



## Students Gain Access to Show Filmed On Campus

by Ryan Post '14  
News Staff

### MEDIA

The inside scoop on all things Friars basketball will now extend beyond the confines of the Providence College campus. *Friars All Access*, a new show filmed by and aired on Cox, premiered Jan. 12, offering viewers an inside look at the Friars Men's Basketball Team. The 30-minute show, filmed weekly in McPhail's, offers fans interviews with Coach Keno Davis and current players.

Chris Magnoli, an employee of the College's Department of Athletics Marketing and Media Relations, credits the idea of *Friars All Access* to John Parris of Cox and Arthur Parks, also of the Department of Athletics Marketing and Media Relations. The goal of the program is to keep Friar fans who do not live on campus informed about the development of the team. The show is filmed every Monday, and is aired the following Wednesday on Cox Sports at 6:00 p.m.

The program's third installment was filmed Monday, Jan. 24, in the Lower Slavin Mural Lounge, and featured an in-depth interview with Coach Davis regarding the team's success in their first Big East win of the season against Louisville, an opponent ranked in the top 20. Davis went on to discuss the preparations the team is taking in regards to the game against Villanova on Wednesday and at Seton Hall on

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CHRIS CACCIAVILLANI '14 / THE COWL

*Friars All Access* host Kristina Akra interviews Friar's basketball coach Keno Davis about the team's success in their first Big East win of the season during the second episode filmed on Monday, Jan. 17. The taping took place in the Lower Slavin Mural Lounge.

## Senior Wins Trip to Springer Show

by Valerie Ferdon '12  
News Editor

### CAMPUS NEWS

Like many children of protective parents growing up in the 1990s, Mark Kraics '11 was not permitted to watch the Jerry Springer show. The youngest of five children, he jokes how the show was "banned" in his house growing up - for a good reason.

"The show is basically absurd. You turn it on, and within five minutes, people are throwing punches at each other and there are security guards on stage. It is an American joke," said Kraics.

Notorious for such ridiculousness, the television show has been under such scrutiny since its onset 20 years ago. Despite the controversy, Jerry Springer has maintained a spot on cable television and now celebrating its anniversary by awarding college students with the opportunity to be part of the studio audience - a recent winner being none other than Kraics himself.

Kraics and 35 or more friends of his choice will be picked up at Providence

College by a coach bus and driven to the Jerry Springer studio in Stamford, Conn. to attend an episode taping. The group will also have the opportunity to meet Springer himself and be given show paraphernalia, such as hats and t-shirts.

The trip was originally scheduled for the end of January. The timing, however, was inconvenient for many students who were unwilling to miss class during the first few weeks of school. Kraics expects to instead redeem his prize in February, sometime around Valentine's Day.

He explains how one day during winter break he came across Jerry Springer while flipping through the channels and began to watch - purely out of boredom.

"I have an interest, but I wouldn't call myself a fan of Jerry Springer. Sometimes my roommates and I will watch it just for a good laugh, and that was my intent that day of break. During one of the commercials, they announced a contest called the 'Springer Break Bus.' They encouraged people to go online and write a few

lines about what they liked about the show," said Kraics.

His submission was a mere 200-300 words. Doing it for fun with no intention of winning, Kraics did not even save a copy of what he wrote.

"My point was that, yeah, the show is ridiculous and features low class people, many of whom are considered 'white trash,' but the problems featured on the show are similar to those of upper levels of society," said Kraics.

In the interview, Kraics specifically cited two political figures, former governor Mark Sanford of South Carolina and former governor Jim McGreevey of New Jersey, as having scandalous sexual affairs comparable to many which are featured on television.

"Yes, we can judge them. But are we truly better than them?" asked Kraics.

Two weeks after he submitted his response to the Jerry Springer Web site, he received a call from a woman named Michelle, who informed him that he had won the "Springer Break Bus."

His parents were just as surprised as Kraics himself when they found out he

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## A&E Reacts to Black Swan



## INSIDETHECOWL

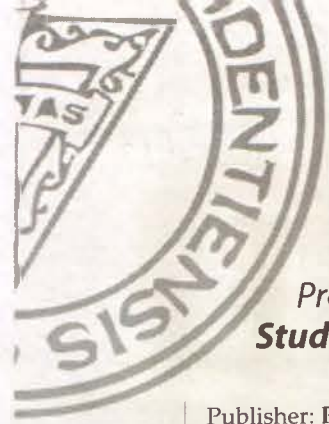
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Editor's Desk

SNOWMAGEDDON 2011:  
This Time, It's Personal

It's a feeling a lot of us are familiar with (discounting the students from those sunny states): waking up in the morning to find your driveway blanketed in snow, rushing to the TV, wishing to see the name of your school scroll across the bottom of the screen, praying for those three little words, "School is closed." Even though being in college technically makes us adults, the thrill of a snow day is undeniably still there.

At the first sign of flurries, the anticipation starts. The Weather Channel suddenly becomes the most talked about thing on TV, with people citing the astronomical amount of inches that should be on the ground by the morning. Then comes the obsessive checking of your PC e-mail, the rumors that so-and-so down the hall said that they heard from their RA that classes will definitely be cancelled, and your roommate hoping that the philosophy quiz he or she didn't study for will not become a reality in the morning. Last week, it was better than imagined (even if it came after a bit of a delay for some of us!) to wake up to a snow day.

Even as we are snowed in at *The Cowl* office, hoping that as you read this today, you will be cozy in your dorm, and will have had a day without classes, we know that the chances of getting two snow days in one week is relatively slim. (We certainly hope that, for once, we'll be able to sleep off our very late night!) So, we say, Providence College, give us a snow day, we work hard enough during the week, and no one wants to fall on that slippery spot between the library and Al Mag (come on, these walkways are dangerous!) And if those aren't reasons enough to cancel classes, then definitely do it because our Friars beat Villanova last night!

-The Editors

Campus Calendar

Fri 28	Sat 29	Sun 30	Mon 31	Tues 1	Wed 2	Thurs 3
Snow 34° Showers 18°	Light 35° Snow 20°	Partly 28° Cloudy 7°	Partly 22° Cloudy 11°	Snow 30° Shower 14°	Partly 30° Cloudy 18°	Sunny 31° 13°
<b>7:00 p.m.</b> PC Men's Ice Hockey vs. New Hampshire, Schneider Arena	<b>2:00 p.m.</b> PC Women's Basketball vs. St. John's, Mullaney Gym	<b>2:00 p.m.</b> Explore! Volunteer Orientation, Feinstein 400	<b>11:30 a.m.</b> Aqua-Fitness Class, Concannon Fitness Center	<b>7:00 p.m.</b> Relay for Life Kickoff, '64 Hall  <b>5:00 p.m.</b> Friars Club Freshman Interviews, Feinstein 400	<b>11:30 a.m.</b> Aqua-Fitness Class, Concannon Fitness Center  <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Kick Off Your Political Career, McPhail's  <b>9:30 p.m.</b> Group Fitness, Peterson Group Fitness Center	<b>5:00 p.m.</b> Admission Ambassador Coffee House, McPhail's  <b>5:00 p.m.</b> Friars Club Freshman Interviews, Feinstein 400  <b>8:00 p.m.</b> Friar Flashback Trivia, McPhail's
<b>9:00 p.m.</b> Guitar Hero Tournament, Slavin Mural Lounge	<b>9:00 p.m.</b> <i>The Social Network</i> Viewing, Slavin Overlook Lounge		<b>4:00 p.m.</b> Group Fitness, Peterson Group Fitness Center  <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Afro-Am Fashion Show Tryouts, '64 Hall			

Letter Policy

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

All submissions must include the writer's name, signature, a phone number, and an e-mail address where he or she can be reached. Letters should be no more than 250 words in length and will be printed as space permits. Guest commentaries should be limited to 700 words in length, and only one will be published per week. The Cowl reserves the right to edit articles for space and clarity. Submissions must be delivered, mailed, or faxed to The Cowl office no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication.

Mail submissions to The Cowl, 1 Cunningham Square, Providence, R.I. 02918; fax to 401-865-1202; submit online at [www.thecowl.com](http://www.thecowl.com); e-mail to [thecowl@providence.edu](mailto:thecowl@providence.edu); or hand deliver to The Cowl office in Slavin G05.

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-in-Chief at [thecowl@providence.edu](mailto:thecowl@providence.edu). Corrections will be printed as necessary.

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# Congress Discusses Possible Reading Program

## Congress Kicks off Semester by Passing Legislation for Class of 2015

by Jordan Frias '11  
Asst. News Editor

### STUDENT CONGRESS

Student Congress reconvened on Tuesday, Jan. 18 to discuss a piece of legislation recommended by Tom Fitzgerald '11, head of the Academics Committee. This piece of legislation called for the implementation of a freshman common reading program which went through a pilot period last summer with the school of Professional Studies and with the help of Provost Hugh Lena.

Charles Haberle, assistant vice president of Academic

Affairs, and Ana-Maria Sima '11 explained that the purpose of the freshman common reading program will be to give incoming students the opportunity to read the same text throughout the summer. Discussions on the novel would then become a component of fall orientation and would continue throughout the academic year, whether it be through student programs or within their courses.

The proposal is being sponsored by the One Campus, One Question committee and is intended to be an optional program for those freshmen who would like to participate.

According to Haberle, a total of three to four books would be chosen by a committee of students and faculty for the freshmen to read, leaving the final decision up to the administration and Father Brian Shanley, president of

Providence College. The proposal for this program asks that the content of the book chosen be a topic of interest among students that can relate to recent events. Some suggested that the topics be centered on the 10th anniversary of Sept. 11th, environmental issues, the Middle East, or diversity.

The common reading program currently exists at other colleges and universities around the nation. Many institutions utilizing this program require that students submit essays on the reading to be entered in a contest. The College's program would not require this if the program is implemented.

With changes to the freshman orientation these past two years,

what the program aims to do in terms of having freshmen read the same material throughout their academic year.

Sima explained that the program is intended to enhance the educational experience for freshmen if they choose to participate in it. She also said that it would be a more relaxed program and students could respond to it in creative ways that will not necessarily cut into class time or really disrupt the freshman orientation. Liane Nadeau '11, Mary Bogan '11, and Meaghan Murphy '11 advocated for this piece of legislation by saying that those who did participate would benefit greatly from the experience.

Murphy told Congress members to focus on the positives of the program and Bogan explained her personal experience with the pilot program.

Congress passed this piece of legislation with 26 votes, four abstained votes, and eight votes against it.

The next Congress meeting will focus on club allocations, which are dispersed from the student activity fees by Congress. Nick Mikula '11 and his committee will continue to meet with clubs and organizations to go over their budget proposals and will amend legislation, which currently grants numerous clubs and organizations a budget of zero dollars.

Legislation is at zero dollars for each club due to the fact that "typical clubs get more of what they need in the beginning of the semester," Mikula said, where larger organizations and grand scale activities, such as JRW and Commencement, need to reapply for more funding.

## This Week In Congress

### Legislation Passed

- *The Freshman Common Reading Program*

This piece of legislation calls for the implementation of a summer reading component that will be optional for freshmen before their academic year begins.

### Legislation Presented

- *Allocations*

This legislation calls for the allotment of zero dollars from the Student Activity Fee to be dispersed to student clubs and organizations. This piece will be amended at next week's meeting.

“ I DON'T THINK IT'S A STRETCH TO INCORPORATE AN ACADEMIC PORTION [TO ORIENTATION] ”

and the uneasiness freshmen feel about the Western Civ program, most Congress members felt that the reading program would be burdensome for incoming freshmen.

"As an Orientation Leader, I just feel like [the freshman common reading program] will be disengaging for students," Tucker de Villier '12 said.

Fitzgerald and Sima told their Congress members that Shanley has been in full support of adding a scholastic component to the orientation model for years.

"I don't think it's a stretch to incorporate an academic portion [to freshman orientation]," said Fitzgerald.

Melissa Scott '14 said that many current freshmen that she spoke with are not in support of this program and agree that Civ already accomplishes

# Former Figure Skater Teaches Course in Mathematics

## Dr. Cayla McBee Impressed with Environment of Providence College

by Michaela Cameron '13  
Asst. News Editor

### FEATURED TEACHER

Cayla McBee, Ph.D., Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, was an accomplished figure skater who competed in the Bay State Games prior to teaching at Providence College.

McBee was born in Newburyport, Mass., a small city on the eastern coast.

"When I was five, my next-door neighbors both figure skated, and as a five-year-old, I decided I wanted to do that as well, so my parents signed me up for a skating lesson. After that, I loved it and kept going back," said McBee.

McBee's most memorable experience as a competitive figure skater was competing and winning first place in the Bay State Games.

"I competed in the Bay State Games and won first place in the senior ladies free skate, so that qualified me for a national competition called the Skate Games of America, but I had an injury and unfortunately could not compete," said McBee.

McBee trained and competed until she graduated from Newburyport High School, and then went on to study at Wheaton College in Norton, Mass.

"My life growing up was training and competing and when I got to college, I stopped but joined the club hockey team. It was a good option for me. Now skating is something I do for fun. I'm excited that the College has a rink on campus here and I'm hoping to skate on my off-time," said McBee.

At Wheaton College, McBee majored in Mathematics and German.

McBee spoke of her experience at Wheaton College in comparison to her experiences here.

"Wheaton was a small liberal arts school as well, so there were a lot of similarities; it wasn't a religious school so there were a lot of differences as well, like the integration of Catholicism into the university."

After graduating from Wheaton College, McBee went on to graduate school, studying at Colorado State University.

"I was born in Massachusetts and grew up in Massachusetts, as well as doing my undergrad in Massachusetts, so I was ready to try something new. I applied

“ WHEN I CAME HERE [PROVIDENCE COLLEGE] FOR MY INTERVIEW, EVERYONE HERE WAS WONDERFUL ”

to grad schools all around the country. I liked Colorado State because I really liked the people there," said McBee.

McBee had always known she wanted to teach math, and upon becoming a teaching assistant at Colorado State University, she decided to teach math at a college level.

"I was fortunate to have a great math teacher in high school. He was great at helping students learn and appreciate a subject that many people dislike. After sitting in his class, I decided I wanted to try and do the same; and I decided to go to college and major in math so that I could teach at either the high school or college level. I also had the opportunity to tutor math in high school and in college, which I really enjoyed. That experience also helped me realize I wanted to teach," said McBee.

Prior to working at the College, McBee worked at her local skating rink and at an ice cream shop.

"I worked at the Graf Skating Rink in Newburyport, Massachusetts at the snack bar, front office, and as a skate guard during public ice. I also volunteered as a Learn-To-Skate instructor at the Graf Rink. In college, I worked at Willey's Chocolate and Ice Cream at Salisbury Beach. It's family run and they make everything from scratch," said McBee.

For the past three years, McBee has been a grader for the AP calculus exam.

"Every summer, over 800 high school and college calculus teachers come together to grade over 200,000 AP calculus exams. This past

summer, I was randomly assigned to a grading table and my former high school teacher was assigned to sit two seats away from me. It was the first time I had talked to him since high school. The odds of running into him at the grading and being seated next to each other are pretty slim," said McBee.

At the College, McBee teaches Business Calculus, MTH 108, and Discreet Math, MTH 117.

McBee decided to work at the College because of the environment.

"It was a good fit. I wanted to teach at a small liberal arts school. The geographical location works well, my family is in New England, and when I was in Colorado, I was away from my family and friends. When I came here for my interview, everyone here was wonderful. I could tell it was a great department to be a part of," said McBee.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.PROVIDENCE.EDU

Dr. Cayla McBee is teaching mathematics and computer science at Providence College. She became interested in teaching after having a great high school math teacher.

McBee spoke of her experience thus far. "I am excited to teach at a liberal arts college with small classes where I can get to know my students. When I came here for my interview, I really liked the mathematics and computer science departments and everyone I met during my visit was very nice. I really like the sense of community at Providence College as well. Everyone has been friendly; that's one of the nicest things. It makes it easier to start a new job."

# Letters of Intent for Freshman Special Elections

## Student Representative Candidates

Tim Morris

Without skirting around the question at hand, I am running for office with two reasons in mind. First, and less significantly, I experienced regret at not having decided to run for the original election in the fall. It was an opportunity to participate in the process of acclimating to a new environment, a chance to let the entire Providence College community know of the freshman class's potential as leaders and servants. A recent, failed attempt to join the Student Life committee has only increased my desire to seize any more opportunities that arise. I hope that I can make the best of this chance, and that I can contribute my voice and ideas on behalf of my friends and classmates. Secondly, and more significantly, I hope that a role as representative will allow me to do more about matters that should not be ignored including: off-campus safety, conflicts with printing, cultivating diversity, and deciding what to do with excess food from PC's dining halls. I am glad to have received this opportunity and I thank you for your time.

Sarah Vigneau

I am running for the position of student representative for the freshman class. Having served as high school class president for four years, my experience in this area would be beneficial to the Class of 2014. This opportunity will allow for

a greater avenue to become involved in my class. This past semester, I was involved in volunteering in the community and clubs within the school. These experiences were rewarding, and I believe participating in student government will be another great way to reach out to the community inside and outside of Providence College. My ability to communicate the needs of others will help to ensure my fellow classmates are adequately represented. I have thoughts on how to better our PC community and will always convey the suggestions of my classmates. I would expect to continue my involvement in the class for the entirety of my time at Providence College.

José Jimenez

As a freshman who still hasn't found his niche in the college society, I have decided to try my hand in student government. During high school, I was a part of student congress for three years and have learned a few things. Events rarely go as planned, be ready to improvise, and make the best of the situation at hand. Congress is more about learning how to operate in today's society rather than just hoping your next event goes well. Having your ideas met with criticism will help you think your arguments through, leaving you better prepared for the next time. I believe I will bring a level of experience to the team and hope to better my communicational skills. Give a voice to those who, like me, are still stumbling through college. Through these efforts, I hope to find my place here at Providence College.

Jeff DiLeo

Hey everyone, my name's Jeff DiLeo, and I'm running to be one of the Class of 2014 representatives because I want to make this semester as fun as possible for everyone. My involvement in PCTV, WDOM 91.3 FM, and Toastmasters has taught me how to listen to others' ideas and make them a reality. The only thing I'll promise is that I'll do everything I can to have your concerns addressed and suggestions heard. Please vote for me on Angel this Friday, January 28. Thanks for your time!

## Class Secretary Candidates

Katherine Bacino

My name is Katherine Bacino and I intend to run for the position of secretary for the Class of 2014 Student Congress team. If elected for this position, I promise to lead with a sincere attitude of servitude. As secretary, I would take my responsibilities as an organizer and distributor of key information seriously. In doing so, I hope to assist in the creation of an organized, successful, and exciting team that will bring forth events and policies to aid in the student body's enjoyment of life at Providence College. Through experience in leadership positions in high school, I have learned that when a student congress team communicates, the members are not only more productive, but have a more enjoyable experience. If elected, I promise to do my best to aid in clear communication. With this, I will make sure that everyone, from other congress members to the student body, is aware of upcoming campus events and can participate fully, while having a good time.

Abigail Alegi

My name is Abigail Alegi and I am running for our freshman class secretary. I served as my class secretary in high school as well as secretary of the National Honor Society my senior year. I'm a member of the track team here at school. I would really like to be a part of the freshman leadership assembly for the class of 2014 at PC because I want to help make our time here the best four years possible. I want to help be a voice for all of you so that the other members of student congress can hear your ideas and thoughts. If elected, I promise to serve you all to the best of my ability. I will work with all of you to make these upcoming years the most memorable times of our lives. So remember, vote Abigail Alegi for class of 2014 Class Secretary!

Joseph Dalli

I promise, as secretary of the Class of 2014, I will honestly and respectfully fulfill all of my duties. I will work hard with the three other class officers, all class representatives, and the entire Student Congress to pass bills and legislation on behalf of the entire student body. As secretary, I will be sure to remain organized and attentive to ensure that all of my responsibilities are fulfilled. I will also, with the help of my fellow officers, work to be a voice of the students, so that their voices will be heard. In days like these, everybody has things that affect them, and as secretary, I will work extremely hard to ensure that everyone has their opinions heard. Finally, I promise to perform all duties as secretary with honesty, respect, and diligence.

Christine Hartwich

My name is Christine Hartwich, and I am running for Student Congress secretary. I am running for secretary because I want to be able to be a part of this group in order to get involved with the planning of college events, and to be able to improve student life. I would like to be secretary because I want to work with others to do something productive for our class of 2014. I would like to be a part of Student Congress because I want to feel like I am contributing to something important and being on Student Congress would let me do that. I also have an interest in student government, and I would like to be someone who members of the class of 2014 can come to and voice their ideas and concerns for something we could work on.

Maria Pantazelos

Hello, Class of 2014. My name is Maria Pantazelos, and I would like to be your class secretary. I believe I would be a perfect fit for this position. I am well organized and highly reliable, and I can get things done! I am one of the hardest workers you will ever meet and am very determined. This is my second time running for this position because I strongly believe that I possess the qualities necessary to assume the duties of class secretary. I don't want to be class secretary just for the title! I want to be class secretary because I know I would make a great addition to our Student Congress. Give me a chance to show you, Class of 2014, what I have to offer and vote for me, Maria Pantazelos!

VOTE FOR YOUR FRESHMAN CLASS SECRETARY AND REPRESENTATIVE FOR CONGRESS ON ANGEL POLLS ARE OPEN ON FRIDAY, JAN. 26 FROM 9 AM - 4 PM



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# FRIARS: Filming To Continue Through Remainder of the 2010-2011 Basketball Season

Continued from front page

Saturday, Jan. 29.

Following the interview with Coach Davis, host Kristina Akra talked with freshman Gerard Coleman, a guard who recently was awarded the Big East Rookie of the Week title for the second time this season. They discussed the large role Coleman has played in the team's success, not only against Louisville, but also throughout the season.

Magnoli said that the show will include more than just the current state of the Friars basketball team. "We're starting a new segment this week called 'Former Friars' where [Akra and interviewees] will discuss the great PC players of the past," said Magnoli. In the installment filmed Monday, God Shammgod, a Friar star in the late 1990s, was discussed.

The show has proven to be popular among members of the Department of Athletics who are pleased with the increased exposure the school will receive due to the show.

Bob Driscoll, Athletics Director at the College, said, "Friars All Access is a great way to give our fans an opportunity to see some of the aspects of Friars Athletics that they normally might not get the chance to see. We are really looking forward to watching this young team grow, and this show gives fans a unique way of doing that."

Cox, the network which also airs a large portion of the Friars basketball games among other sports, says that *Friars All Access* is an outgrowth of their dedication to the school and its athletics. "We're proud to continue our commitment to PC and Coach Davis through exclusive content like *Friars All Access*," said Paul Cronin, the senior vice president and general manager of Cox New England.

Cox and the College's Department of Athletics hope that the new show is a success. "Hopefully this is something we can do for future seasons too," said Parks.

Students are encouraged to attend the weekly tapings of the show Mondays at 7:00 p.m. to provide a studio audience for transitional scenes into the commercial breaks. About 30 students attended the third taping on Monday, Jan. 24, one of which, who wished to remain anonymous, said, "I'm glad I attended the filming because I saw the great personalities of our basketball team away from the court." Tricia Murphy '14, also in attendance at Monday's filming, said, "It was cool to see what Keno Davis had to say about the upcoming games and how he was preparing the players."

*Friars All Access* will include eight episodes in its premiere season. Its conclusion will coincide with the culmination of the basketball season.

# JERRY: Commentary Earns Student V.I.P. Treatment at Show Taping in Connecticut

Continued from front page

had won the contest.

"When I told my mom, she asked me, 'Why would you ever do that?' When I told her it was free, she was a little more understanding, but told me not to show my face on camera," he chuckled.

While he is excited to be part of the studio audience, the process has not changed Kraics' opinion on the nature of the show.

"When it comes down to it, the show is a joke. It shows American culture at its worst. But it just shows you, this is what happens when you are bored over break," said Kraics.

So far, Kraics has approximately 25-30 confirmed guests to accompany him to the show. He added that anyone interested in joining the "Springer Break Bus" should contact him. If the number of interested students surpasses the quota of 50, the producers will send an additional bus.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.MOVIEHOME.COM

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## South Sudan on Track for Secession

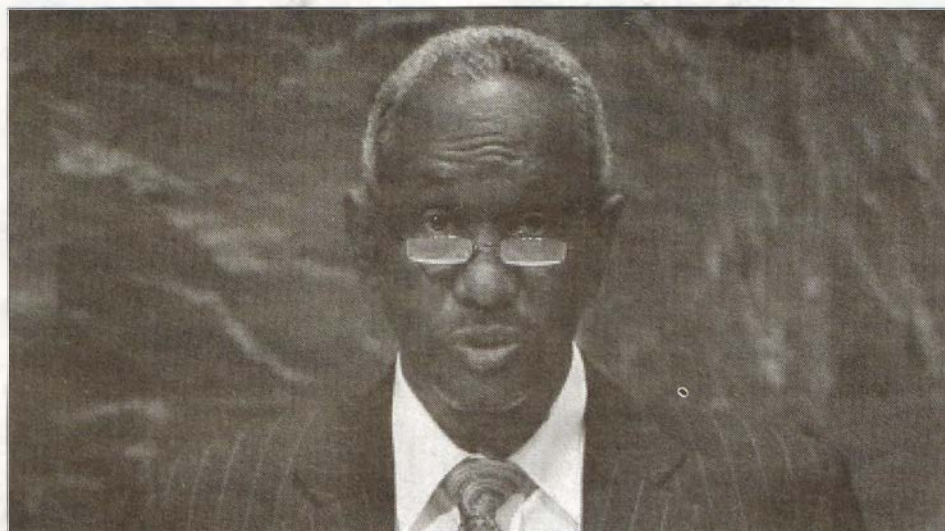
by Adam Staropoli '14  
World Staff

SUDAN

Africa may soon give the world its newest country. A Sudanese referendum will be held to determine the status of the southern region of Sudan. With a rather volatile history in the post-colonial world, including a 20 year civil war, many in Sudan are calling this secession movement a relief from the hard times of the recent past.

