourage you to tap into that resource," said Nonnamaker.

He then stressed the importance of networking. He said that the more that students network, the more they will benefit in the long run. He also said that early planning is important.

Students should be stopping by the Office of Career Services as early as possible to develop four-year career objective plans.

Next, Nonnamaker asked students what they would like to see the Office of Career Services do differently.

A common complaint among students was the efficiency in using eFriors.

"I think the efficiency of eFriors could be improved," said Liz Wolf '09. "Also, I think there should be more international opportunities for summer internships."

Caroline Fay '11 agreed and suggested that a reference sheet be created about how to make eFriors work the best for students. She said she was unable to find an internship when

looking for one that is complimentary to her major.

Next, Wolf turned the questions to Nonnamaker and asked him what plans he has for the Office of Career Services and where he sees it in five years. Nonnamaker said that the Office will be looking into how effective it has been at helping students.

"We'll be looking at how we are as a resource compared to our peer institutions and we will also be seeing if we're in line with national standards," said Nonnamaker. "An internal audit will also be occurring to ensure that we're using our finances efficiently."

Nonnamaker also anticipates using focus groups and qualitative research to assess how successfully the Office of Career Services is working on campus. He also addressed the topic of a comprehensive needs assessment.

"We want to get a better sense from you about the career skills that you need to have and where you feel you're at in developing them," said Nonnamaker.

Lastly, Nonnamaker said that the Office of Career Services would be examining their mission statement and making sure that it matches up with the ideals of PC as an institution.

“Alumni are out there, they’ll do anything they can to help you out and I encourage you to tap into that resource.”

John Nonnamaker

FFE: Alum Details Success with Procter & Gamble Co.

continued from front page

grounding," said Potvin.

Since graduating from PC, he has received his MBA from Boston College's Carroll School of Management, and has held prominent work positions in areas of sales management, retail management, customer and brand marketing, and business development, all of which have provided him the opportunity to work in many different areas throughout the United States.

In his current position at Procter & Gamble Co., he is responsible for \$160 million in sales of Gillette and Braun grooming products at CVS/Caremark. P&G is currently the largest manufacturer of consumer goods, and has 132,000 employees in 180 different countries worldwide. He described the core strengths of his company which are "consumer understanding, brand-building, innovation, go-to-market-capability, and global skill," and said that anything the company does "has to be done with the consumer in mind, and it has to appeal to her wants and needs."

Potvin discussed his various jobs prior to his current position, and discussed how they were beneficial to his development as a professional. He informed students that all jobs, despite the hardships they may contain, can serve as great learning experiences, and thus it is important to make every job an important one.

During an interview, he said "it's important that you explain...why you chose to pursue the path that you have followed, and what were your successes as you went through them."

Potvin also discussed the endurance that is necessary for working in the intense environments that marketing jobs often provide. He spoke of the hardships and challenges such as late nights, frequent traveling, and accommodations that jobs in the business realm often entail. "Marketing is challenging work, [but] rewarding work," Potvin said.

His presentation then shifted towards the qualifications necessary to embark on a career in the business world. "We're really looking for bright student leaders, people who are enthusiastic and confident in themselves, people who are com-

petitive folks with a passion for winning, and have strong communication skills," he said.

Students were provided with tips to aid them in the job-hunting process after college, as Potvin stressed the importance of elements such as planning ahead, having a professional appearance, becoming informed about the specific company you are interested in, and following through after an interview. Once you acquire a job, it is important to have a terrific attitude of self-motivation, to develop your network and mentor relationships, to constantly strive to better yourself, and to use your time wisely, which are a few of the keys to success that Potvin mentioned in his presentation.

Ultimately, Potvin drove the point home when he told students, "Don't let your work define you." According to Potvin, although work is important, family, friends and personal interests are the things that ultimately sustain you.

"He demonstrated his value and ability to keep his professional success balanced with his personal relationships and activities. He was able to put his influential position into perspective for the students by addressing both the benefits of hard work as well as the importance of family and friends," said Jessica Pepin '10.

FFE was extremely excited to have Potvin as its keynote speaker this year.

"We wanted to get someone with a brand name attached to him this year that people could relate to, as well as someone who would succeed in addressing the attendees with an appropriate message," said Higgins. "Brian has a very impressive resume at P&G, and we were told he would make a great presenter, so we felt he was an excellent fit."

In selecting Potvin as the keynote speaker, members of FFE worked closely with both Alumni Relations and Career Services. "We specifically hoped to find someone in a notable executive position...and to have someone who worked for a company that students would recognize and be able to associate with," said Ross.

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more info on page 22

RELAY: Over 800 Walk for 12-Hour Cancer Fundraiser

continued from front page

morning of, we had hit \$100,000 and so we kept that a secret as well. And that by the last few moments, the end of the night we had hit \$117,000."

Rilovich worked with her co-chair, Jess Harrison '10, to coordinate every aspect of the event. They began the serious planning of the event in September. The official kickoff was two months ago.

This year they asked each participant to raise at least \$100.

"It's really simple to do that," said Rilovich. "I mean just ask a few family friends; Will you donate \$20 here, \$5 there, \$10 there."

According to Harrison, the majority of the participants were able to raise it. She thinks that the requirement led to the event's success.

"It helped because it's a team event, so if everybody on the team contributes, it helps—the final number goes up significantly," said Harrison.

Also contributing to the record-breaking figure, were 20 additional teams. Harrison and Rilovich attribute the jump in the number of teams to the cohesive and effective nature of the committee.

"We had a kick-butt committee this year...they were absolutely fantastic," said Rilovich. "They did everything we asked of them and more, and they promoted Relay and got it around campus like no other. . .they got around to every single aspect of our campus to make sure that everybody knew what it was, what they were doing, and participating in it. It absolutely turned it a huge event. As much as it was us, it was our committee who were fantastic."

On the night of the event, teams arrived before the kick off. The event lasted 12 hours, so teams arrived with food, blankets, and supplies to set up "camps." Many teams also coordinated and created team outfits and t-shirts.

"For the first lap, [there is] always the survivor lap, and then we do a caregiver lap where the caregivers walk with them, and afterwards we ask everyone to get on the track and walk a lap as a team, as a true event," said Rilovich. "And to me to see everyone together walking around the track, and supporting this event that we worked so hard [to organize]...Honestly I can say that it brought tears to my eyes. And it wasn't even that we walked the first lap together, it was the fact that everybody walked the first half an hour to 45 minutes together and didn't get off the track. People were just so excited to be there."

The excitement continued into all hours of the night. Around every 15 minutes an event or activity was scheduled to entertain participants.

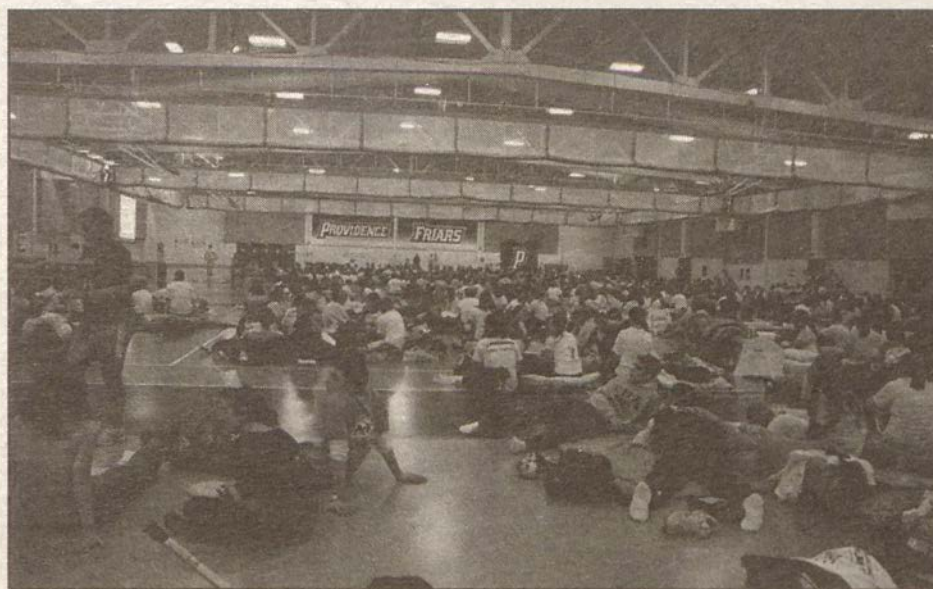
"It kept people entertained," said Rilovich.

There was a stage in the middle of the track where the entertainment took place. There were a cappella groups and a Zumba class. This year for the first time, professional hairdressers also cut participants' hair to donate to Locks for Love. According to Rilovich, the Relay committee initially sent out an e-mail to all the students involved asking if they would be willing to donate their hair to Locks of Love. They had only received four responses as of March 27. However, at Relay, 20 students shed their locks for the charity.

Brittney Sutton '11 spontaneously decided to cut her hair at Relay.

"I cut all my hair off," said Sutton moments after the hairdresser finished. "I just did it for Locks of Love. It's been long forever, but I just cut it off."

Some of the original events which have been a part of Relay at PC since its start six years ago came at the suggestion of Stephanie Saint, American Cancer Society representative.



KELLY PHILIPS '11/The Cowl

Eight hundred ninety-one participants turned out for Relay for Life on March 27, crowding the Peterson Gymnasium floor as they set up camp for the night.

Some of Saint's suggestions included the "jail" scenario. On the night of Relay students could pay to have a friend "arrested." The friend would stay in jail until they were able to raise an amount of money equal to that of the amount that sent them to jail. According to Rilovich, that activity raised thousands of dollars.

People could also pay \$5 to buy a lap-tracking necklace.

Members of the community, friends, and family attended as well. Carol Wagner, a cancer survivor and the mother of a PC student, was asked to walk the survivor lap which started the night's events. Wagner's husband also recently fought cancer and is 10 weeks in remission.

"I think [the turnout] is fabulous," said Wagner. "Just fabulous. I think they did such a great job. It's great."

Nick Mikula '11 was on a Team with

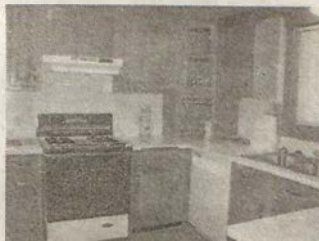
six to eight members from the PC Sailing Team.

"It's a great cause," said Mikula. "It's a fun night. As an organization on campus we want to be a part of something like this. Not so much to get ourselves out there but because everyone else is out here. It's a great time."

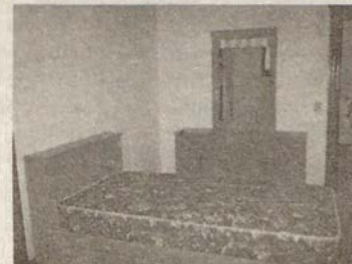
"My grandfather died of cancer and my best friend's mother is in remission of ovarian cancer," said Colleen Thompson '12. "It's a really big important issue and I really believe in it."

"My grandma was just recently diagnosed with colon cancer and she's a breast cancer survivor so I just really wanted to reach out and do something against cancer in her honor," said Sarah McPartlon '12. "I've been raising money. I was the second lead raiser in my team, and I've just been sending out e-mails, and I'm also part of the committee."

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Student Congress Class Letters of Intent

Class 2010

President

Hi, my name is Jaimie Scambio and it would be my distinct honor to serve as the President of the Class of 2010 for my fourth consecutive year in a row. Having been re-elected for the past three years, I have diligently worked toward building class unity, community, and imposing campus-wide change. I take pride in my past experiences, as it is through my experiences and relationships that I have laid the groundwork and basis for what I can now build upon, expressing the voices and concerns of our students and most importantly acting on them as President.

—Jaimie Scambio

Vice President

My name is Tori Mastrangelo and I am running for Vice President of the Class of 2010. I served the Student Congress as a member of the Publicity Committee during my sophomore year. Through this experience I learned the importance of teamwork, the value of communication, and developed the confidence necessary to lead our class during the most important year of our college career.

—Tori Mastrangelo

Treasurer

My name is Michael Coffee and I am running for the Class of 2010 Treasurer. After serving for one year as Class of 2010 Treasurer I have been able to serve my class in many ways. I believe that student activities and organizations should be of the utmost priority for Student Congress and in the past this has not been the case. If elected I will work with the Finance committee on Congress to change the way money is dispersed to student clubs and organizations.

—Michael Coffee

Secretary

I, Blair Brendli, intend to run for the position of secretary for the class of 2010. As this year's secretary, I realize how much time and energy is required to be a part of student congress and I am prepared to make the commitment. If elected into this position, I would work cooperatively with the rest of our class officers to make it a successful year. In addition to this, I will carry out all duties that the job entails in an organized and timely manner.

—Blair Brendli

My name is Sean Jones and I am running for secretary to represent our class as a member of the 60th Student Congress. For the past two years I have served on Student Congress as a member of the Clubs and Organizations Committee, as both the Fine Arts Clubs liaison last year and as the chair of that committee this year. As class secretary, I plan to communicate with our class everything that is happening with our class and Student Congress as a whole.

—Sean Jones

Representatives

I, Anne Impellizeri plan to run for the Class of 2010 Representative for the 60th Student Congress. I have been involved with Student Congress for the past two years. One of my initiatives as class representative is to stress the importance of communication within Student Congress and the student body. I also want to ensure that the new Slavin Center will be used to its best potential for our students.

—Anne Impellizeri

My name is Clare Conway. After almost three years of being a part of the Providence College experience, I am asking you to elect me to the Student Congress as one of your Class

Representatives of the Class of 2010. I will make it my responsibility to voice these concerns to Student Congress in order for these requests to be passed on to Providence College Administration.

—Clare Conway

I, Molly Plain, am running for class representative of the Class of 2010. I believe my experience on Congress this year as a member-at-large will provide me the means to accomplish all that our class is capable of in the 2009-2010 academic year. The upcoming school year will be important for us, as seniors, to gain the respect and confidence of the administration and establish a relationship in which things are done quickly and efficiently.

—Molly Plain

I want to be a class representative for the class of 2010 to help make decisions that will not only affect our senior class, but will leave our legacy for those to come. I especially want to continue the work with the legislation concerning a committee to make changes to the handbook. I believe this is the most important legacy the class of 2010 will leave so that students will have their voices heard in matters concerning their academics and campus life.

—Jacquie DeSisto

I am running for Executive Office because I want to be involved in the changes that take place here at PC. I think it is absolutely imperative that the student voice is heard in the important decisions that are made. The student voice has suffered a great deal over the past year, but the 2009-2010 school year is a new year, and I have complete confidence that the 60th Student Congress can regain its legitimacy.

—Lauren Riley

I, Joe Miller, hereby declare my candidacy for the office of class of 2010 representative in the 60th Student Congress. During this past year, my first as a part of Congress, I have developed a greater appreciation for the many subtleties and complexities of the relationship between students, faculty, and administration. If re-elected, one of my priorities will be to encourage greater communication between all members of the College.

—Joseph Miller

Class 2011

President

My name is Patricia Carroll and I am running for the position of President of the Class of 2011 on the 60th Student Congress. If elected, I will continue to make it my top priority to devote my time and energy to the Class of 2011. I believe that we have tremendous potential as a class, and our wealth of ideas is extremely valuable. I hope to increase student involvement, see more legislation passed and followed up upon to ensure that it is enacted, and always be receptive to new ideas.

—Patricia Carroll

Vice President

My name is Timothy O'Mara and I am running for your vice president. For the past two years I have served your class on Congress as a representative and member of the Academics Committee freshman year and vice president this year. I stand here today wanting to help each and everyone of you. Your voices need to be heard and I want to help you accomplish that.

—Timothy O'Mara

Although it is almost unbearable to think about, our PC experience will be coming to a close in just two years. With that being said, I have decided that I want to make our junior year a

precedent for other classes to live by. I want to ensure that each and every one of you feel like you have a voice and most importantly, feel like your voice has been heard. It is not only beneficial, but also imperative, for Student Congress to take into account everything that you have to say.

—Nina Ratzenberger

Treasurer

Hello, my name is Kelli O'Donohue and I am running for reelection as the Class of 2011 Treasurer. For the last two years I have humbly served our class in this role. The last two years our class has worked to pass innovative legislation that will truly impact the student body here at Providence College. I am dedicated to making a difference and know that my experience will help this class as we move forward into the second half of our Providence College career.

—Kelli O'Donohue

Representative

Serving as 2011 Class Representative for the past two years, working with students has always been my top priority. As a candidate in the upcoming election, I hope to sustain my work as Representative and help the Class of 2011 continue to make their mark here at PC. In becoming a member of the 60th Student Congress, I will continue to serve as a link and voice for the students putting on new events and fundraisers for our class.

—Mark El Bach

I Jane Duhamel, am running for the position of Student Representative for the class of 2011. I want to be elected as a Class Representative because this past year I have seen Student Congress

affect positive change within the Providence College community, and I would love to play a vital role in that decision making process. I will advocate for bigger events for our class, and help put forth new legislation.

—Jane Duhamel

I have served as a representative for the class of 2011 and a member of the Academics committee over the past school year, and I want to continue pursuing the initiatives begun over the past two semesters. These include the instatement of post-tenure review of faculty, simplifying the study abroad process, and enabling us to use our PC IDs at off-campus vendors. As a representative of my class, I want to help to create a sense of unity within the class of 2011 and PC as a whole.

—Tom Fitzgerald

I, Michael Nagle, am running for the position of 2011 Student Representative. I hope to be reelected for a couple of reasons. For one, I am interested in continuing to represent our class in a number of different facets, including Congress meetings, Committee work and student events on campus. I am also excited to have the opportunity to take part in more significant school-wide legislation that affects students and faculty.

—Michael Nagle

Class 2012

President

My name is Taylor O'Brien and I intend to run for Class President of the Class of 2012. This past year I served as freshman Class President and feel that the knowledge and experience I gained will be instrumental in continuing many of the projects that we organized this

Letters/Page 7

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LETTERS: Students Ask for Election Support

continued from page 6

year. I have always taken others viewpoints seriously and have strived to overcome any problems or obstacles in our class. I would like to continue working for the good of our class and towards the goals we have set.

—Taylor O'Brien

As President of the class of 2012, I will represent the views that are important to all students. I'm re-running for congress because there are so many important things that we will be able to attend to further as a class. Building on what we started this year, I intend to increase the communication between the students and their class officers because as I have seen this year, communication is key in order to accomplish the things students feel are most important.

—Kristin Pena

Vice President

It is with a strong desire to represent our class and to address the concerns of the student body that I, Michael Maggio, hereby officially announce my intent to run for the position of vice president of the Class 2012. Having served as a Class Representative, I have done my best to bring to light the unique perspective of our class, to gain an understanding of the workings of Congress as a whole, and to address the specific concerns brought forth by individual students.

—Michael Maggio

My name is Andrew Connors and as someone who is interested in public service and the workings of government, I would truly appreciate the opportunity to represent my classmates as vice president in Student Congress. If elected I will put my full effort and energy into making sure the voice of the class of 2012 is heard. I hope that I can gain the support of all those

who vote in this important election and look forward to not only improving the class of 2012, but Providence College as a whole.

—Andrew Connors

Treasurer

My name is Catherine Restrepo and I am running for the position of Treasurer for the Class of 2012. As current Freshman Treasurer, I am aware that the treasury position will be undergoing slight changes that I have faced with the rest of Finance Committee and now feel prepared to handle the potential new responsibilities.

—Catherine Restrepo

My name is Megan Murphy and I am running to be the treasurer for the class of 2012. If I am elected, it will be my first year on Student Congress at Providence College. I am organized and have the leadership skills that are necessary to be the class treasurer. I am very outgoing and want to help to get my classmates involved, therefore if I am treasurer I will be able to do this. If I am elected, I will attend every meeting and perform all my duties as class treasurer.

—Megan Murphy

My name is Kaci Belancik and I am running for Class of 2012 Student Congress Treasurer. By joining the Student Congress, I would have a direct connection to everyone and everything that occurs here at PC. It would be an honor to represent the 2012 student body as well as the Providence College community, making sure that each voice is heard. I hope that I will have your support in this election, Class of 2012, so we can strive together towards another great year here at Providence College.

—Kaci Belancik

Secretary

After serving as the Secretary of the class of 2012 for the past two semesters I would love the opportunity to continue to represent my class on student congress. Throughout my time as class secretary I have upheld all of my responsibilities within my position, and as a representative member of the class of 2012. If re-elected as Secretary I will continue to competently perform my duties and continue to make the experience at Providence College a great one for our class through listening to the voices of my peers.

—Katrina Harrington

I want to run for class of 2012 secretary so I can become an active member in the Providence College community. I am a very dedicated and organized student who takes my responsibilities very seriously. If I were to earn the position of secretary, I would be proud to represent my fellow class of 2012 members. As secretary, I would fulfill my duties, and use my organizational skills to keep on task. If I am to be elected, I would take full advantage of my resources, and represent my class well.

—Michelle Salmo

This past year I have served as the 2011 class secretary and I hope that I will be re-elected for the upcoming school year. I have helped with our class's recent successful legislation, involving the use of PC IDs at off-campus vendors. If elected for a second term I vow that I will continue to use my leadership skills to the best of my ability to vote on legislation, as I have done in the past.

—Brigid A. Quinn

Representatives

After serving this past year as a freshman representative on Congress, I am glad to say 2012 has begun to lay a

strong foundation to build upon throughout our next four years. If I am elected, I assure you that the sophomore class will continue to do its job on Congress by passing important legislation, planning class events, and acting as a liaison between students and administration. By serving on Congress I have gained knowledge about the way the it works.

—Skye Hawkins

My name is Jill Kiernan and I am running to be a representative for the class of 2012. I currently am a representative for my class and I am also on the Academics Committee. If I am elected again, I will continue to fulfill my duties and obligations as a class representative. I want to be able to represent my classmates and help to better sense of community of our class.

—Jill Kiernan

I am running for a representative position for the class of 2012. I'm looking forward to helping out the congress in any way possible and also being a voice for the upcoming sophomores here at PC. I'd appreciate your vote and remind you all the keep a lookout for my name around campus.

—Michael Ragosta

My name is Emily Wymer and, as a member of the class of 2012, I am running to be one of your representatives to the student congress. Currently our college is undergoing many aesthetic and academic changes. It is my belief that without focus on the needs and wants of the student body, these changes will be in vain. The student body should be number one priority on campus. As one of your representatives to the 60th Student Congress, I will do just this.

—Emily Wymer

I, Kathryn Tripp, am hoping to gain your support for the position of Student Representative from the class of 2012 for the 60th Student Congress. As a freshman at PC I was elected to govern in the 59th Student Congress. This past year I worked on numerous tasks to improve campus and off campus living including changing housing registration for rising sophomores and juniors to the fall. I promise to continue in my efforts to improving PC in all areas you feel need improvement.