While official results of the national referendum have not yet been released and are not likely to be released until February, experts predict that the population of South Sudan will overwhelmingly vote for secession from the north. In fact, BBC reports that Sudanese officials have projected that 99 percent of the population in the south will opt for independence from the north and establish the new Republic of South Sudan. Officials also report that the requirements that would classify the vote as legitimate, which called for 60 percent of the enfranchised population to vote and for 50 percent of the vote to be in favor of independence, have long since passed.

Yet, there are still questions over whether the secession effort will effectively alleviate the sectarian and ethnic issues in Sudan. These are issues still felt by the Sudanese people today. Sudan has been faced with an extremely violent civil war between the predominantly Muslim-Arab controlled government headquartered in the



COURTESY OF EUROPEAN NEWS

Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Taha met with European officials to discuss secession.

capital of Khartoum (in the northern part of the country) and separatist rebel groups, including the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), who identify themselves as Africans who follow Christianity or other traditional African religions. This conflict is rooted in the ethnic differences of the two distinct populations of Sudan. The south has accused the north of redistributing a majority of resources, such as oil reserves, most of which are actually in the south, and revenue, another issue which plagues the eventual drawing of the new national borders to the north. The violent opposition of the JEM and SLM/A showed that the south would not stand to be ruled by a government that helped a select group of people rather than everyone, which explains why

that most southern Sudanese citizens are so enamored with the prospects of independence and self-determination.

"People saying that we cannot survive without the north will be surprised," Deng Leuth, a South Sudan native, told CNN.

Interestingly, there has been some opposition to the secession from some southern Sudanese people as well. *The New York Times* reports that of the southern Sudanese people living in the northern part of the country, "42 percent opted for unity [no secession] and 58 percent for secession." The reasoning has more to do with business interests rather than influence from the civil war, as *The New York Times* also reported, "Many southerners work in Khartoum, Sudan's capital, and they may fear that secession will mean that they have to

leave, those citizenship questions have yet to be resolved." Overwhelmingly, it looks like the south will secede, but what about Darfur?

The Darfur region of Sudan is infamous because it is the namesake of genocide in the western region of the country. The region, which has been an area of ethnic clash between the Arab government and African rebels, is still volatile even during this peaceful referendum. Roger Middleton, a Sudan expert with the London-based Chatham House, said the impact of the referendum on Darfur is still far from clear, reports *The Associated Press*.

"There are two possibilities. One of them is that the loss of southern Sudan and the loss of that big obstacle frees up Khartoum to really focus on winning a war – a political war, at least – in Darfur and that gives them the ability and time and the money to focus on that," he told *The Associated Press*.

The other possibility is that the Darfur rebels could be inspired by the south "and perhaps even potentially [see] an ally in the new southern independent state," he continued.

Without a doubt, that South Sudan will face countless hurdles once it has officially declared its independence from the north. The United Nations and other peacekeeping organizations have lauded the peaceful efforts of Sudan, infamous for its genocide and civil war, to split. Still, the prospect of independence will be jealousy guarded by the south Sudanese citizens.

## Jean-Claude Duvalier Returns To Haiti

by Ben Remillard '13  
World Staff

HAITI

On Sunday, Jan. 16, Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, who was exiled to France for the last 25 years, returned to Haiti. The 59-year-old former dictator declared that he has returned to help the people of Haiti recover from the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that devastated the country last year, killing an estimated 316,000 and leaving over 1.6 million homeless.

Duvalier assumed power at the age of 19 after his father, Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier, died in 1971. Like his father, Duvalier declared himself a "president-for-life" and ruled with an iron fist, aided by the same private militia used by his father, the Tontons Macoutes. He is accused of embezzling millions of dollars, as well as killing thousands of political opponents. The BBC reports that his human rights abuses prompted more than 100,000 Haitians to flee the country during his presidency. Duvalier ruled for 15 years before an outbreak of popular protests caused him to flee to France in 1986. Since his return, numerous human rights groups have called for his arrest and prosecution. While he was never granted formal political asylum in exile, Baby Doc has never been prosecuted outside of Haiti. The BBC reports that Duvalier has long suffered from Lupus, and that many believe he has developed pancreatic cancer.

After arriving in Haiti, Duvalier declared that he only intended to

stay in the country for a few days. A French diplomat told the BBC that "Mr. Duvalier had a return ticket to France for 20 January." Duvalier had holed himself, along with a few friends and some family members, in a hotel near Port-au-Prince. On Tuesday, Jan. 18, he was taken out of the hotel by heavily armed policemen and formally charged with corruption, theft, and misappropriation of funds during his 1971 to 1986 rule.

Duvalier's return comes during a time of political disorder in Haiti, as a winner of the Nov. 28 presidential election has yet to be confirmed. Preliminary election results showed former first lady Mirlande Manigat going into a runoff election against Haiti's ruling party candidate, Jude Celestine. The Organization of American States, an international organization dedicated to promoting democracy in North and South America, declared that the election was flawed and that Manigat should instead be running against musician Michel Martelly. *The Kansas City Star* reports that a number of analysts believe Duvalier's return to Haiti indicates an attempt to illegally grab power amidst the country's political confusion. On Jan. 20, the Obama administration issued a report telling the Haitian government to solve its presidential crisis in a credible fashion, preferably under the findings of the OAS reports. *The Kansas City Star* reports that a top U.S. diplomat threatened to cut funding and international support should Haiti go astray, increasing pressure to keep

Duvalier out of politics. The Haitian government announced that it will reveal the winner of the presidential election on Jan. 31.

Analysts argue that another possible reason for Duvalier's return might have to do with money. While he left Haiti in 1985 with a suspected \$300 million, many of Duvalier's friends and lawyers say that he squandered it on "a lavish lifestyle of jewelry, chateaus, fancy cars and a very expensive divorce from his ex-wife," reports *The New York Times*. When presented before a Haitian court last week, Duvalier said that he was only able to get by "with the help of friends." It is known that about \$6 million still lies frozen in a Swiss bank account, which Duvalier has publically sworn to get back. Hours before the Haitian earthquake last year, Switzerland declared that Duvalier would gain access to at least \$4.6 million of his savings. After a large outcry of public opinion against the ruling, Swiss officials passed a new law giving them more discretion to return ill-gotten gains to the countries from which they were stolen. This law, also known as the Duvalier Law, does not go into effect until Feb. 1, which is why many analysts believe that Duvalier has returned to Haiti for the money.

While no one can be sure as to the exact reason Duvalier has returned to Haiti, what is known is that the Haitian reaction to his return has been mixed. *The Miami Herald* reports that there is a significant difference between generations. The older generations remember Baby Doc and his father



COURTESY OF CNN

Duvalier returned to Haiti after 25 years in exile.

mostly for the number of human rights violations they accumulated while adding to their own monetary and political powerbases. The younger generations tend to look at him with a sense of nostalgia, considering that half the population of Haiti never lived under the Duvaliers' reign. What they tend to see most is the breakdown in government following Baby Doc's exile, with military dictatorships, turbulent democracy, and natural disasters that have only aided in making Haiti the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

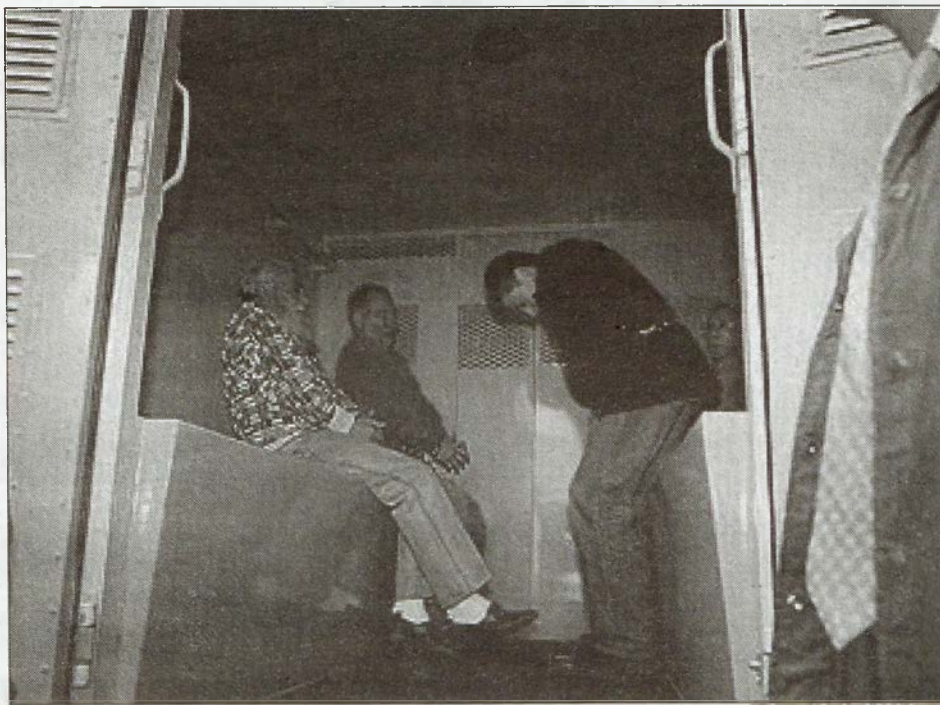
# The Gig's Up: Over 800 Mafia Members Arrested in a Federal Raid

by Becca Larrivee '13  
World Staff

UNITED STATES

Bobby Glasses, Vinny Carwash, Jack the Whack, Johnny Cash, and Junior Lollipops are not names from *The Sopranos*. These are the names of just five of 127 men arrested last Thursday as part of a structured raid led by Attorney General Eric Holder. On Thursday Jan. 20, the FBI and a task force of over 800 members led one of the largest Mafia raids constructed in recent history, arresting known Mafia members in Rhode Island, New York, and New Jersey. Arrested individuals hailed from seven of the largest Mafia families in the country, including the Gambino, Genovese, Bonanno, Lucchese, and Colombo families of New York, the Patriarca family of Providence, and the Decavalcante family of New Jersey. The sweep picked up low-level members as well as "small-time bookmakers and shakedown artists to mob middle managers the entire current leadership of the Colombo crime family, and two senior Gambino family figures," according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

The success of the raid can be attributed to the large number of turncoat Mafia members who agreed to wear wires in exchange for decreased or removed charges. Contrary to the tale of airtight Mafia secrecy that is often highlighted in films such as *The Godfather* and *The Departed*, it has become fairly common for members to turn when offered the proper incentives. Federal officials have acknowledged that a raid of this magnitude would never have been



The FBI made an historic mob bust on Jan. 20, arresting known mafia members in several cities.

possible in the 1950s, '60s, or '70s because informants were few and far between, according to New York Waterfront Commissioner Ronald Goldstock. Other officials credit the FBI and other agencies for regularly disrupting the hierarchical system of the Mafia for the abundance of willing informants. The recent movement of the Mafia to the drug market also increased the ability of federal officials to track suspected family members as the business was expanded to include men and women who were not Mafia members. This increased the number of available witnesses and informants.

Arrested individuals have been charged with federal crimes, including

"conspiracy, arson, extortion, narcotics trafficking, illegal gambling, labor racketeering, and murder dating back to 1981," according to CNN. It is unclear as to how many of the arrested individuals will be successfully indicted. Many suspect that the arrests have only created a temporary dent in Mafia power and influence that will soon be filled by up-and-coming members. Others believe that competition from other crime families around the world has reduced the influence of the Sicilian Mafia. Holder defended his position by stating that Mafia economic activities still constituted "a major threat to the economic well-being of this country,"

according to CNN.

Specific charges include the planned murder of the owners of the Shamrock Bar in Queens, NY. Apparently, a patron spilled a drink on the girlfriend of a family member in the 1980s. In New Jersey, members are charged with extortion involving the International Longshoremen's Association Union and the cement unions. Union members were often forced to give a portion of their yearly Christmas bonus to the Mafia as a form of kickback. In Providence, family members are charged with shakedowns of local strip clubs and prostitution. Many counts throughout the three states include acts of violence and murders committed as part of interfamily jobs.

Many of the members were picked up by FBI officials before eight o'clock and brought to the Fort Hamilton base in Brooklyn, N.Y., where they were booked by government officials. High ranking members were then held without bail after pleading not guilty to charges. Federal officials will face an uphill battle in court with the highly paid defense lawyers of the Mafia families. When questioned about the charges against his client, Vernace's attorney, Gerald Shargel, said that "the charges will be vigorously contested." Despite various arrests and shakeups, *The Wall Street Journal* reports that federal officials say that the mob has been particularly resilient. While a sweep of this scale will decrease the immediate influence of the Mafia in Rhode Island, New York, and New Jersey, it is unlikely that this is the end of Italian presence in organized crime.

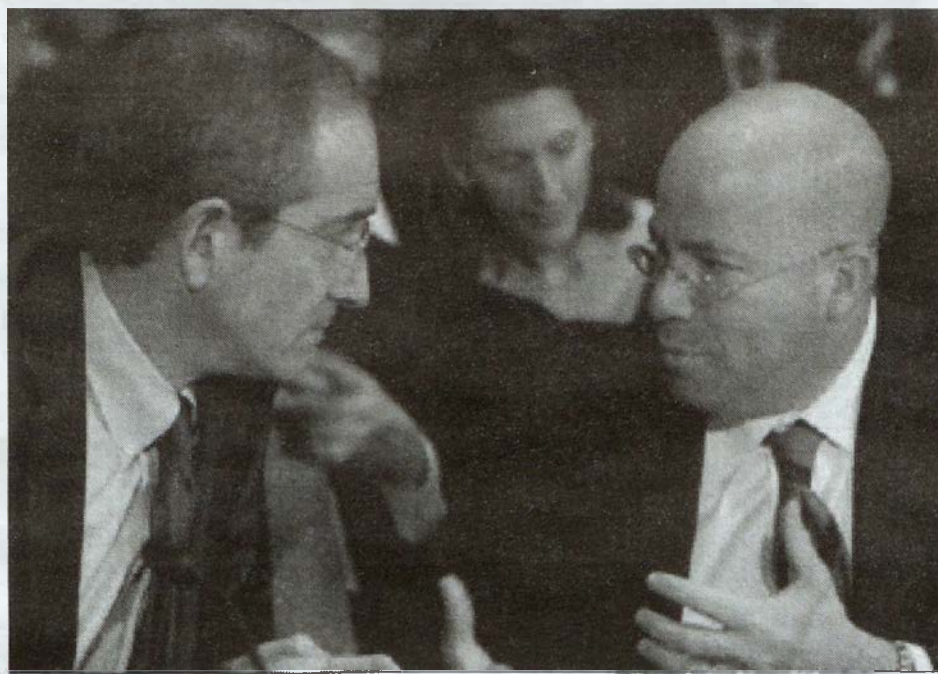
## FCC Approves NBC-Comcast Merger

by Molly Driessen '12  
World Staff

UNITED STATES

On Tuesday, Jan. 18, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Department of Justice approved the merging of Comcast and NBC in a 4-1 vote. With its approval, the FCC outlined conditions to follow the merger that included increasing competition in the video marketplace, expanding local news, increasing programs for Spanish-speaking viewers, and increasing Internet access to schools. According to *The Washington Post*, David Cohen, the Comcast Executive Vice President, stated, "I don't think any of the conditions are particularly restrictive." With the merger, Comcast will own 26 local TV stations, the NBC broadcast network, the online Hulu site, as well as financial stakes in 125 media companies that include cable, Web sites, and other such property. The FCC also demanded that potential programs like Netflix and Apple-TV be protected. The \$28 billion merger is scheduled to begin at the end of January. By the end of the month, Comcast will stop management with New Corp., NBC Universal, Disney, and Hulu. In commending the conditions, Assistant Attorney General Christine Varney said in a CNN article, "The conditions imposed will maintain an open and fair marketplace while at the same time allow the innovative aspects of the transaction to go forward."

In the FCC Approval Letter, the FCC states, "The Commission's



Comcast CEO Brian Roberts (left) and NBC Universal CEO Jeff Zucker (right) shown during a House meeting regarding the merger.

decision is based on a thorough review of the record, which includes extensive data and voluntary commitments from the applicants, as well as thousands of comments from interested parties and public input received at a public forum held in Chicago. Based on this review, the Commission has determined that granting the application, with certain conditions and contingent upon enforceable commitments, is in the public interest."

While the FCC argues this merger will continue to serve public interest, Michael Copps, the lone dissenter, stated to *The Guardian*, "At the end of the day, the public

interest requires more- much more- than it is receiving." According to *The Guardian*, "By combining the largest TV network with one of the largest cable distributors, the FCC is allowing a concentration of power that some argue is healthy for the efficiency of the business, but more worry will stifle competition, plurality and even increase the threat to net neutrality." Some critics are deeming this as "cable-isation of the Internet." Along with these criticisms is the issue of how to protect net neutrality-open Internet and public platform. Minnesota Democrat Senator Al Franken who opposes the merger, argues that net neutrality is "the most important free

speech issue of our time," according to *The Guardian*. When Julius Genachowski became chairman of FCC in 2009, critics believed he would usher in an era of media monopoly. Historically, the fight against media consolidation has been to prevent big companies, like Comcast and NBC, from dominating the media and public platform. In analyzing this *The Economist* wrote, "If consumers decide to 'cut the cord' and cancel their cable or satellite subscriptions in favor of internet-video services, money leeches away from television. It is still unclear whether this is happening or will happen. The FCC has just made it a little more likely."

To close the deal, Comcast spent close to \$100 million, engaged in lobbying, and campaigned extensively to politicians. According to *The Huffington Post*, Comcast made donations to three-fourths of Congress. The merger poses threats to liberal politicians and other regulators viewing the deal with the issue of media concentration and net neutrality. Some politicians and public officials are concerned about Comcast's steady investment in political donations. After this merger, other large companies, like AT&T and Verizon, may begin to investigate merger deals with possible options like ABC-Disney or CBS-Viacom. According to NASDAQ, Sanford Bernstein analyst Craig Moffet stated, "I think the FCC has actually shown at least a little bit of humility in saying, 'We really don't know how this is going to play out and so let's tread at least somewhat lightly here.'"

# This Week In History

By Katie Davenport '14, World Staff

Jan. 21, 1924 – Soviet Union leader Vladimir Lenin dies of a brain hemorrhage.

Jan. 22, 1901 – Queen Victoria dies, ending the longest reign in British history of nearly 64 years.

Jan. 23, 1849 – Elizabeth Blackwell earns a medical degree from Geneva College in New York, becoming the first female to be officially recognized as a physician in the United States.

Jan. 24, 1965 – Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill, the British politician and wartime prime minister who assisted Great Britain and the Allies to victory in World War II, dies in London at the age of 90.

Jan. 25, 1924 – The first Winter Olympics begin in the Alpine village of Chamonix, France.

Jan. 26, 1861 – Louisiana becomes the sixth state to secede from the Union.

Jan. 27, 1973 – Officials from the United States and North Vietnam sign the Paris Peace Accords, formally ending America's participation in the Cold War.

## Fundamentals in the Chinese Economy: Growth, Inflation, and a Global Meltdown

by Arman Oganisian '13  
World Editor

CHINA

President Hu Jintao's recent visit to the United States brought attention to the many issues that the Chinese economy faces. Over the past several decades the Chinese economic machine has experienced unprecedented growth. In the past three decades alone, China has enjoyed an annual GDP growth of 10 percent, according to *The Economist*. Simultaneously, China managed to fashion itself into a key trade partner of the United States and, admittedly, of the rest of the world.

President Jintao and President Obama discussed many issues straining the relationship between the two nations. Doubtless, the most important issue on the agenda was economics. Few realize the gravity of the economic dilemmas China must confront. In the coming decades, China will face off with artificial growth, its subsequent rise in inflation, lack of political transparency, as well as several demographic challenges.

To begin with, China has been artificially devaluing its currency to keep exports strong. Simply put, when China's currency is devalued relative to its competitors, its exports become cheaper. Initially, one might react with admiration at China's cunning. However, the economic repercussions are massive. For one thing, toying with exchange rate to create artificial economic expansions is seldom a sound policy. While expansions decrease unemployment and increase GDP, they also increase inflation. Prices soar and, all else equal, purchasing power of consumers decline. This causes an economic nightmare. In the United States, this problem is offset by the Fed's monetary policy rule: when inflation rises, interest rates are raised in proportion. Eventually, this curbs spending and cools expansion.

This introduces China's second problem: they don't follow this strict monetary policy rule. According to economist David Smick, China's interest rate, like the exchange rate, is administratively controlled. Thus, despite increased inflation, China has actually experienced negative real interest rates. Unlike the Fed, which raises interest rates to curb inflation, China's administration has done the opposite. This amount of artificial growth is simply unsustainable. Eventually, its currency will lose all value in the first stages of economic collapse. Additionally, as Smick points out, the uncontrolled expansion will create distortions in the globalized financial markets (i.e. making investment opportunities seem more lucrative than they really are). This is a recipe for the formation of economic bubbles...and bubbles always burst.

These problems are rooted in the Chinese political structure. At its core, China is a paradox. It fuses the notion of free markets with a highly authoritative, centralized government. Not only are these ideas philosophically incompatible, but they are economically ill-assorted. A stable free market economy depends on independent central banks (free from political motives), a market-determined exchange rate, and natural, sustainable growth. As shown by the artificial maneuvering of exchange rates and interest rates, China is clearly not letting the free markets be free.

China's politics also interfere with the reliability of economic information we receive about China. Most of the information is distorted. The loan market is a perfect example. Credit and loans in China are directed by party officials. They control risk assessment as well as human resource decisions. To this heavily regulated system, there is a corresponding economic effect.

Simply put, a lot of bad loans (i.e. loans on which debtors are likely to default) are given, according to *The Economist*. However, the Chinese government distorts this by giving out new loans at an ever accelerating pace. Why? Because it drives down the ratio of bad loans to overall loans made. This creates an image of normalcy. It creates an image of a country ripe with investment opportunity when, in reality, the system is set to blow.

Aside from economic and political issues, China faces a demographic crisis which cannot be overstated. This primarily stems from China's One-Child Policy enacted in the 1970s. The ripple effects are best described by what David Smick calls "Dark Theory." The observation was originally made in Japan. It concludes that by 2045, one of every three Chinese will be of retirement age. According to *The International Economist*, the labor force will be shrinking faster than the population. This will dramatically lower the standard of living. Other social repercussions will follow.

President Hu Jintao's visit has brought these problems back up to the surface. The United States has invested interest in China's stability. If China goes down, they are taking us with them. China will take some kind of hit. The only way out is if China continues growth at an annual rate of 10 percent, keeps inflation steady, incorporates two-thirds of its population into the economy, and manages to keep their exports competitive. This will take nothing less than divine intervention.

The only reasonable solution is to deregulate exchange rates and adjust interest rates to match inflation. This is the only way to curb unsustainable expansion. As indicated by *The Wall Street Journal*, China's real exchange rate has stabilized. However, the leaders in power are hesitant about slowing growth. Suffering a short-run spike in unemployment for the sake of long-run sustainable inflation is



COURTESY OF THE WASHINGTON EXAMINER

President Hu Jintao and President Obama met on Jan. 19 to discuss economic, humanitarian, and political issues.

simply not a tradeoff the Chinese are willing to make. The amount of social upheaval could be devastating.

Nevertheless, President Hu Jintao's visit offers some visibility of hope in the future. Perhaps a realization of inevitable long-run decay will propel Chinese policymakers towards action. If they do make a short-run sacrifice, they will have to democratize their government to absorb social unrest. Yet political authority is something the Communist Party will not relinquish easily. A tradeoff must be made somewhere if catastrophe is to be avoided.



# FRIAR FINANCE

# 101

By Joe Lepri '12, World Staff

## Incoming Hurdle: Budget Deficits

Most political observers would agree that the rising federal budget deficit has been a major issue. Following the economic downturn, many have realized that the problem is not going anywhere. Unrestrained spending has put our country in a bad financial position. However, the federal deficit issue has received a lot more attention than the state deficit problem that has been occurring.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities announced that "during the 2010 fiscal year, states reported a record \$191 billion in deficit spending. Another \$300 billion in red ink is projected over the coming two years." These increases in deficit spending have moved directly in line with rising federal spending. Spending for state and local governments rose nearly 25 percent from 2000 to 2007, while the federal government moved about the same. To make matters worse, the National Center for Policy Analysis reported that state pension plans are "underfunded by a combined \$3 trillion – more than three times the amount that states are reporting." It is clear that the economic downturn is

just as much a state problem as it is a federal problem. It is also evident that state and federal governments alike have caused this problem through unsustainable spending levels.

Pension plan reform has become a hot topic because of the aforementioned fiscal problems the state and local governments have been experiencing. New Jersey, California, Washington, Virginia, and Massachusetts have been the latest states to publicize their interest in pension plan reform during their State of the State addresses. Governor Chris Christie of New Jersey explained why this is such a big problem. He was quoted in his State of the State address: "If we cannot make the promises of your pension system more realistic, there will be no pensions for those who have earned them."

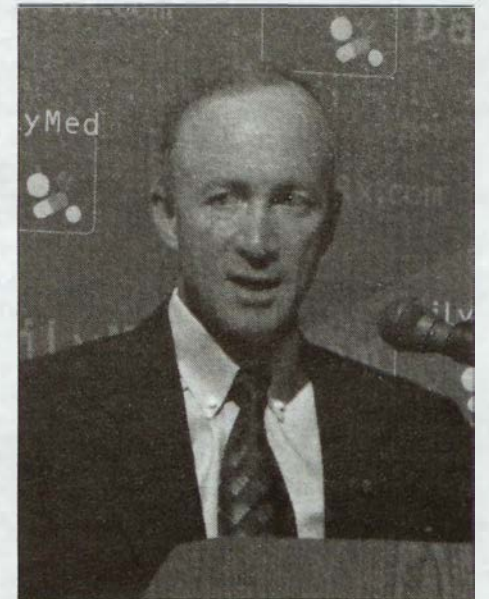
New Jersey has an "unfunded liability of the \$71 billion New Jersey Division of Investment, Trenton, which oversees the state's seven pension plans, would grow to a staggering \$183 billion from the current \$54 billion within 30 years." Just by looking at these numbers, it is

obvious that the whole pension plan system is in danger.

Stanford University recently estimated that the state of California's pension plan was underfunded by \$500 billion. In Illinois, the deficit "accounts for more than half of the state's annual budget." However, Governor Mitch Daniels and Indiana are facing much smaller numbers. With a \$1 billion deficit for its pension fund, Indiana's Mitch Daniels expressed why his state is in a better position than many others. "The contrast between the choice we've made and the one they have [made] is stark," Daniels said. He pointed to recent spending cuts that have softened Indiana's deficit crunch. They have been borrowing from the poor businesses that are suckers enough to do business with the state."

Many people feel that government employees' pensions are much too high and that this is at the root of the problem. In fact, *The New York Times* reported that more than 100 retired policemen and firemen in Yonkers "are collecting pensions greater than their pay when they were working."

One man retired three years ago making less than \$75,000. However, he now collects over \$100,000 a year on his pension. Regardless, it will definitely be interesting to see what changes states will make with regard to pension plan reform throughout 2011.



COURTESY OF DAILYMED.RX

Governor Mitch Daniels of Indiana softened the recession's blow to his state with spending cuts.

## Revolution and Turbulence in Tunisia

by Alex BetGeorge '11  
Guest Columnist

TUNISIA

Since Mohamed Bouazizi lit himself on fire last month in Tunisia, a revolution against the country's long-standing dictatorial regime has developed. Bouazizi's protest was in reaction to a female municipality agent banning him from selling produce on the street without a permit. While the 26-year-old Bouazizi was a high school dropout, the revolution that has since sprung up began as a movement for higher employment rates among college-educated youth. After the first week, the "Yasmine," or "Peace," Revolution evolved into a general movement for greater civil rights and has resulted in the ousting of Tunisia's dictator, Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali.

Ben Ali came to power in 1987 with a "medical coup," in which he declared Tunisia's first president mentally incapacitated. Since its independence from France in 1956, Tunisia has only had two presidents. Both have maintained power by controlling elections. However, Tunisia has a strong tradition of secularism established by its unique family law code passed the year after independence. Tunisia's family law code ensures equal treatment for men and women to an unparalleled degree in the Arab world. However, the family law code soon came to serve as a veil for the regime's constriction of political freedoms.

Through the 1970s up until the 1990s, leftist and Islamist criticism of the Tunisian presidents' regimes was punished harshly, with increased censorship of the media that removed the platform from which dissidents could voice their complaints.

The rise of the Internet in the past decade provided a new domain for government-imposed censorship. The current generation of Tunisian students



COURTESY OF THE GUARDIAN

Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali was deposed on Jan. 14 after 23 years in power in Tunisia.

has grown up without YouTube and with sporadic access to Facebook and occluded Skype connections. Ben Ali's blanket justification for state-controlled Internet use was the threat technology posed in facilitating the organization of Islamist groups. Ironically, it would be Tunisian students' use of Facebook that would allow the organization of mass protests in the uprisings following Bouazizi's self-immolation.

Ten days before the produce vendor's suicide attempt, Wikileaks released several cables from the American embassy in Tunisia. One cable, concerning a dinner at Ben Ali's son-in-law's home, told of the family's extravagant excesses, including a caged tiger and a multitude of Roman artifacts kept by the son-in-law in his palatial beachside home. It was for reasons such as these that recent Tunisian college graduates, facing a 23 percent unemployment rate, followed by the general population with a 14 percent unemployment rate, joined the uprisings.

As the unrest spread toward Tunis, death tolls mounted, a curfew was imposed, and schools were closed indefinitely on Jan. 11, following a violent weekend with 14 protestor deaths. Despite government threats of stealing Facebook account passwords and deleting pages on the social networking site, it was the principal organizing tool in the nationwide strike staged on Friday, Jan. 14. During the strike, Tunisians throughout the country began raiding stores and homes whose owners were affiliated with Ben Ali's Constitutional Democratic Rally party (RCD). Statuses on Facebook accounts issued advisory warnings, including "If you need to go out during curfew, bring a white cloth and keep your hands on your head" or "Join the neighborhood watch! Tie a white cloth around your upper arm! Come out with a stick or knife!" All in all, Ben Ali was successfully ousted.

Three days later, the provisional "Unity" government was formed. But in the interim, the police began driving around in unmarked cars,

shooting people at random. Theories spread by mouth, on Facebook, on Twitter, and in the blogosphere that the police, still allegiant to Ben Ali, sought to take advantage of the power vacuum and cause chaos so that the exiled President could return. The Tunisian Army established itself as the defender of Tunisian citizens against the police. They broke up conflicts between Tunisians and armed officers. Even after the provisional officials were appointed—six from the old regime and seven new opposition members—police were only allowed to patrol when accompanied by a soldier in the army.

Elections will be held in 60 days. The Unity government has proven unstable as four of the opposition members left their posts to protest the inclusion of ministers from Ben Ali's ministry. The instability is aggravated by the General Union of Tunisian Workers (UGTT), the largest above-ground opposition organization in recent years, which threatens to galvanize additional rounds of mass-striking if Ben Ali's former ministers do not leave their positions in the Unity government.

Other members of the provisional government are likely to be re-elected to their posts. One of these is Slim Amamou, the 26-year-old blogger who successfully hacked the former government's censorship software, permitting Tunisians on Facebook to share information about the insurrection in real time. Of the current situation in Tunisia, Hayet Toukabri, a radio host at Tunisia's international English station says, "While the public seems overwhelmingly frustrated with the Unity government, the people need to vote rather than continue to protest chaotically."

According to Mounir Khelifa, a Yale-educated professor of English at Manouba University, "Tunisia is sitting today on golden hours and may bring forth the first modern Western-style democracy in the Arab world."

# Cabinet Dissolves as Officials Resign

by Lynnzie Marinaccio '13  
World Staff

LEBANON

Political tensions and disunity are not unusual problems for the Middle Eastern nation of Lebanon and have resurfaced once again with the recent collapse of the country's national unity government. Lebanon's government is structured in a way that represents the 18 recognized religious denominations and 26 geographical regions by dividing the seats in Parliament proportionally according to these categories. Members of Parliament are elected by popular vote. They then elect the president, who is the head of state. The president consults Parliament and appoints the prime minister, who is the head of government. On Jan. 12, the Lebanese government of Prime Minister Saad Hariri collapsed when 11 members of the Hezbollah party, the Minister of State, and their allies resigned. According to the country's constitution, the cabinet dissolves if two-thirds of the members resign. The resignations of 11 out of 30 members was enough to cause the collapse.

Hezbollah is a powerful political Shiite Muslim group that is regarded as a terrorist organization by several countries, including the United States. The group has been known to engage in militant and sometimes controversial actions. Conflict between Hezbollah members and members from other political parties stems from disagreement on the U.N.-supported special tribunal investigation of the 2005 assassination of former Prime Minister Rafic Hariri, the father of Saad Hariri. The tribunal is expected to indict Hezbollah members for the bombing that killed Rafic Hariri. Although Hezbollah blames Israel for his death, this theory is believed to be the reason for their resignation.

At the request of President Michel Suleiman, Saad Hariri returned to Lebanon a few days after the collapse to lead the caretaker administration until a new government can be put into place. Although Hariri has announced his willingness to take the office of prime minister again, Hassan Nasrallah, a leader of the Hezbollah party, publicly declared that he and his party would not support someone who was willing to accept the tribunal investigation and allow innocent reputations to be destroyed. The special investigation tribunal is strongly supported by the United States and strongly opposed by Syria, which has had a long military presence in Lebanon. Ten days after the collapse, the leader of the Druze sect of the Lebanese government, Walid Jumblatt, announced his opposition to the tribunal investigation. This action could play a very decisive role in the selection of the next prime minister. Suleiman and his Cabinet are currently in the midst of consultations regarding the next head of government. With such strong opposition and strong support on both sides of this issue, the stability and success of the Lebanese government could be facing some very serious obstacles in the near future.

# Tragedy and Heroism in Tucson

by Laura O'Neill '13  
World Staff

UNITED STATES

On Jan. 8, Congresswoman Giffords was critically wounded during a shooting in Tucson, AZ. She suffered a gunshot wound that passed through the left side of her brain. Other victims of the killing include Christina-Taylor Green, a 9 year-old schoolgirl from Tucson. Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for Arizona John Roll was also killed. Giffords' community outreach director, Gabriel Zimmerman, was pronounced dead at the scene, along with Arizona residents Phyllis Schneck and Dorwan Stoddard.

Despite causing grief, the tragedy also resulted in heroism. Sixty-one-year-old Patricia Maisch wrestled the gunman's extended magazine away and was then assisted by 74-year-old retired army colonel Bill Badger who tackled the shooter and ended the bloody rampage. Badger himself was wounded prior to the take-down after a bullet grazed the back of his head. "I turned and dropped to the ground, and I felt a sting in the back of the head...knew I'd been hit," said Badger, according to *ABC News*.

The attack was carried out by shooter Jared Lee Loughner, a 22-year-old man with a documented history of disturbing behavior. Armed with a pistol purchased at a local Sportsman's Warehouse, he fired an estimated 30 rounds.

Evidence recovered at Loughner's home supports claims that the attack was premeditated and centered on Congresswoman Giffords. It appears that Loughner held a grudge against the Congresswoman for failing to answer a question posed by Loughner at a previous "Congress on Your Corner" event in 2007. Loughner is charged with "one count of attempted assassination of a member of Congress, two counts of killing a federal employee, and two counts of attempting to kill a federal," reports *The New York Times*. Loughner's representatives are expected to plead insanity as based on their client's well-documented history of strange and violent behavior.

On Jan. 9, President Obama ordered U.S. flags to fly at half-staff in honor of the victims of the Tucson shooting. The shaken community of Tucson also rallied together in solidarity at a memorial ceremony. During the service, entitled "Together We Thrive: Tucson and America," President Obama honored the victims of the attack and highlighted the civic patriotism of Christina-Taylor Green as an example for the civil discourse of all Americans moving forward. "I want us to live up to her expectations," stated Obama, according to *The New York Times*. "I want our democracy to be as good as she imagined it. All of us—we should do everything we can to make sure this country lives up to our children's expectations."

In the aftermath of the shooting, debate surrounding gun safety laws and more widely publicized procedures for reporting mentally unstable individuals has increased. As for Congresswoman Giffords, she is said to be responding to commands and doctors remain hopeful for her recovery.

**WHERE Providence College & ECONOMICS COM TOGETHER**

## HOW MUCH DOES YOUR CIV PROFESSOR MAKE?

By: Arman Oganisian '13, World Editor

According to a 2009-2010 study, the average full business professor at a 4-year college earns just under \$110,000. A full professor of philosophy at a 4-year college earns a little under \$85,000 annually. An identical theology professor at a 4-year college earns \$71,000.

How do economists explain this? The answer is opportunity cost. What is the value of a philosophy professor's next best career option? It is probably not much. What other reasonable career options do you have with a doctorate in philosophy besides teaching? As a result, Providence College doesn't have to offer these professors much to stay.

So why do business professors make so much? The reason is the same: opportunity cost. The value of a business professor's next best career option is significantly higher than a history or philosophy professor's option. So, it makes sense that the school pays them more to cover the higher cost. It takes more money to persuade a business professor to teach, when he could be a vice president at Goldman Sachs.

It's not just business professors. The average full engineering professor in the previously mentioned study earned around \$112,000. The average full legal professor earned \$134,000. A new assistant professor of engineering starts off with about \$75,000. This is more than the average salary for a full theology professor!

To economists, this isn't shocking. It's obvious. Firms take opportunity cost into account. When hiring, they ask themselves: "what is the least we can pay this person to persuade him to work for us?" In other words, "let's pay him more than his next best option." Professors teaching Civ and similar subjects just don't have a lucrative "next best option." It doesn't take much to get them to teach at PC.

## WORLD PUZZLES by Arman Oganisian '13, World Editor

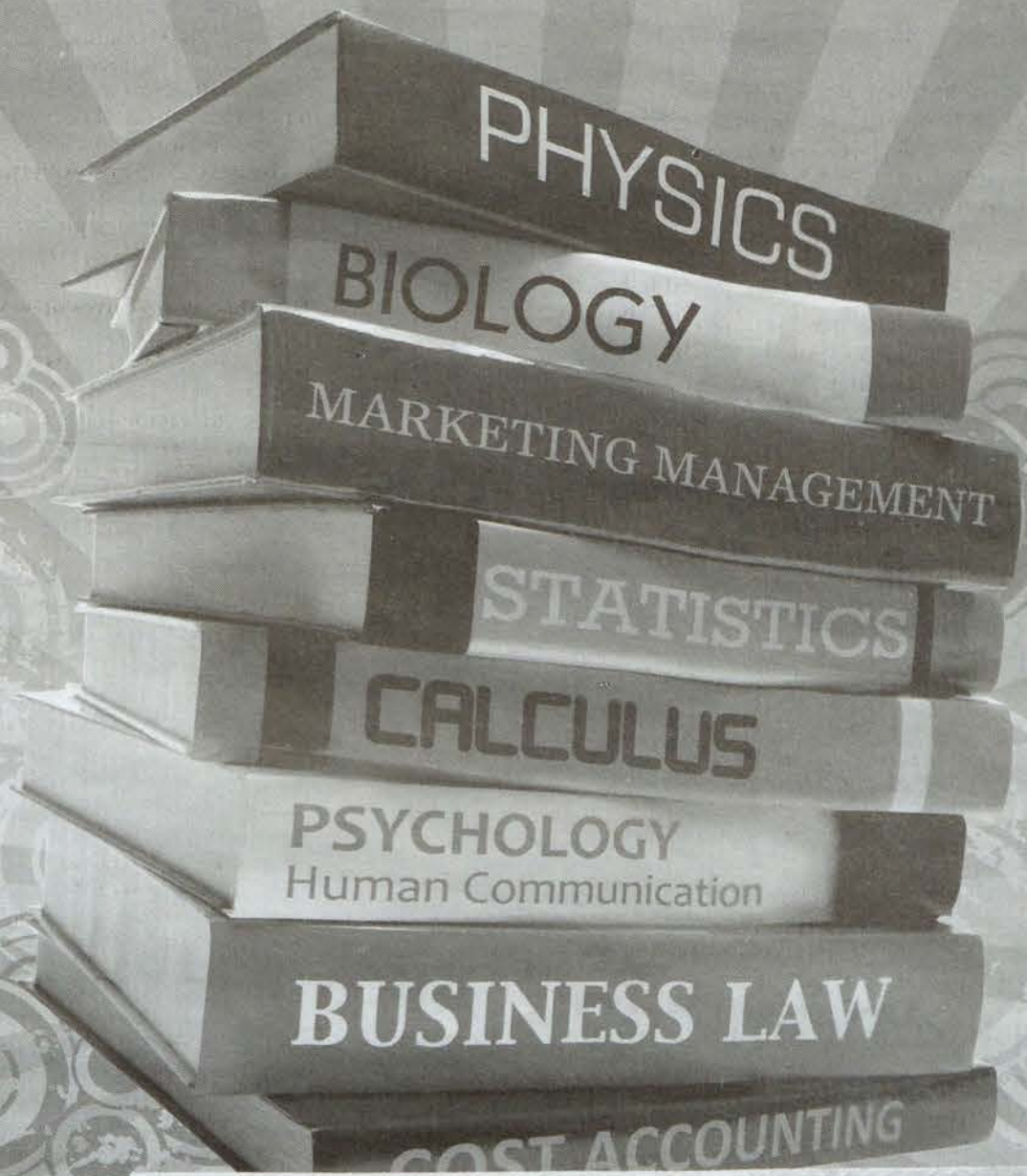
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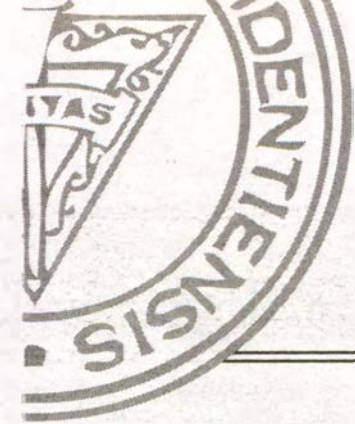
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## Work Experience, Skills, Wall Posts

### Facebookers Worried Employers Will Login, So Profiles Becoming Like Résumés

by Chris Slavin '12  
Commentary Editor

SOCIETY

Some people put more thought into their Facebook statuses than others. We are all friends with at least a few people who post spontaneous updates every 20 minutes, whether they be a colloquial "about to shower hmu" or an insightful "THE JETS SUCK." These are the types of statuses that some people choose to flood our newsfeeds with (especially immediately following big football games), but my question is why? First of all, someone who posts hourly on Facebook can only hope to win a maximum of three "likes" per status, especially with thoughtless contributions like "mad tired" and "I hate reading." But the more important reason as to why unintelligent, frequent Facebook posts are a bad idea is connected to something most of us here at PC have already realized: Facebook has ceased to be simply a Web site used to communicate with friends — it has become a résumé of sorts.

To the job-thirsty undergraduates who use Facebook, it's no longer a secret that perspective employers have access to the Web site and can see some, most, or all of what a potential employee is up to. It has resulted in a few changes on these undergraduates' pages (I won't even mention the major to which I think the majority of these people belong). Some college students were so worried that a possible employer would be turned off by what could be found on their Facebooks that they deleted their accounts entirely. A step short of deleting your profile is making it

virtually impossible for anyone without CIA-caliber investigation skills to find you on the Web site and access your profile, which some people have done by making themselves "unsearchable." Others make changes to their security settings so anyone who isn't their friend can only see their profile picture, and subsequently make that picture a well-reasoned, respectable one that employers would approve of. But my favorite trick that people implement to make themselves undetectable is replace their last name with their middle name. That's right, we all know a Brian

Smith who became Brian Patrick and a Jessica Thompson who became Jessica Lynn to prevent a future boss from being able to search their names. I have a friend from home named Hallie Peterson who became Pallie Heterson overnight. Clever, Hallie! It's subtle, I guess, and people will probably think it's cute! Hallie, I mean Pallie, just really wants a job when she graduates. Can you guess what her major is?

Not everyone has taken such substantial steps to clean up their Facebook situation. The threat of employers seeing what their

workers post on the Web site has scared most people enough to simply clean up what they post and monitor the pictures they are in. I myself like to make my comments and statuses witty and occasional. I think my taste for handling myself in this way on Facebook is something many of us share, and is born from a very interesting thought. What we put on Facebook will not only exist for the however-many-minutes it stays on our friends' homepages or even however-many-weeks it remains in their memories. Our posts are much more permanent than that. It isn't like we are writing our statuses on a piece of loose-leaf that can be faded or destroyed. No, what we are writing on our friends' walls is solidified in the vast, intangible realm of cyberspace. This opens up the possibility that our children and grandchildren will be able to see what we are up to right now on Facebook, Twitter, and whatever else. Kind of scary, isn't it?

So whether it be to impress future employers or future offspring, I would advocate for keeping our Facebook pages clean. Well, maybe I wouldn't stress going out of your way to make your profile spotless, but make sure your social networking pages are an accurate representation of yourself. I'm sure most of us, especially the extremely job-thirsty, won't allow their Facebook history to be entirely natural, though. I'm waiting for the day I login to find the "SCREW THE JETS" and "watching twelve hours of law and order today sooo borreddd hmu" statuses replaced by "I believe I am well-suited for most entry level positions because I am a diligent worker, analytical thinker, and dedicated employee" and "My most commendable qualities are my leadership, focus, and ambition. I am also proficient in Spanish." Employers might "like" that, but I wouldn't expect many other people to.



## Beyond The Byline: Too Quick To Judge Cow/ Writers

by Emily Corr '13  
Commentary Staff

SOCIETY

We all know how reading the newspaper works. You usually take a glance at the front page, read the articles that interest you (if any), and then flip to your favorite section. You take a glance at the headlines and photographs, skimming the articles until they disinterest you, and then search for that writer that everyone's been talking about, positively or negatively, so you can draw your own conclusions about their writing.

Let's face it: it's hard not to judge. It's difficult to give everyone and everything your complete, undivided attention. To thoughtfully read and reflect on every single article in a newspaper would take hours on end. But we're still eager and interested to hear the thoughts and opinions of others, so we continue to read, in just a way that is more fitting to our busy lives. We search for the controversial

headlines, the controversial writers. We read, we judge, we gossip.

This is where we need to be careful. It is not our intention to speak in a hurtful way or to draw conclusions about people we do not know. But we do it unconsciously, without recognizing the impact that it has on the writer. And I say "our" because I am guilty of this as well.

I recognized my fault over our recent winter vacation. With the extra time on my hands, I found myself

networks. And instead of taking this as an opportunity to deliver the news the right way, the right wing networks threw it right back at them. Between the finger pointing and accusations, those we rely on to give us information lost sight of what they live to do.

President Obama addressed this very issue at the memorial service for the victims. "As we discuss these issues, let each of us do so with a good dose of humility. Rather than

whether it be the topic or the way in which it was written, do not go on to draw conclusions about the writer. When you speak of a written work, speak of the work itself, not what you've heard about the writer through the gossip of others. Especially when it comes to Commentary, where articles often reflect the thoughts and opinions of a writer, it is important to understand the difference between discussing the writer's opinion and discussing the writer himself. Who are we to draw conclusions about people we do not know?

So with this New Year, I challenge you to be mindful in your conversation. With all of the violence that is occurring in the world, our words are something that we have complete control over — speak in a way that heals, and do not be quick to make judgments. As the president said to our wounded, yet healing nation, "We may not be able to stop all evil in the world, but I know that how we treat one another, that's entirely up to us."

**“ SPEAK OF THE WORK ITSELF, NOT WHAT YOU’VE HEARD ABOUT THE WRITER... ”**

following the deeply saddening news of the Tucson tragedy. But what saddened me even more than the loss of six precious human lives was how the media was reacting to the tragedy. Instead of honoring the lives that were lost or giving updates regarding the healing, they used the terrible tragedy as an opportunity to point fingers at one another. The liberal left wing media blamed the killer's motives on the conservative right wing commentators and news

pointing fingers or assigning blame, let's use this occasion to expand our moral imaginations, to listen to each other more carefully, to sharpen our instincts for empathy, and remind ourselves of all the ways that our hopes and dreams are bound together." He reminded the nation that it is important to speak in a way that is not hurtful towards others, and to be careful not to assign blame to those that we may disagree with.

If you disagree with an article,

# Friends Versus Acquaintances: Too "Friendly" At PC

by Genevieve Ilg '14  
Commentary Staff

REFLECTION

Americans generally tend to compartmentalize their friendships, having their "friends from class," "friends from home," "gym friends," "friends with benefits," and so on. I definitely realized this over winter break, after nearly half-a-dozen students from PC who spent the majority of their spare time with me over the course of the semester barely managed to text me. Interestingly enough, after talking with quite a few people, I was not the only one who experienced this.

That said, I came across a study regarding interpretations of American friendships. The study states that many Chinese and other foreigners in the United States have come to believe that friendships among Americans tend to be shorter and less intense than those in their own countries. While some American students have close friends—people with whom they share intimate thoughts and feelings and with whom they share a deep sense of obligation—such relationships seem less common among Americans than among people in many other societies. Many of the people Americans call their "friends" would be called "acquaintances" elsewhere. Americans are likely to know many people, but are not especially close to them.

American students tend to spend spare time with their friends (or acquaintances) rather than alone, unless they are shy individuals who prefer solitude. Several factors inhibit the development of relationships between American students and students from other countries. The study, conducted by the National

Association of Foreign Student Advisers (NAFSA), concludes that on most campuses foreign students tend to socialize more with students from their own or other countries than with Americans because of the superficial nature of American friendships.

After reading this study, it dawned on me, up until our first semester of college, that we have spent a considerable amount of time among the same group of teenagers, a group of people we have deemed as "friends." Yet, by the end of a three-month period of living and socializing with complete strangers, we have managed to do the same thing. We walk around campus saying we have friends. Without delegitimizing the relationships we have made at PC thus far, I cannot wrap my head around how we could possibly equate the relationships we established prior to our entry at PC to the ones we just made here. But we do so by labeling the group of people we know at home and the group of people we have just met here both as groups of "friends."

The significant difference between friends and acquaintances is the depth of the relationship. There are a lot of things in common with acquaintances and friends. Most of the time, your friends start out as mere acquaintances as you test the grounds for potential friendships. Most people are somewhat picky about who they let into their circle of friends, but are willing to meet, to socialize, and be surface-kind to many. Having both friends and acquaintances is very important. It is through a large selection pool of acquaintances that we find and choose the people who become our close friends. While we begin the next semester of our year, keep an open mind about fostering these new relationships, but certainly examine their depth and brevity.