—Kathryn Tripp

As your class officer I plan to fulfill my responsibilities to the best of my ability for the benefit of our entire class. I am seeking the position of Class Representative with the intent to use the opportunity to uphold the current merit of the Student Congress body and bring forth new possibilities during the coming school year. I am committed to providing a strong foundation under the class of 2012.

—Meg Van Name

My name is Annie Melia, and I would love to be re-elected as one of the class representatives for the Class of 2012. I think that all students need an outlet to express their concerns and I want to be able to communicate the concerns of my class to the Student Congress. I hope to continue representing the Class of 2012 and to help the Student Congress do great things in the upcoming year.

—Annie Melia

*All of the above articles have only been edited for space. They are reproduced exactly as the candidates wrote them. For full letters of intent please visit www.pcstudentcongress.com.

LUNCHEONS: Fortunato Connecting with Students

continued from front page

be heavy right away. In the coming weeks the administration will be working on publicizing the conversation stations and the informal luncheons. They will also be adjusting the times when the programs are held according to student feedback.

The programs are just an extension of already existing office hours which all administrators are required to have.

"They are office hours, so I'm hoping we have a good turnout from time to time," said Fortunato. "I think the most important thing is that we're accessible and available."

Instead of waiting for students to come to them, however, the administrators are now seeking out students instead of waiting for students to come to them.

"We don't want it [the attempt to better communication with students] to be in name only," said Fortunato.

Through these new programs the administration hopes to better understand the wants of the larger student body, not student leaders exclusively.

Fortunato and Steven Sears, Ph.D., dean of the Office of Residence Life, have held informal luncheons in the past. Students were invited by invitation to those luncheons, but they served as the trial runs for the new programs.

Fortunato's conversations with students last Wednesday focused mainly around the renovations to Slavin Center.

Some major points of concern that students expressed to him about the new Slavin were lounge space and the character of the building. The administration is seeking as much student input as possible to make Slavin a destination on campus.

Fortunato also held an open forum to gather suggestions about how to design the interior of the new building on Wednesday, April 1, in '64 Hall. Sharon Hay, dean of the SAIL Office, also recently conducted a survey of 1,000 students asking them what they wanted in a new Slavin.

"We're now at a point in the design phase where we really want to make sure that the character, the feel, the aesthetics, of those spaces [in Slavin Center] are really dictated by students," said Fortunato.

Some of the suggestions Fortunato has received from the luncheons include decorating Slavin in the style of a Panera Bread restaurant or a Bertucci's restaurant. Students have been pitching many ideas to Fortunato in many ways.

Although the conversation stations and the informal luncheons are held on campus during class time Fortunato said that in their first week they drew a fair mix of underclassmen and upperclassmen.

"I don't know if they lived off campus or on campus," said Fortunato.

There are plans to break the survey of 1,000 students down by class years and by living accommodation to better determine what will draw upperclassmen, living on and off campus, to the new facility as well as underclassmen.

"It's really hard to get the older kids to go [to the luncheons and conversation stations]," said Jen Le '10, a resident assistant. "But, I think it's good that they're making themselves available."

The administration wants the new Slavin to be a destination for both students on and off campus.

Fortunato said that he never found PC students to be hesitant about expressing their opinions to him or to

other administrators. However, the new programs allow for different kinds of conversations with students.

"I think it allows a different kind of candor and humor that you don't necessarily get during an office appointment," said Fortunato. "I've always been impressed with students since coming here, they've always been very forthcoming and comfortable speaking with me."

Fortunato started having more informal and relaxed conversations with students last semester when he went to the Thursday night programs in McPhail's. He said that he liked those conversations better while students were playing grocery bingo, video games, and pool, or doing other things, than the more formal conversations he has had with students in his office.

Other things that students suggested that Fortunato and the administration concentrate are transportation off-campus and the alcohol problem.

"They should have a RIPTA-type schedule for the shuttle," said Dana Lagala '10.

There are also certain issues that students are tired of talking about. For example, the alcohol policy.

"It's been talked about way too much," said Le.

"I think we're starting to make good strides," said Fortunato.

The College has applied for a federal grant, which if received will be used to create a center for alcohol abuse prevention on campus.

"The issue of alcohol is going to continue to be at the forefront of our concern," said Fortunato. "And we will continue to have a meaningful discussion about those."

U.S. Rethinks Strategies for Afghanistan, Pakistan

BY MARY KATE NEVIN '09
WORLD EDITOR

MIDDLE EAST: Pakistan

IN LIGHT OF A "CAREFUL POLICY REVIEW" with military commanders, diplomats, foreign governments, NATO allies, and international organizations, President Barack Obama announced a "comprehensive new strategy" for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Obama outlined his plans for both countries in a televised address on Friday, March 27, which include a modest increase in U.S. troops, many more civilian advisers, and the hope to engage greater regional support for stabilization efforts.

"To achieve our goals, we need a stronger, smarter and comprehensive strategy," explained Obama.

In addition to the additional 17,000 troops he pledged earlier last month, Obama said he would send some 4,000 more troops to Afghanistan to train the Afghan army and national police. He stipulated that they would not carry out combat missions, but left open the possibility of sending more as the situation warrants.

Another part of Obama's plan includes sending additional diplomats and civilian experts into the region. Ac-

ording to the proposal, America's civilian presence in Afghanistan will grow by at least 50 percent to more than 900, and they will deal with critical issues such as strengthening local government institutions and counter-narcotics efforts.

"
To achieve our goals, we need a stronger, smarter and comprehensive strategy.

President Barack Obama

Obama also acknowledged the interdependence of the future of the missions in Afghanistan with the stability of its neighbor, Pakistan, and called

upon Congress to authorize a tripling of U.S. spending in Pakistan to \$1.5 billion over the next five years.

The money would be allocated for infrastructure projects, especially "schools, roads, and hospitals," and in return Pakistan must demonstrate its commitment to rooting out al Qaeda and its allies.

"The era of the blank check is over," Obama told Congressional leaders ahead of his announcement.

THE BIGGEST POTENTIAL CHALLENGE TO this initiative could be Afghanistan's regional neighbors; Iran, China, the Central Asia republics, and India do not necessarily share goodwill for U.S. success in Afghanistan, according to the BBC. Iran expressed on Tuesday, March 31, that the U.S. strategy would "prove ineffective," though it promised to help fight drug trafficking in the country.

"The presence of foreign forces has not improved things in the country and it seems that an increase in the number of foreign forces will prove ineffective too," Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Mehdi Akhondzadeh told Reuters.

For now, however, America's initiative is dominating the international agenda, and Obama's rhetoric regarding the conflict in Afghanistan contrasts sharply with that of his predecessor. While President Bush orated on the potential to build nations as shining models of democracy to the Muslim world, President Obama instead framed the issue as strictly a matter of national security, the central tenant of which is to protect Americans from future terrorist attacks.

"The United States of America did not choose to fight a war in Afghanistan," Obama said Friday while outlining his plan on Friday. "Nearly 3,000 of our people were killed on Sept. 11, 2001, for doing nothing more than going about their daily lives.

"So let me be clear: al Qaeda and its allies — the terrorists who planned and supported the 9/11 attacks — are in Pakistan and Afghanistan. We have a clear and focused goal to disrupt, dismantle and defeat al Qaeda in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and to prevent their return to either country in the future."

TARGETING AL QAEDA IS NOT JUST IN the interests of Americans, however; Obama stressed its relevance to populations around the world and to the Afghans themselves.

"This is not simply an American problem. Far from it," Obama said. "It is instead an international security challenge of the highest order."

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton detailed the new strategy to the international community at a United Nations conference on Afghanistan in The Hague on Tuesday, March 31.

Before the conference began, Said Jawad, Afghan ambassador to the U.S., made a passionate appeal to the world to take an active interest in Afghanistan.

"Being in Afghanistan is dangerous, but not being in Afghanistan is a lot more dangerous, and we learned this on 9/11," he said. "Being in Afghanistan is an investment for your children, for the future of Afghanistan and the world."

Clinton also appealed for international assistance in stabilization and reconstruction efforts for the country.

"The international community must meet this challenge as well," Clinton told delegates from more than 70 nations. "We should provide every army

and police unit in Afghanistan with an international partner that can help with training and build capacity."

She said the global effort should ultimately stand up an Afghan army of at least 134,000 and a police force of at least 82,000 by 2011.

While at the conference, Clinton also encouraged Taliban members to abandon extremism, offering in return an opportunity for concord.

"They should be offered an honorable form of reconciliation and re-integration into a peaceful society, if they are willing to abandon violence, break with al Qaeda, and support the constitution," Clinton said.

She also emphasized the need to focus on eliminating corruption and improving governance in the country.

"Corruption is a cancer — as dangerous to our long-term success as the Taliban or al Qaeda. A government that cannot deliver for its people is a terrorist's best recruiting tool," Clinton said.

"
We have a clear and focused goal to disrupt, dismantle and defeat al Qaeda in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and to prevent their return to either country in the future.

President Barack Obama

She urged an "open, free and fair" election in August and pledged \$40 million in U.S. funding to help underwrite its costs, which can be used to pay for the distribution of ballot boxes and the counting of ballots.

"We do not support or oppose any candidate. We want to ensure the elections themselves are going to have legitimacy and credibility," Clinton told reporters.

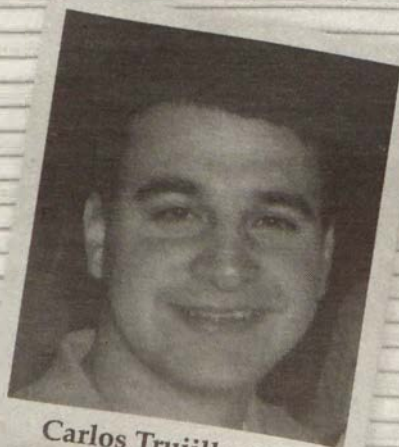
OBAMA'S ADMINISTRATION WILL CONTINUE to consult the international community on this issue through the weekend. President Obama himself plans to emphasize shared threats and common purposes among allies in a presentation on the new strategy at an April 3-4 NATO summit in Europe, according to *The Washington Post*. Coupled with this commitment to cooperation, though, is a clear sense of ownership and leadership on the part of America.

"This is the new reality," a former Defense Department official told *The Washington Post*. "We tried the essentially decentralized approach, where every country kind of does its own area and does what it thinks is right. That has essentially fallen down. . . . We want our allies to still be there. We don't want NATO to fail. But in order for NATO to succeed, the U.S. has got to take the lead."

ASK PC

Do you think America's renewed commitment to Afghanistan and Pakistan is appropriate? Why or why not?

"Absolutely. A 'comprehensive' plan was what they needed from the beginning. You can't only rebuild a country militarily; the political, economic, and social development must go hand in hand with improved security."



Carlos Trujillo '09

COMPILED BY MARY KATE NEVIN '09

"I am never happy to see an increase in troops in the Middle East; however, Afghanistan was our original mission and we should not have strayed away from it. To continue to ignore the growing problem of terrorism in these areas would be irresponsible. Jawad said it best when he called the increase in troops and aid an 'investment' in our future."



Catherine MacDonald '10

Governing Coalition Emerges for Israel

BY VICTORIA NGARE '12
WORLD STAFF

MIDDLE EAST: Israel

HAVING JUST GONE THROUGH AN election cycle in the United States, Americans can sympathize with the predicament of the Israelis, who are amidst an election process. The situation in Israel is quite different and definitely more complicated than that of the United States.

First and foremost, Israel just had elections for their Knesset, the Israeli version of parliament, and prime minister.

Although Israel also has a president, elections for the aforementioned positions are very different from the type of elections in the United States.

Knesset and prime minister elections take place every four years and are conducted within a very short time period. In late December, the political parties that are officially recognized by the Central Elections Committee submit their lists of candidates. On Feb. 10, the elections were held.

In Israel, all parties that receive at least two percent of the vote are given seats in the Knesset proportionate to the number of votes they received.

After the election results are officially released, the president of Israel meets with representatives of the parties elected to the Knesset and assigns

the responsibility of forming a government to a Knesset member.

This Knesset member is usually the leader of the party with the largest Knesset representation or the head of the party that leads a coalition (that includes multiple parties) with more than 60 members.

Since the institution of these election rules, there has never been any party that has won an outright majority of 60 out of the 120 Knesset seats; so every government has been a coalition government consisting of multiple parties. The parties not included in the coalition government have constituted the opposition.

This past election cycle was no different for Israel. The centrist party, Kadima, led by Tzipi Livni, received 28 seats in the Knesset, the most of any party, closely followed by the right-wing Likud party led by Binyamin Netanyahu that won 27 seats.

Israeli President Shimon Peres was advised by Knesset member representatives to ask Likud party leader Binyamin Netanyahu to form the next coalition government, in turn making him the next Prime Minister of the nation.

Netanyahu was afforded this opportunity because he was able to lead a coalition of several parties.

This would not have been possible had the leftist Labor party led by Barak Ehut, which received a disappointing 13 seats in the Knesset, voted

against joining the coalition government on March 25, 2009. They opposed the vote because Netanyahu would not have achieved the 60-member majority support required to form his coalition government.

Barak Ehut's agreement with Benjamin Netanyahu was met with adamant opposition by seven of the 13 members of the Labor party elected to the Knesset. Some members of the labor party, specifically Ophir Pines-Paz, even alleged that Ehut's deal with Benjamin Netanyahu would be throwing the Labor party into the "garbage bin of history."

The deal brokered between Labor and Likud had several provisions that would ascertain Labor's role in shaping Israeli, domestic, economic, and foreign policy.

Some of these provisions included Ehut retaining his position as defense minister, as well as the Labor party receiving four cabinet positions in the coalition government.

According to *The New York Times*, other provisions were that the coalition government would recognize and commit to all previous signed diplomatic and international agreements.

The coalition government would devise a comprehensive plan for peace in the Middle East, but did not necessarily agree to, or rule out, a two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict (a move the Labor party supports), and

the government would work to reach peace accords with all of Israel's neighbors while preserving Israel's security and vital interests.

Although this agreement did split the Labor party into two different camps, with 680 of the 1,187 members of the Labor party voting for it and 507 voting against it, it also made sure that the new governing body of Israel would be somewhat balanced.

The election process in Israel is significantly different from that of the United States, but Americans can definitely empathize with the Israeli's desire for a change in direction during the next four years.

Israel, like the United States, has to deal with a deteriorating international image as well as a faltering economy.

Additionally, because Israel is so dependent on the support of Western powers (the EU and America), that the coalition government must also balance its desire to push through a hard-line right-wing agenda that includes not recognizing a Palestinian state, not withdrawing from Golan Heights, and not partitioning Jerusalem, with its desire and need to help create peace in the Middle East.

There is no telling what will happen in the next four years in Israel, but one can only speculate forward-motion with the ushering in of a balanced coalition government.

Mexican Border Security Intensified

BY MACKENZIE MANGO '10
WORLD STAFF

AMERICAS: Mexico

THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION HAS revealed that it is sending hundreds of federal agents and intelligence analysts to the Mexican border along with specialized technology. This is part of an ambitious plan to attack the powerful drug cartels and prevent further violence from spilling into the United States.

Additionally, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, on her first diplomatic mission to Latin America, not only promised more aggressive efforts to stem drug violence but also accepted shared responsibility on behalf of the U.S.

According to *The Dallas News*, she stated that traffickers "are motivated by the demand for illegal drugs in the United States and are armed by the transfer of weapons from the United States."

She told reporters en route to Mexico, "our insatiable demand for illegal drugs fuels the drug trade." Similarly, Clinton announced a new office in Mexico where U.S. and Mexican authorities "will work together side by side to fight the drug traffickers and the violence which they spread."

Clinton has largely avoided the question of any possible role of U.S. troops inside the Mexican borders, adding that the U.S. has not made any decisions regarding the placement of the National Guard along the border.

Clinton held a joint news conference with Mexican Foreign Minister Patricia Espinosa, who acknowledges that progress has been made as a result of the recent cooperation between the United States and Mexico.

"American initiative has really meant a quantitative change in our cooperation in terms of drug trafficking and in general against organized crime," Espinosa stated. Both Espinosa and Clinton remain optimistic that the fight can be won.

Clinton has publicly stated on several occasions that, "If the criminals and kingpins spreading violence are trying to corrode the foundations of law, order, friendship, and trust between us, they will fail."

"I would like Secretary Clinton to



The U.S. government is trying to increase security at the border with Mexico in order to combat drug cartels.

come very often to Mexico and I would like to take her to many, many very beautiful places that we can share in our country," Espinosa said. "Of course, there are some places where I would not take her, and I believe she would not take me to some places in her country."

However, despite its large scale, the current plans are seen by many in Mexico and by state officials in California and Texas as inadequate to the scope of the crisis.

The administration is relying heavily on existing funds and personnel redeployments where critics say new money and manpower are needed.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, (CA-Rep.) hailed the plans currently in place as "a great first step." But he added, "I will continue to fight for more federal resources at our border."

"If the steps we've taken do not get the job done, we will do more," President Obama said at a news conference.

Clinton has advocated that the United States has already appropriated \$700 million in aid to Mexico, and Congress wants to see how the administration is applying it before sending more.

"We are going to demonstrate that we are spending it in an accountable and effective manner that will assist the Mexicans in law enforcement and justice," she said.

Furthermore, according to CNN, Arturo Sarukhan, Mexico's ambassador to the United States, deemed the Obama administration's willingness to accept co-responsibility for the current crisis as "a very encouraging sign."

Sarukhan believes that it is a clear indication that the administration understands that "to defang the drug syndicates in Mexico, we have to eliminate two of their most powerful sources-bulk cash from the United States into Mexico and illicit weapons."

Yet another incentive to stop the violence rests in the fact that Mexico is the United States' second-largest export market, after Canada, and its third-largest total trade partner.

Also, hundreds of U.S. companies have factories in Mexico, and Mexico is a leading supplier of crude oil to the United States. Attorney General Eric Holder is due to visit Mexico soon, to be followed next month by President Obama.

Oddly Enough

The Iron Inmate Chef

BY BILL PURSELL '11
WORLD STAFF

A prisoner in the Callam Bay Washington State Prison, with MacGyver-like talents, attempted to cook some sausages in his toilet.

After purchasing a few sausages from a prison store the inmate chose a very rare method of cooking them; poached sausage, gross! Unknowingly, this prisoner cooked up a side of trouble with his dirty water dogs. Smoke was spotted coming from a sewer vent pipe that was later traced to the inmate's kitchen-bathroom.

Over 130 convicts had to evacuate the correctional center due to the steamy sausages in the inmate's toilet. The still-nameless chef raised quite a stir among his fellow inmates, but this stir may not have compared to the stir his taste buds might have received from his tantalizing toilet treats.

The Sunny Side

Earth Hour

BY BILL PURSELL '11
WORLD STAFF

Two years ago, the World Wide Fund for Nature invented Earth Hour, an annual event that occurred on March 28 this year. The aim is to have cities around the entire world turn off all non-essential lighting at the same time for one hour.

After the UN building participated for the first time in this event, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Earth Hour, "is a way for the citizens of the world to send a clear message. They want action on climate change."

Although the action is largely symbolic, over a billion people were believed to have participated this year.

Czech Government Collapses Amidst Turmoil

BY KEVIN CASSIDY '11
WORLD STAFF

EUROPE: Czech Republic

THE CZECH GOVERNMENT LOST A CLOSE vote in parliament on Tuesday, March 24 by only one vote. Mirek Topolánek, the current Prime minister of the Czech Republic, blamed the Social Democrats for the recent struggling stating "we have a case here the Social Democrats are obstructing the Czech government. It's a problem seen many times in the course of this presidency."

The Czech government lost the vote when four rebel MPs voted with Communists and the opposition. Topolánek said he will step down after returning from Strasbourg, but promises a caretaker government will not be established until June.

The power has now shifted to Czech President Vaclav Klaus who must decide whether to ask Topolánek to continue forming the government or he has the ability to ask someone else to help.

According to the BBC, a day after the collapse Topolánek promised the European Parliament the fall of the government will have no effect on the current presidency of the European Union which the Czech government holds until July 1. He said "don't be concerned, the situation will have no impact on the presidency." The coun-



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Czech Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek.

try gained the presidency of the EU in January which is a six month term. Mr. Topolánek added "what we are trying to do is to animate the debate and arrive at compromises. I hope that when we come to the last European summit we will be able to add an example."

A vote of confidence came from the European Parliament president, Hans-Gert Poettering, who stated the presidency of the EU shouldn't be affected despite the political struggles.

Topolánek has received harsh criticism from several members, especially from German MEP Martin Schulz who said "being here this morning shows you are a fighter, but so far you haven't understand what the task of the presidency of the EU is."

When the Czech government took control of the presidency on January 1,

countries including France and Belgium, were unwilling to believe the Czech Republic could handle running EU meetings successfully. Concerns mounted regarding holding off ratifying the Lisbon Treaty, which must be agreed upon by all 27 member states before coming into effect. According to some Eurocrats, the biggest problem may not be the presidency of the EU, but the vote due shortly of the Lisbon Treaty. Because of the political struggles, it might be more difficult to pass the treaty. The concerns of France and Belgium also included pro-American views, numerous free-market liberals, and being too keen on enlargement.

A week prior to Topolánek losing the vote, the Czech government decided to withdraw their treaties on hosting defense U.S. radar. Former United States President George W. Bush's administra-

tion helped to establish a treaty with the Czech Republic to build a missile-defense system southwest of Prague to protect the country from any attacks especially Iran. The Bush administration worked closely with Poland to build an interceptor missile that was also part of the plan.

President Barack Obama plans to travel to Prague for the summit taking place April 3-4 and has stated the Czech government may not have to build the missile-defense system if Iran decides to give up their nuclear weapons program. Some European countries are hesitant to allowing the Czech government to work closely with the U.S., but these problems will be addressed shortly at the EU conference.

On top of all the problems surrounding Mr. Topolánek, he decided to make a statement that he may soon regret. He said "Timothy Geithner the Treasury Secretary of the United States talks about permanent action and we were quite alarmed by that at the spring council. He talks about a large stimulus campaign and the Buy America campaign all of these steps, their combination and their permanency, is a way to hell." This statement seems to add even more questions for Mr. Topolánek to answer.

Hopefully the turmoil surrounding the Czech Republic will have limited effect on the European Union presidency and the government can restore order quickly.

FRIAR FINANCE



BY MICHAEL LEPRI '10 / WORLD STAFF

Tensions Run High Over Executive Bonuses

ON MONDAY, MARCH 27, PRESIDENT Obama sat down with 15 executives from the U.S. banks that have received tax-payer funding. Some of the companies included J.P. Morgan, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Citigroup, Morgan Stanley, and Goldman Sachs.

Tensions ran high in the meeting. James Dimon, J.P. Morgan CEO, sought to relieve some of the stress when he jokingly offered to write Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner a check for \$25 billion, the amount his bank owes the government.