Who  
*Writes This*  
**STUFF?**



(Chris Slavin '12)

**Major:**

English, Spanish Minor

**Hometown:**

Toms River, New Jersey

**Fun Fact:**

I worked at a pizza place on the Seaside Heights boardwalk during the summer that they filmed Season One of *Jersey Shore*. I also talk, walk, and most recently, text in my sleep.

**Where to Find Him:**

In the *Cowl* office staring blankly at my computer screen.

**Personal Catch Phrase:**

"College!"

**Annoys Him Most:**

Seeing Providence basketball players miss three-pointers and little kids who don't have manners.

**Most Passionate About:**

Alkaline Trio, using the word "Jimmy" as a verb, and D-Kart.



Dear Desperate,

Out of that babble of complaints, one thing has made itself immediately apparent to me: you need to meet some new people. In case you're a little rusty in the making-friends department, here's some helpful hints. You should definitely start by clearing the air with your nemesisturned-roommate, especially if you want to establish a good reputation for yourself and avoid any life-threatening situations. Sporting a black eye or some broken teeth won't make you look like a friendly person, but rather like someone who belongs in a prison cell, or someone who's already broken out of one. The fact of the matter is that you are no longer that short-tempered freshman trying to prove himself by engaging in petty bar fights. We all know that in such situations, there are no winners; only losers who need referrals for anger management training. I know you're better than that.

You are a cultured world traveler who is more than capable of dropping his preconceived notions and making things work with a new roommate. You don't want to judge a book by its sloppy drunken behavior... I mean... by its cover. I'm taking this little piece of advice out of the handbook of one very special purple dinosaur and personal childhood friend, but it is a truth that will apply no matter what age you are: be kind to others and they'll be kind in return.

Tiffany

## This Week: Awkward Housing

Dear Tiffany and Earl,

I just came back from studying abroad last semester, and have found myself in an awful situation. All of my friends have gone abroad, and I was placed in random housing by Res Life. They threw me in a room with someone I got into a fight with freshman year outside of Louie's. Not only am I now stuck with no friends this semester, but I have to deal with the awkwardness of being immediate roommates with someone I just don't like. What should I do?

— Desperate in DiTrag

Dear Desperado,

This seems like a serious problem, but from the sounds of it, you are a male, in college, and you should learn how to deal with it. Really? You are bothering me with this? Give him another beat down, and go hang out with other people. You're a big boy, your roommate does not have to be your best friend; you live on a pretty big campus with thousands of other students.

But! If he was the one who won the fight those many years ago, you should probably just hide in the corner and hope he doesn't treat you like a small, prison cell-mate, because then things could turn out pretty ugly. Have you ever seen *American History X*? You don't want that happening to you.

I hope this helps, because I really just want to bash those idiots at the Friar's basketball game that stormed the court after beating Villanova last night. Act like you've been there before! They are an okay team, during a mid-season game. Sure, it's a win, but come on PCers, it's embarrassing! I hope that every student who stepped foot on that court is branded with a huge "F" on their forehead. You are all failures ... serious fail, PC!



EARL

# Keeping The Politics Out of Tucson

*The Killer Is Crazy, Plain and Simple. So Why Point Fingers?*

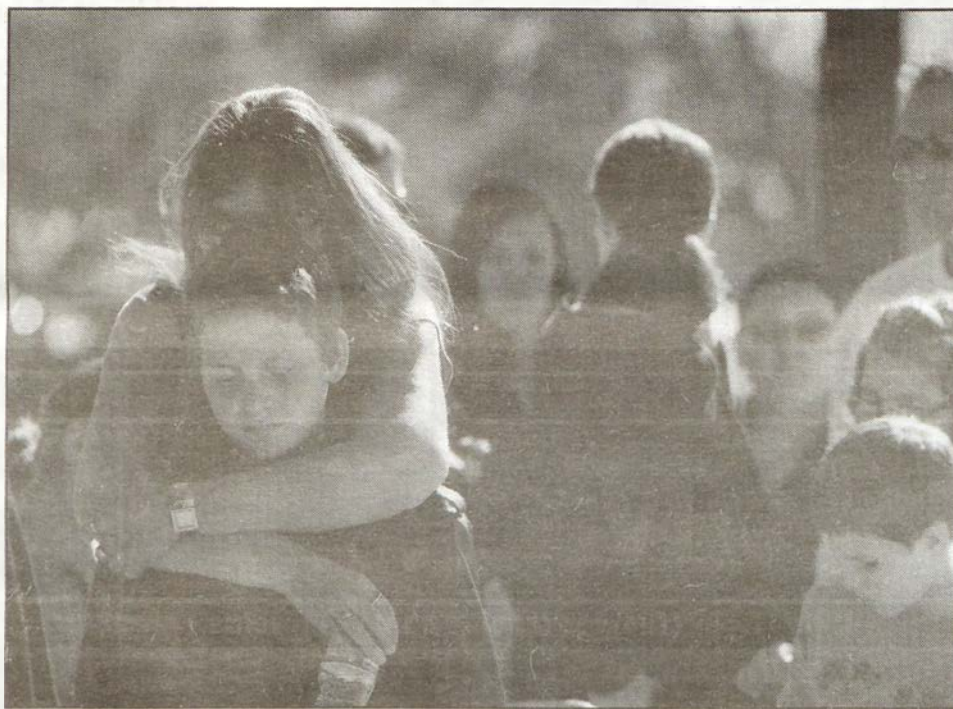
by Ewen Finser '12  
Commentary Staff

The nation was rightfully shocked to learn of the recent shooting spree in Tucson, Arizona. A congresswoman, a judge, and a child were among the innocent victims of a senseless crime. The blood had barely been cleaned from the streets of Tucson when the political pundits began to opine about the real culprit to blame. In his typical, left wing, bombastic fashion, Keith Olbermann appeared eager to point his finger squarely in the direction of Tea Party anger, and he was joined by a chorus of eager accusers.

Rather than analyzing the individual for perpetrating the heinous crime, some were quick to shift the responsibility to nebulous complaints, such as the "sad state of political discourse" in the nation. Even before the full background of the accused killer, Jared Loughner, was investigated, pundits were intimating that the conservative "anti-government" radicals must be to blame. One Democratic representative was quick to join the Keith Olbermanns of this world with a more subtle, but no less political, statement to the press: "This plot was hatched in a toxic political climate permeated by vitriol and, in some cases, marked by deeply disturbing calls to near insurrection. The paranoid delusions of the alleged shooter could only have been deepened by the rock-bottom tone of our national debate, which erodes civic trust and incites extremism" (Rep. Hank Johnson of Georgia).

Hidden away in this statement is the phrase "could only have been," as if voters, upset with the direction of their country, are now unknown accomplices to murder. My point of contention is twofold. First, I must question the fundamental assumption that Jared Loughner was somehow inspired to commit such horrific acts due to the tone of our national debate. But I also question the assumption that an angry electorate should be shamed into silence. Like them or not, the Tea Partiers are among the most engaged citizens in the political

own history of political protest. Was the Vietnam War protested with strait-laced, non-confrontational national discourse? It is healthy for a democracy to have disagreement and sometimes, it is not enough to voice concerns politely. Sometimes, the poor state of national affairs *should* illicit more than a complacent whimper. The fact is that our civic trust has *already* been eroded, not by the tone of our voices, but by the actions of our government and its chronically poor track record. Fourteen trillion dollars in debt should make the electorate angry. A mandate that all individuals must purchase overpriced health insurance or face the consequences should be cause for concern. It would be wonderful if all that was needed for political change in this country was a polite question at a town hall meeting, but nobody that matters would listen. The same



public figures now accusing the Tea Party "radicals" of denigrating our public discourse are the ones who have the most to gain from marginalizing them as a political force. As it turns out, the killer, Jared Loughner, had been obsessed with Congresswoman Giffords long before Obama was president or Sarah Palin was a national figure.

by Jenn DiPirro '12  
Asst. Commentary Editor

On Nov. 30, 2010, Jared Lee Loughner purchased a Glock Model 19, 9mm handgun. A few months earlier, Loughner had been kicked out of Pima Community College in Tucson, Arizona. Students and faculty at the college had been disturbed by Loughner's behavior. Many said that Loughner took criticism as a direct threat to his civil rights and was easily agitated. Similar incidents

Not only were his frequent diatribes at Pima Community College alarming, but his Internet postings also revealed many warning signs. An example of such was a picture of a U.S. history textbook with a pistol resting on it. Investigators even found a letter in Loughner's room saying goodbye and asking for forgiveness. Should we forgive this troubled 22-year-old?

For starters, where were his parents? Your kid gets kicked out of college, stops talking to all of

“BLAMING SARAH PALIN IS LIKE BLAMING MARILYN MANSON FOR COLUMBINE.”

date back to when Loughner was 15 and was hospitalized for drinking a liter of vodka, allegedly because his dad had yelled at him. All in all, his history paints a picture of a young man troubled by alcohol and drug abuse, feelings of isolation, and a

his friends, gets fired from his job, doesn't leave his room, walks around with suspicious bags, and gets in trouble with the law. My parents would be all over me. I would certainly be in counseling or maybe even sent to a rehabilitation center. When someone you love is acting as strangely as Loughner was, you have a responsibility to help and protect him. As horrible as these last couple of weeks have surely been for them, are they going to get off scott-free for being in denial? After all, Pima Community College had sent them a letter addressing concerns for Jared.

These horrendous shootings have also triggered further disputes between the nation's political parties. Many democrats have pointed fingers at Alaska's former governor, Sarah Palin, for a map that was published on her Facebook page a few months ago, which labeled members of congress that are pro-health care in red and told people to "Take a Stand." Gabrielle Giffords of Arizona was clearly targeted in Palin's propaganda. Then, she became Loughner's target. Was Loughner's resentment due to Palin's politics, his own mental illness, or both? What came first, the chicken or the egg?

A recent survey of the American public found that many believe that harsh political rhetoric is to blame for this violence, with 54 percent feeling that such political turmoil may lead to further tragedies in the future. I think the greatest tragedy, however, is the loss of nine-year-old Christina Green.

After she was elected as a member of her elementary school's student council, Green had become fascinated by politics. She was excited to go to her local supermarket that Saturday to meet Congresswoman Giffords, but Jared Loughner had other plans in mind. In the ensuing gunfire, Green, along with five others, was killed. Though Congresswoman Giffords is gaining more strength as the days go on, her rehabilitation reflects the great struggle our nation currently faces. Politics, which are intended to serve and protect the American people may now be a matter of life and death. And quite frankly, pointing fingers at someone is the easy way out. Blaming Sarah Palin is like blaming Marilyn Manson for Columbine (and no, I don't like Palin. If she is elected I may consider moving to Canada). But sometimes there are just sick people in the world. Perhaps this is a case of political insanity. So where do we draw the line?

deep resentment for authority. So why was Loughner given the right to bear arms?

"This kid is going to become a textbook case of paranoid schizophrenia," said retired FBI behavioral expert Kathleen Puckett, who has studied some of the nation's most notorious killers. Many experts agree that people with such instability don't just snap one day. Their acts of violence are a long time in the making.

Interestingly enough, there have been numerous comparisons made between the Arizona shootings and the Columbine shootings back in 1999. In both instances, the shooters believed that they were trying to right a perceived wrong, felt that they had been treated unjustly, had delusions of grandeur, and appeared calm during the assaults. Loughner reportedly possessed all of these characteristics.

Not only was he mentally ill, but Loughner had also faced countless rejections for years. He dropped out of high school, was rejected by the Army, fired from several jobs, and kicked out of Community College. Surely this added to Loughner's overriding feelings of unfair treatment from society.

Loughner unknowingly dropped many hints to his friends and family.

“ANGER HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MOTIVATING FORCE FOR POLITICAL ACTION...”

process today. In the most recent elections, Tea Party members were elected in Governors' mansions and Senate seats all the way down to school boards and local planning committees. Anger has always been a motivating force for political action, yet now it is being suggested that these people are instigators of violence and must be irrational to be so upset with the political status quo. How ironic. If we are to believe politicians like Rep. Johnson, then the Tea Party and any other populist political movement should have their First Amendment rights muzzled. All in the name of saving our precious "political discourse."

Amid statements of the sorry state of civility in American politics, it appears that some on the Left have learned nothing from their

He had a documented history of mentally erratic behavior. He belonged to an obscure cult with no known political affiliations and maintained a small tent structure in his backyard replete with skulls organized in shrine-like formations.

The only political lesson to be learned from the most recent shootings is that gripping national tragedies are still being manipulated to serve political agendas. Sarah Palin, right wing "extremists," or the Tea Party movement honestly cannot be blamed for these tragic events and should not be made into the scapegoat, whether we like them or not.

# TANGENTS & TIRADES

**Couch Potato's Chips Have Gone Stale.** I may be expressing an unpopular opinion here, but I want to say that winter break is too long. You heard me. Those four weeks you spent rotting on your parent's couch, stuffing your face and sleeping in past noon were unnecessary and unproductive. Don't get me wrong, a few weeks of not



having to make myself dinner, take out the garbage, or empty the dishwasher, coupled with the glorious absence of classes and schoolwork were downright heavenly. However, four whole weeks is an excessive amount of time to marinate in the same sweatshirt for six days straight and stop washing my hair just because I can. Now back at school, it will no doubt take me another four weeks to train my brain to focus on more than a *Law & Order* marathon. I'm

out of the swing of things, making routine seem like a distant memory. Maybe if we spent one less week at home on the couch, the first weeks of the semester wouldn't feel like such a rude awakening. — **Ally Pelle '11**

**Maybe Facebook Isn't the Devil?** Facebook has been a vehicle for a variety of different interactions between people. In many ways, these interactions have been negative: perhaps a trivial, immature "Facebook fight," or bullying to scary and disastrous results. While these negative components to the social networking site are valid, the tremendous ability of the network to truly connect is superbly laudable. This past week, a friend of mine experienced a life threatening catastrophe, leaving him hospitalized. However, with all of his friends off at their respective colleges and universities, we were all left in the dark in regards to his plight. With his support system ignorant to the occurrence, my friend was left scared and alone in many ways. Surprisingly enough, the social network, so demonized for its capabilities for division, was the source of edification for my friend. A simple Facebook status alerted us to his condition. Rallying around a friend in need, countless messages flooded the young man's account, offering him the support that he so desperately needed. With no other form of communication to the multitude of people wishing him the best and reminding him how much we all cared for him, Facebook gave him the support he needed. While it has become colloquial to think of Facebook as something reserved for socializing and of no real value, the real effects that it had on my friend in need are undeniable. When used responsibly, it is truly possible to bring people together and support those we love in times of need. — **Matt Santos '14**

**Dear Providence College Employee Responsible for Calling Snow Days.** I don't know who you are, but I would imagine that a position of such importance is reserved for only the most respected, hardworking, and best looking individuals. (I would even venture to say that you are probably deserving of an increase in pay). I write to you first to thank you for the snow day this past Friday, second, to encourage you to continue to read the Commentary section of *The Cowl*, and third, to raise my concerns about the safety and well-being of the PC community during this most brutal winter that we are in the midst of. I'm sure the winter season is one during which you are busy and constantly bombarded by the threat of nor'easters and winter storm warnings. I can imagine the difficulties that come with deciding whether or not snow should bring all things on the PC campus, including the learning that goes on inside the classroom, to a screeching halt. But I need not reveal to you the potential dangers that come with snow. (Black ice, poor driving conditions, razor-sharp icicles, and the need to shovel/plow/put that blue salt that protects PC from lawsuits, around the entire campus). You see, there is some truth in the old adage: *Better safe than sorry*. And I would suggest that for the rest of the semester, this become a mantra that you strictly abide by. That being said, I think I speak for most of the PC community when I say that the next time the forecast calls for snow, don't hesitate to close the college. We'll all be a lot safer... and lot less tired the next day. Warm regards. — **Kerry Vaughan '12**

**Resolving My Resolution.** It's the New Year. Everyone's resolutions are fresh in their mind, which means that the gym is packed just like my room is when a new episode of *Glee* is on. And it is great, I am all for pursuing physical excellence, but lately the crowds have been overwhelming. The lines of people waiting for treadmills would make you think PC students are training for the Boston Marathon. There is never enough room on the stretch mats to do a proper work out on my abs, and if there is, I've got a whole audience watching me. It takes 20 minutes for me to find a treadmill and then once I get off, the amount of people waiting to hop on it would make you think we live in a lion's den. Maybe I am just being dramatic, but the irony I see here is that going to the gym is giving me more stress, rather than helping me relieve some. I am happy that so many people are so enthusiastic about exercise and fitness, but the truth is that the gym is never like this all year round. So rather than wait impatiently for the next open cardio machine, I am going to make an effort to improve my fitness in a different way. Play in the snow, take the stairs everywhere I go, and eat healthier until Concannon slows down and our work speeds up. I know that idea is easier said than done, but there's always hope. — **Kaylee Miller '13**

## FAITH MATTERS

by Fr. James Cuddy, O.P.  
Contributing Writer

I ate like a bear over this Christmas break. It was disgusting how much food I consumed in a one-month period. Seriously. It prompted a friend of mine, upon seeing me, to say, "Look at you, guy. You've never looked worse." In the midst of the epicurean overindulgence that was my vacation, there is one day that stands out above all others: Christmas Day.

A good friend of mine invited me to spend the afternoon at his parents' house. His mother was cooking a five-course meal that she started preparing in ... wait for it ... *October*. The food was so good that after the antipasto and soup courses, my friend and I got up from the table and went for a walk in an effort to catch our second wind. Upon our return, we found an Italian feast waiting for us, with more lasagna, meatballs, and sausage than we could possibly eat. After heroically finishing another course, we went out for *another* walk, and this time we were joined by all of the men at the table. What a sight to behold: eight or nine guys waddling down the middle of the street, rubbing their guts and bouncing up and down in an effort to help the food on its way. When we finally returned to the house, the meal resumed with a giant pork roast sitting in the middle of the table. At that point, I swear that his mother was just taunting us.

The meal set a couple of personal records for me. First, it was the most weight that I ever put on during a four-hour period. (I'm seriously considering a move to all sweatpants, all the time.) The second record is that it was the only time in my life that I felt completely exhausted by food. I actually needed a Gatorade to help replace the nutrients that were being lost during the digestive process.

Now, all of this has a point. This column is called "Faith Matters," not "Food Matters." The evening left me reflecting on what it means to be completely full. There is something within the human person that longs for the divine. And there is no amount of food, drink, or anything else that will ever satisfy us if we don't have God in our lives. God alone is man's fulfillment. Our Lord himself says: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matt 4:4). A relationship with the one who has made for us—and made us for himself—is the one thing that gives meaning and value to everything else in our lives.

## My Two Cents

by Beatriz Forster '14  
Commentary Staff

It seems like all we've been hearing about in the news lately has been the Arizona shooting that killed some and left others critically injured, like Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. Any shooting is an unnecessary misfortune, and certainly attempts at the lives of a federal judge, congressional aide, and congressional representative appear to threaten the peaceful democracy of which we are so proud. However, the way that much of the media has portrayed the event is a misrepresentation and a flat out lie about the cause of such a tragedy.

Immediately, those in the media and public have christened the victims martyrs for the cause of bridging partisanship and overcoming alleged anger among a significant number of Americans. Clearly, the shooter, Jared Lee Loughner, was simply expressing his "anger" at American politics, and he represents the typical citizen who is frustrated to the point of murderous rage at the "bitterness" in this country. What nonsense! Interpreting the senseless shooting of innocent people by someone who is mentally unstable as a reflection of American anger is simply dishonest.

But the media didn't stop at this absurd analysis of the shooting. Next, they blamed...you got it! Sarah Palin. Of course, the fact that she lists Arizona among other states "targeted" as a priority for Republicans to capture in the congressional election must mean that she was secretly plotting to shoot Giffords and others. Susan Milligan writing for U.S. News and World Report said that "Palin continues her campaign to keep a segment of the American public in fear and in contempt of their government." There is absolutely no connection between Palin and the tragedy at Tucson. Ideological columnists like Milligan should learn that what really makes the American public afraid and odious is when they have to accept blatant lies.



## Letter to the Editor

### Pep Band Member Responds to URI Game Seating Complaint

PC Athletics and URI Athletics have a contract to facilitate this annual rivalry game. In the contract, it states that each year, the away team's student fans will sit at court level, directly behind the basket on the same side as the away team's bench. In light of this contract, PC Athletics was forced to move the Pep Band from behind the away team's basket to a portion of the lower part of the PC student section for this *one* game.

This new location was an inconvenience for the Pep Band, despite the fact that we enjoyed being amongst the students. We had to haul all of our equipment around the entire arena, since the loading door is located on the other side, closer to where we normally sit, and were jammed into a much smaller space with full band attendance for this game.

As a season ticket holder, if you came out to support your basketball team at any other home game (a "normal" one) before writing this article, you would have witnessed the Pep Band in the student section, but on the other side of the arena. You would also have noticed an abundance of empty seats in the designated student section, since student attendance has been low so far this year.

I personally believe that PC is fortunate to be able to host its home men's basketball games downtown at the Dunk. I think the minimal travel time on one of the many buses that shuttle students to and from the Dunk is entirely worth the benefits we experience by using a professional arena.

If you would take the time to get your money's worth with your season tickets by coming to more than just the URI game, you would realize that the Pep Band already has their own designated section, and that there are plenty of seats designated for students. But yes, athletics should consider designating more seating for students for the next URI game hosted at the Dunk.

— Michael Cirrotti '14

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## An Open Letter To My Hypothetical Gay Son

by Jayo Miko Macasaquit '11  
Commentary Staff

REFLECTION

Son, we need to have a talk. I was rifling through your room the other week, looking for where all the candy went, and I found a Lady Gaga album at the bottom of your sock drawer. It's okay, I've always known you were gay, I just wish you let your hippie Dad know you were going on an adventure through the wonderful world of rainbowland. Regardless, there are a few things I need to tell you, so you know what to expect.

One day, you're going to be able to marry, and people will be okay with it. Mark my words, little buddy, marriage equality is inevitable. We just need a few more people on our side: regular, everyday people who realize that the gay thing's not a weird fetish, but a real thing proven by science. When the day comes, be on the right side of history. What I'd do to have walked alongside women of the early 1900s, to have held signs and marched along Dr. King when his dream was still very much a dream. Marriage equality is the civil rights issue of our era, and like the civil rights issues of the past, you have

who doesn't think you're just going through a phase on your path to being a productive, heterosexual member of society. It's amazing to think that they had to poll the military just to find out that they don't care about that sort of thing. In the line of battle, the ick-factor goes away for grown men and women, apparently.

You'll come into contact with some pretty enthusiastic religious folk, and that's completely okay. Do not be alarmed. You didn't choose to be gay, but you can choose to be Christian if you like. Interpret your bible however you see fit, just don't be a self-righteous ass about it. If someone wants to eat shellfish, even though Leviticus said it's an abomination, don't wave signs in their face calling them sinners. Let them eat shrimp, and for God's sake, don't picket funerals of seafood restaurant owners. Yes, God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve, and apparently this is historical, literal evidence to condemn an entire group of people. But in this day and age, people who keep ranting about this kind of thing in public are beginning to look silly. It's a given, but pay no attention to them.

Randall Monroe once said "a million people can call the mountains

“YOU'RE GOING TO BE COMPARED TO DOGS, TOYOTAS, HORSES, AND THE LIKE.”

a tough battle ahead of you. You're going to be compared to dogs, Toyotas, horses, and the like. What's stopping someone from wanting to marry an animal, people will say, as if animals and inanimate objects are consenting adult human beings who can enter mutualistic marriage contracts. People are going to try and change you, as if you woke up one day thinking how nice and trendy it would be to get looked down on by society. You're going to be called a pervert, and people will think that you'll infect their children with "the gay." Of course, when these kinds of people imagine gay people, they think floats, strobe lights, baby oil, and angel wings. Ignore all of this.

I'll object, but you can join the military if you like, because "no American will be forbidden from serving the country they love because of who they love." Our boy Barack said so the other night. It's funny, I was beginning to think that he wasn't following up on his promises to the gay community, but all it needed was a little patience. It's nice having a President

a fiction, yet it need not trouble you as you stand atop them." It's not a choice, and you don't need countless cases in animals, as well as countless research in humans, to realize that it isn't one. Just because people believe it's a choice doesn't mean it is. But understand that whatever you might say to some people, their minds might not ever change, and that's completely okay. You can't win a game of chess when the other side is playing checkers.

More than likely, you're going to want to kill yourself at some point. As a gay young man, you're statistically more likely to think about suicide, and statistically more likely to attempt it. It's understandable; the kids at school can be so cruel. But I'm a cool Dad, and I'm not going to let that happen. Whip your hair back and forth, little man, and maybe we'll get to live in San Francisco where people don't care what you are as long as you recycle and drive a hybrid.

Follow this advice, my little gay son, and you'll be just fine. Love, your Gay Dad.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## GOLDEN GLOBES 2011

by Alison DeNisco '11  
A&E Staff

Hollywood's notoriously intoxicated award show did not disappoint in 2011 — host Ricky Gervais was offensively hilarious, lackluster speeches progressed into tipsy ones that ran well into the "get off the stage—NOW!" Music warnings, and Heidi Klum looked as if she were dipped in a vat of Neapolitan ice cream on the red carpet. If Hollywood were high school, the Golden Globes would be the prom — not as stuffy as graduation (the Oscars), but a far cry from homecoming (the Teen Choice Awards), and all the cool kids get their fill of booze before the action can really begin. Let's take a look back at some of the most prestigious awards of the evening, shall we?

**Best Motion Picture, Drama:  
*The Social Network***

This was a tough one, as all of the nominees were fantastic movies, especially *Black Swan* and *The Fighter*. However, 2010 was definitely the year of *The Social Network*, with the controversy surrounding Mark Zuckerberg (Is he really that weird? Did he really threaten to shut down Facebook if the movie did well?), a sharp, well-written script, and superb acting by Jesse Eisenberg, Andrew Garfield, and even Justin Timberlake. It's a rather chilling portrait of our generation, but a good one at that.

**Best Motion Picture, Comedy or Musical:  
*The Kids Are All Right***

There was no other comedy as smart, heartfelt, or interesting as *The Kids Are All Right* this year. In fact, the other nominees in this category were almost offensive—*Burlesque*? *RED*? Are you kidding, Hollywood Foreign Press Association? The indie sleeper hit of the summer, *The Kids Are All Right*, explores the family of Nic and Jules, a lesbian couple with two teens who seek out their sperm-donor father. As their biological father rejoins their family, it becomes apparent that they need to decide just what being a family truly means. Overall, this was a touching movie with excellent performances by Annette Bening, Julianne Moore, and Mark Ruffalo (even though he'll always be Mattie from *13 Going On 30* to me).

**Best Actor in a Motion Picture, Drama:  
Colin Firth, *The King's Speech***

I'll be honest—I have not yet seen *The King's Speech*. However, I have heard that Colin Firth did a stand up job as the stuttering King George VI, who engages the help of an unorthodox speech therapist to overcome this obstacle and lead Britain through war. I'm just happy that Firth is being recognized for something other than being the token British father figure (see *What A Girl Wants*, *Nanny McPhee*, and the ever-unfortunate *Mamma Mia!*).

**Best Actor in a Motion Picture, Comedy:  
Paul Giamatti, *Barney's Version***

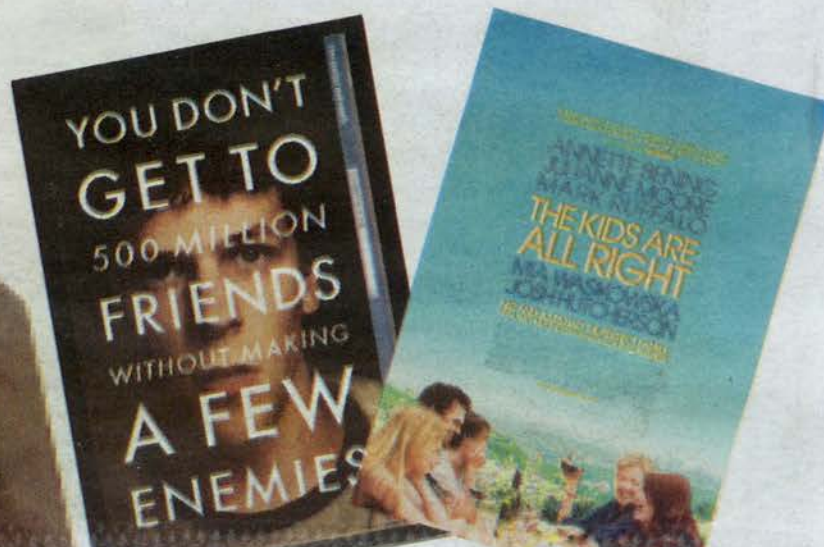
What the heck is *Barney's Version*? And hey, isn't that the blue guy from *Big Fat Liar*? Just kidding, we know who you are, Paul Giamatti, and thanks to your speech, we now know how much you love Godiva chocolate and Halle Berry. Anyway, most of us hadn't heard much about *Barney's Version* because its U.S. release date was Jan. 14, but it sounds promising. Barney meets the great love of his life at the most inopportune time, at his wedding to his second wife. Rottentomatoes.com gave it 76 percent, so you know it has got to be pretty good, and

**Best Actress in a Motion Picture, Drama:  
Natalie Portman, *Black Swan***

Chances are you've either seen it and loved it, were slightly confused by it, or are too creeped out by the trailers to make your way to the theater for Natalie Portman's career-defining performance as the prima ballerina, Nina Sayers, on the verge of a mental breakdown after being chosen to dance the part of the Swan Queen, which encompassed the roles of the White and Black Swan. Either way, Portman's exemplary acting skills are incomparable, her dedication to the part is unsurpassable, and it would surely have been a mistake to cast anyone else in this challenging role.

**Best Actress in a Motion Picture, Comedy or Musical:  
Annette Bening, *The Kids Are All Right***

Annette Bening can do no wrong. As Nic in *The Kids Are All Right*, she plays the lesbian partner of Julianne Moore and the mother of two teens who seek out their biological sperm-donor father. Bening imbues the role with the genuine, realistic love of a mother who is far from perfect but does what it takes to keep her family together. An excellent performance from a multifaceted actress.



# ON THE RED CARPET...

by Lauren Starr '11  
A&E Staff

Let's be serious. I like movies and I like award season, but most of all, I love the gowns, the tuxedos, the diamonds, and all those glorified Hollywood stars looking their best. The Golden Globes last week was one of those nights when Hollywood's biggest names were waltzing down the Red Carpet in some of the fashion world's most famous designers.

Some stars, of course, shined brighter than others. One trend that we saw emerging from the carpet was long-sleeved, sleek dresses with revealing, open backs. Angelina Jolie and Anne Hathaway both rocked these gowns, bringing in a fresh look we haven't seen before. In my opinion, Anne Hathaway was one of the best dressed actresses of the night. She brought something new, with a champagne sequined dress and large angled shoulders, and mixed it with classic hair and a timeless

red lip. Her overall look was elegant and young. Other beauties included Natalie Portman glowing and very

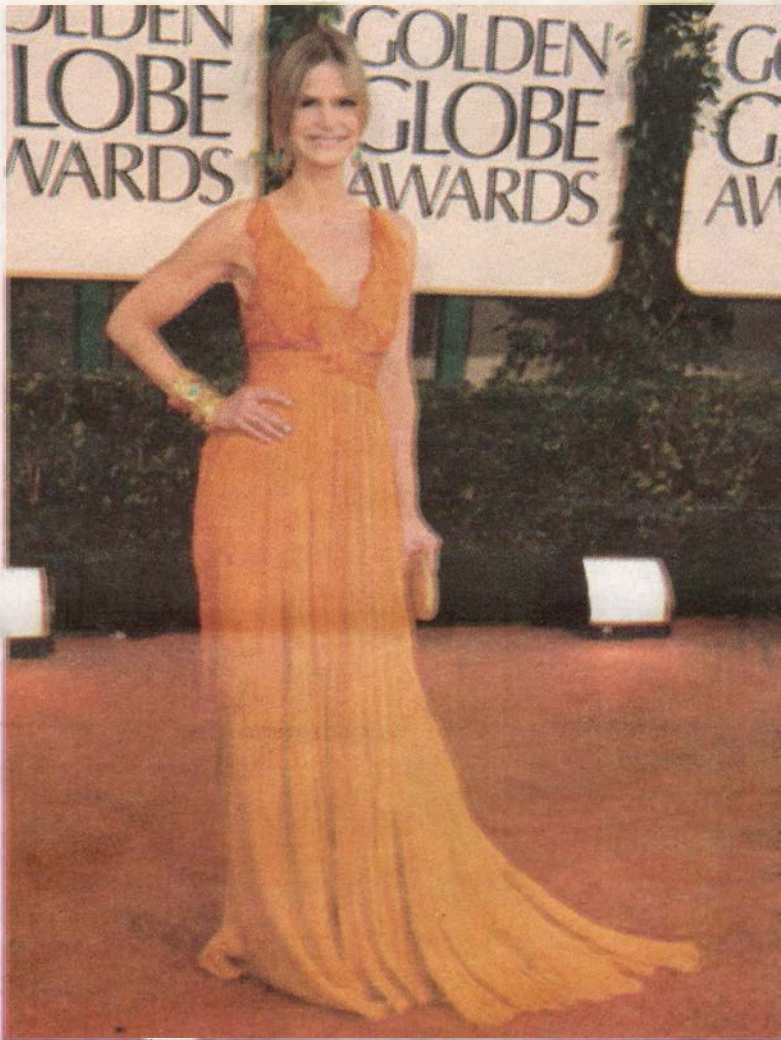
pregnant in a pink strapless gown. Though some frowned at the sequined red rose gracing the front of Portman's gown, the rose actually made the colors pop and added a tasteful contrast to the dress, taking it from just pretty to absolutely stunning. Halle Berry and Eva Longoria were also beauties in black, but with completely different styles. Halle Berry strutted her stuff in a shorter number that shows all women that you can still be a sex symbol if you're over 40. Eva Longoria showed us a subtle, sexy gown with a low, v-neck cut and a classy embellishment at the waist.

Of course, where there's the good, there's the bad.... The Golden Globes certainly had its mistakes. If everyone

looked gorgeous, the red carpet would not be half as fun to watch. Fashion faux pas tend to intrigue us just as much, if not more, than the Red Carpet stunners. Helena Bonham Carter certainly made things interesting for the viewers. She stunned the fashion world at the Globes by wearing a multicolored balloon, twisted with tulle, and wait... two different shoes? I'm always one to appreciate originality and I loved her as the King's wife in *The King's Speech*, but Bonham Carter looked messy and altogether silly in this multicolored disaster. Another miss was Christina Aguilera's black lacy number that looked like a recycled prom dress. Christina's over-bleached hair reminded me of her "Dirty" days, probably a time and song that both she and her fans would prefer not to remember. And then there is Julianne Moore, whose shapeless, one

shouldered number was more than unflattering for her figure. Maybe the worst part about it was that her stylist didn't realize it was wrinkled... Perhaps my favorite thing about the Golden Globe Red Carpet this year was the color. Everywhere you turned, stars wore beautiful shades that perhaps will predict bold trends this spring. Emma Stone and Claire Danes both looked pretty in pink and Kyra Sedgwick looked stunning in tangerine orange. Mila Kunis and Catherine Zeta-Jones wore rich deep greens, looking royal and eye-catching. If the color at last Sunday's awards was a preview of spring styles to come, I can't wait for warm weather, bursting colors, and vibrant hues!

Of course, I failed to mention the men of Hollywood, but many would agree with me that a black tux is a black tux. As long as you do not wear sneakers (yeah, I'm talking about you, Bieber), you're okay in my book. Let's all look forward to the Oscars in February and more fashion trends to come!



## EDITOR vs. EDITOR

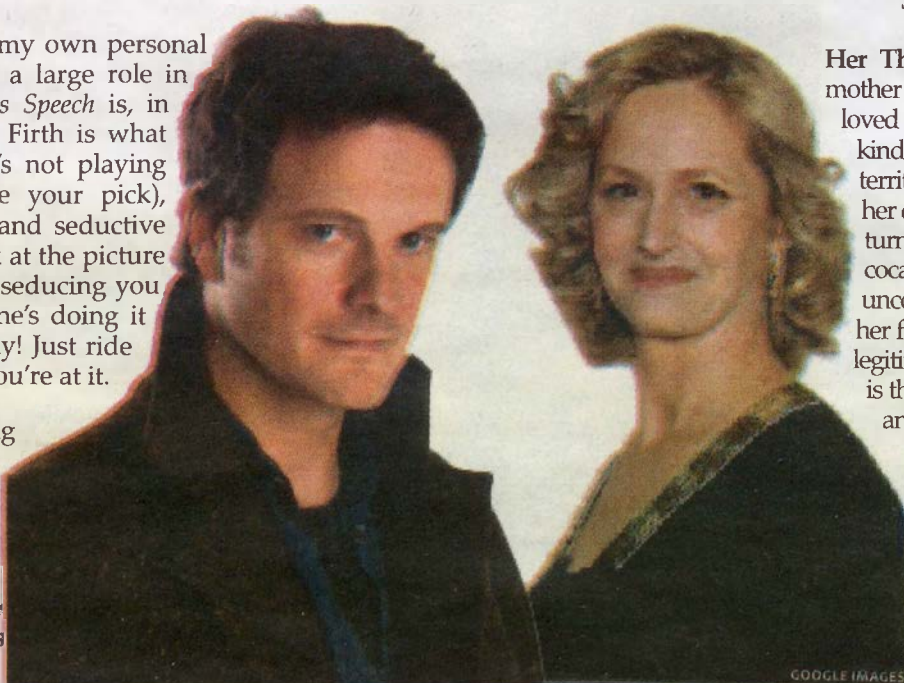
### This Week: Most Deserved Golden Globe Winner

#### Catherine Northington

**Favorite Golden Globe Winner:** Colin Firth (Best Actor in a Motion Picture, Drama)

**Her Thoughts:** I must admit that my own personal love affair with Colin Firth plays a large role in my selection this week. *The King's Speech* is, in itself, a delectable film. But Colin Firth is what makes it truly divine. Even if he's not playing Darcy (Fitzwilliam or Mark, take your pick), he boasts that same modest tone and seductive smirk in any role he takes. Just look at the picture accompanying this article. Colin is seducing you and you don't even know it. But he's doing it in such a delightfully charming way! Just ride with it. And see this movie, while you're at it.

**Her Views of Sarah:** I know nothing about Melissa Leo. She isn't a hot-tay, though, and she does NOT have a British accent. Also, I didn't see *The Fighter*, because it came out during the Advent season, and cinema is ungodly. Furthermore, I'm going to assume that *The Fighter* is just as overrated as every other Christian Bale movie.



#### Sarah Dombroski

**Favorite Golden Globe Winner:** Melissa Leo (Best Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture, Drama)

**Her Thoughts:** Melissa Leo's turn as a super-possessive mother of athletes in *The Fighter* gave me the creeps, and I loved it. Don't let that label mislead you— this is not *that* kind of sports movie, but the adjectives that come with the territory of rising world champions are the only ones that fit her character's mold. Her open obsession with her prodigy turned Prodigal Son, assisted by a hearty amount of crack-cocaine, stayed at the perfect level to remain believably uncomfortable. When Dicky serenaded her as a plea for her forgiveness and Alice joined him in an a capella duet, I legitimately felt like the third wheel on a date. However, this is the kind of ostracization I will continue to applaud time and time again.

**Her Views of Catherine:** Colin Firth is a good looking Brit who understands his way around a solid screenplay, but has never been recognized for his quirky yet charming performances (ahem, *Love Actually*). I have not yet seen *The King's Speech*, but I desperately want to. Therefore, I have no words of malice to bestow on Mr. Firth. Brava!

**A&E REACTS A&E REACTS A&E REACTS A&E REACTS**

# BLACK SWAN

Riveting. Sizzling. Nuanced. Electric. Steamy.

Above are just a few of the words that we here at A&E are using to describe renowned director Darren Aronofsky's latest film release, *Black Swan*. But this film is more than a couple of pretty faces—it is one wild ride. *Swan* has been the talk of the town since its release on Dec. 17, and it shows no signs of stopping. Check out our reactions! -CN

If films were food, *Black Swan* would be a cinematic delicacy. Darren Aronofsky's brainchild does what every movie should: it dominates the senses without holding back. It is harsh and unapologetic because this director, unlike most, has balls. Aronofsky also follows the cardinal rule of good filmmaking: cast hot people—hot people who can act. *Black Swan* reaches new heights in hotness, with chemistry sizzling off the screen and captivating audiences for the film's entire 108 minutes. Finally, it's artistic, but in the least pretentious way possible. In colloquial terms: this film is sexy as hell, and each and every one of you should see it. THE END. -Cath

I got the sense that I was the only male in the audience who showed up just because he was excited to see Darren Aronofsky's new film. Natalie Portman and Mila Kunis in amorous entwine? Please! It's the director of *The Wrestler*! Nuanced writing! Riveting performances! Oscar bait for Portman! When I left the theater, one gawking male rambled "That was totally hot!" Later on, some girls' Facebook statuses declared the same ("ThAt WuZ tOtAlLy HaWt!!!!"). Interesting choice of words, but if you mean the cinematography was gorgeous, then Amen, brothers and sisters! I will root with you on Oscar night! Hail Aronofsky and his thus far untarnished record. -Jorge

I used to think that Natalie Portman was an angel. Come on, she was pretty good in *Garden State*. In fact, for me, that flick marked the special point in a boy's life when he realizes that romantic comedies aren't so bad ('cuz girls like them). But then I saw *Black Swan* over Christmas break with my family. What was supposed to be a "relaxing night at the theater" led to the loss of a forth grader's innocence, arguing, and a silent car ride home. I was mostly upset with learning that the movie was not the edgier, R-rated version of *Step Up* that I had expected. It was more like what would happen if *Inception* and *Alice in Wonderland* met at a nightclub, got kinda tipsy, and made a few mistakes. Meditate on it. Square the result. Now add Mila Kunis, some leotards, and schizophrenia. *Black Swan* is that much of a psychological thriller. -Tim

*Black Swan* gave me Jell-O legs. Yeah, I said it. I'm pretty sure I started sprouting feathers three quarters of the way through due to stress. However, all "fowl" comments aside—I absolutely loved it. There are few movies that can make me feel so uncomfortable, excited, and genuinely impressed simultaneously. The confluence of artistic cinematography and a truly compelling plot line brought the versatile audience that this brilliant movie needed to skyrocket it to box office fame. All in all, I have seen it three times, and still get wonderfully anxious with each viewing. -Sarah

Don't let the trailers scare you away: *Black Swan* is about much more than Natalie Portman's bloodshot, manic eyes. Though I did close my eyes a couple of times when shots of the brutality of ballet and Nina's violent mental breakdown got up close and personal, *Black Swan* was still one of my favorite movies of the year. Portman gave an astounding performance that you would never believe could come out of the quirky, innocent girl from *Garden State*, and showed more commitment to the role than any actor I have ever seen. And yes, the sex scene with Mila Kunis was equal parts hot and confusing, much like the rest of the film. I especially loved the cinematography. The entire movie was filmed with handheld cameras, and made copious use of mirrors, reflections, and doppelgangers, a great metaphor for Nina's splitting mental state. It's one that you really have to see to understand (or try to understand, at least), and I definitely recommend doing so. -Alison

It's hard to say whether or not *Black Swan* is getting more attention for being a deeply compelling, well-casted, and an all-around extraordinarily well-done movie, or just because it features a steamy lesbian sex scene between two ludicrously attractive actresses. The film is powerful, haunting, emotional, and beautiful, as is the performance that Portman gives. Mila Kunis does a decent job in the film but functions more as a pretty face in the background. What I think is hysterically ironic is that after encountering each other in this movie, Natalie Portman and Mila Kunis went on to star in two different movies with virtually the same overtly sexual plot. Portman in *No Strings Attached* and Kunis in *Friends With Benefits*, (you guessed it!) each play a young woman who engages in a sexual relationship with a male friend while trying to avoid the inevitable emotional and romantic entanglements. -Corey

*Black Swan* was a typical Aronofsky picture. The paranoid atmosphere keeps the audience at the edge of their seats, constantly questioning which swan Nina is morphing into. I could definitely sense the eeriness—which I would say is Aronofsky's bread and butter—that is not dissimilar to Aronofsky's *Pi* (1998) and *Requiem for a Dream* (2000). The movie was pretty good. I wouldn't go as far as to say that it is #49 worthy on IMDB, but it certainly has been getting a lot of attention. Natalie Portman and Mila Kunis definitely had my attention while watching, and although I feel I should have had a permission slip signed by a parent to see the movie, Aronofsky nonetheless directs a successful, electric film. -Max



# THE DECEMBERISTS

by Jorge Lucas '12  
A&E Staff

The Decemberists have never been known for their restraint. Right from their debut album, *Castaways and Cutouts*, the ensemble established its spiel of folkloric storytelling, and each subsequent release has been an exercise in that routine. By 2009, they had mastered their antique narrative style in a rock opera called *The Hazards of Love*. Apparently, fans weren't the only ones to see perfection in that concept album. Songwriter Colin Meloy told NPR host Guy Raz that he "had reached the apotheosis of the possibilities of what [he] was doing." So, where do you go from there?

Meloy has the answer: "It was really a time to pull it back a bit, and sort of rediscover the music that I sort of have in my bones from being a kid, and music that got me playing music to begin with." Judging from the grandiose fare that The Decemberists have gotten used to generating, their sixth studio album, *The King is Dead*, takes several, giant steps back.

In their return to the basics, the band limited itself to guitars, bass, drums, piano, and accordion—a rather narrow spread compared to previous productions—and even recorded the album in a barn. The result is a decidedly rustic collection of songs that, true to Meloy's intentions,

pays homage to folk music without becoming gimmick or parody. Gone are the epic tales by way of 10-minute songs. This is good old indie folk rock, giving listeners cause to rejoice and have fun.

As an added treat, they invited guitarist Peter Buck of R.E.M., a major influence for The Decemberists, according to Meloy. Buck is featured on three tracks, including "Don't Carry It All" and "Calamity Song." And if you sing along to "Down by the Water," you might find yourself accidentally slipping into R.E.M.'s "The One I Love."

Despite the new direction, some Decemberist tropes can't be escaped. In the absence of Victorian scoundrels and royalty, nature becomes the prominent character, almost to the point of exhaustion. And, as is expected, Meloy's lyrics feel more at home in Charles Dickens' library than in the Top 40 radio hits. He can't help but flex his training in creative writing, and for some listeners this renders his music nearly inaccessible. Don't let the rather academic verse frustrate you before you hear the catchy chorus.

Of course, *The King is Dead* wouldn't be a Decemberists' album without appropriately rustic themes to connect all the songs. As if mirroring the band's paring down, the lyrics seem to call us back to the simplicity of nature. More importantly, there is the motif of the boy wearing a "wreath of trillium and

ivy," and the teen "intow." Meloy extols the child while also inspiring him with strength for the tribulations ahead.

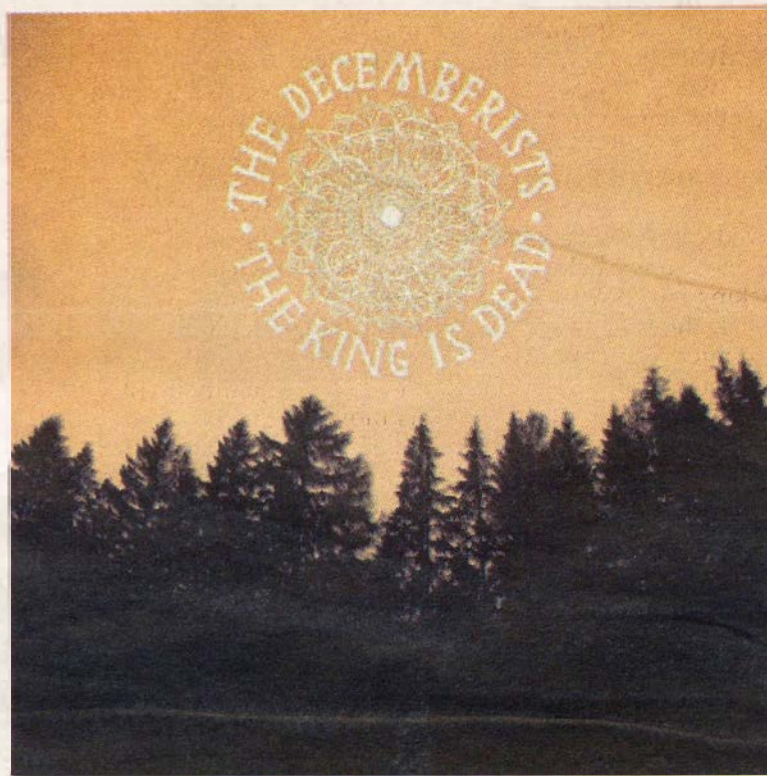
The empowering opener, "Don't Carry It All," supports the boy with promises of friends' aid. "Down By the Water" and "All Arise!" inspire hope "to keep it all from falling apart" when the odds are stacked against him. The album reaches a climax with the anthemic, "This is Why We Fight," as it encourages strife when

freedom is threatened. The denouement, "Dear Avery," reflects on adolescence and derives strength from it for the future.

All themes aside, *The King is Dead* is still a rollicking celebration from beginning to end that, unlike previous albums, inspires more joy than analysis. Their discography hasn't been erased or renounced. *The Crane Wife* is still one of my favorite albums of all time, and the others deserve repeated visits,

especially if you still dig/prefer the narrative concept like I do. Nonetheless, don't let *The King is Dead* pass you by because The Decemberists' craft is only getting better.

Grade: A-



GOOGLE IMAGES

# MAMMA MIA! AT PPAC

by Catherine Northington '12  
A&E Editor

*Mamma Mia* is like a Twinkie: ultra-synthetic, spongy-soft, and so sweet that it makes your teeth hurt. Though sinfully formulaic, the musical manages to tug on the heartstrings of even the most callous of theatre-goers (a rare species though it is).

Providence crowds indulged themselves earlier this month as *Mamma Mia* hit the stage at the Providence Performing Arts Center, a fixture in downtown Providence's arts district. The series of shows enticed capacity crowds with its distinct medley of comedy, musical talent, and raw emotion.

*Mamma Mia* delivers exactly what it promises: a fun, disco-soaked look at the strength of family ties in the face of a love (or several loves, for that matter) gone sour. It is the story of Sophie Sheridan (Chloe Tucker), a young Greek woman who is engaged to be married. Even more so, however, *Mamma Mia* is the story of Sophie's mother, Donna (Kaye Tuckerman), a fiercely independent woman who must come to grips with her past.