Obama explained to the bankers that they needed to be careful about their compensation in light of the large dispute concerning AIG bonuses. Dimon commented on this during a CNBC interview, stating that "The President thinks that we should be very cognizant of the needs and desire and anger around the country on compensation."

Obama even proved he was cutting back by choosing not to redecorate the Oval Office even though, "there are still stains on the carpet."

The bankers responded to Obama by stating that they would like the administration to stop its anti-Wall Street sentiment. Obama acknowledged their issues with the government and, "[He] emphasized that Wall Street needs Main Street and Main Street needs Wall Street," according to White House press secretary, Robert Gibbs.

Many of the top bank executives also told the President that they would like to return the tax payers funds as early as this year. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, The President responded saying, "That regulators would permit such a move only if the banks were truly healthy."

The government required some of these companies to accept public funding even though they may not have needed it. Sheila Bair, chairwoman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., said companies like Goldman Sachs should return the TARP (Troubled Assets Relief Program) funds if it is able, and regulators shouldn't discourage



GETTY IMAGES

Northern Trust CEO Rick Waddell, Wells Fargo CEO John Stumpf, PNC CEO James Rohr and Bank of America CEO Ken Lewis answered questions after meeting with President Obama at the White House on Friday.

exit strategies for banks that want to end their participation in the program.

It does not make sense that companies like Bank of America and Goldman Sachs, who did not want the federal bailout funds in the first place, are now being bullied by the federal government. They are now observed closely by the Treasury and not allowed to pay back the tax payer's money until the government finishes their "stress test." These tests, which involve regulators poring over the balance sheets of these stressed banks in order to determine when the banks will again be able to function by themselves, are expected to be completed in about a month. In the meantime, these companies have to deal with bad press and increased regulation.

Richard Kovacevich, Chairman of Wells Fargo & Co., another company forced to take TARP funds, was not

particularly pleased about the stress tests. He stated that, "We do stress tests all the time on all of our portfolios and we share those stress tests with our regulators. It is absolutely asinine that somebody would announce we're going to do stress tests for banks and we'll give you the answer in 12 weeks." The government should have at least looked over the public statements of the companies and concluded which ones needed funds the most.

Forcing TARP funds onto firms like Wells Fargo has significantly hurt their business and their shareholders. Kovacevich explained that, "We would have been able to raise private capital at that time, and with that private capital...it is very unlikely that we would have had to reduce the dividend." The government urged Wells Fargo and other companies that have received their funding to cut their dividend in

order to save cash. While this will help Wells Fargo increase its liquidity, this obviously hurt the shareholders of the company who saw their dividend payments reduced by 85 percent.

On the other hand, even though Bank of America wants to return the funds, Chief Executive Officer Kenneth Lewis praised TARP for preventing a financial "meltdown." Even those that think the government bailout helped want to remove themselves from the government's control. This argument was furthered by David Vinar, Goldman Sachs' chief financial officer, who said it would be easier for the company to run its business if it could pay back the \$10 billion in capital it received from the government last fall. Although government involvement and regulation could have helped some companies stay afloat, it will prolong the recovery time of others.

THE AMERICAS

UNITED STATES: U.S. Wants to Join U.N. Human Rights Council

The Obama Administration announced on Tuesday, March 31, that the United States is seeking a seat on the U.N. Human Rights Council this year. The U.S. State Department believes that joining the council would be the "new era of engagement" between the United States and other nations.

"Human rights are an essential element of American global foreign policy," Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said. "With others, we will engage in the work of improving the U.N. human rights system to advance the vision of the U.N. Declaration on Human Rights."

The upcoming elections held in May will be an opportunity for the U.S. to join the 47 other elected members of the council. This council was established in 2006 to replace the discredited U.N. Human Rights Commission that included members such as Sudan and Zimbabwe.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and several other human rights groups welcome the announcement of the U.S. State Department, believing that the U.S. would have a significant impact on the group.

UNITED STATES: Discovery Space Shuttle Returns to Earth

After a 13-day mission in space, NASA's shuttle Discovery returned to Earth, landing at Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

The shuttle left Earth on Sunday, March 15, needed for the International Space Station. Seven crew members departed with the mission to examine the solar panels on the shuttle, a process necessary for astronaut safety.

The astronauts used a camera and laser mounted on a robotic arm to inspect the shuttle's outer surface. The images were then sent back to Mission Control as part of a routine procedure that ensures the integrity of the shuttle's heat-shield tiles. The tiles are designed to dissipate heat as the orbiter returns to Earth through an increasingly thicker atmosphere. Plans are in the works for the creation of tiles that can absorb a greater amount of heat, providing greater protection for the shuttle and crew.

Sandra Magnus, an astronaut who was stationed on the International Space Station for four months, returned with the Discovery crew to Earth.

UNITED STATES: Youngest American Rows Across Atlantic

Paul Ridley, at only 25 years old, is the youngest American to complete a solo rowing trip across the Atlantic Ocean. After 3,000 miles of rowing, he is finally back on land. "I'm exhausted. Overwhelmed with all the excitement from my arrival," Ridley told CNN. "[I am] physically feeling good but will be feeling a lot better when the soreness starts to heal and once that happens I will be back to fundraising because cancer research is still in need of funding, so we still have a lot of work to do."

Ridley set out from the Canary Islands off the northern African coast in his 19-foot boat on Jan. 1, and landed on the Caribbean island of Antigua at 2:30 p.m. on March 29.

For about three months, Ridley has been rowing up to 12 hours a day on the 2,950-mile journey to raise cancer awareness and to raise money for cancer research. His organization, Row for Hope, was inspired by the death of his mother from skin cancer in 2001.

Only 85 people have attempted the nearly 3,000 mile East-to-West crossing, according to the Ocean Rowing Society International, but most have failed. "It was incredible," he said. "The whole island of Antigua came out to greet me. The harbor was swarming with boats. A big crowd on dry land. It's really been an amazing reception."

BRAZIL: Wall Built Around Rio Slums

The government of Rio de Janeiro is building concrete walls around its expansive slums. The government claims that the wall is to protect the communities and the forest, but some see the move as discrimination against the city's poor.

So far, construction has been focused in the southern districts of Rio, particularly Morro Dona Marta, an area dominated by rival drug gangs and riddled with violence.

In response to the accusation that the wall is furthering the rift between the rich and poor, Tania Lazzoli, spokeswoman for the secretary of public works at the state government, told Reuters, "There is no discrimination. On the contrary, we are building houses for them elsewhere and improving their lives."

By the end of the year, the Rio de Janeiro state government wants to build almost seven miles of walls to contain 19 communities. It will spend 40 million reais (\$17.6 million) and have to relocate 550 houses.

"The objective is to contain the spread of the communities and protect the forest," Lazzoli said. "There are many houses in high risk areas."

Week in REVIEW

BY RYAN MCKEON '09 AND
JENNY ARVANAGHI '10

MIDDLE EAST

IRAQ: Discord After Baghdad Arrest

On Saturday, March 28, security forces in Baghdad took control of main roads leading to a district where at least three people were killed. Clashes between U.S. and Iraqi forces and a patrol group broke out when a local Sunni militia leader was arrested. Following up, on Sunday, troops drove through the Fadil neighborhood urging fighters to hand over their weapons.

The man who was arrested, Adil Mashadani, is the leader of the Fadil Awakening group, or Sons of Iraq. In a statement to the BBC from the Multinational Forces Iraq, Mashadani was suspected of fatal bomb attacks on Iraq's security forces, links to al-Qaeda in Iraq, collusion with the "terrorist network" Jaysh al-Islami, and extorting bribes of more than \$160,000 a month from Fadil residents.

For most of 2006 and 2007, Fadil was controlled by al-Qaeda in Iraq, but it was driven out by the Awakening Fighters. The group now consists largely of fighters who used to work for al-Qaeda but switched sides.

U.S. officials are trying to negotiate the release of five Iraqi soldiers taken hostage during the clash. Security forces are now warning the militants that they will be treated as terrorists if they do not surrender their weapons. The district of Fadil itself is very impoverished. Before the clash, the neighborhood was calm, people were out shopping and children were outside playing.

Analysts believe that the Shia-led government's handling of the Sunni Arab fighters it once fought against will be a key test of efforts to stabilize Iraq as the U.S. prepares to withdraw its combat troops by August 2010.

ASIA

TIBET: Country Reopens to Foreign Tourists

Tibet has been deemed "harmonious and safe" by Tibet's head of tourism, Bachug. The region has been recently closed to visitors due to heightened security fears. Though visitors are free to travel into the area, there is still a heavy Chinese military presence. Foreign journalists are reporting that they cannot operate freely; they are being constantly pressured by Chinese censors.

"We've limited numbers for safety reasons and from April 5 we will start to receive foreign tourists as usual. Right now everything is safe in Tibet, there's no problem," said Liao, a spokesman for the Tibetan government.

Analysts say that the main reason for the closing of Tibet to visitors was the 50th anniversary of the uprising that led to Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama's, flight to India. Now that the anniversary is over, visitors are free to return.

"Travel agencies, tourist resorts and hotels are well prepared for tourists," Bachug told the Chinese news agency Xinhua.

Tibet's tourism industry has suffered from the closure. The Total number of visitors fell by nearly half in the first nine months of last year, according to Xinhua, while tourism revenues plunged 54 percent to 1.8 billion yuan (\$264 million).

This year's closure is not Tibet's first. Last March, the government banned travelers after riots erupted on the 49th anniversary of the now infamous Tibetan uprising.

EUROPE

UNITED KINGDOM: G20 Summit Protestors March in London

London police estimate that 35,000 protesters have marched this week in London in expectation of the upcoming G20 summit. The majority of voices are calling for increased governmental assistance on poverty and the dire job market.

The G20 is a meeting of the world's most powerful countries that combined represent 85 percent of the world's economy. The meeting is supposed to stress international cooperation among bankers and finance ministers.

Among the protesters were families with small children, even some in strollers. Signs and banners waved along the 4.2 mile route read such things as "capitalists - you are the crisis" and "justice for the world's poor."

Glen Tarman, chairman of the Put People First co-ordination team, said, "We will keep up the pressure on world leaders and the U.K. government to address our demands and put people first"

GERMANY: Police Bungle DNA

A woman German police have been actively seeking to arrest for 15 years never existed. Dubbed the "phantom of Heilbronn," the woman was described by police as the country's most dangerous woman.

Police believed the woman to be a serial killer who killed six people over 15 years. Her DNA was found at crime scenes spanning across southern Germany and Austria.

The first doubts as to the existence of the unknown killer occurred when her DNA was found on documents belonging to a person who perished in a fire. In a later test, no trace of the suspect's DNA could be found on the document. Investigators began to believe that the crime scene was contaminated, or the testing material itself was somehow compromised. Investigators later determined that the cotton swabs used to collect DNA had been contaminated accidentally by a woman working at a factory in Bavaria.

"The puzzle of the phantom killer has been solved," said Volker Link, a prosecutor in Heilbronn.

One company who makes the swabs said they were intended for medical use only, while another company said there is no requirement for the swabs to be free of DNA.

AFRICA

COTE D'IVOIRE: Stampede at World Cup

More than 130 people were injured in the stampede at the Houphouet-Boigny area in the West African country's city of Abidjan. About 36,000 spectators were in the stadium, where hosts' Ivory Coast beat Malawi 5-0.

"We saw people falling. ... Then there was panic and a stampede," said Ollo Kambire, a reporter for Super Sport.

The Ministry of Sport and the Ivorian Football Federation have confirmed the number of deaths to be at least 22 people, when thousands of fans tried to squeeze into the city's main stadium. A wall collapsed under the weight of the supporters, causing those already trying to squeeze into the stadium to panic.

According to reporters, the poorly-equipped security forces were unable to control the crowds. Hundreds of fans have died during riots and stampedes at football games across Africa over the last decade.

Also, Interior Minister Desire Tagro told state television, "Lots of fans showed up. They started pushing to get in because the match was about to start and each and every one of them wanted to get in."

TANZANIA: Train Crash Kills 15

At least 15 people were killed after a passenger train ploughed into a stationary cargo train in Tanzania on Sunday. Bodies of the other victims are still trapped in the wreckage and have not been identified. William Lukuvi, Dodoma's regional commissioner, fears the number of deaths will rise.

Cranes were ordered to move the wreckage of the trains after the crash. "We are investigating the cause of the accident, which has already claimed at least 15 lives," Lukuvi told the Associated Press.

Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation said the accident happened in Pandambili, in Dodoma's Mpwapwa District.

This is not the first train wreck in Dodoma. In 2002, more than 200 people were killed and hundreds more wounded when a freight train crashed into a passenger train outside Dodoma. It is considered the worst rail accident in the country's history.

THE COWL AND MASTERPEACE PRESENT:



GRAPHICS BY MALIKA JONES '10

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

BY TINACHO CHITONGO '10

What is Genocide?

Article 2 of the The United Nations' General Assembly Resolution 260 (III) drafted from the "Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide" on Dec. 9, 1948, states, "genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

Is genocide only a war crime?

Article 1 confirms that "genocide, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war, is a crime under international law which they undertake to prevent and to punish."

Who is held responsible?

Article 4 states that, "persons committing genocide or any of the other acts enumerated in Article 3 shall be punished, whether they are constitutionally responsible rulers, public officials or private individuals."

Who enforces the law?

The United Nations is responsible for administering this law according to the Resolution adopted in 1948. In 1994, the United Nations established the International Criminal Tribunal of Rwanda (ICTR) to prosecute those most responsible for the 1994 genocide during which hundreds of thousands of Tutsis and moderate Hutus were murdered. Most recently the International Criminal Court (ICC) has indicted and issued an arrest warrant for President Omar Al-Bashir of Sudan for on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity.



Genocide means any ... acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group.

United Nations
Resolution 260 (III) A



How important is the International Criminal Court?

Established in 2002, the ICC is "the first permanent, treaty-based, international criminal court established to help end impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community."

The ICC is the only international court that is not part of the United Nations system. It was a result of the

Rome Statute of July 17, 1998, when 120 states adopted the legal basis for establishing the permanent International Criminal Court.

Give me some examples of genocides in history.

- (1) Armenians: 800,000-1,000,000 deaths (1915-1917)
- (2) The Holocaust: 6,000,000 deaths of Jews; 5,000,000 deaths of Poles, Roma, Communists, and other "undesirables" (1938-1945)
- (3) Cambodia: 2,000,000 deaths (1975-1978)
- (4) Bosnia: 200,000 deaths (1992-1995)
- (5) Rwanda: 800,000 deaths (April 6 through mid-July of 1994)

Does Genocide still occur?

In short, yes. Because of the legal consequences and ramifications of committing such a grave crime, politicians and world leaders have been hesitant to use the term. The strongest case has been made in Darfur Sudan where upper estimates say 400,000 people have been murdered. Other regions of the world where atrocities against defenseless civilians are occurring include: Eastern Burma, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Eastern Chad, Iraq, Somalia, and Sri Lanka.

How do I find out more about Genocide?

Visit STAND, Student Anti-Genocide Coalition, a network of student groups dedicated to putting an end to genocide in Darfur and elsewhere at standnow.org.

Also, be sure to check out the MasterPeace blog at and weigh in on issues concerning genocide and worldwide conflict with fellow PC students.

NEVER AGAIN: An unfulfilled promise.

On January 30, 1939, Adolf Hitler made a chilling prediction on the 6th anniversary of his accession to power: "Today I will once more be a prophet: If the international Jewish financiers in and outside Europe should succeed in plunging the nations once more into a world war, then the result will not be the Bolshevization of the earth, and thus the victory of Jewry, but the annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe!"

This was prior to what is still one of the darkest times in human history. In addition to a war with the Allied forces, the Nazis waged a domestic war against the Jews.

The magnitude of the atrocities committed by Hitler defies any logic and up to this day memories linger. Not only did the Nazis desire to exterminate Jews, but they targeted Communists and "undesirables;" Hitler took his crusade against Jews to Europe and approximately six million Jews were murdered when it was all over. Add five million Poles killed during this war and you get a level of evil that is scarcely imaginable. In fact when discussing evil men of our time, Hitler's name is sure to top many a list.

Atrocities against a specific race of people were officially defined after the Holocaust. The term genocide came into existence with the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (December 1948). Acts of genocide were outlawed, which included killing members of the group, causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group, deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures in-

tended to prevent births within the group, and forcibly transferring children of the group to another group." World leaders agreed that they could not allow such a thing to ever occur; "Never again" became the phrase of choice regarding such atrocities.

However, 61 years have passed since the Convention and "never again" has proved to be a misstatement:

- (a) Cambodia: 2,000,000 deaths (1975-1978)
- (b) Bosnia: 200,000 deaths (1992-1995)
- (c) Rwanda: 800,000 deaths (April 6 through mid-July 1994)



After Hitler, the world said, "Never again," but genocide is still a reality.



Is the international community culpable for these tragedies?

Yes, according to the Convention, acts of genocide occurred in Cambodia, Bosnia and Rwanda. How strongly did the signatories of the historic Convention signed in 1948 pursue peaceful outcomes? Looking at the examples above, possibly not very much happened to stop the killings as they happened. A lack of political will combined with Cold War politics have prevented any action in some instances of horrible warfare including some of the ones mentioned earlier.

A few years after the Rwandan genocide, President Bill Clinton, speaking at a genocide museum in that country stated, "It may seem strange to you here, especially the many of you who lost members of your family, but all over the world there were people like me sitting in offices, day after day, who did not fully appreciate the depth and speed with which you were being engulfed by this unimaginable terror."

A true confession or an excuse? The Rwandan genocide was well-documented by the Red Cross, who remained in the country even during the killings and the small United Nations mission led by L. Gen. Rome Dallaire. Hindsight is 20/20, but surely modern day genocides like Rwanda and Darfur are more evident to the outside world than ever before.

Acts of genocide are not limited to the cases mentioned above. Brutal civil wars in places like Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, and Liberia have seen civilians caught up in war, with their lives as the price they are forced to pay. Today, Darfur, Sudan is one of the stages of the nightmarish scene of genocide. World leaders have been debating and discussing terminology as millions have been displaced and hundreds of thousands killed.

After Hitler, the world said, "Never again," but genocide is still a reality. Samantha Power, (Director of the Human Rights Initiative at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University) describes all the instances of uncontroverted genocide in the last 50 years as, "Again and Again." What will it take to fulfill the promise?

THE CONGRESS CONNECTION

BY PATRICIA FOLEY '12 AND VICTORIA NGARE '12

Often, we feel as though we are powerless to affect change through government policy. But from my experience, that is hardly the case when constituents decide to band together and make their voices heard.

In the past two years, I have had the opportunity to learn about the "Constituent-Congressman" relationship by being an active constituent. My participation has included communicating with congressmen via e-mail, phone calls to their offices, and direct contact with their chiefs of staff or the congressmen themselves. During these times of communication, I have let my congressmen know what issues I think should be their priorities because they are important to me, as a constituent. Each time, the feedback I have received is that Congressmen react to outspoken constituents who let them know what matters to them.

Why is this? Because the Congressmen will then directly know that you are aware of what they are doing as your representative, and in turn, their actions will determine whether you vote for them or not. Re-election is one of the top priorities of congressmen, and it can't happen without the votes of constituents. Since active constituents are also the most likely to vote, congressmen pay attention to them. In conclusion, we are only powerless as constituents when we choose to be inactive.

DARFUR SCORES

One of the most frustrating aspects of genocide is trying to find where you can make a difference, and where your voice can be heard. There are many small steps that we must take as a society to make it known to the world that there is no room for hatred or genocide.

For this reason, we urge you to get involved by writing a letter to your representative or legislator. Diplomatic pressure and other means can make a huge difference. Political will is what is needed for any real changes to occur. Without pressure from constituents, members of Congress may not act as decisively on an issue such as genocide.

Are you aware that our congressmen are being graded on their attention to and action for Darfur? Check your legislator's score and urge them to do better at www.darfurscores.org. Hearing from students and active, engaged voters and citizens inspires legislators to move! Below is a list of congressmen in Rhode Island and their Darfur Scores:

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D): A
Sen. Jack Reed (D): B
Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D): A
Rep. James Langevin (D): A+

Visit www.darfurscores.org and urge your Senator and Representatives to get an A+ today!

FOCUS AREAS:

SUDAN



BY TINACHO CHITONGO '10

THE REPUBLIC OF SUDAN IS AFRICA'S largest country on the border between northern and Sub-Saharan Africa. Ranked the most unstable country in the world on the Failed States Index, the country is never far from the headlines.

The Darfur region of Sudan has received a fair amount of attention in the media. Despite all of the attention, acts of genocide and crimes against humanity are still being recorded. Over two million people have been displaced and upwards of 400,000 people have been killed (these numbers are estimates as measuring the number of dead has proven difficult).

Unlike the Second Sudanese Civil War, the current lines of conflict are seen by some reporters (such as those with *USA Today* and *Slate* magazine) to be ethnic, rather than religious. However, a United Nations report states that the various tribes under attack (chiefly the Fur, Masalit, and Zaghawa tribes) do not appear to have a distinct ethnicity from their attackers.

One side of the armed conflicts is composed mainly of the Sudanese military and the Janjaweed, a Sudanese militia group recruited mostly from Afro-Arab tribes of the northern Rizeigat region in Sudan. They are mainly camel-herding nomads. The other side comprises a va-

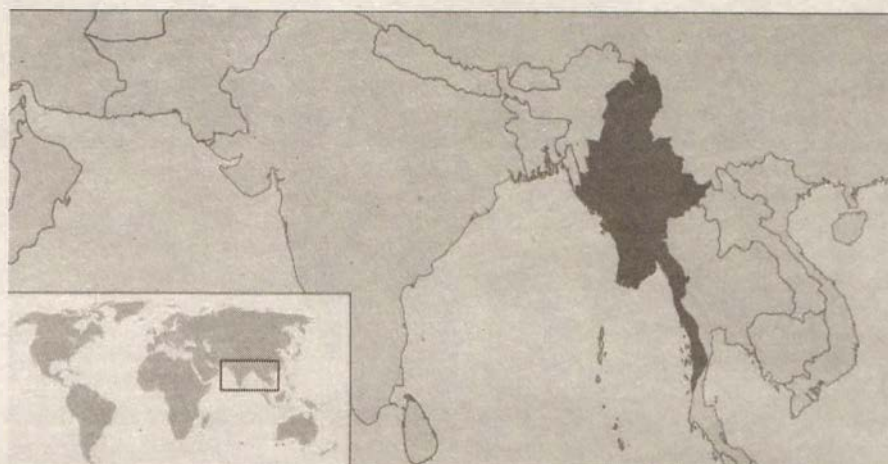
riety of rebel groups, notably the Sudan Liberation Army and the Justice and Equality Movement, recruited primarily from the land-tilling non-Arab Fur, Zaghawa, and Masalit ethnic groups.