As it happens, 20 summers prior to the events taking place in *Mamma Mia*, Donna was involved in three whirlwind romances—one of which left her pregnant with Sophie. At the show's opening, Sophie invites her three possible fathers to the upcoming wedding—without her mother's knowledge. In a sitcom-worthy sequence of events, the men arrive to a shell-shocked Donna, and a series of misunderstandings ensue as long-hidden confessions come to

light over the course of the show's two-hour runtime.

Trite, yes. But somehow irresistible.

Of course, *Mamma Mia* takes its name—and its identity—from the famed 1970s power-pop band ABBA, whose songs provide a drippy and darling-ly kitsch soundtrack to the show's emotional turbulence.



GOOGLE IMAGES

I am as big an ABBA fan as the next girl, but when crowd-pleasers like "Mamma Mia" and "Dancing Queen" literally had the crowd on its collective feet, I recoiled with second-hand embarrassment. From what I ascertained, the PPAC audience was comprised mostly of first-generation disco fans—those who had once donned the flares themselves. Realizing that I was in an orgy of mid-life crises, I bore reluctantly through the

hand-waving and frenetic hip-wagging of my surrounding elders.

The music and characters are hokey, but director Phyllida Lloyd's flagrant abandon of self-consciousness transforms the musical's inherent lameness (sweet Jesus, is it lame) into a selling point. The show doesn't pretend to

The story does, however, illustrate a warming reconciliation between generations. The disco-loving Donna and her two Dynamos, Tanya (Alison Ewing) and Rosie (Mary Callanan), as well as their male counterparts Harry Bright (Paul Deboy), Bill Austin (John-Michael Zuerlein), and Sam Carmichael (John Bisom) compose the elder contingent of the cast.

The younger generation's ensemble consists of Sophie and her husband-to-be, Sky (Happy Mahaney), as well as a bevy of quirky acquaintances. Each member of the cast boasted the powerful vocals demanded of them by the range-driven ABBA catalog.

Visually, choreographer Anthony Van Laast spun gold out of camp by delivering a beautifully maneuvered fantasy dance sequence involving flippered feet, scuba gear, and acrobatic leaps that would make Nastia Liukin proud.

Mark Thompson's set design boasted an ascetic quality that tamely counteracted the sequined explosions taking place in the foreground.

The show's last highlight came after the final curtain call, when the ensemble gathered to do encore performances of "Mamma Mia," "Dancing Queen," and an electrifying adaptation of the 1977 hit "Waterloo." I enjoyed the music from the comfort of my seat, doing my best to focus on the quality of the show and not on the quality of the dancing old women seated in front of me.

The show surpassed my expectations. I left the theater feeling foggy-eyed and ecstatic, but mostly hating myself for feeling that way at all.

rather, it embraces its un-hipness.

To call the plot contrived is an understatement, as the show's express purpose is to cram as much ABBA into two hours as is humanly possible. This leaves little to no room for philosophizing. But if you were expecting to undergo spiritual revelation when you shelled out \$50 for *Mamma Mia* tickets, then you deserve to be disappointed.

# Little Fockers

by Ryan Waxon '12  
A&E Staff

*Meet the Parents* will go down as one of the funniest films of its decade. It solidified the career of Ben Stiller as a comedic all-star and paved the way for a string of mediocre Robert De Niro "funny" films. *Meet the Parents* is the quintessential mainstream hit that Hollywood studios drool over.

Such success in Hollywood is quickly taken advantage of by teams of money-hungry producers that look to capitalize on audience and brand familiarity. This type of practice is typically implemented with action franchises, think *Transformers* or the *Matrix*, but rarely makes its way into the world of comedy. While most threequel action franchises suck, they almost always make money and become the defining elements of the actors' involved careers. The same thing seemed to have happened to my beloved *Meet the Parents* franchise, making me both angry and upset.

Back in 2004, the first sequel *Meet the Fockers* met unprecedented success. The clever casting of Dustin Hoffman and Barbra Streisand as the Focker parents was an uniquely hilarious move. While the movie never gained the laughs of the first film, it was by no means a bad second outing for an idea being stretched beyond its limits. It also ended with the hint of a third film and an all-too-obvious plot focusing around Greg and Pam's children.

Controversy had been surrounding the third film since its release date was moved from July to December. Rumor has it that studios hated the first cut of the film and even went into reshoots to bring back Dustin Hoffman, who had originally declined to reprise his role as Bernie Focker. The first trailer was awful and the film looked like nothing more than a straight-to-DVD National Lampoon movie. Fans were also skeptical of the departure of franchise director Jay Roach and the hiring of the often-crappy director Paul Weitz. The movie seemed like a mess, but on one boring afternoon

over winter break I decided to take part in what I believed to be a potential waste of time...and surprisingly it wasn't.

The movie essentially had me with the first line that came out of Robert De Niro's mouth, "Doctor Bob...scumbag." I had forgotten how funny the character of Jack Burns is and how good De Niro is at playing him. Sure, De Niro at times looks like he is selling out, but that doesn't stop him from selling out as best as he can.

The film moves along at a breezy pace and doesn't take itself all too seriously. It is filled with half-baked gags and stunt casting, but that doesn't make it a horrible movie. Ben Stiller is at the top of his game throughout the movie, delivering three or four awesome rants directed at Kevin (Owen Wilson) and Jack. The rants are classic Ben Stiller and a reminder of how good he is at playing the angry, awkward guy.

There are a few bizarre subplots that don't really make sense involving Jessica Alba and Harvey Keitel. Neither is connected nor relevant, but only worth mentioning because of the star quality involved. It would have been nice to see the two *Taxi Cab* stars have at it a little more and involve a few prostitution jokes for devoted fans.

The best part of the film is hands down Owen Wilson's performance. Pretty much by turning Kevin into his character Hansel from *Zoolander*, Wilson is able to steal the show. Every line he delivers is hilarious and I was left anticipating his return every time he was out of a scene.

Overall, the movie is not awful and does have a few great moments. While I am not sure if most people should go out and spend their money on it, they should see it if they happen to come across it. It will make for a great night 11 months from now when it is on HBO.

Grade: B-

## Let's Rave

by Sarah Dombroski '13  
Assistant A&E Editor

### This Week: Nicki Minaj



In an effort to be more positive in a public forum: I've revamped. It's important to note that in the midst of all of the appalling cinematography and "musical prodigies" littering the Arts and Entertainment sphere, there are shining beams of hope whose talents serve to forage through the devolution of pop culture that the aforementioned individuals have inflicted on innocent civilians, and shed light on what true innovation is. In my most humble opinion, Nicki Minaj is one of those beams.

Upping the ante from her predecessor, Lil' Kim, whose talent is being restrained by her claw tats and recent incarceration, Miss Nicki spits her lyrics with more gusto than most featured faces in the hip-hop scene. Her self-assured, almost theatrical performances on each track propelled her to stardom, but her raw drive and faculty for success are what make her a solid fixture on the Billboard Hot 100 List. Minaj's *Pink Friday* is such a poignant album because she allows vulnerability to penetrate her shell of greatness. For example, on "Save Me," Nicki shows the world she can, dare I say it, SING. While she doesn't have pipes like Mariah, however, our girl can still carry a tune. Although *Pink Friday* isn't my favorite Minaj masterpiece, it speaks to her versatility and staying power.

Having filled my quota of insightful and sincere comments, the dueling alter egos of Slim Shady and Roman Zolinski are legitimately unreal. Listening to *Roman's Revenge* is a sprint: a high energy meld of passions and voices escalating as the dialogue between Marshall and Nicki continues. As the plot thickens and the crescendo heightens, you can feel endorphins pumping through your system and you just want to scream to match the energy level of the players. But then again, isn't everything about Nicki Minaj heightened? The wigs, the outfits, the booty? She extends everything about herself for a reaction and even manages to represent this hostile takeover metaphorically on her *Pink Friday* album cover via her hyper extended limbs, and it works. Nicki is a persona, but always oh so true to herself. Her genuine chutzpa on her own tracks and in features cannot be derived from any outside source, and because she seems to bring everything out from within, her fans can feel a connection. It's certainly a special thing to be able to do that, and I think the sensation that GaGa feels with her little Monsters is comparable.

I have known about Nicki for some time now but first noticed her on Kanye's *Monster*. This rave was initially going to be a tribute to 'Ye's "G.O.O.D Friday's" (which I think is the essence of what artists should aspire to do) but it turned into something quite different. As my lovingly lyrical thoughts regarding "G.O.O.D Friday's" poured onto my screen, I realized that I was writing more about Nicki's minute-long part than I was about the entire song. She is slowly building on the fairly flimsy foundation built by those few and far between, genuinely good female rappers who have come before her and fortifying their legacy with her sweet rhymes and cool-girl spunk.

To put it simply, Nicki is a monster, and pretty soon, all of those Kings are going to watch this Queen conquer.

# THE BOOK OF JOE

by Corey Plante '11  
- A&E Staff

Choosing to be an English major was one of the best decisions I've ever made, but I'll be the first to admit that reading rich works of literature endlessly can be a bit taxing. Sometimes when solemn, elegant prose is a little too rich to stomach, I find myself drawn into contemporary popular literature, especially when I have the luxury of free time during summer and winter breaks. There's just something so refreshing about curling up in my Snuggie by the fire with a fresh, easy, and enjoyable book; I reckon participating in the cliché warms my heart more than the fire.

This time around over winter break, I decided to go for Jonathan Tropper's sophomore novel *The Book of Joe*, published in 2004. I had been introduced to Tropper last year with his most popular and successful 2009 novel *This is Where I Leave You* (which I also urge you to check out).

*The Book of Joe* follows the bitterly precocious and wretchedly snarky Joe Goffman in his misadventures during his long-delayed homecoming to Bush Falls. When his father suffers a stroke, Joe is called home after the 17-year hiatus. After a tumultuous high school career, Joe had left Bush Falls to go on and write a novel about his experiences, changing the names and dubbing it 'fiction.' However, titling the book *Bush Falls* makes it clear that the book is more of a harshly critical memoir than anything else. The novel manages to be a smash hit and is even made into a movie starring Leonardo DiCaprio, which makes the book feel jarringly outdated, considering Leo spends most of his time these days plundering dreams, far away from any small-town teenage drama. *Bush Falls* thrives off of Joe's harsh judgments of his former neighbors and companions, everyone from his friend's sexy,

single mom to the widely worshipped coach of their high school basketball team.

This makes for quite the interesting homecoming: hours into his return, a milkshake is thrown into Joe's face, comically setting the escalating tone of the tale. Having earned national fame, incredible wealth, and a depressingly vapid lifestyle, Joe is forced to grapple with a whole slew of seemingly ruined relationships and more than a few personal vendettas that include but are not limited to, his high school girlfriend, his best friend dying of AIDS, and his estranged former jock of an older brother.

*The Book of Joe* intersperses whole chapters of Joe Goffman's book throughout the main narrative, revealing Joe's past just as it comes back to haunt him in the present. It's a genius technique, giving us lots of questions at the beginning and building the tension until we reach the overwhelmingly realistic conclusion in each respective storyline.

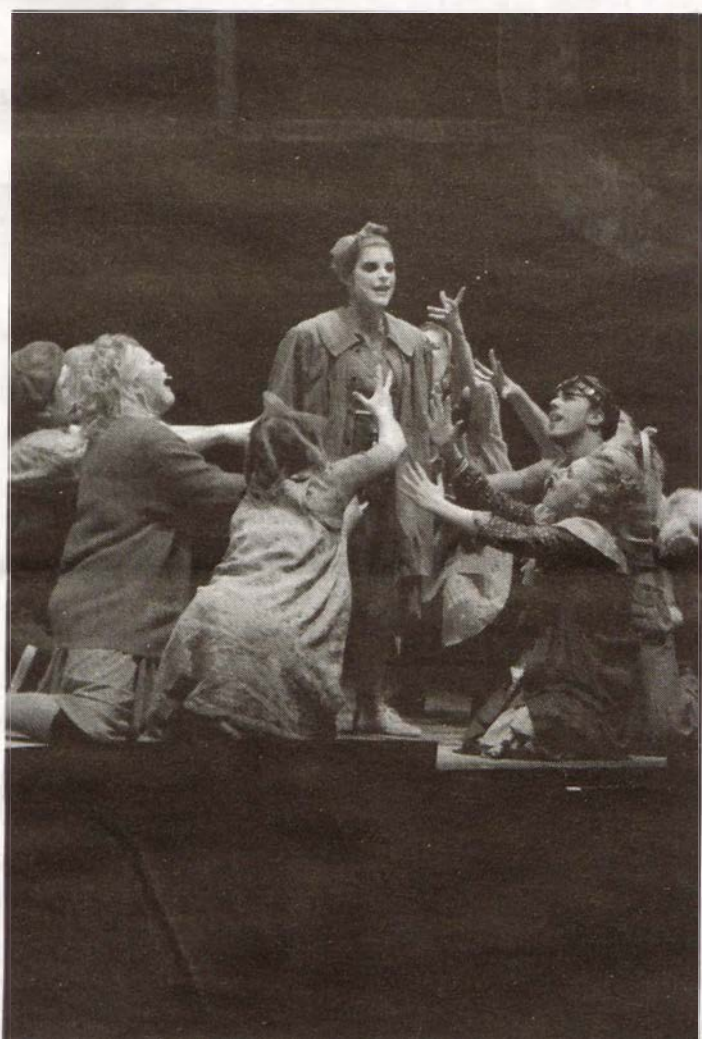
Tropper's writing is rife with humor and he oftentimes leaves nothing to the imagination when it comes to sex or violence. But the beautiful thing is that through the vulgarity and lusty use of a love-starved first-person narrator, we get a candid and painfully realistic picture of a human life in crisis. Joe is in his thirties and estranged from everyone that he ever loved and cannot understand why. Even worse, Joe is unsure whether or not he can even do anything about it. Joe as a protagonist is bitter, lonely, and according to most people, an absolute asshole. But he's also honest, deeply self-critical, outspoken, and desperately looking to connect with someone that can help him fix his problems. Even if we don't like him, we can still feel for him. So if you're like me and you appreciate uproarious humor alongside of grim honesty, whether heartfelt or painful, or even both, definitely check out the *Book of Joe*.

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the musical

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Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Music by Jule Styne

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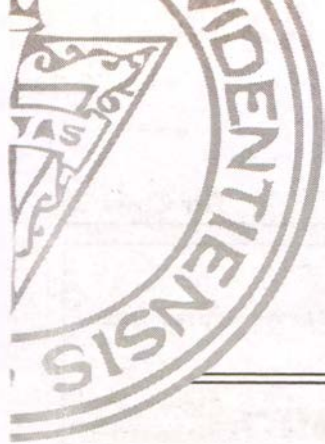
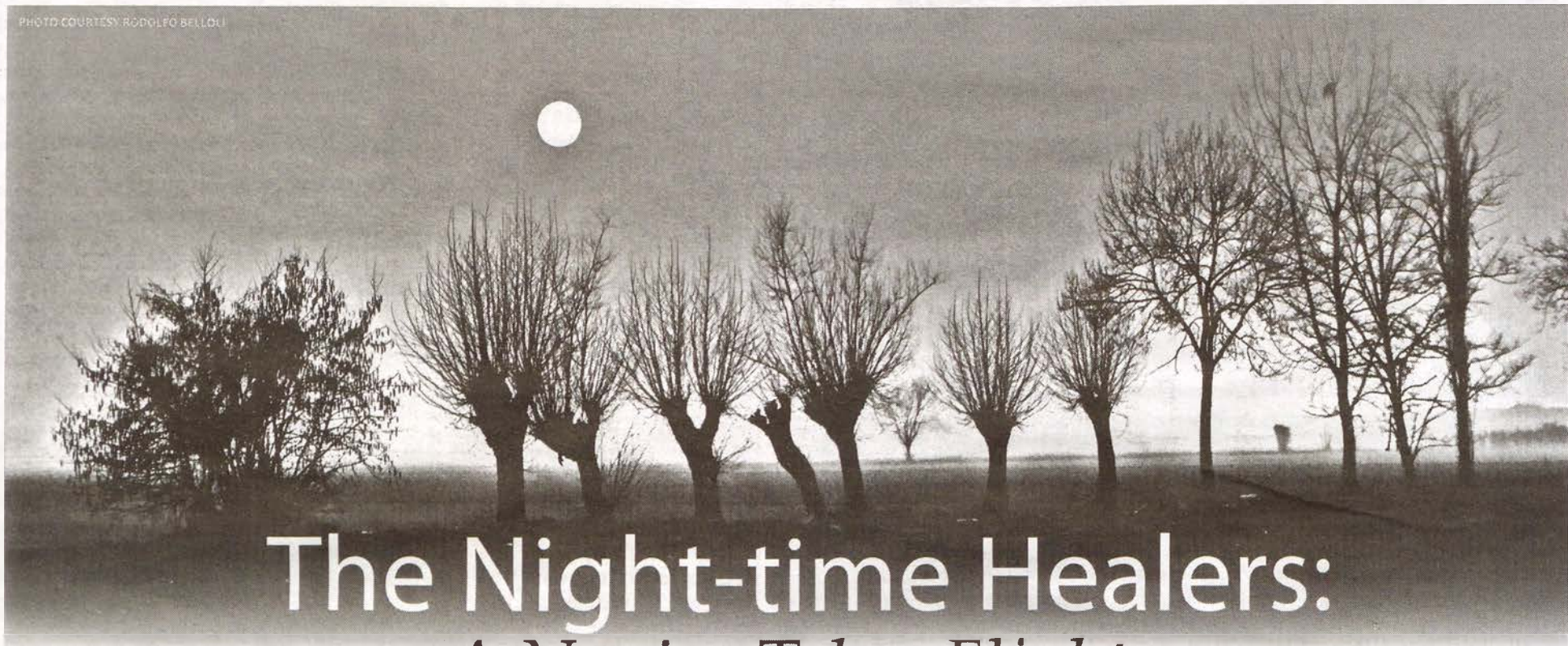


PHOTO COURTESY RODOLFO BELLOLI



## The Night-time Healers: A Novice Takes Flight

by Keely Mohin '14  
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

We flew invisibly through the night sky, illuminated by the street and house lights below. To me, the human world was a majestic, wondrous land bustling with so many places to see and experiences to be had. Grady, though, like most of our kind, was strictly business. He flew swiftly, his brows furrowed, as he concentrated on following the magnetic force that led us to the human in need in the town below. Grady could find such people because of his status in our world as a junior healer. I, however, was merely a cadet in training. I could not yet heal a human heart without another of my kind present.

"Do you see that white house on that corner down there, near the baseball field, Sadie?" Grady asked as he hovered in the air and waited for me to catch up.

"Yeah, that's it, isn't it? I can sort of feel it!" Grady nodded seriously and showed little, if any, surprise or pride for me, his protégée. I was the only one even remotely interested in emotions.

"Yes. That's good. You should be able to sense the sorrow by now. Can you tell what the issue is?" I closed my eyes, bit my lip, and focused with all my might. I felt... a panicked sadness, a sort of uncontrollable mania. I grabbed hold of the sensation, and let it fill my body as I analyzed its many facets and connotations. Fear. Anger. Denial. Confusion. A rush of emotions swirling in the air like mist and vapor. I breathed them in. I exhaled them out. And, suddenly, I understood.

"She lost someone," I said quietly, "someone died?"

"Not quite. Though it's good you can decipher the gender of the human. Someone didn't leave her. Someone broke up with her." Grady glanced up as an airplane flew by overhead.

"Broke up? What's broke up?" Grady glanced back at me and sighed, forgetting that I was still unaccustomed to human practices.

"Broke up is when two humans who are in a romantic relationship decide to end their association."

"What is a romantic relationship?" Grady, normally a perfect paradigm of composure like the rest of our kind,

grew red and coughed awkwardly into his closed fist.

"Humans... they, well, they procreate quite differently from our kind. They base relationships on feelings and..." He hesitated and glanced down below at the twinkling lights. He closed his eyes for a moment and shook his head as if to clear his mind. "This is not a necessary conversation at the present time. Let's just finish this mission," he said curtly. I shrugged and followed him as he raced down to the world below us.

We landed soundlessly on the roof of the little white house's porch. I, so fascinated with human life, observed the fantastic oddities of their world. The automobile parked in the strange patch of ground they called the "driveway." The miniature house standing on the lawn where men in blue suits left papers. The seat suspended on string hanging from a tree branch. It was all so curiously wonderful.

"Sadie!"

"Huh?"

"Pay attention!" I sighed. Grady, like so many others, didn't share my fascination.

"Okay," I said obediently, "I'm listening."

"Do you remember how to materialize through human walls?"

"Yes, I close my eyes and hold my breath."

"And how do you heal?"

"I place my hand on the human's shoulder and channel away the negative emotions while leaving the good."

"And what are negative emotions?"

"Fear, sadness, anxiety, depression, doubt, pain, and anger."

"And what are some good ones?"

"Love, happiness, serenity, excitement, and anticipation."

"Good, let's go."

Grady closed his eyes, took a deep breath, and flew slowly through a small window at the right side of the house. Once he disappeared from sight, I glanced up and down the quiet suburban block and followed his example. As I moved through the wood and glass, a sensation of utter coldness overcame my body. My stomach flipped and my limbs tingled as though I was being pricked by pins and needles. I determined the feeling to be mildly unpleasant, and felt a wave of what humans call "relief," when I felt my feet land firmly on a soft surface. I opened my eyes and found Grady and I standing on a fluffy pink carpet in a dark room that smelled slightly of lavender.

"There she is," Grady said. I followed his gaze and spied a young girl, no more than sixteen, lying on her bed and crying as she clutched a raggedy teddy-bear. Strange, black lines ran down her face and she looked as though she hadn't slept or showered in days. I glanced about the room and saw mounds of clothing strewn upon the floor in massive piles and tissues thrown haphazardly on every possible surface. I positively loved it. It all seemed so... real.

"Now, this is the first time you will channel alone. I'm not going to help you, alright?" I nodded.

I stepped towards her slowly, oddly afraid that perhaps my invisibility would fade and that she would somehow see or hear me. No such thing happened, of course, and I knelt down beside her bed. I glanced nervously back at Grady, who nodded in a sort of absent encouragement. I sighed, closed my eyes, and placed my hand delicately on her shoulder. And then I channeled. I felt everything she felt. Her pain, her anger, her loneliness, her love. I sifted through the emotions, taking in the negative ones, and leaving the positive. I felt a dim sense of hope and nurtured it so as to encourage its growth. I caught glimpses of a boy's face, heard his voice and laughter. I felt the hurt associated with such memories. I took it away. I channeled and channeled until the girl's sobs stopped. When they did, I opened my eyes, took back my hand, and stood up slowly, my head slightly spinning.

"I think I'm done," I said softly. I turned towards Grady who closed his eyes so as to check for any lingering sense of sorrow.

"I think you're right," he said. I wanted to smile, but something nagged at me. "What is it?" Grady asked, seeing the discomfort on my face.

"Don't you ever envy them?" I asked.

"Envy who?"

"The humans, of course."

"The humans?" Grady furrowed his brow. "Why would I envy them?"

"Because they feel so many things. We don't really get negative emotions. We don't even get positive ones for the most part. We have nothing but small snippets in an otherwise robotically efficient world." Grady sighed condescendingly, a hint of amusement in his eyes.

"That, Sadie, is one of our gifts as members of the healing race. We don't have to experience all that messiness and discomfort. We live in a world of perfect harmony."

"A polite, distant harmony. We don't care for anyone the way she cared for that boy, whoever he was. I wish I could feel for a man what she felt for him."

"That would be horrible," Grady shuddered.

"No," I answered, looking him square in the eye, "it would be wonderful."

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# Reflections in the Water

by Dara Plath '13  
Asst. Portfolio Editor

FICTION

Mamma worked hard on Sunday nights. She mended my clothes, torn from yesterday's play along the muddy banks of the bayou and prepared our meals for the upcoming week, always either a salty gumbo or spicy dish served with fluffy white rice.

I loved watching Mamma perform these chores. I would sit at the kitchen table, my chin resting lazily on the cracked wooden surface, and watch as her coarse hands threaded a needle or stirred a stew. The single light in the small room shed a hazy and thinning glow on her wrinkled skin: as if the monotonous actions she performed gradually wore her away. At these times, she was more than just my Mamma, she was the image of a dutiful saint.

Mamma never spoke to me when she performed these chores. Her thin lips remained firmly closed and the skin around her thick eyebrows would knot together, as if she were thinking deeply about her knitting; though I knew what she was really thinking about. I never dared disturb Mamma at these times.

Once, I was lost in a daydream about the beautiful and cruel Alice, the girl who lived next door to us. I was gazing out the window, envisioning Alice's dark brown eyes and the way her whole body shuddered when her toes touched the cool, still water. Elated with a sense of something I could not yet describe, I accidentally asked Mamma if she had any sweets for me. Without even looking up from the stew she was seasoning, she lifted her vacant hand in the air and slapped me across the face, sending me skidding across the dirty wood floor. Ever since that night, I knew my



PHOTO COURTESY CHERYL EMPEY

place with Mamma: silently waiting for her to give me my lemon tea and send me to bed.

Only on Sunday nights would Mamma let her mind wander; wander out of our small, rotting house, down the muddy marshes, and across the calm, cool waters of the bayou. She always thought of Léon. She never said it out loud, never dared let his name slip from her cracked lips. But his memory weighed upon our house like the heavy southern heat: threatening to crush it into tiny, sweltering pieces.