The Sudanese government, while publicly denying that it supports the Janjaweed, has provided money and assistance to the militia and has participated in joint attacks targeting the tribes from which the rebels draw support. Civilians have been caught up in the fighting which began in Feb. 2003. Villages have been burned to the ground, women have been raped, and there are millions of displaced individuals within Sudan and neighboring Chad.

The International Criminal Court based at the Hague issued an arrest warrant for Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir on March 4, 2009, for his role in genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes committed since 2003 in Darfur. It is the first arrest warrant against a sitting head of state. Al-Bashir has since defied this warrant by traveling outside of Sudan and expelling aid agencies. The reactionary response of the Sudanese government has led to fears in international circles of increased violence and displacement in Darfur.

For more information on the Darfur situation visit Reuters Alertnet: http://alertnet.org/db/crisisprofiles/SD_DAR.htm

BURMA



BY TINACHO CHITONGO '10 AND PATRICIA FOLEY '12

LOCATED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, BURMA IS a country currently experiencing the horrors of genocide. The Burmese people, led by 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, who is presently under house arrest by the Burmese government, are fighting for democracy.

The military regime in Burma is forcing the people's voice to be silenced as they are practicing ethnic cleansing.

The situation in Burma is the world's longest current conflict. Approximately 70,000 child soldiers have been taken from their families and forced to fight for the military regime. Young children between the ages of 11 and 12 are swept off the streets, never to see their families again. Rape, which consistently occurs in genocide is also occurring in Burma. Twenty-five percent of the rape victims in Burma are mutilated, and later murdered after sexual assault and rape. Over 3,300 villages have been pillaged, forcing the Burmese people to hide in the jungle for months at a time, unable to tend to their crops, and forcing them into starvation.

Why is this happening? The military regime currently in power in Burma fears the rising power of minority populations. "It is important to understand that the areas under attack by the ruling

military junta have been controlled by ethnic groups in Burma for many years.

The present military junta has never controlled these areas. The junta began carrying out a war in order to take over these areas from the ethnic minorities, which had their own government, security apparatus, and commerce. The junta wants complete, totalitarian control of the entire region" (US Campaign For Burma). Burma is highly underrepresented in the media. Not enough people know about the tragic happenings.

According to their Web site, The United States Campaign for Burma "is a U.S.-based membership organization dedicated to empowering grassroots activists around the world to bring about an end to the military dictatorship in Burma.

Through public education, leadership development initiatives, conferences, and advocacy campaigns at local, national, and international levels, USCB works to empower Americans and Burmese dissidents-in-exile to promote freedom, democracy, and human rights in Burma and raise awareness about the egregious human rights violations committed by Burma's military regime."

Join the cause at:
www.uscampaignforburma.org.

GET INVOLVED!

There are many fighting for the cause against oppression and discrimination in various capacities. Here are some:

The U.S. Campaign for Burma is working to free Aung San Suu Kyi and the people of Burma through promoting human rights, democracy, and freedom. Visit uscampaignforburma.org for more information.

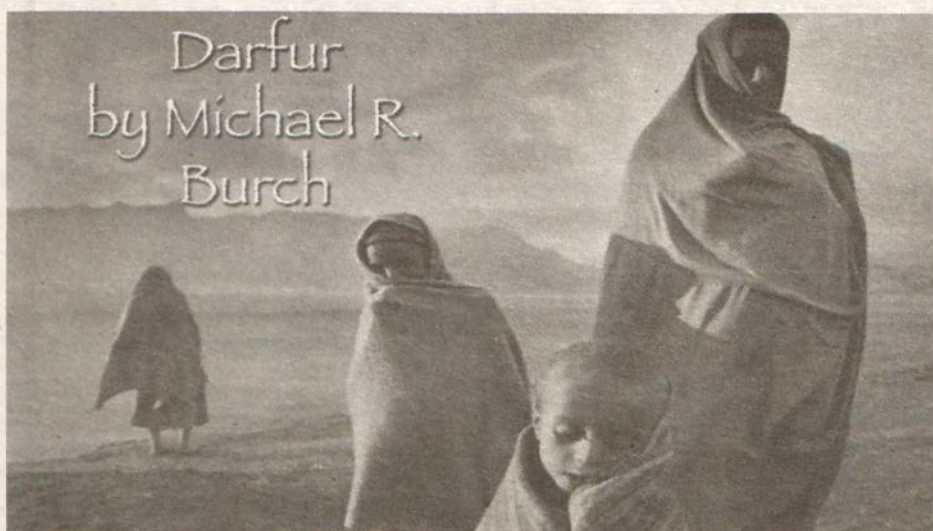
STAND!

Student Anti-Genocide Coalition is a network of student groups dedicated to ending genocide in Darfur and elsewhere. Visit www.standnow.org for more information.

Gua Africa was founded by Emmanuel Jal. It helps individuals in Kenya and Sudan overcome the effects of war and poverty. Visit gua-africa.org/ for more information.

The Genocide Intervention Network empowers individuals and communities with the tools to prevent and stop genocide. As part of the anti-genocide movement, they raise both money and political will for civilian protection initiatives around the world. Visit www.genocideintervention.net for more information.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has extensive information on genocide, especially pertaining to the Holocaust. They also have current event blogs and newsfeeds pertaining to genocide, like the Voices on Genocide Prevention blog. (<http://blogs.ushmm.org/index.php/COC2/>) Visit the museum's Web page at www.ushmm.org/education.



Darfur by Michael R. Burch

Darfur,
I admit that my heart recoils
from the thought of your agony
as the hammering machine guns
yammer at your ebony
breast.

Darfur,
I am not equal to the task
of your impassioned soliloquy.

Darfur, I am pressed
hard to understand
why men molest
innocence
so violently.

Darfur, I confess—
I have watched you dying
silently.

Darfur, I would bless
you,
if only I knew
how.



Darfur,
I stand helpless,
naked before your indignation
now.

Darfur,
I have only my pen.

Let me wield it like a rapier,
set fire to this paper,

till the world in burning shreds
collapses on our heads

and we see your fate is ours
if we cannot change the course

of this world intent to maim
each man who's not the "same"

in color and in creed.
And yet the blood you bleed,

as red as mine, demands
that we die holding hands.

O Darfur,
I'll bleed too
when the ravenous jackals
are through
with you.

Poets Against the Genocide in Darfur

by Gordon Ramel

If a poet's true vocation is to
speak
with words so well perfected
they remain
as thoughts forever in the
hearer's brain,
then poets are the people we
must seek.

To spin bright webs that will
ignite the minds
and wake the sleeping masses
of this world,
'til they become a tidal wave
that's hurled
against the cruel indifference
that blinds
the tame and tepid leaders of
our time.

The systematic slaughter in
Darfur,
this gory, gruesome, genocidal
war,
is now our world's most sick
and senseless crime;
and I for one would like my
government
to make its end their primary
intent.

I Was Not There

by Judith A. Billings
Superintendent of Public
Instruction, Washington

I was not there.

I did not share the mental walk
from disbelief to palpable de-
spair.

I did not bear the loss of home
and freedom,
Hunted, herded, forced behind
the ghetto walls.

I did not wear the yellow star.
I did not see the synagogues de-
stroyed
Nor watch the ghetto burned,
turned into ashes as I fled.

For me, no journey crammed
with others
in cattle cars,
No camp with barracks, guards
and barbed wire bars,

No rattling guns and pits, no
chambers,
gas and fire at life's end.

I was not there.

Why do I — MUST I — care?

WHAT IS MASTERPEACE?

MasterPeace is a one-week series of interactive events, lectures, open forums, and simulations devoted to raising awareness regarding global genocide in its historical and present context with a specific focus on the region of Darfur and the country of Burma. The week is deliberately designed to challenge Providence College students to engage in their role as global citizens through the creation of, and exposure to, opportunities that directly effect change.

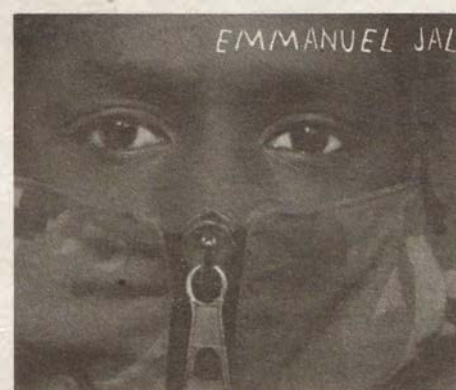
The title is meant to inspire students on campus to strive toward eliminating global violence and human rights violations through peaceful activism. The event uses an intentional play on the word masterpiece, and hence bears a double meaning. We strive for the totality of this week's campus-wide efforts to metaphorically represent the College's contribution of its own personal masterpiece to the international human museum that is the history of global conflict.

BUILDING ON A LEGACY

On Oct. 1 2008, Emmanuel Jal came to Providence College to share his story. A former child soldier, Emmanuel was born into civil war. His father's association with the Sudan People's Liberation Army during the Sudanese civil war meant that he was bound to be caught up in a war he barely understood. Jal lost family and friends to the ravages of war and starvation. He was firing an AK-47 before he could read and he was driven to the brink of starvation.

His is a moving story indeed. It is a story so compelling it was no surprise to see '64 Hall filled up with members of the PC community interested in hearing the story of this truly remarkable man. He came, he touched our lives, and then he left.

What do we have to show for that one night in Oct., when we were moved by an individual whose story can be multiplied thousands of times across the world, with people experiencing similar or worse fates in the name of war? How many of us have visited Jal's Web site, GUA Africa (<http://www.gua-africa.org/>).



Peace and justice are nothing but words in many parts of the world. Conflict rages and lives are lost. There is always an opportunity to make a difference though and so the event, MasterPeace is geared towards distributing information and providing action steps.

In his song, "War Child," Jal declares, "I believe I have survived to tell my story and touch lives." His story touched our lives and now we have a chance to move!



Want to join the planning committee of Masterpeace?

Want to sign up to be a part of the refugee challenge?


Want more information about events?

Want to make a donation or cosponsor?

Contact: Malika Jones
Mjones6@providence.edu

Master Peace

Genocide Awareness Week



Sunday, April 19

Candle Light Vigil

Introduce severity of genocide and remember those who have lost their lives or continue to suffer as a result of its perpetuation.

Speaker: Albert Silverstein (Holocaust survivor)

Location: Feinstein Courtyard

Time: 8pm



Monday, April 20

Forgotten Genocide

Paying respects to those who have lost their lives in past genocides.

There will be a Sudanese speaker at this event.

Location: Slavin '64 Hall

Time: 8pm

Refugee Challenge

After Forgotten genocide event participate in a simulation of the refugee experience by spending the night outdoors in a specially made refugee camp.

Location: Upper Quad

Time: 10pm

Tuesday, April 21

Human displacement simulation.

Location: Full Campus

Time: All Day



Wednesday, April 22

The Genocide Monologues

An engaging one-act play focusing on the crisis of genocide.

Location: Slavin '64 Hall

Time: 8pm



Thursday, April 23

Open Forum

A Call to Action! following short presentations relating to present-day genocide in the target areas, by a select panel of experts, students will have the opportunity to engage in a discussion on the issue of genocide.

Location: McPhail's

Time: 7pm - 9pm

Freedom Fast

An opportunity for all members of the campus community to Show solidarity with victims of genocide.

A personal fast will be followed by a reflection the next day (Friday).



Friday, April 24

Freedom Fast Banquet

A celebratory engagement recognizing the efforts of those who had participated in the Freedom Fast. It will feature a luncheon as well as a guided discussion about the experiences had by the participants.

Location: Slavin '64 Hall

Time: 12pm - 2pm



Saturday, April 25

Students for Action Fair

Showcasing student groups and institutions fighting to master peace!

Location: Peterson Field House lobby area

Time: 6pm - 8pm

Benefit Concert

A night of artistic expression from which all collected proceeds will be dedicated to current efforts to support the construction of Emmanuel Jal's school in Sudan.

Location: Peterson Field House

Time: 8pm - 11pm

Can You Pass the Flavor Test?

The Cowl Cordially Invites You To A Flavor Trip

BY CHRIS STADOLNIK '10
A&E STAFF

Have you ever wondered what tastes were hidden behind the doors of perception? We did. And with the help of Miracle Berries, we ripped those doors right off their hinges. We tasted what lay behind...and it was good...for the most part.

The miracle fruit plant (*Synsepalum dulcificum*), native to West Africa, produces a berry that when consumed causes bitter and sour foods to be temporarily perceived as sweet. The active chemical present in the flesh of the fruit is an active glycoprotein molecule, with trailing carbohydrate chains, called miraculin. These molecules bind to the taste buds allowing the tongue to perceive sour tastes as sweet.

While the exact science of the effect is still unknown, it is generally believed that the miraculin blocks the function of the sour and bitter taste buds and allows the sweet taste buds to perceive acids (like citric acid) and bitter tastes as sugars.

An attempt to commercialize the active chemicals in the fruit was made in the 1970s but the effort failed miserably. There was some controversy surrounding accusations that the effort had been sabotaged by the sugar industry to prevent widespread use of the berries, resulting in a drop in sugar demand. In recent years there has been a push for FDA approval (yes, it still isn't FDA approved) as a food additive and



MATT LONGOBARDI '10/THE COWL

dietary supplement. There have been no advances made so far.

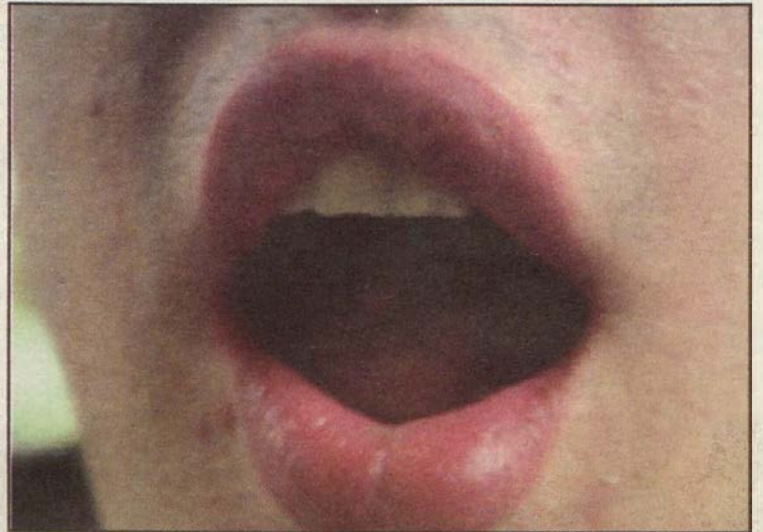
After hearing about this miracle fruit, I was inspired, in the model of the late, great Ken Kesey, to organize for our humble paper a flavor trip, for the sake of bringing the Miracle Berry to the masses. And with the approval of our fearless editor, Mary Microgram, we set out on the first Cowl Taste Trials, with eager anticipation and Merry Prankster names all around.

For our trip, I procured 35 grams (10 normal doses or five high-strength doses) of Miracle Berry in tablet form from www.ThinkGeek.com at a cost of \$20.00. Tablet form is the most convenient and economical. Though live potted plants are available in Connecticut through specialty greenhouses for a moderate price, the berry is relatively difficult to procure cheaply.

Eight participants were recruited from our more than willing staff. Doses of 1.75 grams were dispensed to six of the trippers, and Speed Limit and I took 3.5 gram doses. The effects became noticeable after seven minutes and most intense after 15. These are the immediate reactions to the tablets.

Who's Your Kid - "Man, this is chalky."
Gretchin' Fetchin' - "It has a strange Crunchberry flavor."
Mountain Girl - "Kinda' tastes like açai berry."
All of the participants were asked to

consume one or more items from a list of approved foods: lemons, gummy worms, Sour Patch Kids, limes, pizza, coffee, salt and vinegar chips, 7up, Coke, green apple, orange juice, and radicchio. Here are some of the impressions of those on the bus.



MATT LONGOBARDI '10/THE COWL

Speed Limit - "Radicchio still sucks, but tolerable. I would sit and eat lemons and limes all day, tastes like over-sugared lemonade or lime rickey. Sour Patch Kids are like Swedish Fish. No ill effects at all. And oh yeah, pizza tastes like texture and grease."

Mountain Girl - "Salt and vinegar chips taste like regular chips. Lemons taste amazing! And Granny Smith apples taste sweet."

Stark Naked - "Bad Slavin coffee continued to taste like bad Slavin coffee; after 30 min. There was an awful bitter taste in my mouth; salt and vinegar chips were ruined forever."

Bad Trip - "My Coke tastes awful. It's just dirty water now."

Babbs - "Gummy worms are super sweet and yummy! Pizza is tasteless. 7up tastes the same. Lemon is orgasmic. Lime is good, but not as good as the lemon. Apple is weird and sweet but not a real apple taste."

Chief - "Orange juice tastes like it's from the moon."

Longo - "Lemon in water tastes like lemonade."

While we firmly believe in better living through chemistry, Miracle Berries and Flavor Tripping have their drawbacks. The effects only last for about 30 minutes. You will probably eat a number of foods that don't play nice with one another in your stomach, so if you overindulge you will make yourself sick. And since acidic foods taste so amazing, you must be careful how much of them you eat because you could easily eat three whole lemons and a lime and have a sore throat for days. Take it from me. If you continue abusing yourself with chemically enhanced lemons you may cause oral ulcers.

However, if you use the tablets in moderation, the trip can be a really enjoyable experience, especially when enjoyed with friends. So grab a berry and go have a trip. You might like it. You might not. But what we guarantee is that you will never look at a lemon the same way again.

Ray Girls Gone Wild

BY LINDSEY SHEEHAN '11
A&E STAFF

She is Club Ray's bouncer and one of the most talked about members of the waitstaff here at PC. You may know her as the lady who catches you sneaking out cups, or the one who turns your frown up-side down as you lug your thesis and Civ books into Ray, but there are two things that are certain about Janina; she loves her job and she is a staple of our student life. It was a hard task to get this busy woman to sit down for an interview, but once established, the secret life of Janina was unraveled.

Janina's accent hails from Ladz, Poland, where she was born and raised. At age 20, she came to New York City. Her 14 years in the Big Apple consisted of taking computer courses and working at J.P. Morgan. This Polish poppet was married for 42 years and now has four grandchildren. Her husband passed away nine years

ago, but "now I'm single!" she laughs; however, "I'm not looking for a boyfriend." So stay away, PC men! Anyway, her schedule is booked as it is without dates. When not working, she's cooking authentic Polish food like pierogis or golabki (stuffed cabbage), playing cards with her friends, or going out to her favorite restaurant, Greek, located on North Main Street. It has been nine years since she entered the Café Ray-Ray doors and her enthusiasm throughout the interview attests that it has been= great since the start.

A Little Q and A:

What's your favorite food at Ray?

Salad and the beef barley soup.

What's your favorite time of year?

Summer and winter; in the winter I used to go skiing and skating... those are some of my favorite memories. I'm too old to do that now!

What's your favorite Ray themed meal?

Oh yes! I dress up for different holidays like Halloween...[but] Christmas



Janina: Serving up sloppy joe's since 2001

LINDSEY SHEEHAN '11/THE COWL

is my favorite.

What's your favorite station to work at in Ray?

The cash register. I've worked there for eight years now. I get to see you kids and be involved in student life.

Who's your favorite student?

My favorite student is everyone! I love you all! I enjoy seeing you kids and being active in the student life...You know, I'm always joking and cheering you [the students] up...some [stu-

dents] come in here down or stressed and I'll ask them "What's wrong?" I'm the mom and grandmother (laughs). Sometimes I'm the doctor! They say they have a stomachache... and I'll tell them to drink hot tea and lemon.

Where do you want to go on vacation?

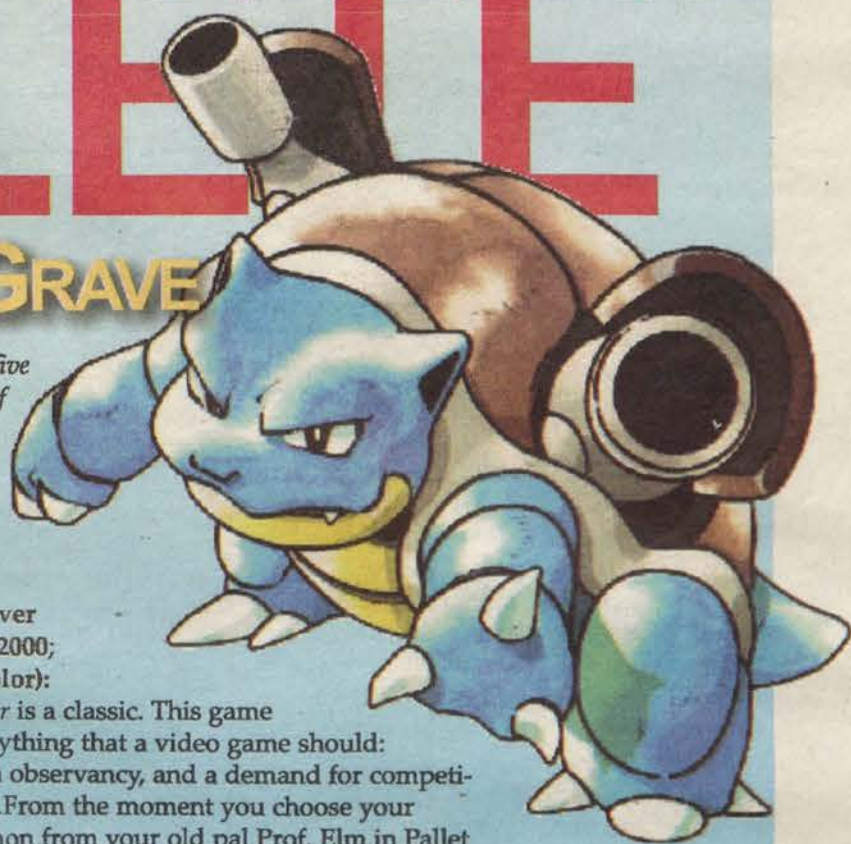
Europe! I've been back to Poland six or seven times since I left, (but) I would really love to go to Europe for two to three months.

NOT SO OBSOLETE

BY NAHUEL FANJUL '11 AND CATHERINE NORTINGTON '12
A&E

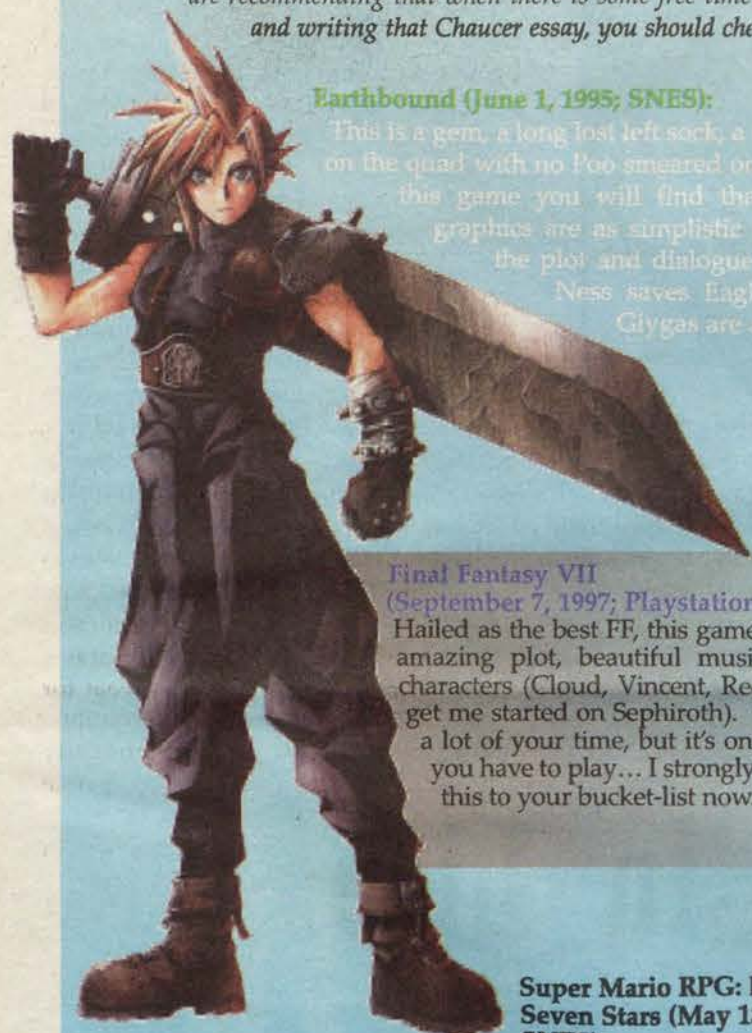
VIDEO GAMES THAT DEFY THE GRAVE

With midterm grades coming out soon, and the end of the school year approaching (yes, there are only five weeks left of classes), we at A&E thought it would be a good idea to provide you with more methods of procrastination. We are not encouraging that you slack on your work as the semester wanes, but we are recommending that when there is some free time between studying for that Calc exam and writing that Chaucer essay, you should check out these classic games.



Earthbound (June 1, 1995; SNES):

This is a gem, a long lost left sock, a dollar bill found on the quad with no Poop smeared on it (if you know this game you will find that funny). The graphics are as simplistic as possible, but the plot and dialogue of the game as Ness saves Eganland from the Giygars are amazing. NF



Final Fantasy VII (September 7, 1997; Playstation):

Hailed as the best FF, this game is filled with an amazing plot, beautiful music, and amazing characters (Cloud, Vincent, Red XIII, and don't get me started on Sephiroth). This will take up a lot of your time, but it's one of those games you have to play... I strongly suggest you add this to your bucket-list now. NF

Super Mario RPG: Legend of the Seven Stars (May 13, 1996; SNES):

This first RPG game for the Mario series wasn't a huge hit, but still had a large following for its great plot and style of play. It can be found on the Wii's online store and it's worth downloading. Join Mario, Geno, the Princess, and Bowser on a quest to stop Smithy from taking over Mushroom Kingdom. NF

Pokemon Silver (October 15, 2000; Gameboy Color):

Pokemon Silver is a classic. This game involves everything that a video game should: strategy, keen observancy, and a demand for competition and skill. From the moment you choose your starter Pokemon from your old pal Prof. Elm in Pallet Town, to that final battle in the Pokemon League, this game will occupy your for countless hours. Recommended especially for long road trips. CN

Mario Kart (February 10, 1997; Nintendo 64):

Mario Kart is, simply put, genius. Pick from your favorite Mario characters and race your friends around the scenic Koopa Troopa Beach or the ever-intoxicating Toad's Turnpike. I rarely go a day without playing this game, yet somehow *Mario Kart* has still not gotten old for me. To be honest, I doubt that it ever will. CN

Sonic 3 (February 2, 1994; Sega Genesis):

Despite boasting less-than-impressive graphics, Sega Genesis is undoubtedly one the the most underrated gaming systems. Countless hours of my childhood were devoted to navigating Sonic and Tails through the perils of Angel Island Zone and defeating the fiendish Robotnik at the end of Marble Garden Zone. I recommend the *Sonic* games (especially 1 and 3) to any Sega gamer up for a real challenge. CN

Goldeneye (August 25, 1997, Nintendo 64):

Try as they may, video game makers will never create a better first-person shooting game than *Goldeneye*. No matter how advanced the graphics get and how intricate the plot synopses in the newer games become, *Goldeneye* will never be outdone. Innocent multiplayer battles invariably become vicious death matches, initiating countless feuds between even the closest of siblings and friends. CN

Harvest Moon: Back To Nature (November 22, 2000; Playstation 1): Sure, a game about farming might seem a tad dry and monotonous. But I swear, *Harvest Moon* is boring in the funnest way possible. Not only do you gain control of a beautiful plot of land in the friendly and quaint Mineral Town, but you also forge valuable friendships with villagers and participate in all the amusing village festivals. CN

The Legend of Zelda: A Link to the Past (April 13, 1992; SNES):

Most people chose *Ocarina of Time* as a Zelda classic, but this early version started my love for the series. It joined together a huge quest with large puzzle levels to become a classic hit. If you still say *Ocarina* is your favorite after playing this, then I'll personally play you any Zelda tune your little quartered-heart desires on my replica *Ocarina*. NF

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles IV: Turtles in Time (April 12, 1992; SNES):

Who wouldn't love a good side-scrolling Ninja Turtles game, right? If time is a factor the next couple weeks, then this is the game for you. It takes me an average 45 minutes to beat the game, but bosses like Bebop and Rocksteady, and Super-Shredder will keep you entertained while you munch some pizza between studying. NF



with Annmarie Granstrand '09
A&E Editor Emeritus

Taste Of The Town

Avenue Grille
2223 Mineral Spring Ave
North Providence, RI 02911
(401) 232-7722

Samuel Johnson once said, "The happiest part of a man's life is what he passes lying awake in bed in the morning." I agree with Sam. It is difficult to make the conscious decision to physically rise up, slide one's feet over the side of the bed, and place them on the floor. Sitting in this position often hurls you into a word of mental to-do lists and curls your toes under in angst towards the day ahead. But there is one possible way to ease the pain of waking. As journalist John Gunther once wrote: "All happiness depends on a leisurely breakfast." Well said, John.

Growing up, breakfast consisted of Honey Nut Cheerios or, when my father's persuasive oration succeeded, oatmeal. But my mother, to this day, rarely eats breakfast. She relishes the moments Johnson celebrates and once her feet hit the floor, the day's events have begun. But once in a while, a small overlap can be seen in the Venn diagram of my parents' morning routines: going out to breakfast.

Every few Fridays, my parents wake us up earlier than usual and my three brothers and I wordlessly shuffle from our respective rooms and into the Volvo to Vicki's Diner. Soon our zombie-like stupors thaw and, eventually, we enjoy calm conversation about who will swim the 500m in the afternoon's swim meet, the health of the Mets' bullpen, or how a brother's obsession with Taylor ham will lead to a heart attack at age 17.

The nutritional value of breakfast is most obvious. But the delicate easing into of the day, when there is time set aside to savor a few slices of French Toast and a good cup of coffee in a ceramic mug can be just as salubrious. Avenue Grille is a perfect spot to begin the day.



GOOGLE IMAGES

My roommate and I usually hit the snooze button more times than Rick Pitino grimaces. But on mornings that hold the promise of a hot breakfast out, we get up faster than Glen Beck can say: "Obama-pocalypse." The best way to enjoy breakfast out is at a leisurely pace. So be sure to give yourself plenty of time to suit up in your PC uniform of jeans, free BOP

event shirt and Friars sweatshirt along with your North Face backpack or Longchamp bag.

In regards to the calm atmosphere, "Avenue Grille was the opposite of Brickway," sighed my breakfasting mate as she placed her coffee back on the table. The waitress is quite friendly

considering you can get exactly what you want without wasting a dime.

The best deal at The Avenue is certainly the first combination. For less than four bucks, you can get refillable coffee, two eggs, toast (I recommend the Italian toast), and home fries. It is similar to the deal at Slavin except you get more toast, another egg, and the coffee tastes more like coffee and less like a punishment. And because we wanted a treat on top of that deal, we also each got an appetizer. I had a slice of French toast and poured a touch of maple syrup on it. My roommate's caffeinated coffee must not have kicked in yet because she poured cream on her pancake instead. Win some, lose some.

We noticed that they also have a decent lunch menu and open up again on weekend nights to serve breakfast food. Although it is not within walking distance, I would be up for a quick drive down Smith Street to have that French toast late at night.

Everyone says breakfast is the most important meal of the day. I agree with "them" but not just because of the vitamins found in a glass of orange juice. Breakfast, when done right, can afford you the necessary moments to prepare for the day ahead and enjoy the calm before the storm of thesis outlines, group project meetings, and critical intramural volleyball matches. When the hourly tide of Ray-goers becomes too much, consider getting up a few minutes earlier and visiting Avenue Grille. If "all happiness" depends on a "leisurely breakfast" there is probably a good chance you will see a return on that investment.

and accommodating. She seemed to know everyone who walked through the door and just how they liked their eggs. Background ambiance included a silent jukebox, the soothing voice of Matt Lauer on *The Today Show*, and the re-folding of newspapers.

The menu is nothing too fancy or complicated but the price is right. It is a great place for the "specific diner"

The Finer Brews in Life

BY CHRIS TOMPKINS '09
A&E ASST. EDITOR

Spring is here; the days are warming and the time for light ales and light hearts is at hand. So why so serious...uh...er...bitter, Magic Hat?

I recently purchased one of Magic Hat's seasonal mixed 12s - Spring Fever. And much to my dismay it included, along with the Odd Notion for spring and H.I.P.A. (a bitter but sweetly satisfying interpretation of the I.P.A.), three #9s and three Circus Boys. Now, both of these are in their own rights good beers, and worth drinking. But they are two inescapably ubiqui-

tous Magic Hat elixirs. They are always found side by side in my local packie refrigerator, but never together. Then an odd notion of my own came to mind... What if I was to mix them; build a better beer—faster, stronger, more complex than before...

Here is my simple but satisfying recipe for what I call a "Nine Ring Circus." For those of you familiar with the standard two beer mash-ups—the black and tan, and the half and half—forget all you know. #9 and Circus Boy are approximately the same gravity (11 and 11.2 respectively) so there is no chance of layering them; assembling this beer is very easy. The procedure is as follows: rinse a pint glass in cold water, pour one-half of a pint of a cold Circus Boy, then pour one-half of a pint of cold #9, and garnish with a wedge of orange if desired. Repeat with remaining beer and serve to a thirsty friend.

The beer you have just assembled should look something like this; a hazy field of golden wheat at sunset topped by a delicate and airy head, which will dissipate very quickly. Do not be alarmed.

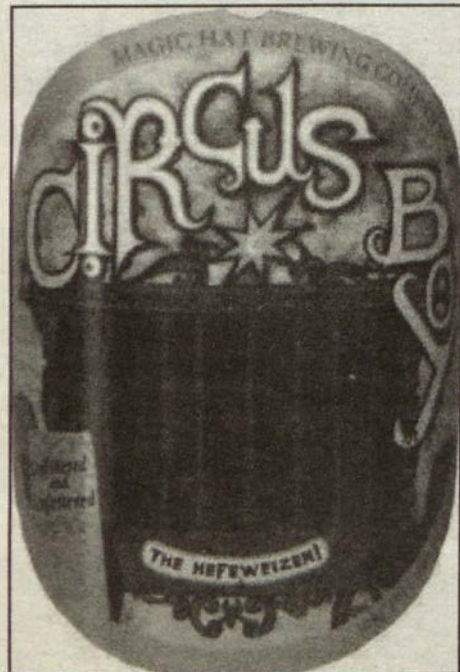
The body of the beer remains unchanged; still a

medium-light ale with fine carbonation. The bitterness is mild; approximately 17 IBU. The nose is full of fruity esters - lemon, apricot, and a faint apple note - with a yeastiness that fills the background. The flavor is something more difficult to describe. The usually overwhelming sweetness of the apricot in #9 is kept in check by the wheat malts of Circus Boy. But it still presents itself assertively, and in conjunction with a clean citrus finish from the lemony notes in Circus Boy. The balance of Cascade, Columbus and Amarillo hops enhances the taste of the fruit esters. The finish is clean and does not tire the palate. And the alcohol content of this session-frankenbeer sits at approximately 4.5 percent, making it an eminently drinkable brew, best enjoyed on the couch on your front porch lounging in the mid afternoon sun—if you are lucky enough to have one that is. Otherwise, it would be a great option for picnicking; especially when paired with something light like a turkey sandwich, hummus with pita bread, or a garden salad with walnuts and a light vinaigrette.



GOOGLE IMAGES

Now, I realize that there are still 6 beers left of this 12. DO NOT TRY TO MIX THEM. It will end in disaster. Drink the H.I.P.A. either before your "Nine Ring Circus" or well after it, because the bitterness will seem overwhelming if you drink them back to back. The H.I.P.A. is an assertive brew worthy of its own article though (because it, like Orlando Bloom has a clause in its contract that it won't appear side by side with any co-star prettier than it). So look in *The Cowl* in later weeks for my review of the H.I.P.A. And did I mention that the art on the label was painted by none other than Stanley Mouse, the man who 'put the face on rock and roll music' in the '60s? Just thought you might like to know...



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Madness: A March Tradition



BY MICHAEL PETTINARI '09
 COMMENTARY STAFF

CAMPUS

Well, I guess it's that time of year again. And no, I'm not just talking about the exorbitant numbers of frayed, Abercrombie denim miniskirts you are seeing around campus. What I am talking about, however, is just as infectious as said denim miniskirts. Yes, it's March. And with March comes the madness that only March can bring. It's a great time for sports. Baseball season is just around the corner. You're hearing more rumbles and grumbles out of the NFL. And of course, you're loosing sleep and steady control over your GPA and over who you picked in your NCAA Tournament bracket.

It happens every year. You're excited about your picks. You think you have a solid bracket. In fact, you're willing to bet \$100 that you will finish in front of your roommate who won it all last year. Then you'll not only have bragging rights, but you'll also have accomplished something in a field where you know all of your friends know you know nothing about. Go with Louisville, I said to myself. That seems logical. The number one ranked team overall in the tournament. Right? Wrong.

I don't care who you are, it is downright impossible to pick a winner. I've met them all. From egotistical college basketball team managers, who shall remain nameless, to a number of friends' girlfriends—who pick teams based solely on the colors of their jerseys, no one can provide me with a winning bracket.

I don't know who you have to be. Apparently being a college basketball analyst can't even help you. Digger Phelps is a moron. Jay Bilas is a lawyer when he's not courtside. And Doug Gottlieb stole a dude's identity in college, so I'm sure as heck not going to trust anything he says.

You would certainly have to think that the President of the United States of America would be able to have some sort of pull. I don't know, maybe get one of your secret service guys to rough up Dickie V or something. It just doesn't seem possible that the most powerful man on the face of the earth can't find some sort of inside information on which to base his picks. I mean, let's be real; if the President is wrong about the NCAA Tournament, how is he ever going to protect us during times of war? I'm surprised some right wing talk-radio pundit hasn't thrown that into the gauntlet of criticisms.

What makes the NCAA Tournament so appealing to everyone, though, is the fact that everyone thinks they have the key to winning. The second March 1 hits, everyone suddenly becomes an expert on college basketball. And what's even more entertaining is the fact that everyone is willing to tell you why they are going to be winners.

"Oh, this year I have Oklahoma going to the finals and winning.

MADNESS/Page 21

Out of Work? Get a . . . Vasectomy?

The current economy may have dramatic effects on our ethical decisions

BY JENN DIPIRRO '12
 COMMENTARY STAFF

Everyone is incredibly worried about the nation's economy—duh. I was talking to my dad on the phone the other day and he told me that he just filled out my FAFSA and does not think we will be seeing much financial aid, if any, next year. More high school seniors will surely be attending state schools as at private colleges and universities tuition rates continue to soar. Additionally, we are all awaiting the increase in gas prices as the summer travel season approaches. People everywhere have been cutting back on their expenditures as Oct. 2008 marked one of the worst months in Wall Street history. Gas prices are obvious, but now the financial crisis has gone deeper by affecting aspects of peoples' lives such as contraception.

Urologist Dr. Stephen Jones' Cleveland Clinic has recorded a 50 percent increase in the number of vasectomies since November (which, by no coincidence, follows October, one of the economy's worst months of all time). Why a vasectomy? Because it is the cheapest and most non-invasive form of permanent birth control available. Jones told CNN.com that his patients "realize they don't have the financial security, long-term, with what's going on. Several of them have mentioned, 'We can't afford to have any more children in this economy.' My per-

ception is that it's more of the concept of raising children in an uncertain economic future." Many people have or are about to lose their jobs or are concerned about their health insurance coverage. Surely another child would only increase their stress.



GOOGLE IMAGES

"During bad economic times, the Depression and the recession in the 1970s, the birth rate did go down." Carl Haub, a demographer with the Population Reference Bureau told www.CNN.com that, "Some folks will postpone having kids. If you had a vasectomy, you've made a bigger decision that you're never going to have another child." When people stop having children, it implies a loss of confidence in their future employment prospects." Haub also stated that it is too early to tell whether or not the recession has in fact crippled the birth rate.

My high school guidance counselor told me that 1989, the year that of this year's freshmen and sophomore class members were born, was a year that many population analysts

considered the "second baby boom." This "baby boom," much like its predecessor that stemmed from the aftermath of World War II, was largely due to the nation's optimistic outlook on the economy's future. He told me that it was because of this that last year's application process was the most competitive ever. But what will happen if there is a noticeable decrease in births in 2008 and 2009? What will this increase in sterilization mean for high school seniors in 2026? Will John Doe with a class rank of 200 out of 300 and a GPA of 2.2 get into a school like Providence College which today typically accepts students who are in the top 25 percent of their class with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher. Perhaps because there will be a lack of students, there will be less colleges. Maybe the middle will be cut out entirely and only Ivy League and state schools will be necessary.

Haub also stated that it is typically lower-income clients who are looking into sterilization. This seems to go against everything I have ever known about the Welfare System. I always thought that having more children would increase the amount of aid that a family receives. Therefore, why would they want to stop reproducing? Perhaps Welfare's assistance has been insufficient or they fear that they will no longer be eligible due to the dire straits of others. However, many of the patients have been wealthy. Dr. Marc Goldstein, a urologist in New York, has had a lot of vasectomy clients who work in the financial sector. Goldstein

VASECTOMIES/Page 20

Defending PC in a Materialistic World



BY JEREMIAH BEGLEY '10
 COMMENTARY STAFF

RELIGION

"Follow me," says Christ in Matthew's Gospel, "and I will make you fishers of men." The Dominican Friars who administer this College see their teaching as a form of preaching; in keeping with their apostolic heritage, it serves as a form of fishing as well. All the faculty of this institution cast their nets into a sea of students, hoping to capture their imaginations and lift them to higher things. A catch can be as simple as a person discovering Plato for the first time, or as profound as an experience with Truth itself; time and time again, God's grace comes through the pages of great books like the *Confessions* of St. Augustine. Either way, the mission of these fishermen is to get their students hooked on the liberal arts, to make them into life-long seekers of Truth. Do we not describe ourselves as being 'in school'?

In the minds of many who sympathize with this vision, however, there is something distinctly fishy going on. Both in private and in print, some have begun to question the institutional commitment of Providence College to its Catholic and Dominican mission. These critiques center on the perceived misuse of our precious financial resources: instead of hiring humanities faculty or paying the present ones better, it is said, we have constructed a gleaming new fitness center, opened an opulent School of

Business, and agreed to pay a diminutive young basketball coach a million dollars per year. In this view, Providence College is not a teeming shoal of fish waiting to be caught, but a veritable Sea World of aquatic amusements—distractions from the true *telos* of the institution.

Both in private and in print, some have begun to question the institutional commitment of Providence College to its Catholic and Dominican mission.

Now, lest I be accused of believing the business school is anything other than ridiculous, let me reiterate my position that marketing and management are utterly worthless majors, unfit for undergraduate study and unworthy of a place in our curriculum. The other "disciplines" in the business school are at least justifiable, but only as job training undertaken instrumentally as means to material ends. These programs bear the same relation to the intrinsically desirable humanistic disciplines of theology and her handmaidens that New Wine bears to lighter fluid, and coming to an upper-second-tier liberal arts institution to study in a fifth-rate business school is a peculiar kind of self-immolation indeed.

My feelings about the fitness center and the basketball team are far less vitriolic—I do, I must admit, enjoy Friars games and rather infrequent workouts—

but I certainly recognize the incredibly detrimental effect the consumer mentality has had upon American higher education, and in all likelihood upon this campus as well. But why must a well-deserved decrying of the present problems with education necessarily become an indictment of the Providence College administration as well? These issues are not properly problems with our institution. Their scope is not even exhausted by the entirety of higher education. They are products of this age, which has willfully forgotten and dismissed the best aspects of its predecessors, and this world, fallen since just after the dawn of mankind. To change the modern world, one must engage with the modern world; to rescue young people from the culture, one must put one's hands into the mainstream. And to catch a fish, a fisherman needs bait.

We are an institution with a somewhat schizophrenic character. We have a commitment to liberal learning and a genuine core curriculum which approaches that of institutions like Thomas Aquinas College, Thomas More College, Christendom College, and the University of Dallas. But to use the jargon of consumer academia, our "peer institutions" are larger, less orthodox schools like Villanova, Fordham, and our neighbor in Chestnut Hill. It is these latter schools with which we compete for students, and it is these schools which have been hit very hard by the curse of secular prestige and big-time athletics. So have we. But despite being inextricably bound to

GRACIOUS/Page 21

An Unpleasant Truth For a Jack of All Trades

BY JEFF GAHAN '11
COMMENTARY STAFF

Do you remember way back when, in the good old days of high school, when school seemed to be about much more than the actual time spent in classes? I can recall all the numerous activities and clubs that everyone was into at the time, and how much they proved to break up the monotony in life. And the best part was, all of these activities counted for something! Shocking, I know. However, back in high school teachers actually understood that extracurricular activities were an integral part of the high-schooler's day. When applying to college, all of the colleges, including this institution, reminded students that is not just about the GPA, and that it is more of the overall picture of a well rounded student that they were interested in. So being imbred with this idea at an early age has clearly had negative effects, seeing that to in college the playing field is much different.