It was the summer of 1945. The only reason I knew the date was because it was the year I started helping Mr. Dupont at the grocery in town. Every afternoon I would walk down the road to the small shop and help him stack the shelves with bottles of spices and pickled eggs. Mr. Dupont was an older man whose skin was dried and mottled from too much time spent in the Louisiana sun. He loved to sit on the creaky porch, a cigarette dangling lazily from the corner of his mouth, and pour over some book he had ordered from the library.

It was in 1945 that the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, prompting

Mr. Dupont to declare the end of the world. Though, I only remember that year as the end of my world.

Léon was my older brother. He was tall and strong and had eyes the color of Spanish moss. I loved Léon because he was my brother, but I also hated him for that very reason. Léon was supposed to walk me to the grocery every afternoon, though I can only recall once or twice when that actually happened. He would usually sneak away with Chloe, a girl whose stockings were always torn and who emitted an unfortunate odor of cooked chicken. I never told Mamma about their secret affair; mostly, I was afraid of what Léon might do to me if I did.

Besides Chloe, Léon loved the water. Some nights, I would listen as he silently slid out of the wooden bed we shared and slip through the window into the humid and sticky air. Usually I let him have his solitude, but on one especially hot summer night, I decided to follow him. I watched as he walked through the wood surrounding our house and down to the calm, clear bayou. He wore nothing besides a pair of light pants, and in the moonlight his skin seemed to assume a ghostly glow.

I was angry with him that night. Léon was supposed to have walked with me to the grocery. Instead, he stole Mamma's favorite liquor and snuck off with Chloe; I watched as they sauntered, hand in hand, down the dusty road and into the woods behind the school.

I now watched as he pulled out that same liquor bottle, took a mouthful of the strong, clear liquid and jumped into the bayou: his body as bare and lean as a deadly water moccasin. Crouched behind a bush, I followed his strong arms as they gracefully rose from the dark water and then were slowly brought down in one fluid motion.

He then started laughing. I knew it was probably a result of the liquor, but something inside of me snapped like a swing hanging from a branch too weak to support its weight. I could only assume that he was laughing at me. Laughing at the jokes he and Chloe shared at my expense. I jumped up and grabbed his pants and the liquor bottle from the ground and started running back through the wood and into the dark and quiet house. Blinded with anger, I threw his pants onto the dirty floor and swallowed the rest of the sour liquid.

I was still a bit drunk when I heard Mamma scream. I wandered out of the house and down to the water, my bare feet dragging sluggishly through the soft mud. Mamma was kneeling on the bank, her thick legs concealed by her apron and Léon's lifeless body. She heard me approaching and looked up. I felt her accusing stare rove over my body, pausing at my blood shot eyes and shaky hands, her own body trembling like a scared child. Her sobbing subsided enough for her to utter a few words, words which now fill the vacant spaces of our house on Sunday nights, silently moving through the wood and across the still, reflective water: I wish it was you, I wish it was you.

## Pears

by Blake Bergeron '11  
Portfolio Staff

She heaps shredded mozzarella onto the lasagna before placing it into the oven. He hovers behind her, sniffing her hair, wondering when, if ever, her firm figure will succumb to gravity.

Outside pears swell and fall from the trees. They roll in neat circles centered at the pivot points of their narrow tops. Deer amble through the yard, nosing about for the choicest specimens, which they proceed to snatch up and judiciously chew. Fragrant, sticky juice escapes their mouths and tamps the soft fuzz on their chins.

He sidles up behind her and cups her right breast. Hello he says. He doesn't whisper, just states it plainly, as if greeting an acquaintance on the street. She reciprocates: Hello.

A loud crack. A bright orange figure emerges from the woods, a rifle tucked neatly below his arm. He crouches down next to a brown lifeless heap. He grabs an antler and tugs the head upward at a painful angle. Its eyes are opaque gelatinous orbs.

She and he step outside to review the interruption. They look at the man in orange, a repugnant blotch on the landscape, blood on a handkerchief. The man says hello, plainly, as if greeting an acquaintance on the street. They reciprocate: Hello.

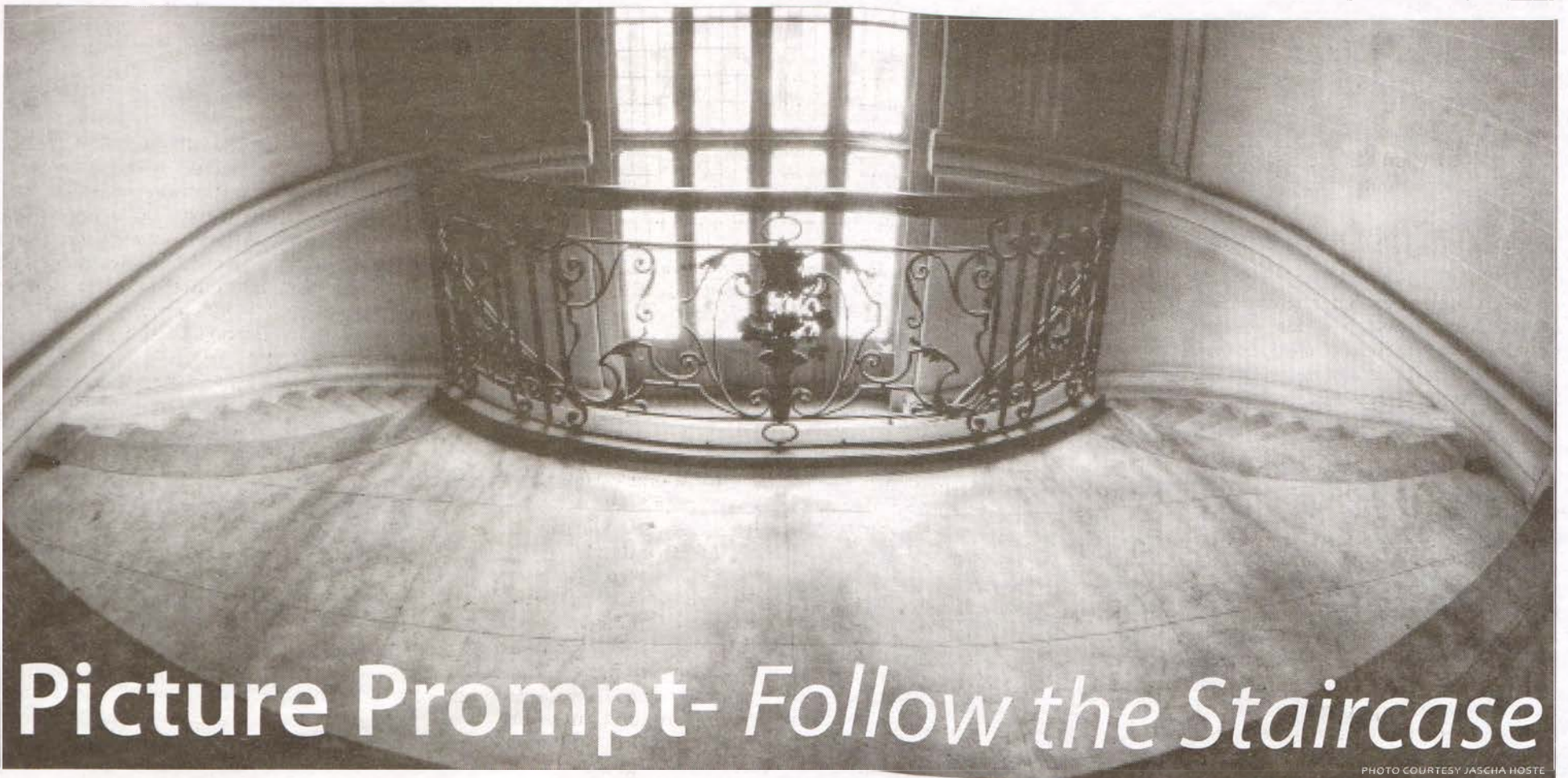
PHOTO COURTESY ANITA LEVESQUE

## Staff Pick of the Week

*The Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*  
by Michael Chabon

There, up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's another fantastic novel by personal favorite author, Michael Chabon! Winner of the Pulitzer Prize back in 2001, *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay* is as enjoyable almost a decade later. The story, set during and after World War II, centers around cousins Sam Clay and Josef Kavalier, the first an all-American entrepreneurial young man; the latter a refugee recently escaped from Nazi-occupied Prague. The two, like so many crime-fighting duos, team up. Their mission? To make enough money to achieve their dreams; Sam's quintessential "American Dream" and Josef's hope of freeing his family from the iron grip of Nazi oppression. And so the two create a new comic book hero, a chain-breaking liberator known as The Escapist. Set in what is called the "Golden Age of Comic Books," the story has all the excitement of any great comic book or graphic novel, complete with both heartwarming and hilarious scenes. Chabon's prose, engrossing and masterful, is humorous throughout, presenting us with something that will make anyone want to go dig up cardboard boxes filled with old comics featuring Spider-Man, Batman, and all the others. Still, the novel is so much more than a superhero story; it is one celebrating the creative process, the bonds of brotherhood, and perhaps most importantly, the true meaning of escape. Let Chabon draw you away from the tyranny of schoolwork, free you from the chains of dreary weather, and save you from the oppression of poorly written contemporary fiction with what has been called his magnum opus, and you won't be sorry.

—Tom Nailor '12



## Picture Prompt- *Follow the Staircase*

PHOTO COURTESY JASCHA HOSTE

### The Nightmare

By Margaret Barresi '12  
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

The entrance was grand. Its arches stretched well above her head, high enough that she could stand atop her own shoulders and her head would still not graze the top. She put her hand on the doorknob and was startled that it was warm to the touch. It wasn't hot enough to burn her, but warm enough to make her slightly uneasy.

The heavy doors opened into a large foyer. It was dark. She took a couple of steps forward, the hard clacking of her shoes against the floor echoing loudly across the empty space. The air was moist and hot, surrounding her in a sticky sheen of dampness. She could feel the sweat settling on the nape of her neck, stealing into her hair and dripping down her back. She couldn't identify any heat source in the empty blackness, and that made her uncomfortable. But she pressed

**“ BUT SHE PRESSED ON THROUGH THE DARKNESS, AN INVISIBLE FORCE PULLING HER FORWARD... ”**

on through the darkness, an invisible force pulling her forward, seemingly out of her control.

As she moved on, she became aware of a slight glimmer that was alleviating some of the blackness. She did not know where it was coming from, but on the path in front of her she could now vaguely see the outlines of the walls and various pieces of furniture. She saw that she had moved out of the foyer and was now heading through a strange living room of some sorts. The few scattered pieces of furniture were obviously outdated with the elegant feel that they belonged from an era long ago. Large wet stains stretched over the surface of every cushion and table top, marking their perpetual exposure to the drenching and stifling air. Looking around her, she could now see slides of moisture grazing the walls, tumbling down into pools at the base. She was captivated and disgusted by the ugly clumps of dark mold also clinging to the walls, festering in the overwhelming heat radiating from up ahead.

Looking down, she saw she had come to the top of a downward

staircase. The stone stairs were wet and slippery, causing her to grab onto the railing so as to not tumble down. The heat of the chipped metal railing pressed into her hand, searing her skin, but she was too afraid to let go. As she slowly continued down the stairs, she realized the glimmer of light was emanating from a source at the bottom of the stairs she still could not see. Heat was blasting upwards in furious winds, chapping her face and all exposed portions of her skin. Her ears began to hum and she could vaguely make out what seemed to be a chorus of childlike voices chanting, “And when all has ended you will follow the staircase down to the place where heat and fire are born. Where in the presence of pure evil and wickedness the flames reach out of the bubbling cesspool of human deceit and hatred to pull in the ones who will feed the lethal concoction...”

The voices continued getting higher and higher, until she was sure her eardrums would burst. Placing

her feet on the last step of the stairs she looked down and saw a clear pool of water. The heat was unbearable as it flared up, blistering her skin and scorching her hair. Below the surface of the water she could see the fire, reaching up towards her, defying nature in its descent through the liquid that should have killed it. Her screams were no match for the chanting that was circling her head, making her dizzy. She reached for the railing again, turning around to scramble back up the staircase, trying to outrun the flames. She pulled herself forward, trying to ignore the sizzling of her flesh against the glowing metal railing. But her feet slipped on the condensation on the stone steps and she crashed down on the hard rock. Crying out in pain and shock she tumbled down, plunging into the pool at the bottom, and the fire took her.

She woke up sweating and shaking, cheeks burning and the sheets drenched like the walls of the terrible place where she had just been. And suddenly, her life didn't look so bad.

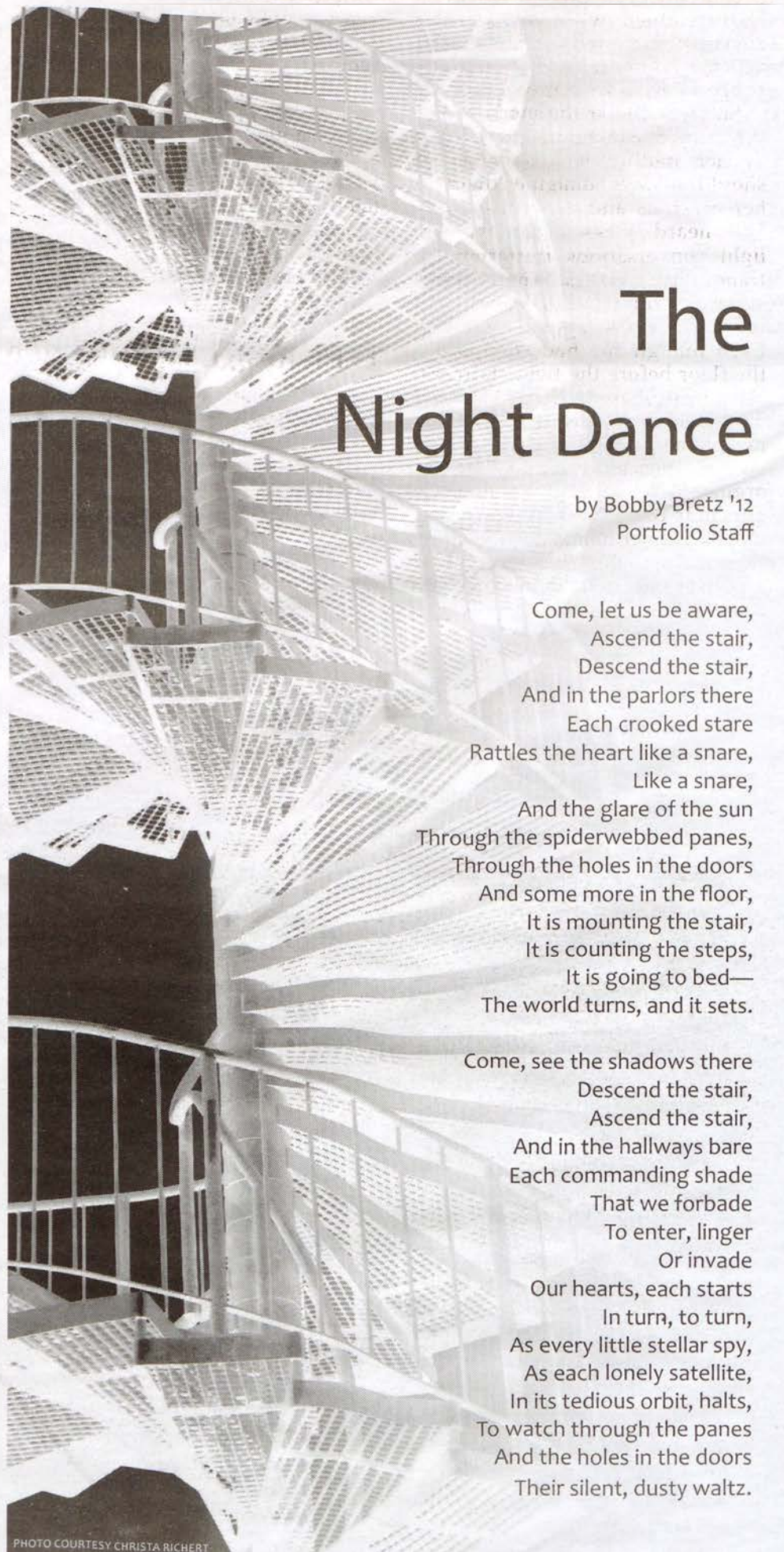


PHOTO COURTESY CHRISTA RICHERT

### The Night Dance

by Bobby Bretz '12  
Portfolio Staff

Come, let us be aware,  
Ascend the stair,  
Descend the stair,  
And in the parlors there  
Each crooked stare  
Rattles the heart like a snare,  
Like a snare,  
And the glare of the sun  
Through the spiderwebbed panes,  
Through the holes in the doors  
And some more in the floor,  
It is mounting the stair,  
It is counting the steps,  
It is going to bed—  
The world turns, and it sets.

Come, see the shadows there  
Descend the stair,  
Ascend the stair,  
And in the hallways bare  
Each commanding shade  
That we forbade  
To enter, linger  
Or invade  
Our hearts, each starts  
In turn, to turn,  
As every little stellar spy,  
As each lonely satellite,  
In its tedious orbit, halts,  
To watch through the panes  
And the holes in the doors  
Their silent, dusty waltz.

# Whalebones and Silk Gloves

by **Conor Leary '11**  
Portfolio Editor

FICTION

Both staircases led to one place. Lady Morgan was tardy. Her mind was preoccupied with the many factors of her appearance and in reacting to the seemingly impossible notion that she could have ever decorated herself to absolute perfection, let panic set in about which of the staircases she would take.

They were identical and beautiful. They led down into the entrance hall of her father's mansion, the manor she had traversed as a child and torn many stockings, to her mother's discontent. They were symmetrical and brought guests and residents towards the upper regions of the house. Sitting between them, Lady Morgan had fallen to her knees and torn a new pair of stockings. She trembled with white gloves covering her hands. She breathed a child's breath out of her lips, rouged with a womanly paint.

She could hear the merriment of the party. She imagined its members as her mother had dictated she should always imagine them: as her gracious and generous guests. She heard glasses clinking and light conversations fluttering like tranquil butterflies. There was a steam of politeness that lifted Lady Morgan's spine against her will. Even though she had collapsed to the floor before the twin staircases, she remembered her place and corrected her posture. Hearing her guests exercising their delicate voices, peacefully and without argument to always maintain the demands of sophisticated manners, she folded her hands in her lap and sat higher on her heels. She let her mouth close in a solid line, just between a smile and not, never a corner curling into a harpy's grin.

She was to present herself when the time was right. Her mother had arranged her daughter's venturing into society in order to better attract possible suitors. Lady Morgan was sixteen years old and found her surroundings very uncomfortable.

Waiting before the goliath staircases, she had fallen; not of faint, but in severe fear. When the brewing chaos in her mind leaked into her face, she shed tears. She pleaded for mercy from the silent staircases. She wrapped her arms tightly around her midsection, hoping for the pressure to free her from the whalebone corset she'd been tied into. She pulled tighter at times, thinking the instrument might forever cripple her personal advantage in marriage, the ability of conception crushed down and dissolved by her damning forearms.

Lady Morgan tried not to cry. Her knees plummeted to the floor when she felt the eyes of the beautiful ladies in the portraits above her. They were the matriarchs of her family who had descended either of the identical staircases before her. They marked her with contempt as she thought about wrangling the possibility of producing her own daughter into the repeating process. She felt the poison in her eyes. She looked up to keep them from tumbling over her eye décor, something her mother had delicately applied herself with an artist's agile hand.

"You know not what this means to me." Her mother had whispered, lightly using the perfumed air from her lips to dry the new dye settled under her eye.

"Did I ever tell you my debut was in

**“ SHE CONTEMPLATED. LEFT. RIGHT. LEFT. RIGHT. LEFT. RIGHT. IT MADE HER WANT TO WALK... ”**

this house as well?" It made no sense. The story drew Morgan in and as she sat on the cushioned stool, she watched her mother's years dissolve away. Her mother had aged gorgeously, but when she recounted the tale of her own entrance into society, the years deteriorated as quickly as they had come. She told Morgan about how she hadn't eaten a single thing. She told Morgan that she had nearly tripped down the steps. She told Morgan she had taken the right staircase. She told Morgan that her father's family allowed her entrance to take place in their home due to a specific arrangement. She told Morgan that she was so proud of her.

"Am I to be arranged?" With her mother's silk gloves holding her cheeks, she watched their comparable complexions morph. As a young girl, her mother had looked as she did, gowned in such a fantastically constricting way with hair curled and make-up pristine. The magic of her mother's story wasted away in that moment and her mother returned to her livid and correcting presence. She touched her daughter's face for a brief moment before turning away.

"It is done." After three words, her mother had left Morgan behind. In her heart, she felt something detach. She felt abandoned.

She confronted herself with the dilemma of left and right. The staircases looked exactly the same, decorated with symmetrical images of arranged family moments. Her pathway was demanded and the steps, covered in rich carpeting tinted red for her celebrated day, seemed to glow. She checked her eyes for dampness and allowed her sparkling gown to fall over the tears over her knees.

She contemplated. Left. Right. Left. Right. Left. Right. It made her want to walk, to place one foot in front of the other. It was like she had been programmed to descend into society, and descend she did.

Reaching the entrance hall of her father's manor, she was greeted with sophisticated applause. She was greeted with sophisticated

conversations as far as it would go without her inclusion.

"What?" She sounded like a repetitive bird whenever the dialogue between her mother and the nearest guest died away, due to a question directed at her. Her mother recovered from her impoliteness as Morgan listened to the growling. It was receding fast.

It was growing farther away. It growled like a combustible engine losing its life. It hummed in her mind like bumblebees buzzing during the summer months. She saw hedges being trimmed by his arms, which she knew now gripped handlebars. He left and arrived on a motorcycle, the sidecar forever empty.

It was when her mother demanded she be most attuned to her surroundings and brought to her the most important guest that she realized she was crying. The growling was gone and with it, the sound of a metal ladder reaching her bedroom window, the sounds of racing feet as he stole her away, the sound of her anxious heart pounding the steps of their plan, the sound of her mother's scream and her father's disappointment when they knew she had gone.

"Morgan, are you alright?" The proper gentleman had removed a handkerchief from his breast pocket and offered it to her. She looked up. His face was a sophisticated white and his face glowed with shimmering charm. His hair was ivory blond like some deity's locks.

His handkerchief was forced into her hand by her mother.

"I'm sure it's just all this excitement. Morgan has always been irrationally incapacitated by aesthetic moments." The reason was given. The lie was murmured. Morgan argued not.

She would dance with the young man who had been so generous to give her his handkerchief to clear away her sadness. During the repetitive steps, she imagined how far the only guest who had refused to attend her introduction into society had to go to reach freedom.

She wished him all the speed in the world, away.

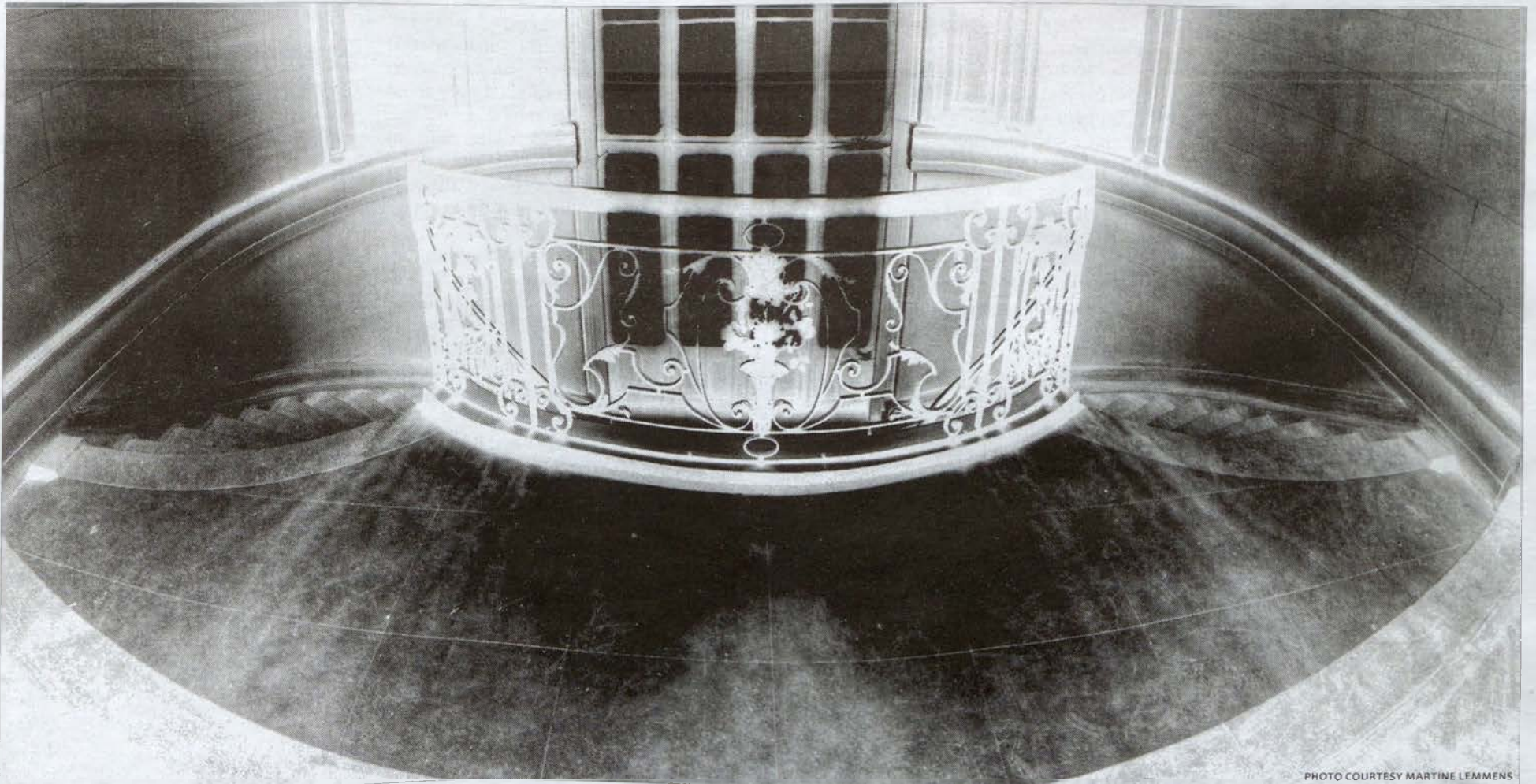


PHOTO COURTESY MARTINE LEMMENS

# Dominoes to Cubans

by Alex BetGeorge '11  
Portfolio Staff

An index finger flicks the three-dotted domino, which then falls into the fourth, the fifth...

billboards, side-walls of buildings are plastered with poster-ads of smooth-skinned women that smile down at her on the sidewalk walking home—No! to the department store with glinting glass jars filled with 1.1, 1.3 ounces, maybe, of a diamond's worth of skin-smoothing cream.

every morning, every night she rubs away the lines of her face with a dollop of diamonds. she smiles. then one day the cream is gone. her wallet is slim. in the mirror she is baby-skinned, but unsmiling.

brow furrowed, hands pocketed she enters the department store once more, glides past the cosmetics counter, swipes a bottle, slips through the sliding door to the street, but not before a guard grabs her arm. he studies her face, "No, your face doesn't match the one on the tapes..." the poster-ad women smile down at her on the sidewalk walking home. where she finds she's dropped her gold ring. fair trade: gold for a jar's contents.

he finds something shining in the gutter, rushing on the way to work. he's late but stops, scoops up the metal band. at work—at the penitentiary he clanks his laser-cut key on the cell bars from Block C down two floors to death row. in two hours time another one will die, the one with the gold tooth, but he has a gold ring to sell for good Cubans.