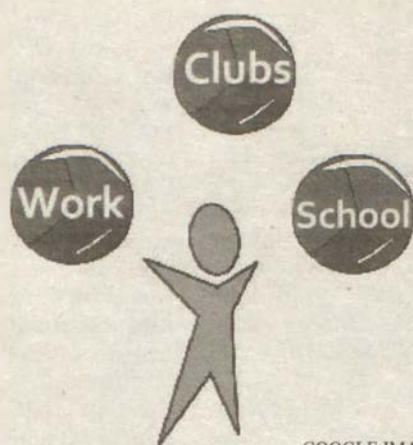
Obviously, I am not trying to write an article that sounds like a whining little boy who got picked on by his teacher. I am just trying to illustrate the irony of the college education. Back in high school, extracurricular activities were almost a necessity for all of those who wanted to get into a four-year college. So we did community service and got involved in school clubs and organizations—the weird thing being that we all came to truly appreciate these extras. They have become so essential in making us the students we are today. At Providence College, there is a very high number of students who are involved somehow or another on campus. I just wonder whether or not some of the faculty at this school realize that.

Clearly, the PC student body is a very active community that emphasizes the importance of things in

school other than academics. Why don't the individual expectations of the teachers line up with the expectations of the college? PC makes it known that the well-rounded student will succeed at PC, while the teachers seemingly discredit all other activities other than strict academics. Most teachers don't realize how much of our free time is dedicated to other things. And of course, they usually assume that their topic or course reigns supreme. I am not even going to get into how some teachers seemingly discredit all other subject areas, while they should know that the core classes we are required to take are obviously important as well—otherwise we wouldn't be required to take them. It's not like we have a sewing class or a fitness class in which only requires attendance and participation—all of the classes offered at PC are substantial and important.

So why is there disestablishment of the ideals of the College and the practicality of teacher's expectations? I know one of the reasons I chose PC was because I knew I could be involved with things that were of interest to me. Why then does

it seem that these things are deemed unimportant by some at this school? Obviously, not every teacher or faculty member at this college is guilty of this, but it seems as though the general consensus among students is what ever happened to the notion of "It's not just about the GPA?" This article doesn't intend to get into the types of expectations that students' families (and the students themselves) place on the individuals at PC. I do wonder why most of the employers that we will hopefully some day have a job with are looking for a well-rounded resume, and not just one line that has a number on it. Again, why the break between some of the faculty and the college, because I know the Office of Career Services isn't telling students that the one thing an employer wants is a high GPA—expectations, expectations, expectations.



GOOGLE IMAGES

BY ISA ALI '10 AND JOE McMENAMIN '10
COMMENTARY STAFF



"With the poor economic conditions, even Harrison Ford had to get a second job in construction."

VASECTOMIES: An Economic Necessity?

continued from page 19:

told www.CNN.com that some of the men have mentioned that, "It costs \$30,000 a year to put my kids in private school and I can't afford to have another one." It's never the sole reason, but it's certainly a contributing factor." Are people materialistic enough to forego

having children just to live a more desirable lifestyle?

These thoughts frighten me and I am very concerned for the future of our nation. Perhaps our problem here is not so much an economic crisis but rather an ethical struggle.

Tangents and Tirades

Relay For Life I'd like to dedicate my tangent today to all of the people who made Relay for Life such a great event. Not only did we raise an incredible amount of money (\$118,000!), but the event ran smoothly and was a lot of fun. One of the best things about Relay, besides raising money and awareness about cancer, is that you get to be in the same place at the same time as most of your friends and people you don't get to see as often. Having such busy schedules and people choosing to go to their respective favorite bars or house parties on the weekends makes it hard for you to see everyone you want. There are rare times that the entire school can get together, be sober, and have a good time. Things like the music performances, the moving Luminaria ceremony, and the hilarious Ms. Relay pageant made this event a success. Everyone who went and worked on it should be proud of themselves. — **Andy Kowal '10**

Regretting the Renovation I openly pronounce my appreciation for the Philips Memorial Library and the facelift it got this past fall: With shelves that move and make me feel like Harrison Ford in *Indiana Jones* caught in a booby trap of closing cave walls, in addition to a new self-check out station located immediately next to an idle librarian, I'm all smiles every time I walk through the door (the door that STILL weighs 200 pounds). However, I have a large, woolly mammoth fossil-sized bone to pick with the new setup. Now that there are large tables on the second floor instead of rows of cubicles, there are markedly fewer seating options. It's much more aesthetically pleasing, I admit, but also less efficient. Whenever I haul myself and my work to the library, I find I must take three laps around the joint before I can find the gall to encroach upon someone's space and plop down at a table. Those new common room-esque couch/chair complexes likewise make for awkward moments when you catch yourself playing accidental footsy with the Air Jordans of the person opposite you. The library may be bookishly chic these days, but I prefer the graffiti-ridden cubicles of old. — **Maryclaire Dugre '10**

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The Cowl welcomes guest commentaries and letters to the editor from all members of the Providence College community, as well as outside contributors.

All submissions must include the writer's name, signature, a phone number, and an e-mail address where he or she can be reached. Articles will be printed as space permits. Anyone whose letter is given consideration for publication will be contacted by the Commentary editor to verify the author and confirm the authenticity of the piece.

Letters should be no more than 250 words in length. Guest commentaries should be limited to 700 words in length, and only one will be published per week. The Cowl editorial board and its administrative supervisors reserve the right to edit articles for space and clarity. If there is a portion you specifically wish to remain unchanged, however, please inform the editor-in-chief. Letters to the edi-

tor are the opinions of the writer only and do not reflect the viewpoint of The Cowl staff.

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GRACIOUS: How We Should Feel Towards PC

continued from page 19:

our basketball team by the donation practices of generations of alumni, and despite being so tuition-driven that we must attract high school seniors regardless of their appetites, Providence College has managed to maintain an institutional character that is genuinely Catholic, genuinely familial, and genuinely committed to liberal education.

But the true meaning of shiny, glass-paneled lures and \$7 million worms to attract students and appease alumni goes way beyond miraculously beating the odds and retaining some semblance of a virtuous character. It is precisely this dual character which makes Providence College a place of such tremendous grace. The schools on the former list have, in various ways, committed themselves to swimming against the tide. These institutions are admirable and good. They are also preaching to the converted. Our college collaborates with grace in countless awakenings—intellectual and academic, spiritual and moral—precisely because so many of us enter this institution without faith, without serious intellectual interests, or with character imperiled by the abundant distractions which attend being young. The combination of the imposed curriculum—an affront to the consumer mentality if ever there was one—and the incred-

ibly nurturing spiritual environment serve to make this a campus which truly lives up to its name.

And so the question must go back to the critics: do you want to change the lives of your students or not? Do you want opportunities to touch the hearts, minds and souls of young people, or do you want a fan club? The hands of the administration are effectively tied with respect to a great many undesirable things, and it should not be on the basis of these that we assess praise or blame. The presidency of this College is an office devoid of the broad, sweeping powers often attributed to it; rather, it is held by a man who lives out his mendicant vocation by traveling constantly around the country, begging for donations to support people who seem to give back far more in the way of complaints than gratitude.

Let us instead be thankful for our administration's utterly unshakable commitment to the integrity of the core curriculum, including the DWC program. Let us understand the difficulties facing anyone administering an institution which exists not in a vacuum, but in a fallen world. And let us be grateful for the particular and nearly unique grace of this institution—not always the one we wish for, but the one we have.

MADNESS: Really Just a Game of Luck

continued from page 19:

Blake Griffin is unstoppable on the boards." Dude, you're an English major. Stop talking.

Everyone has a different "sleeper" pick, or a different team that they'll ride all the way to the bank. Some people go for their hometown team, while others will pick a number one seed to win it all. But lets be honest here folks, there is no rhyme, reason, or downright possibility that you have the mental capacity, much less the omniscience, needed to predict the winner. There's just no possible way. And believe me, the NCAA knows this. And while we're all banging our heads against the wall because Villanova beat Pitt, the guys sitting in the offices are laughing at us.

After all, what do they care if you just lost \$100? They just made a hundred times that amount off the poor saps who just want to watch some basketball.

This year I thought I had the key. I read up online. I did my homework. I

did everything that Dan Shulman told me to do, although I did not follow his advice on how to commentate a game. I had one big pick in the form of Scottie Reynolds owning Pitt, and Louisville being champs over UNC. Boy was I wrong.

But, even though I was wrong, I'll come back for more next year. Because next year will most certainly be different from the past six years. I'm just playing the law of averages here. That's really all it comes down to. Eventually you'll get lucky and it will be your turn to bask in the sunshine that is victory.

Since I lost already, I won't bother making a prediction for this year's winner. But look for the Providence College Friars making at least a Sweet Sixteen run next season. Enjoy these next two months of warm weather. And try not to hurt your roommate, even though he picked Missouri over Memphis.

www.TheCowl.com

This Is What Racism Looks Like



BY JACKIE KRAMER '10
COMMENTARY EDITOR

CAMPUS

Black Studies was introduced as a discipline on this campus a number of years ago. As a Black Studies minor, I feel adequately armed with the concepts to battle racism and oppression; I just never thought I'd have to use those concepts to battle overt racism on our campus. But that's exactly what I am about to do. Perhaps some of you are aware of the new group "Youth for Western Civilization." The group's description on Facebook is short, no more than 150 words, but it is loaded with the words of racism. The mission is clear: teach and promote only Western Civilization, to suppress and oppose multiculturalism, and to "take back" the country from these damn immigrants and liberals who want to bring truth and diversity to Providence College and the country.

The description opens with a quote from Tom Tancredo, a Republican Congressman from Colorado. "This is our culture—fight for it. This is our flag—pick it up. This is our country—take it back." Well, let me give you a history review, ladies and gentlemen. There were 25 million indigenous peoples throughout what is now considered North and South America before any white man "brought civilization" to the "New World." Throughout a period of 500 years, the United States government actively and overtly discriminated against the First Americans, pushing them on to reservations—land of little or no value. Today, 25 percent of Native Americans live below the poverty level, the suicide rate for Native Americans is over twice the national average, and the death rate from alcoholism in Native Americans is three times the national average. The first Americans are entitled to billions of dollars from the United States government for resources found on reservation land. I'm going to have to say that these indigenous people would argue that it is not our country to take back—it is theirs.

Tancredo can also be found on YouTube speaking about immigrants. In the past, he says, immigrants were willing and eager to give up their native cultures and assimilate into American culture—today's immigrants don't "Americanize." Actually, according to Michael Jones-Correa, first generation transnationalism (sending money back home, speaking the native language) is present in immigrants but significantly decreases in second-generation immigrants, and by the third generation, this transnationalism is virtually non-existent. Guess what? They're "Americanized."

The description goes on to say that Providence College Youth for Western Civilization "aims to educate students about the cultural heritage of the West," (this is already present at PC, with our Development of Western Civilization course) and "engage in political issues of vital importance to Western Civilization." Why not politics of other cultures? In this increasingly global world; you cannot continue to ignore other cultures (or the fact that we are interdependent on the very countries and cultures you claim to hate.)

Masked behind intellectual concepts and promises of "nationality" and "unity," this movement seeks to draw people in by its seeming *rightness* by uniting only "us" and making "them" seem wrong. It promotes the study of "high culture." When people use language describing Western culture as

"high" they are effectively calling other cultures "low"—less, subhuman, and not worth the time it takes to learn about these cultures. This is using rhetoric to perpetuate racism in our country. This is what racism looks like.

What's more is that this group fails to take into account actual historical facts. Let us not forget that Asian, African, South American, and Native cultures thrived and flourished well before Columbus stepped foot on a chain of islands in the Caribbean. Let us not forget that Baghdad is considered the gem of the Middle East because of the intellectual progression that has occurred there since before the Middle Ages. Let us not forget that for hundreds of years the highest center of learning was in the Moorish Empire—Muslims—where math, science, literature, and philosophy flourished while much of Europe was stuck in the "Dark Ages."

“ The entire country's story is one of mass immigration. ”

This is using white privilege. What is white privilege? It is when those who hold the pen to write history can effectively write the brown or black people as savage, subhuman, and criminal to reinforce their power. And while they hold the pen, they can become invisible—no longer actors in the play of race construction. So people of other cultures or skin colors are not "underprivileged" due to any active discrimination acted upon them; no—underprivileged implies passivity. So people of other cultures are "lazy," "poor," or worse, "terrorists." White people can write history this way because they have the power, and writing it as such reinforces that power. This is what racism looks like.

The group opposes "radical multiculturalism." I ask these people: Are you so afraid of other cultures and viewpoints that you cannot bear to have them running rampant alongside your viewpoints? Are you so insecure that you need to silence any other culture or celebration of diversity?

The group also opposed "mass immigration." Again I feel I need to remind everyone of their history: Besides the story of the First Americans, *the entire country's story is one of mass immigration.* It would be better, of course, to state that they are opposed to mass immigration of black or brown people—whose languages, cultures, and appearances are different than all of the white kids who belong to PC Youth for Western Civilization.

So this is what organized racism looks like. It masks itself as a push for unity while simultaneously pushing to silence and/or exiling those who are not "American" enough. It skews facts and history to justify the hatred and exclusion of an entire group of humans. I am not the best spokesperson to write on this topic, but I know that I have to use some of the concepts I have learned in my liberal arts classes to battle this racism. What have we learned at PC when members of our community are making judgments of people not based on their inherent dignity, or their intellectual ability, or their character? They ignore logic and historical facts and rely on nothing but culture alone. Have we even progressed as a school or a country? So many people are quick to believe that dialogues on race are obsolete because we have a Black man in the White House. Well, look again, because this is exactly why we need to continue to deconstruct racism. This is Providence College, and this is what racism looks like.

Got something to say?
The Cowl encourages you
to submit a Letter to the
Editor or Guest
Commentary!

TASTE

TM

Come check out this Alumni band!



FRI. 4/3
8:00pm
McPhail's



Check them out on Facebook!!

ATTENTION CLASS OF 2011!



REIGNITE
THE
TRADITION



JRW Premiere Ring Around the World

Sunday, April 19th

1:00-5:00pm

Hendricken Field



Phillips Memorial Library

LIBRARY HOURS-EASTER RECESS

Wednesday, April 8	-	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 9	-	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 10	-	Closed
Saturday, April 11	-	Closed
Sunday, April 12	-	Closed
Monday, April 13	-	8:30 a.m. - 2:00 a.m.

WILDSIDE

Sat. 4/4

9:00pm

McPhail's



3rd Annual April Showers:

A Personal Care Drive to Benefit Mary House

April 15-29th, 2009

Please join the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, in collaboration with Campus Ministry & the Feinstein Institute, in *April Showers* as we collect donations for Mary House. Mary House, the Social Services Ministry of St. Patrick Church, provides nutritious food, personal care items and small household goods to those in need.

Beginning on April 15th, donations of personal care items may be dropped off in **Harkins Hall (Room 208), the lower level of St. Dominic's Chapel or the Feinstein Academic Center (Room 402).**

If you have any questions or would like a list of the most requested items, please contact Alyssa @ 865.1765 or aneubeck@providence.edu. Thank you!

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY! OFFICE OF ADMISSION : STUDENT SUMMER WORKERS

The Office of Admission is seeking out current PC students who are interested in working in the office during the summer months. Responsibilities include giving campus tours, speaking to prospective student audiences and assisting the Office of Admission staff with various projects (This is a full time position).

Students who are interested in applying must first fill out an application online at

<http://www.providence.edu/Admission/Undergraduate+Financial+Aid/Student+Employment/>

Recommendation Forms (Required) will be available starting Monday, March 23, 2009 in Harkins Hall 222.

All applications and recommendation forms are due by Friday, May 1st. Please contact Jen O'Connor, Associate Dean of Admission at x.2680 or jennifer.oconnor@providence.edu or Faith Allen, Assistant Dean of Admission at faith.allen@providence.edu or x. 2368.

blood drive!

Providence College Community Wednesday, April 8

9am - 4pm

Slavin Center

To make an appointment online, go to www.ribc.org, click on the eDonor link, log into your account and set up an appointment using **Sponsor Code 0610.**

All donors will receive a free medium sized pizza from LaSalle Pizzeria



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LaSalle Pizza

1005 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02908
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see menu specials on page 28

ROVING PHOTOGRAPHER

THE COWL

APRIL 2, 2009

THE COWL 23

If there were a movie about your life, what would the theme song be?



"It's Five O'Clock Somewhere" by Jimmy Buffett.

Caitlin Rice '11



"King of Wishful Thinking" by Go West.

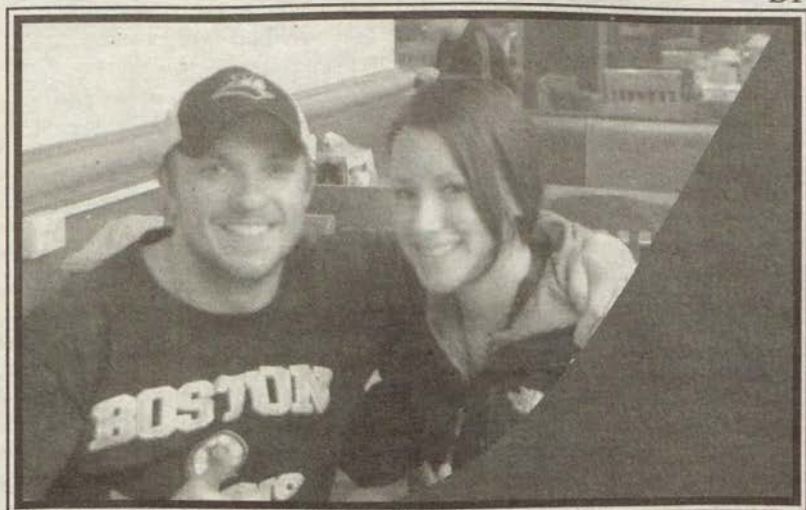
Pete Costa '09, Dan Moyer '09



"Jai Ho featuring the Pussycat Dolls" by A.R. Rahman.

Mike Allain '09, Mike Young '10, Laura Ferrazzono '09

Brendan Ward '09



"Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor.

Dean Fraser '10, Jenna Skaar '11



"Everlasting Love" by Gloria Estefan.

Kristen Tucker '12, Ali Trainer '12, Caitlin

Ducharme '12



"The Final Countdown" by Europe.

-Gob from *Arrested Development*

Meet Chester, a Real-Life LOL Cat

BY LINDSAY WENGLOSKI '10
PORTFOLIO STAFF

There is really only one way to describe the beast. Correction! There are several. And they all happen to be euphemisms. The most pointed observation one could make of our subject would be, "He's absolutely retarded," but with a respectful nod to the ever-evolving realm of political correctness, that observation is probably not the best choice.

Instead, you could call him "cognitively impaired." Slow. Dumb. Or, my personal favorite, "just plain STUPID." And all of these would be accurate and fair assessments of the creature.

I speak, of course, of the infamous cat. His name is Chester, and he is a creature of great myth, mystery, and comedic relief. Again, a correction. He's ambiguously titled. I think it's Chester. It could just as easily be Chessie, or Chesapeake, if you want to get really fancy about it. Not that the name-debate matters particularly much. In a strange, The-Feline-That-Got-Left-Behind sort of way, the cat defines himself.

Some people (most understandably education majors of great sensitivity) are probably sharpening stakes to ram into my cold heart for making fun of the 'slower' elements in the animal kingdom. Rest assured, ye would-be killers for kindness—no hyperbole or mean-spiritedness lurks here. I'm completely serious when I say that Chester is, in fact, mentally disabled.

It's all very much out of his control. Apparently his momma was—to use

another euphemism—a young mother, and to compound things, he was the runt of the litter. So it's not like he had the beachfront real estate of mental capacities to begin with. Plus, I'm pretty sure his owner dabbled in a number of substances Scruff McGruff and that lion-dude mascot from D.A.R.E. wouldn't much like. This is to say, of course, that Chester is a drug-baby. . .cat. . .thing.

The strange state Chester exists in isn't a bad thing, by any means. He lacks the typical snobbery associated with cats. Then again, he also lacks the motor skills and spatial awareness necessary to avoid running into walls, missing stairs, and not falling off furniture. Sometimes he drools. He's friendlier than is probably necessary, and the only available documentation of hissing on his part came when he shut his foot in the freezer door.

In essence, he's a real-life LOL cat, complete with the sucky grammar and ridiculous facial expressions.

Seeing the awkward, frightened orange ball that is Chester is one of the major things I look to when I make the occasional trek home. You might be Chester's favorite person in the world, but Lord and Savior, if he hasn't seen you in the past two days, he's forgotten you exist. Instead of being a friendly visitor, you're practically Osama Bin Laden—he'll vanish into the darkness of the basement until he forgets he was supposed to be scared.

But if you time it just right, you can trigger his DEF-CON 5 reaction before he has time to bolt downstairs. This means that instead of winnowing through the gate-railings at the top of the stairs, he just might crash into the wall

full-tilt before reorienting himself for a more successful escape.

I think most folks are lucky enough to have at least one pet they'll never forget. Chester isn't my cat—despite my many plots and ruses to catnap him and bring him back to Providence with me. But I get a lot of warm fuzzies thinking that

something so patently ridiculous (a drooling, clumsy, overweight, skittish cat) can bring so many laughs from so many people—including people who haven't actually seen the beast in real life. At least, not yet.

Maybe he'll find his way into the Ocean State. Easter Break, maybe?

Un-Frozen

BY NICOLE AMARAL '10
ASST. PORTFOLIO EDITOR

I imagined leaves on the trees.
I felt the breeze that quietly
shakes them. I saw the life in the
naked branches stretch luxuriously
towards the sun.
I felt the warmth beneath the cold
afternoon. I smelled backyard fires
and hot pavement.
I felt green; less bleak.
I heard a favorite song make its way
down Lincoln Street by way of an
old red sedan. The momentary
soundtrack let me shed my thoughts
for a while.
I wait for spring to tell me when
its safe to smile.

Seeing the Finish Line by Light of the Luminarias

BY CONOR LEARY '11
PORTFOLIO STAFF

Author's Dedication: To the dedicated and outstanding Providence Community who raised over \$118,000 for the American Cancer Society at Relay for Life on March 27, 2009.

FICTION | It wasn't possible to see the finish line from where Jared stood, but he let his Sketchers continue to fall one step at a time. He had tied his shoelaces tightly—double-knotting each sneaker—almost 12 hours ago and never did he once need to stop his stride to avoid running over his own strings. There was no reason for him to look for the very distant finish line even after 11 hours and 35 minutes of striding around the indoor track, the seconds trickling away like the blood cells flowing through his veins. But he did. He had settled his chin comfortably so his eyes could look off into the distance. He crossed in and out of lanes at his natural speed, bred from many trips to New York City where he sped through foot traffic or was shoved into an oncoming taxicab. His eyes found the familiar bend in the track just ahead and he felt his legs preparing for the turn. Muscle memory kept his feet strutting around the oval's perimeter, his knees bending to the stereo's beat, his thighs pulsing, and his hands united with two people at his side. When he looked away from the crowd hovering around the track, all towards the same destination, he looked into their faces. When the finish line came into view, he would know by the cheers.

He held Melanie's snowy hand gently, her fingernails painted a soft pink like always. She wore a sweet smile as she gazed forward, seeing through the

bodies Jared occasionally dragged her around. Her eyes were tainted by a rubbed red blush where her sleeves had tried to conceal tears of remembrance. She had blamed her contacts when he had looked at her, reprimanding herself for forgetting her glasses at an all-night event. This excuse faltered, though, for even if she had made that choice, the glowing luminarias lining the track when ceremonially lit could not have stopped the dam behind her shimmering blue eyes from collapsing into a tidal wave. Her grandmother had died of cancer and standing in front of the paper memorial radiantly glowing made her knees tremble. Jared held her as tears streamed down her face unhindered by cloth sleeve or spectacle's lens. Afterwards, she walked four times around the track, one whole mile, with tears in her eyes, without saying a word.

"Her name was Eleanor," she announced to Jared after they both had added another purple bead to their collection necklaces, registering how far they had gone.

"And she made the best oatmeal raisin cookies." Melanie smiled, passing her grandmother's luminaria. The soft glow disappeared in the domineering lights of the gymnasium, but orange sparks caught the tears drying on Melanie's face.

"But I thought you didn't like oatmeal raisin cookies." Jared questioned as his right foot followed her step. She shrugged and took his hand.

"Hers were different."

"Ten minutes!"

The announcement came from his other side and Jared leaned over his hand. Bright purple nails clutched it and a fierce grin greeted him as he looked up at Tara's proclamation. She

skipped, enlivened with a source of energy that had lasted the entire night without crashing, which would be the cause of her very long hibernation the next day. Her black hair leapt off her shoulders as she made Jared and Melanie move quicker, their hands remaining linked and leaping over people in their path. She energized people as she skipped, breaking hold of Jared's grip for just one minute to cartwheel down the third lane like a peppy cheerleader. She waved off her applause as she sprung back into place beside Jared and clasped his hand. She had helped organize the Relay for Life event and had received the award for most donations acquired, over \$3000. She spent the first six hours away from Melanie and Jared, racing around the track like a star sprinter to chat with all the participants, to thank them, and to fuel them illicitly with contraband Hershey kisses—food was not allowed in the gym.

"They match the theme very well if I say so myself." She grinned as she handed Melanie and Jared her last two.

"For the twelfth time." Jared grumbled as he rolled the purple foil into a ball. Tara would have punched her knuckles playfully into his scrawny arm, but she had to stop. Melanie dragged Jared away routinely, but even after nearly 12 hours, Jared still took a peek over his shoulder. Tara knelt in front of one of the luminarias. She removed the necklace recording her laps and added a bead quietly, the plastic trinket diamond white. Jared slowed when Tara didn't leap up from the ground like she usually did and rush after them. She tied the other end of her full necklace and tucked it into the paper bag. When she reached his side, he squeezed his arm around her

at the shallow pool of tears in her eyes. "Mom says hi," Tara murmured, her voice subdued. Her mother had died of cancer just last year after a courageous fight that had lasted Tara's entire life.

"She'd be so proud of you." Melanie stopped and hugged her friend, the two trembling as they tried to contain their tears.

"She is. She's proud of us all." Tara poked her head out from their huddle and grabbed Jared by the collar. They traveled in their embrace for a few steps. They held hands again and kept walking. Melanie's smile was still soft as they rounded the bend for the final lap. Tara's vivacious grin was empowered again by her immortal energy when the lights went out.

At first, Jared thought the only reason he could still see was the phenomenon that had been Tara's smile the entire night, the electrified whiteness of her teeth. Everyone had stopped walking. Not a single echo creased the beautiful silence. Slowly, the luminarias regained their light. Stronger and stronger, the lights grew to highlight the familiar path 1,800 feet had spent 12 hours traveling. Jared grasped the hands he held and took a step and another. In the distance, even in the dark gymnasium, he could see the finish line approaching.



LUMINARIA IMAGE from www.netarrantrrelay.com

It's My Time: Revelations on the Green Line

BY DANIEL JAMES '11
PORTFOLIO STAFF

I'm standing by the subway tracks at Government Center and my head won't stop throbbing from the massive hangover I have from last night. My flesh itches too, in a very bad place to have it itch in public, and I want to scratch but there are too many people around waiting to get on a train to go see the Red Sox play against the Blue Jays (I think). The itch is painful, it's one where scratching would be as satisfying as holding in a piss for an hour and making it to the urinal right before you think you're gonna break and soak yourself. Through all this my head is still throbbing so hard that I can feel my

brain pulsate against the sides of my head. It's a separate heartbeat that makes everything loud and irritating. I didn't get a chance to shower before I left the TKE house either so my hair's a mess and my skin feels dirty and reused as if I ran a marathon in a t-shirt and then wore that same shirt the next day without washing it first.

My hand subconsciously moves to get rid of the itch and I immediately stop myself, instead shifting my weight around in the hopes that some sort of leg movement will do the trick and I'll magically stop itching. No such luck. My legs feel heavy when I try to move them, the muscles exhausted from last night's drinking marathons and walking all over Faneuil Hall this afternoon with Stugatz and Andrew, two of my brothers. My mind tries to fight with me, telling me how I don't know any of these people so who cares if they see me scratch in public. I contemplate this idea, then disregard it. I feel as if

I were to give into this irritation I would lose a part of

myself. My hand starts to move again in an attempt to remind me that I can't solve my hangover or recycled feelings, but I can make my itch feel better. I ignore it and continue to let the irritation go unattended. It feels like a thousand ants crawling along my skin, driving me insane. And my head won't stop throbbing. My hand moves again. I stop it.

My train is late and I'm forced to stand here longer and listen to the unceasing chattering of those around me. Everyone's babbling about their own worlds: what student did this, who's sleeping with whom, what mom just had her second daughter—all of it insignificant talk. These people all have brains and instead of using their intelligence they talk about the same mindless garbage that I would be intelligent enough to ignore if I wasn't so hungover. I feel like screaming. My head won't stop thumping against my skull and my body still feels used and my legs are still heavy and won't move and my skin still itches.

"It's your time."

I turn and look to my left in anger. Someone should have told this jerk not to talk to me while I'm this hung over and unable to cater to my itch. He looks back at me with a sly smile. He has a button-down shirt that he must've bought at Marshalls because the ugly thing looked like at one point it could've been expensive, but because of the awkward color contrast in the pattern, nobody would buy it so it then became a bargain item. His eyes are concealed, sitting underneath his bald skull like two mocking balls of jelly. I catch a glimpse of his right wrist and notice he has a gold watch on. If someone didn't know better they might assume it was nice, but I do know better and I know he probably bought it at Marshalls in the bargain bin, maybe along with that shirt that's making my headache worse just by staring at it.

I don't say anything, so he repeats himself with a hint of a Haitian accent in his voice. "It's your time, my friend."

I wonder if he's going to kill me. I hope he does. Then I wouldn't have to deal with this intolerable itch.

"What are you talking about?"

"John told me you were gifted. He says it's your time."

I sneer at him. "John lied."

He laughs. "Very good, my friend!"

I roll my eyes and avert them back to the tracks to keep an eye out for my train. I don't see it coming but mostly I just hope this creep goes away. I'm not in the mood to deal with false prophets.

He doesn't leave. He antes up instead. "Tell me a line."

I turn back to him, annoyed.

"What?"

"Tell me a line of intelligence."

"Take two steps back before I grab that security guard, good enough?"

He laughs again. The dummy just won't quit. "I'm asking you to enlighten me. Are you not a writer of intelligence?"

"Did John tell you that, too?"

He just stands there smiling. Through all my threats and bluntness with him, he stands there and smiles. Maybe he knows I'm full of it. He probably knows that I'm in too much pain from my hangover and itch to do anything serious. Probably knows I'm full of crap too. Aren't we all, though?

"You are not the person I thought you were."

I can't tell if it's a question or not, and I'm too hungover to try and debate him. So I come up with something on the spot.

"I stand on a beach that extends all the way to my death. I inscribe a thousand different things into the sand. Some of them I just draw into the sand with a stick, others I use stones to form words with. When I go back to revisit the ones in stone I find pieces of paper with stories and poems. When I go look at the ones in the sand I find blurry videos playing on repeat. I look into the distance of the beach and wonder when it's going to end, and then I look into the distance of the ocean and wonder when I'm going to drown. Was that good enough?"

"You tell me." He asks. "Your time is now. You can either drown or go the distance. You already have everything you need to do either one."

A train pulls up. It's not mine but I get on it anyways. I can't be around this guy anymore. I'll get off at the next station and pick up my train there. For now I just need to get away from this guy.

As soon as the doors close and I confirm that he hasn't followed me I check to see if I still have everything in my pockets. I do. Everything is still in my backpack as well. My headache starts to fade a little and I think back to what he told me. I try to calculate the odds of something like that happening — they don't come out favorably. Maybe it is my time.

I glide my hand over the part that itches and dig my fingernails in, almost violently. I feel an invisible weight lift off of my shoulder. Everyone sees me but I don't care. I finish scratching in a matter of seconds and feel better. Everyone stops looking, but maybe they're missing something by turning away. Definitely not today, not anytime soon, and probably not in the near future, but before I go I will leave something to be remembered by. It's not a guarantee, but it's a start. And that's enough to satisfy me for now.



GREEN LINE IMAGE from
www.mbta.com

Red Ramses

BY BOBBY BRETZ '12
PORTFOLIO STAFF

Far away in that sidereal space
Lies an old outpost of heavier things.
By dead stone alone is defined that place,
Where sunlight's thank'd for what base love it brings.
No muscle moves in the young half-god's face;
Standing upon those Olympian heights
Which forever endure the lonely zen,
He glances up into that foreign night
And to the red stillness softly declares,
"My name shall be lost, and the works of men:
Look on this place, oh Genius, and despair!"
Gales quiet and far stir the ancient haze
Beneath that mount, free of purpose or care;
Nothing lives to return his azure gaze.

Portfolio Staff

Like to write?

Submit your
poetry, prose, and artwork
to Portfolio at

cowl.portfolio@gmail.com

Watch Out for the Orange Fences

BY KATIE CALIVA '10
PORTFOLIO EDITOR

Yesterday, I saw a boy get tangled up in an orange fence. It was tragic, heart-wrenching, and otherwise detrimental to my psyche to watch it. But watch I did, fascinated—yet utterly repulsed—by the scene. Here's how it went down.

Boys A and B decided to enjoy a fine spring afternoon by frolicking on Slavin Lawn. The problem, of course, was that Slavin Lawn is currently a sandbox with lots of "No Trespassing Signs" around the perimeter. So, Boy A (an ingenious sort of lad) came up with the brilliant notion of tossing their Frisbee around the strip of greenery that runs alongside Slavin Center and over to Concannon. He even called it the "Faux Slavin Lawn": a witty use of Franglais. Of course, there was a problem with that plan as well. Boy B, with a heavy sort of sigh, reminded his companion that Faux Slavin Lawn is just as off limits as the Real Slavin Lawn due to the aesthetically pleasing orange plastic fence currently enclosing the grassy space. An argument then ensued analyzing the level to which each space was off limits.

Boy A maintained that Real Slavin Lawn was more off limits than Faux Slavin Lawn since Real Slavin Lawn is currently inhabited by bulldozer demons who reportedly eat bros for breakfast, while Faux Slavin Lawn would presumably reopen someday once the grass started to grow back or a frustrated student created a new entrance into Slavin Center with his bare hands. (Boy A doesn't believe in

short sentences.) Boy B disagreed, asserting that Faux Slavin Lawn was a cute chick at Clubbie's and that the aesthetically pleasing orange fence was her overprotective best friend. (Boy B is an English major.)

Frustrated by a lack of green space on which to frolic, Boys A and B resorted to tossing the Frisbee in the mini-parking lot outside of Concannon. The argument, however, did not drop to the pavement as easily as the disc slid through Boy B's fingers. The debate in fact heated up, until finally, fed up with Boy B's awful metaphors, similes, and other bouts of poetic nonsense, Boy A whipped the Frisbee hard toward Slavin's exterior wall.

Convinced that catching this throw would solve the argument for good, Boy B chased after the disc at a flying gallop. Unfortunately, like a Labrador who forgets that he's running down a short pier, Boy B forgot that his whole thesis was contingent on a certain orange fence. He ran straight in to it, limbs tangling in the plastic mesh.

If the Faux Slavin Lawn really is a hot chick at Clubbie's and the orange fence really is her overprotective best friend, does that make me the sober observer able to laugh at how asinine this whole thing is? I hope so, since that's exactly what I'm doing. Although, I can't quite decide which element of the whole thing is the most ridiculous.

I'm leaning toward the fence.

N.B. Boys A and B are not real people and the event described is entirely fictitious. The orange fence, however, is real. The bulldozer demons that eat bros for breakfast are still under investigation.

Palamon Imprisoned

BY TOM NAILOR '12
PORTFOLIO STAFF

Palamon imprisoned,
not for love but still,
your lot much better than mine
only to see your goddess each and every day.
The vision, blocked by bars
your limbs, held down by chains,
and yet, my bars are
the legs of someone I love,
her arms the beautiful chains
and thus a dilemma:
I love the prison I'm trapped in
and I want the one on the field below
which cost would I rather bear?
(Shh, I must be silent for
the priest that is running this class
has caught me avoiding his gaze.)
"Mea Culpa, Mea Culpa,
Mea Maxima Culpa, Father."
(My blame, for more reason than one,
Please forgive me, for I have sinned...)



Tiffany & Earl

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



Dear Wheel,
So, you're friend
is an unhealthy,
attached-at-the-
hip relationship.
Well, such rela-
tionships are pret-
ty common in col-
lege. They person-
ally make me itchy
(like, literally
make me break out in hives), but they
are extremely prevalent nonetheless.

Speaking from personal experi-
ence, I'd say that there is definitely
one thing you should not do: stage
an intervention. I tried that once, sat
him down, told him that his obses-
sive texting was hurting his other
friendships and that his girlfriend
was a jealous tart who didn't deserve
him anyways. He didn't appreciate
that conversation.

They did break up in the end
because when it comes down to it this
sort of relationship just isn't sustain-
able. So you could wait it out, wait for
the infatuation period to end, and wait
for your friend to collapse. But, since
you're concerned enough about her to
write to us about this, I'm going to go
ahead and assume that you're not the
type to want your friend crumpled
and weeping on your bed.

Your best bet, then, is to talk to her,
but to do so in a way that doesn't
make her think that you'd sort of like
to see her new boy toy disappear for-
ever. Try this angle: "You're never
around anymore and I miss you. Can
we start hanging out more?"

That way you don't sound bitter,
jealous, or homicidal, but it also gets
across the point that she's spending a
tad too much time with this guy.

Good luck!

Tiffany

This Week...

Tell Your BFF to Ditch the Clinger

Dear Tiffany and Earl,

My best friend since freshman year has a new boyfriend and she spends every waking moment with him. When they are not together, they are zoned in on their phones awaiting a reply text. What bothers me is that the new boyfriend has something unsettling about him.

I can't tell if he is a pathological liar, a cheater, or just crazy, but something is wrong, but my friend is too blinded by the "love." I don't think they should spend so much time together or even be a couple, and I want to open up her eyes. What should I do?

—Ms. Third Wheel

Write to Tiffany and Earl!
AskTiffanyEarl@yahoo.com

I understand
the inherently
creepy personali-
ty type. I once had
this doctor that
convinced me to
rip off my own
face. "It seemed
like a good idea at
the time." Now I
like to treat every-
one with the same
unhealthy suspicion. Just because he
hasn't tried to get your roomie to
drink blood doesn't mean he is clean.
Let me give you a scenario.

You come back to Aquinas after a
lovely weekend in New York or what-
ever. Your roommate is hanging from
the ceiling with hooks through her back
and her mouth is duct taped closed.
After taking at least a full role of photo-
graphs you decide to cut her down and
realize her sadomasochistic new
boyfriend enjoys his foreplay in midair
and neglected to show her the courtesy
of helping her out of this uncomfortable
(but stimulating) position.

What you have to do is bring his
insane nature out in a safe and controlled
environment, preferably public. Dangle
a dead animal in front of his face at a
party. Hopefully he'll get aroused and
your friend will either see his inner
Dahmer or you will see that your friend
is into his necrophilia.

Another good test is a male confronta-
tion. Get one of the guys from ROTC or
the rugby team that you have been hook-
ing up with to push him over the edge
and see what kind of retaliation he
chooses. If he pulls a sharpened tooth-
brush or a replica weapon from one of
the *Evil Dead* movies you'll have your
evidence again (God forbid we're out a
rugby player).

Look on the bright side though. If your
friend is as much into Dracula's noctur-
nal activities and something goes wrong
you could look forward to straight As.



EARL

Friars Scoreboard

Scores -- Standings -- Statistics -- Schedules -- Standouts

Standouts



Robert Bryan
Lacrosse
Senior—Apex, N.C.

Bryan made 16 saves in a 5-4 win over Canisius on Saturday, March 28. For his efforts he was named MAAC Defensive Player of the Week.



Mary Rose Sheehy
Softball
Senior—Woodbridge, Conn.

Sheehy hit a grand slam in the Friars 11-2 victory over Rutgers on Saturday, March 28. Sheehy and the Friars went 3-1 on the week.

Scores

<i>Wednesday, 3/25</i>		
Softball vs. Fairfield		W, 2-1
Softball vs. Fairfield		W, 5-4
<i>Thursday, 3/26</i>		
Tennis vs. Cincinnati		L, 7-0
<i>Saturday, 3/28</i>		
Tennis vs. Seton Hall		L, 7-0
Softball vs. Rutgers		W, 6-3
Lacrosse vs. Canisius		W, 5-4
Softball vs. Rutgers		W, 11-3
Women's Track at Bryant Invitational		Ind. Results
Men's Track at Bryant Invitational		Ind. Results
<i>Sunday, 3/29</i>		
Softball vs. DePaul		Postponed
Softball vs. DePaul		Postponed
<i>Monday, 3/30</i>		
Softball vs DePaul		L, 8-0
<i>Wednesday, 4/1</i>		
Softball vs. Boston University		W, 6-4

Schedules

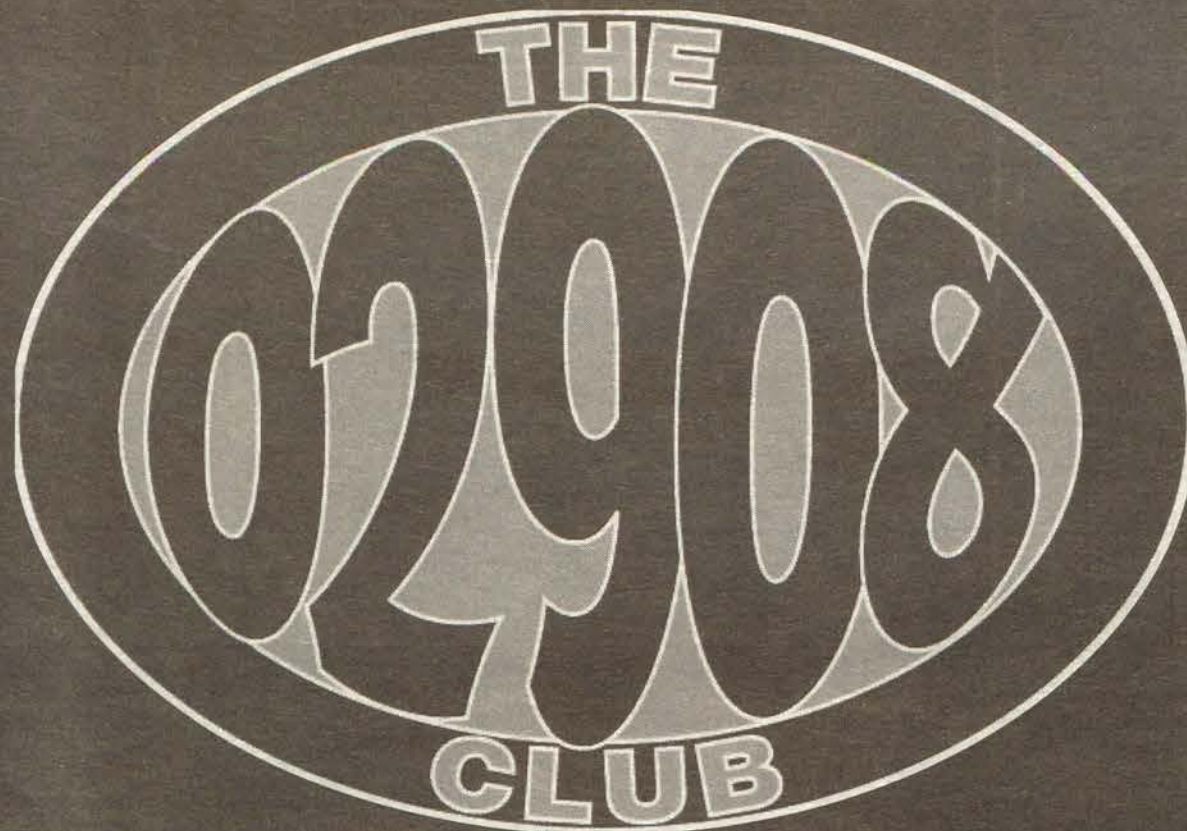
<i>Thursday, 4/2</i>		
Tennis vs. Connecticut		3:30 p.m.
<i>Friday, 4/3</i>		
Men's Track at Stanford Invite		All Day
Women's Track at Stanford Invite		All Day
Softball at Georgetown		2:00 p.m.
Softball at Georgetown		4:30 p.m.
<i>Saturday, 4/4</i>		
Tennis vs. Sacred Heart		Noon
Lacrosse vs. Saint Joseph's		2:00 p.m.
Men's Track at Stanford Invite		All Day
Women's Track at Stanford Invite		All Day
Men's Track at UConn Invite		All Day
Women's Track at UConn Invite		All Day
<i>Sunday, 4/5</i>		
Softball at Louisville		11:00 a.m.
Softball at Louisville		1:30 p.m.
<i>Tuesday, 4/7</i>		
Softball at Boston College		4:00 p.m.
Lacrosse at Dartmouth		4:00 p.m.

Standings

MAAC Lacrosse (4/2)

Big East Softball (top 9) (4/2)

Team	MAAC		Overall		Team	Big East		Overall	
	W	L	W	L		W	L	W	L
Providence	3	0	4	4	DePaul	5	0	17	7
Marist	3	0	3	4	Notre Dame	4	1	17	11
Siena	2	0	4	5	Louisville	6	2	29	5
Saint Joseph's	2	1	4	5	Syracuse	4	2	15	11
Mount St. Mary's	1	1	1	5	Providence	2	1	10	17
Manhattan	1	2	4	5	USF	7	5	28	16
Wagner	0	2	1	8	St. John's	4	4	14	13
					Seton Hall	4	4	13	14
					Connecticut	3	5	15	11



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Calapari Bolts for Kentucky

BY DAN OLLQUIST '10
SPORTS EDITOR

After one of the most successful runs in college basketball history, John Calapari ended his nine-year run in Memphis and decided to take a job at the University of Kentucky. During Calapari's time at the helm in Memphis he compiled an impressive 253 wins which included a sweet-sixteen, one Final Four, and two elite eight appearances. With such an impressive track record and three of the top 10 recruits set to come to Memphis, why change jobs? The answer is simple. It's Kentucky.

The University of Kentucky is one of the truly special and prestigious programs in the college hoops world. It is home to the most dedicated fanbase in the nation and has a basketball tradition that can only be matched by the likes of UCLA and North Carolina.

After former coach Billie Gillespie completely flopped as the figurehead of Wildcat hoops, Calapari now has the chance to be immortalized as one of college basketball's all-time great coaches.

As impressive as coach Cal's 446-140 career record is, he has never coached a team in a major, BCS conference. He was able to bring two relatively unknowns, UMass and Memphis into the national spotlight, but come NCAA tourney time the critics always wondered how good Cal's teams would be if they had to play tougher competition night in and night out.

Now, Cal has a chance to shut up the critics once and for all. At Kentucky he will be in the center of the basketball world, a place where he can showcase his recruiting ability and be appreciated for winning in a major conference.

With all the good that Kentucky offers a coach comes an immense amount of pressure. Having to live up to an eight-year, \$35 million contract, and the yearly expectations of winning a national championship will certainly not be easy for Cal to deal with.

Coach Gillespie could not handle the pressures of coaching in Kentucky but I'm confident that Calapari will. Why? Because the man wins basketball games, and in Lexington Ky., the only thing that matters is winning games on the hardwood.

LAX: 4-0 In Conference Play

continued from back page

Playing a remarkable game for the Friars, senior goaltender Robert Bryan recorded 16 saves for the day, allowing only four goals past him. This .800 save percentage marks his personal best. Bryan, who was named MAAC Defensive Player of the Week, was able to make seven saves in the first quarter and made three crucial saves in the final quarter. His flawless performance was the main reason Providence was able to secure the win.

"I can't believe we won," said Burdick. "I haven't seen goalies do that before. We got beat in every stat except saves."

The team will continue its MAAC campaign with a home-game against Saint Joseph's on Saturday, April 4. The contest against St. Joe's will be a determining factor of strength within the conference, as the Hawks have also yet to lose a MAAC game.

"St. Joe's is going to be a much different opponent than what we have seen so far," said Burdick. "We need to get whatever kinks out that we have so we can put a better brand of lacrosse out there."

SOFTBALL: Bats Come Alive for Big East Season

continued from back page

we just need to be ready and have the experience."

On Monday PC suffered its first home loss of the season falling flat against DePaul. The Friars were never able to get the bats going thanks to DePaul's Becca Heteniak. Heteniak hurled a complete game shutout allowing just three hits and striking out 12 Friars en route to an 8-0 victory.

Amber Patton of the Blue Demons broke a scoreless tie in the third inning when she drilled a line drive home run into left center, giving DePaul a 2-0 lead. The Friars tried to rally in the fifth with junior Jenna Garcia and sophomore Justine Stratton putting together back-to-back hits before being shut down by Heteniak.

The Blue Demons tacked on three more runs in both the sixth and seventh innings sealing the 8-0 victory. The second game of the day was canceled in the second inning due to rain with the Blue Demons leading 2-0.

"We were really excited to start our home season," said Sheehy. "We just want to settle in and focus more to take it into the Big East games. After four years I've realized that I need to be relaxed and as a team that's how we play best. This really is so much a mental game, and we are just looking to have fun and get some wins."

Sheehy, who ranks in the top 10 in batting average (.441), slugging percentage (.693) and on-base percentage (.475) among all Big East players, had a 13-game hitting streak broken on Monday.

Despite Sheehy's struggles against DePaul, she carried the Friars in a two-game sweep of Rutgers on Saturday, March 28.

In the second game of the twin-



COURTESY OF SPORTS INFO

Jenna Garcia '10 had two hits and batted in a run in the Friars' 6-3 win in the first game of a double-header against Rutgers on Saturday, March 28. Garcia and the rest of the Friars hit the ball well leading to a 3-1 record this week.

billing, Sheehy and company found themselves in a 3-0 hole after one inning of play, but quickly reversed their fortunes in the second with a seven-run rally of their own. After the Rutgers pitching staff surrendered five consecutive walks, Sheehy made the Scarlet Knights pay with a grand slam that put the Friars on top, 7-3.

After holding Rutgers scoreless for the next two innings, the bats once again came alive in the bottom half of the fourth as the Friars pushed three more runs across the plate, pushing the lead up to 10-3. Keying the Friar rally was junior Katelyn Revens and freshman Kim Pelland who singled to start the inning and were eventually brought home on a Sheehy RBI single.

When all was said and done, PC found themselves on the right side of an 11-3 thrashing. Despite the relative ease with which PC won in the second

game, Rutgers put up quite a fight in the first meeting of the day. Trailing 3-1 in the fourth, the Friars rallied for three runs off of a three-run homer from sophomore Justine Stratton. Clinging to a one-run lead, PC added two insurance runs in the fifth inning when senior Jenna Garcia smacked a two-run double to left field.

The three-run cushion was more than enough for junior hurler Danielle Bertolette who pitched a complete game for PC while striking out five Scarlet Knights. The sweep of Rutgers improved the Friars' Big East record to 2-1, good for fifth place in the always powerful conference.

The Friars will return to action on Friday, April 3, when they travel to the nation's capital for a doubleheader against Big East foe Georgetown.

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Grinders
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Veggie Delight
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Tim Lloyd
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More info on page 22

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With opening day in MLB on the horizon, which team will win baseball's most competitive division, the American League East?

Throwing money at problems has tended to backfire on the New York Yankees (See Carl Pavano). Fanning the flames with dollar bills might finally pay off for New York this year but with one colossal stipulation. So put a big asterisk next to this one. No, not the kind that should appear nicely in bold, 36 point font in the record books next to Barry Bonds' home run record. We'll call this the health asterisk. And if all goes according to plan for the Bronx Bombers, or at least mostly to plan, they should reclaim the AL East title from Tampa in 2009.

Sure the Yankees haven't won arguably baseball's toughest division since 2006, the same year the DOW Jones topped 11,000 for the first time since 2001...so it's been a while. Over the past several seasons New York has been riddled with injuries making health a primary concern for the Bronx Bombers. In the off-season the Yankees focused on acquiring quality, less injury prone, younger pitchers as opposed to ones who are members of AARP (see Kevin Brown).

The additions of former Cy Young award winner CC Sabathia and ex-Blue Jay AJ Burnett round out a potent starting five for New York. These additions will allow for Chien Ming Wang and Joba Chamberlain to drop down to third and fourth slots in the rotation, alleviating much of the pressure they felt last season. Aside from Mariano Rivera, relievers have been a traditional liability for the Yankees and last year's group let a great number of wins slip away from them. Expect a much stronger bullpen this season as Edwar Ramirez and company should become infinitely more comfortable with their roles.

Even the injury to Alex Rodriguez shouldn't harm the Yankees too much. Cody Ransom, who batted over .300 in limited playing time last season, will step in for A-Rod until his expected return in late May. With Jorge Posada, Hideki Matsui, Wang, and Chamberlain all returning healthy, the Yankees' roster is rounding into shape. Add in a sparkling new ballpark and New York will have their eyes set on bringing a sixteenth AL East crown back to the Bronx.

—Anthony Valentino '09

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Thanks,
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The smell of fresh cut grass and crackerjacks is in the air; meaning baseball is back. Hope springs eternal for all teams, but only six can take home division crowns. Our focus is the American League East where two traditional powerhouses are vying for the top spot. However, neither will win because the newcomer and defending American League Champion, Tampa Bay Rays, enters as the division's strongest team.

The Yankees are the big spenders of the division, but history shows money cannot buy championships. The nucleus of the team is comprised of aging stars and big-money players that have yet to prove their worth. The Red Sox faces just as many questions as the Yankees do entering the season. The pitching staff is solid, but management failed to fill the void in the middle of the lineup left by Manny Ramirez's departure.

The Rays are one of the youngest and most exciting teams in MLB. They like to play a fast and fundamentally sound style of baseball which is a product of their charismatic manager, Joe Maddon. The Rays' youthful staff is led by James Shields, Matt Garza, and Scott Kazmir, who combined for an impressive sub-3.65 ERA last year. The staff will be bolstered further when wunderkind David Price is called up from the minors later in the year while OF Carl Crawford returns fully healthy and is looking to build off of a disappointing 2008 campaign. Third-baseman Evan Longoria oozes with potential, plays solid defensively and along with first-baseman Carlos Pena will provide power in the middle of the lineup.

The X-factor for the Rays could be new addition Pat Burrell. The Rays lacked power and consistency from the DH position in 2008, the void Burrell was signed to fill. Can lightning strike twice for the Rays or will lofty expectations cause them to cave? Their magical World Series run should give them the confidence and drive to dethrone the Yanks and Sox once again.

—Chris Crawford '10

Here's to Your Health: Fast Track to Six-Pack

BY CASEY REUTEMANN '09
SPORTS STAFF

We all know that April showers bring forth...bathing suit season! Okay, perhaps the correlation is a little abstract, but it carries truth. Despite the impending end of semester chaos, the promise of summer sunshine that lies at the apex of the hectic academic hike has many students' minds wandering to the shores of their favorite beaches. This in turn, has those same students making a beeline to the Concannon Fitness Center with the hopes of finding a six-pack.

It is safe to say that the quest for a toned torso this time of year is universal amongst college students. Equally accurate is the notion that the majority of students find themselves frustrated, fatigued, and not nearly as fit and firm as they hope to be in time for beach season. Let's fix that.

First and foremost, the key to getting fab abs is a firm grasp on reality. Not only is a bona fide "six-pack" rare (if you have one, you have permission to revel in your accomplishment), but aspiring to change your body solely for the sake of appearance is unproductive.

For example, if you want to look toned in your bathing suit this season, use it as a source of motivation, but don't limit your efforts to this exclusive goal. Take some time to understand the benefits that accompany a strong core and recognize that looking great is only an added bonus. The abdominal muscles personify multitasking; they not only strengthen the torso, but also aid in reducing back pain, maintaining good posture preventing injury, and diminish the amount of stress put on other areas of your body.

Now that we have distinguished between merely yearning for a defined, beach-ready midsection and productively working towards a strong core that will reap benefits all year long, where do we go from here?

It's a common misconception that achieving defined abs is only a few hundred crunches away. Though exercises that target the abdomen (i.e. crunches, sit ups, planks) are a necessary ingredient in the recipe for a strong core, they are not the only component. It may sound redundant, but a nutritious diet and consistent cardiovascular exercise are just as vital and effective.

Sticking to natural, nutrient rich foods- fruits, veggies, whole grains and protein- and steering clear of processed foods as often as possible (hey, its college...sometimes Ramen is necessary) will provide your body with the energy reserve necessary to keep moving. There's no need to obsess over calories, by simply making the healthiest choices and aiming for five to six small meals a day (or three medium sized meals, with two small snacks), your metabolism will be so revved up all day long that you won't have to battle the fatigue that so often overpowers your fitness goals.

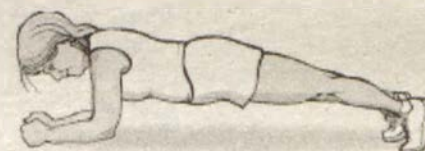
The cardiovascular component is also crucial to achieving fabulous abs.

Simply put, no matter how many sets of crunches you do, your abdominal strength will not be visible (which is normal, it takes time!) and may plateau (a bummer) if you continue to carry a layer of abdominal fat in your midsection. Please note this is not solely a weight loss program, but an acknowledgment that visible results of a core-strengthening routine necessitate cardiovascular exercise.

Once you've committed to a more realistic goal, planned to modify your eating habits, and made room for extra cardio in your fitness routine then yes, it's time to take it to the floor and get crunching! While there are a multitude of great exercises that effectively engage and strengthen the midsection, it is important to focus on correct form and slow, controlled, motions regardless of the variation of ab exercise you choose. Next time you're tempted to speed through 50 crunches in 30 seconds flat, think about this: if you wouldn't do another type of strength training movement, i.e. bench presses, that fast and furiously, you should not attempt to do so when strengthening your core.

Below are two suggested abdominal exercises that can be done in only a few minutes a day; no frantic crunching necessary (or advised). Combine these with the aforementioned dietary, cardiovascular, and attitudinal modifications and your core will not only be beach ready in no time, but more importantly, your appreciation for the amazing things your body is capable of will increase... maybe even SIXfold.

The Plank: Beginning on your stomach, prop yourself up on your toes and forearms (keeping elbows directly underneath the shoulders). Contract your abs and push yourself up, and maintaining a neutral alignment in your spine, hold for 20 seconds. Rest and repeat three times. Continue to increase the time until you can remain in the plank position for a full 60 seconds without resting.



The Bicycle: Begin on your back with knees raised at a 90 degree angle, hands behind your head (elbows wide), abs engaged and shoulders lifted off the mat. In a slow, controlled motion extend the right leg out while bringing the left knee towards the chest, while simultaneously rotating the right shoulder toward the left knee. Repeat on the opposite side to complete one rep. Begin with three sets of 15-20 reps and work your way up as you increase your core strength.



Congratulations to the 37 Providence College student-athletes that were inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma for achieving a GPA of 3.4 or Higher!

SPORTS

32 THE COWL

APRIL 3, 2009

Friars Remain Undefeated in Conference Play

BY MOLLIE QUINN '09
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

The Providence College Men's Lacrosse Team beat Canisius College last Saturday, March 28 to improve 3-0 in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference. Holding the same undefeated conference record as the team started out with last year, it may appear to some that this could be a repeat of the 2008 season. However, Head Coach Chris Burdick refuses to think so.

With a younger and less seasoned squad than last year, Coach Burdick and his squad are starting fresh, but at the same time enjoying similar luck as last season's team.

"This year is completely different," said Burdick. "We are very young so we still do not know exactly who we are, there are still a lot of unknowns."

The Friars' decisive 5-4 victory over Canisius marked their fourth-straight win. Although this is certainly something to be proud of, Coach Burdick is still not completely satisfied and confident. He is careful to not let their so-far perfect conference record get in the way of all the work they still have cut out for them this season.

"I think that we still haven't played a full game of lacrosse," said Burdick. "There are a lot of things we still need to work on. All of the teams we have beat in the MAAC are winless. We still have not beaten a team that has won a game yet."



DAN NIETO '11

Jackson Fallon '10 scored the go-ahead goal in the third quarter of the Friars' 5-4 win against Canisius on Saturday, March 28. The win improved the Friars to 4-0 in MAAC play for the second straight season.

Canisius started things off hot, scoring the first goal to take a 1-0 lead with 11:46 remaining in the first quarter. However, the Friars would not let the Golden Griffins lead for long. Senior Bobby Labadini answered back with an unassisted goal for the Friars. With only three seconds remaining in the first quarter, junior Colin Tigh found senior Danny Ryan who put it in the back of the net to

give the Friars a 2-1 advantage heading into the second quarter.

Preseason MAAC Player of the Year and All-American, Adam Jones, found his rhythm in the second quarter, posting two goals in the first seven minutes to put Canisius ahead, 3-2. However, those would be the only goals that Jones would score for the day. Sophomore Bertan Unal did a phenomenal job covering Jones, hold-

ing him to just two goals and one assist.

"Bertan did a good job of tying Adams up," said Burdick.

This would be the last time that the Golden Griffins would lead in the game. Freshman Jake Nolan notched another goal for Providence off an assist from Ryan to tie the game at three with 2:46 left in the half.

The third quarter turned out to be a back-and-forth battle for both teams, with each team committing six turnovers. Although junior Jackson Fallon was able to score an unassisted goal with 8:46 remaining in the third, neither team was able to successfully put the ball in the goal for the remainder of the quarter.

Entering the final 15 minutes of play with a 4-3 lead, the Friars received an important unassisted goal by freshman Chris Mahoney, which gave the Friars a two-goal advantage. Canisius gave the Friars a little scare with only six minutes to play in the game. A man-up goal from Canisius put the Golden Griffins back within one at 5-4 with only 6:02 remaining in the contest. Although Canisius had one more opportunity to score, grad student Colin Reposa successfully forced a critical turnover. Providence regained possession to earn the win as the clock ran out.

LAX/Page 28

Tough Stretch for Tennis

BY JOHN SESSIONS '12
SPORTS STAFF

The struggles continued this week for the Providence College Tennis Team this week as they fell to two tough squads in Cincinnati and Seton Hall.

The Friars hosted the University of Cincinnati on Thursday, March 26. Despite a strong showing, the Friars dropped their second straight match, as they were swept by the Bearcats, 7-0. Senior Ashley Rissolo played strong for PC, falling in the No. 2 singles position, 6-4, 6-1, to Cincinnati's ace Jennifer Rowen. She then teamed up with freshman Melanie Albert in the Friars' closest doubles match of the day, an 8-3 defeat in the No. 2 spot.

"Our shots were simply not falling into place today," said Rissolo. "But even with the unfortunate bounces we know what we need to do to get us out of this funk and back into the winning column."

Despite the senior's encouraging words, Providence, who hosted another Big East foe, Seton Hall, could not snap out of their funk this past Saturday, March 28. In its second match of the week, PC was swept by the Pirates, 7-0. Rissolo was once again solid for the Friars, dropping in the No. 2 singles position, 6-1, 7-5. She then teamed with Albert in the No. 2 doubles spot, falling 8-3. Sophomore Ayushi Sinha and

senior Meghan Gilroy also kept it close in doubles, falling in the No. 1 spot, 8-5.

Although the Friars are in desperate need of a marquee win, according to Head PC Tennis Coach Kyle LaBlanche, there is no need to panic just yet.

"Losing three straight Big East matches is certainly something we're not going to get used to doing here at PC," said LaBlanche. "With that said, there is still a good portion of the season waiting for us and the whole team is looking forward to the opportunity to rebound from this skid and get back in the win column."

Certainly the Friars will be looking to capitalize on this positive mindset going into their last six games of the season. The first obstacle in this process comes in the form of Big East rival UConn. The Huskies have the reputation as being as stingy as they come and will undoubtedly bring that mentality into Providence this Wednesday.

"I think Wednesday will be a good challenge for us," said Rissolo. "We need this win to get us back on track, especially being in a conference as demanding as the Big East. Every player on this team knows what they have to do to turn this losing streak around. No one wants to send our seniors off with a losing record in their last year at PC."

The team will look to turn their season around when they host Sacred Heart on Saturday, April 4, at 12:00 p.m.

Friar Nine Wins Three of Four

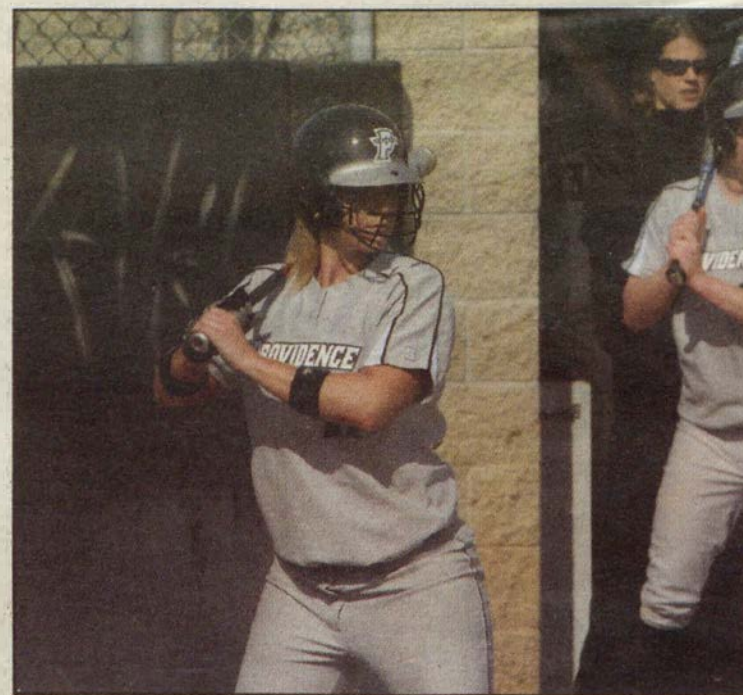
BY CHRIS MAMMEN '11
SPORTS STAFF

This week the Providence College Softball Team had a six game win-streak snapped by the No. 23/21 and defending Big East Champion DePaul Blue Demons Monday before returning to form and toppling Boston University on Wednesday. The Friars were scheduled for a doubleheader against each team, but on both days the second game was canceled due to weather.

"We all know that through our lives more important things are going to happen than a little rain," said Head Softball Coach Kerri Jacklets. "We were ready to play and we wanted to play but this is an outdoor sport and it's part of the game, once in a while there are some delays or cancellations."

On Wednesday the Friars hosted the BU Terriers and though it was a back and forth battle throughout, the Friars would ultimately emerge with a 6-4 win, bringing the team to 10-17 overall and 2-1 in Big Easy play. (The action got started early when BU lead-off hitter Shayne Lotito reached first base on a single stole home to give the Terriers a 1-0 lead.)

The Friars responded quickly as senior Mary Rose Sheehy and freshman Michelle Huber both came around to score in the bottom of the first giving the Friars a 2-1 lead. The Terriers came out again strong in the second inning and tacked on two more runs to reclaim the lead, 3-2. The see-



COURTESY OF SPORTS INFO

Mary Rose Sheehy '09 hit a grand slam in an 11-2 rout of Rutgers on Saturday, March 28. Sheehy paced the Friars for a 3-1 record on the week.

saw battle continued as the Friars tied up the score, 3-3, in the bottom of the second on senior Gina Rossi's home run to right center.

The next two innings were a defensive battle, with neither team being able to put up a run. In the top of the fifth BU claimed a 4-3 lead when Brooke Hudson drove the ball into centerfield, plating Rachel Hebert. However, the Terriers did not hold the lead for long as junior Christy Becker tied the game 4-4 with one swing of the bat as she hit a towering home run.

In the bottom of the sixth

inning the Friars put away the Terriers for good when Rossi hit a two run bomb, her second the game and fifth of the season, to give the Friars a 6-4 lead and ultimately the victory. Freshman Alicia Grosso was credited with the win, pitching three innings of one-run ball in relief of junior Danielle Bertolette.

"Everything we scheduled is just to prepare for our conference schedule," said Jacklets. "We want to be tested so that we won't see anything that we haven't already. How we play and perform is one thing, but

SOFTBALL/Page 28