## Behold, the Reckoning: Genesis

by Conor Leary '11  
Portfolio Editor

FICTION

In her dream, Monica was standing on a lonely mountaintop. She felt strong and captivating on the surface, her skin dyed a fantastic bronze. She felt the wind slicing at her face and tugging at her hair, but she stood unbreakable against Nature's slashing nails. She caught the brute punches and swiped her fists forward, feeling the burn in her arms and the strain of her calves as she fought to keep standing. She fought off the clouds in her dreams, the sickly gray ones that gathered into impossible battalions high over her head. When they unleashed their assaults and vicious gusts, she kicked her foot down and felt the mountain's rock crack. Swinging her fist out, her balance was lost and she toppled off the side of her cliff.

In his dream, Elliot was standing at the foot of a mountain. In front of him was a crystalline lake. It shimmered with unbelievable colors and bounced rainbows off its surface in painted arcs. It made him smile. It made his hands reach towards its water.

His arms were pale and bare, his chest tasting the bits of salt in the air and growing dry. He did not wonder if he was standing on the shore of the lake at the bottom of the mountain without clothing. He felt natural enough and secluded.

Peering through the light mist settled over the shimmering oasis, he found a lonely island peering back at him. It held a prominent tree reaching beautiful fruit, many different kinds, towards the nurturing sky. It was covered in beautiful leaves of a thousand colors, the natural tones of crisp orange, flourishing green, and intoxicating magenta of a vibrancy he had never seen.

Alone on the island stood a man, his skin revealed towards the invigorating sunlight. Elliot wished to take the man's outstretched hand. He touched the sole of his bare foot to the lake's surface. He felt weightless and the first step of his dream led him closer to the opposing shore. As he grew nearer, he saw sustenance in the man's palm, a piece of fruit picked from the gorgeous tree behind his gorgeous form. He, like the tree, possessed a natural prominence Elliot wished to secure. In his dream, he knew that would come from one bite of the fruit's nutrition. He imagined the skin, blushing red, would taste as familiar as it would delicious.

In her dream, Valerie was confronted by fire. Her body became consumed by it and she writhed and screamed for an awakening. Soon, she found her nerves scorched so she could feel no pain. She tasted her chapped lips and discovered she remained operational, alive, yet unable to feel. Rising from the pit of orange and red flames, she removed her ashen skin, shedding like a newly born phoenix. She let her charred cheeks form a molten grin as she searched around her. A vibrant presence stood before her, wielding a sword decorated with solar flames. She peered straight into the bright beacon holding its hilt and felt the light searing her eyes until

his outline became exposed. White wings protruded from the figure's back. She felt suddenly sadistic and entirely consumed with entertainment. She watched the movement of the figure's flaming sword, sweeping down and up, carving symbols to refuse her trespass beyond where she stood. Her eyes only shimmered with her vindictive thoughts.

She howled when she leapt forward and brought her scalded hands around the sentinel's neck, its sword biting her stomach, but hardly affecting her. She planted the being beneath her and used her teeth to dislocate its weapon from its wrist. When she fell off its limp body, she held soft feathers in her palm.

In his dream, Benjamin found himself replicated. He stood in front of an army of himself, each warrior staring back at him with everything a mirror showed him. They stood in an endless battalion reaching back towards the horizon and beyond. They were dressed in various articles of clothing. His brother before him wore army fatigues. The brother to his right wore ecclesiastical robes. The brother to his left wore a business suit. No matter their clothing, they gave him the greatest look of pride he could image.

Their eyes reflected the same picture and burned Benjamin's chestnut irises with glowing flames. Instinctually, Benjamin followed his one thousand eyes to the image at his back. Gazing from the heavily populated earth before him, he saw nothing but a burning abyss at his back. He felt the flames against his forehead and imagined the brows of the brethren filling with droplets. Beyond the smoking fires protruded the darkest enemies from beneath the earth itself. He felt the earth rumble beneath his one thousand feet.

Elliot woke up with a bitter taste on his lips. In his dream, he had taken a bite of that fruit. He shivered.

Valerie woke up with a burning sensation in her throat. In her dream, she had crawled over the trembling angel and brought about his Armageddon. She trembled.

Benjamin woke up with pain in his thighs and arms. In his dream, he had led with fierce velocity his one thousand selves into battle against consuming darkness. He quaked.

In her dream, Monica clutched her cliff, filled with the determination to reclaim its height. She fought with searing pain in her arms. As she dangled, she looked over her shoulder and drowned suddenly in fear. Her eyes plunged into the black abyss. Her fall would be nothing but an endless tunnel.

As her nails dug into the stone, she felt a sizzling warmth grab her and lift her back into place. She swung out of her savior's grasp and squinted in its direction. It was surrounded by unyielding light. It spoke gravely to her and its words filled the end of her dreams like the credits of a thriller film. They resonated endlessly.

"My word is true. Your action is needed. In light, darkness shall fall. In the brightness, shield your eyes and fight. Deny temptation and remember always the Way."

*The countdown to the Reckoning has begun...*

# Giraffe in a Palestinian Zoo

by Tom Nailor '12  
Portfolio Staff

*"Think not of those who are slain in Allah's way as dead. Nay, they live, finding their sustenance in the presence of their Lord; They rejoice in the bounty provided by Allah. And with regard to those left behind, who have not yet joined them (in their bliss), the (martyr's) glory in the fact that on them is no fear, nor have they (cause to) grieve."*

-Qur'an 3, 169-170

They spot the soldiers from far off, the Tzva Hahagana LeYisrael. You see them from even further, and yet they do just as they will.

The shout and fire of the soldiers fill the air, and fill the earth. Columns of smoke now billow out reaching past the defenses of birth.

Your neck swoops downward, your knees buckle and you fall low. You can't escape their gas now though your horns may pierce the glow.

Sneezing, coughing, searing pain Unable to draw breath Collapse to the dirt, my ungrate, you knew nothing of war or of death.

Each throat connects to lungs it seems. Each eye has a corneal nerve. Tear gas, then, takes no prisoners. It cares not for species or herd.

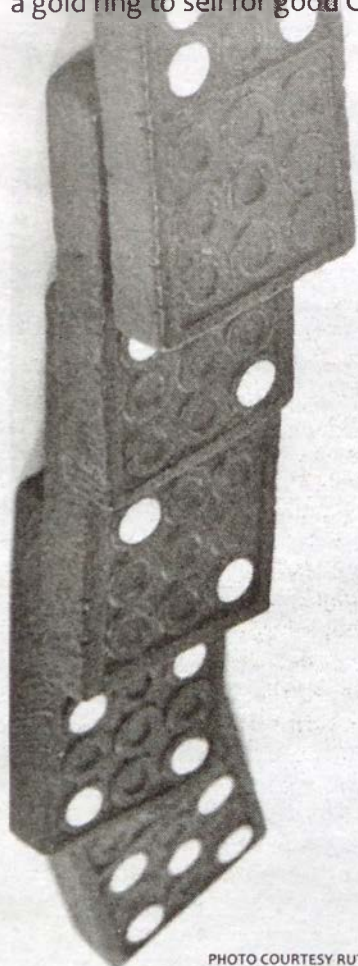
The battle ends, the soldiers leave. The town-folk cheer, their freedom's won. And yet this body lies here lost, dejected and undone.

The flag billows in the background Green, white, black and fiery red. They struggle to beat back Israel and yet you've been laid low instead.

They crowd around you, zarāffah. Marvel at your beauty, not your woe. Speak words of admiration for your majestic neck brought low.

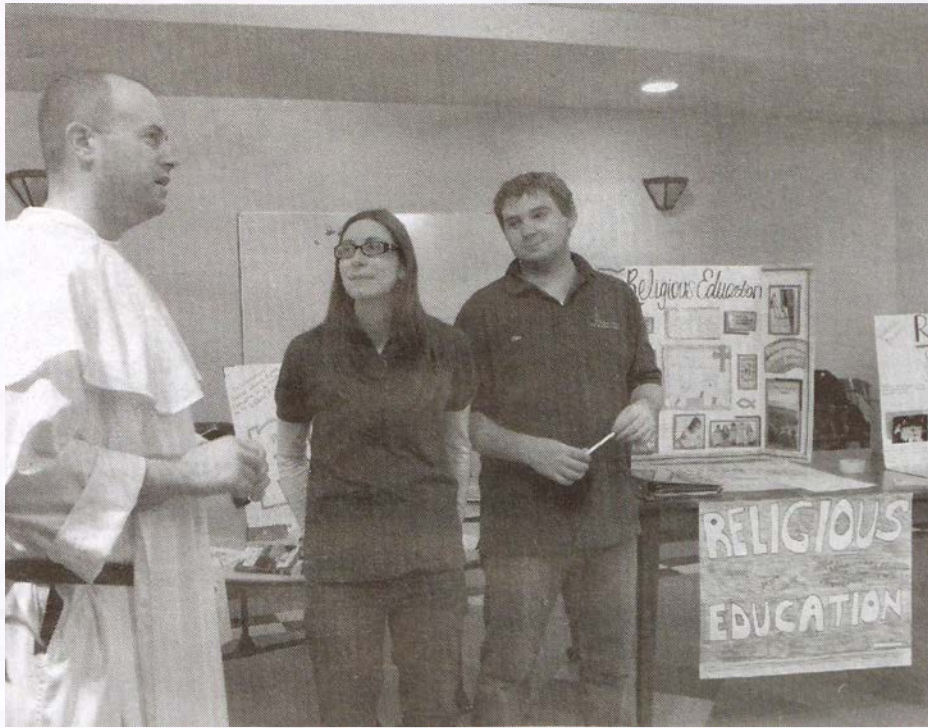
One man begins to bow then, Prays to the One Allah as he's been taught. They praise this death, despite the fact you knew nothing of why they fought.

They cheer and call you thus shahid. They call you a martyr, without pause. Cry tears then uninformed witness, you died for their much greater cause.



# PC IN PICTURES

Compiled by  
Billy Nawrocki '12 &  
Dan Nieto '11



SAADIA AHMAD '14/ THE COWL



SAADIA AHMAD '14/ THE COWL

**ABOVE:**  
Campus Ministry Open House was held on Tuesday in the Chapel Basement.

**ABOVE:**  
PC Security Sergeant John Dunbar discussed security issues on and around campus at the Safety & Security meeting.

**BELOW:**  
Many students representing Providence College attended the March for Life in Washington D.C. on the 24th of January.



SAADIA AHMAD '14/ THE COWL

## New Bug Craze? by Bridget Reed '12



Avid bug eaters Pumbaa and Timon jump on new bug trend as an eco-friendly alternative to meat.

# cartoons

Dr. Woods by Derek Knox '11





# PROVING PHOTOGRAPHY

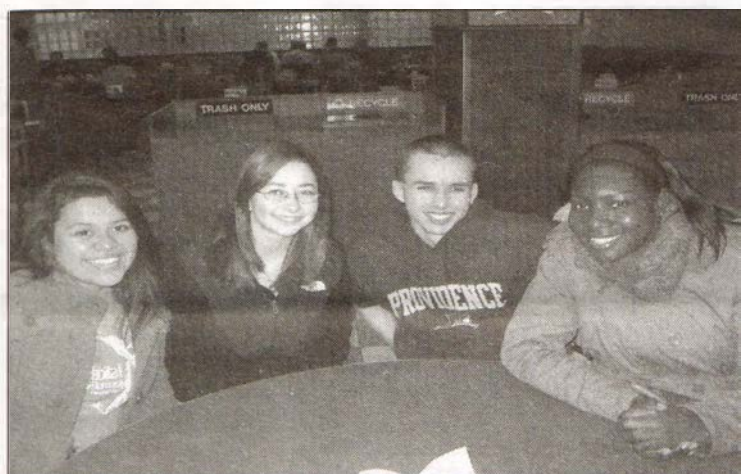
## Instead of snow, what do you wish was falling from the sky?



**"Pancakes."**  
Elisabeth Jeffcote '13



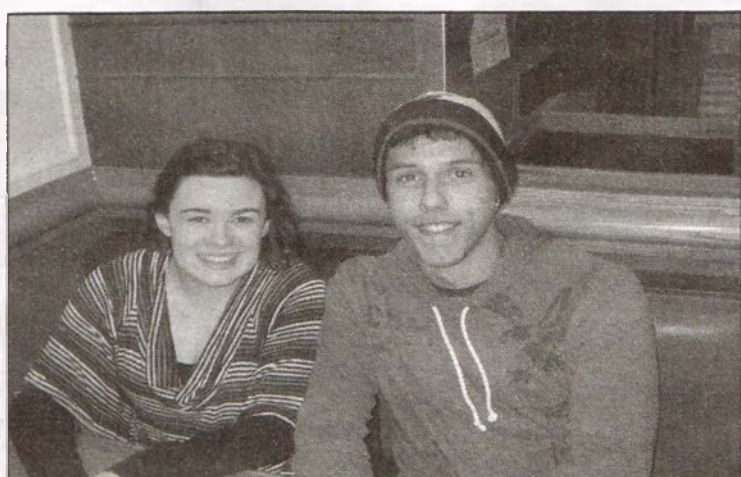
**"Ice Cream."**  
Matt Hurton '13, Kristen Tucker '12,  
Chris Brennan '13



**"Marshmallows and money."**  
Melody Rosas-Granda '14, Jaime Hoppock '14,  
TJ Mills '13, Kourtney Lewis-Allen '14



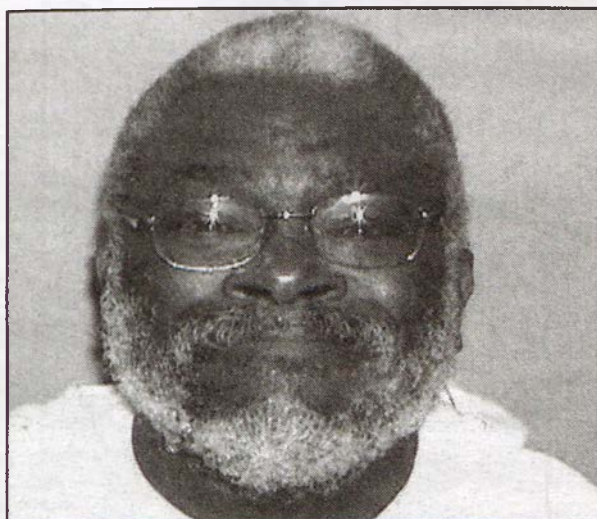
**"Conference Wins!"**  
Jack Annunziato '11, Brian Vignatti '13,  
Lori Zamanski '11, Quinn Petri '13



**"Glitter, so we can all be like Ke\$ha!"**  
Caroline Young '14, Marc Capuano '14



**"Handsome men."**  
Natasha Rodriguez '13



**"Bibles."**  
-Reverend Peter Batts, O.P.

# THE COWL NEEDS

PORTFOLIO WRITERS

WEB STAFF

A+E WRITERS

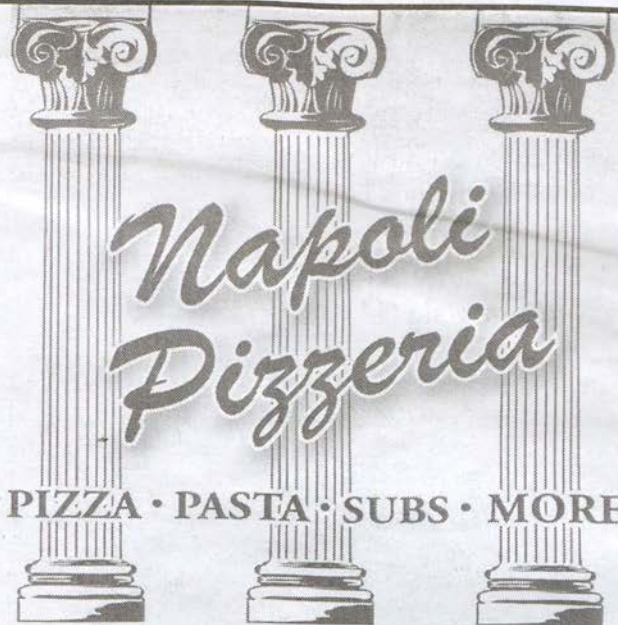
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<b>\$2.00 OFF</b> Any Order of \$15.00 or More <small>Limited Time Offer. Not to be Combined with Any Other Offer. Must Mention Coupon When Ordering.</small>	Buy 2 Calzones at Regular Price & Get the 3rd <b>FREE</b> . <small>Limited Time Offer. Not to be Combined with Any Other Offer. Must Mention Coupon When Ordering.</small>	Buy a Lg. Stuffed Pizza & Get a Sm. Cheese Pizza <b>FREE</b> . <small>Limited Time Offer. Not to be Combined with Any Other Offer. Must Mention Coupon When Ordering.</small>

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2 Large 1-Topping Pizzas <b>\$15.99</b> + TAX <small>Limited Time Offer. Not to be Combined with Any Other Offer. Must Mention Coupon When Ordering.</small>	2 Large 1-Topping Pizzas, 2-Liter Soda & Order of Wings <b>\$21.99</b> + TAX <small>Limited Time Offer. Not to be Combined with Any Other Offer. Must Mention Coupon When Ordering.</small>

# THINK



## DON'T BINGE DRINK

Among 18 to 24-year-olds in the United States, injuries are the leading cause of death, and alcohol is the leading contributor, being a factor in more than 5,000 deaths in that age group each year. To place that number in perspective, it exceeds the total number of U.S. soldiers who have died in the war in Iraq.\*

\*National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, Division of Epidemiology and Prevention Research, 5635 Fishers Lane, Room 2077, Bethesda, Maryland 20892-9304

# Friars Scoreboard

Scores • Standings • Statistics • Schedules • Standouts

## Standouts



**Matt Germain**

Men's Hockey

Senior — Rockland, Mass.

Germain racked up two goals and an assist for Providence against UNH in the Friars' narrow loss.



**Genevieve Lacasse**

Women's Hockey

Junior — Scarborough, Ont.

Lacasse played stonewall defense in two games this week. She had 51 saves against BC and 35 saves against Northeastern which were good for two wins.

## Scores

<i>Wednesday, Jan. 19</i>		
Women's Basketball at Villanova		W, 58-53
<i>Friday, Jan. 21</i>		
Men's Hockey at New Hampshire		L, 4-3 (OT)
Women's Hockey vs. Boston College		W, 3-1
<i>Saturday, Jan. 22</i>		
Men's Basketball vs. Louisville		W, 72-67
Women's Basketball at Rutgers		L, 60-39
Women's Indoor Track at URI Invitational		Ind. Results
<i>Sunday, Jan. 23</i>		
Women's Hockey at Northeastern		W, 2-1
Men's Hockey vs. US Under-18 Team		W, 5-4
Men's Track at GBTC Invitational		Ind. Results
<i>Wednesday, Jan. 26</i>		
Men's Basketball vs. Villanova		W, 83-68

## Schedules

<i>Friday, Jan. 28</i>		
Men's Track at BU Terrier Invitational		12:00 p.m.
Women's Track at BU Terrier Classic		1:00 p.m.
Women's Ice Hockey vs. Boston College		7:00 p.m.
Men's Hockey vs. New Hampshire		7:00 p.m.
<i>Saturday, Jan. 29</i>		
Swim & Dive vs. Holy Cross		11:00 a.m.
Men's Track at BU Terrier Invitational		All Day
Women's Track at BU Terrier Classic		12:00 p.m.
Women's Basketball vs. St. John's		2:00 p.m.
Men's Hockey at New Hampshire		7:00 p.m.
<i>Sunday, Jan. 30</i>		
Men's Basketball at Seton Hall		2:00 p.m.
Women's Hockey at Vermont		2:00 p.m.
<i>Tuesday, Feb. 1</i>		
Women's Basketball at West Virginia		7:00 p.m.
<i>Wednesday, Feb. 2</i>		
Men's Basketball vs. USF		7:00 p.m.

## Standings

### Men's Big East Basketball

Team	Big East		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Pittsburgh	7	1	19	2
Connecticut	5	2	17	2
Villanova	5	2	17	3
Louisville	5	2	16	4
Notre Dame	6	3	17	4
Cincinnati	5	3	18	3
Syracuse	5	3	18	3
West Virginia	4	3	13	6
Marquette	4	4	13	8
St. John's	4	4	11	7
Georgetown	3	4	14	5
Rutgers	3	5	12	8
Seton Hall	3	6	9	12
<b>Providence</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>
South Florida	1	7	7	14
DePaul	0	7	6	13

### Women's Big East Basketball

Team	Big East		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Connecticut	7	0	18	1
DePaul	7	0	20	2
Rutgers	5	0	12	6
Notre Dame	6	1	17	4
West Virginia	5	2	19	2
Louisville	4	2	13	7
Georgetown	4	3	16	5
Marquette	3	3	15	4
St. John's	3	4	14	6
Syracuse	2	3	14	4
<b>Providence</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>
Pittsburgh	1	4	9	9
Cincinnati	1	5	8	10
South Florida	1	6	10	11
Villanova	0	6	8	11
Seton Hall	0	7	7	13



# Providence Nets First Win at Pavilion Since 1997

by Dan McNamara '13  
Sports Staff

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Imagine experiencing pressure. Not the type you would imagine a young team experiencing as they play at Villanova's Pavilion where they have not won in 14 years.

Not the type you would imagine after seeing your 13 point lead dwindle all the way down to one point.

This was the sort of pressure experienced by Women's Basketball Coach Phil Seymore—Providence College Women's Basketball pressure. But the pressure paid off, as PC walked away with a nice 58-53 win over Villanova.

"We played tremendous defense; we were able to be all over, from end line to end line," said Coach Seymore. "They use the whole clock. Our full court pressure made them take quicker shots and most of them were rushed."

The Friars were led by Mi-Khida Hankins '11, who posted her second double-double of the year with 14 points and 10 rebounds in 31 minutes.

"Mi-Khida is gaining more confidence as the season goes on," said Seymore. "She is getting inside the post more and is attacking the rim."

Hankins got to the free throw line 10 times in this one, which loomed large for the Friars down the stretch.

The Friars took a 25-15 lead after the first 20 minutes, and this was fueled by a 10-0 run in the final six minutes.

Out of the locker room, the Friars built their lead to 30-17 with 16:53 to play in the contest. Villanova responded with a 9-0 run to cut the lead to four.

Alicia Cropper '14 hit a runner in the lane with 12:02 to go in the contest

that would push the lead back to nine for the Friars. Cropper, who sat out the first semester, logged 13 minutes in this one and went 2-3 from the field.

"Alicia is getting her rhythm back," said Coach Seymore. "Having her depth off the bench has helped us so far instead of only having seven or eight players like we had for much of the first semester."

As cats often do, they scratch and claw their way out of trouble. The Villanova Wildcats pulled to within one with just over five minutes remaining only to see their deficit back at five going into the final media timeout.

A Symone Roberts '13 jumper pushed the lead to seven, and Friars closed it out from the charity stripe, winning 58-53.

For Villanova, Laura Sweeney shot 7-16 from the field and scored 19 points.

The Wildcats shot 26.1 percent from the field in the first half. The Friars' full court pressure resulted in 19 turnovers, which converted into 15 Friar points.

The Friars were not so lucky at Rutgers on Saturday. PC jumped out to a 10-8 in the first half, but the Scarlet Knights took the lead into halftime and did not look back. The Friars were within striking distance at times in the second half, but could never get a good look and fell in Piscataway, N.J. 60-39.

The Friars take on St. John's this Saturday. St. John's was ranked No. 16 in the national preseason poll and has been ranked every week up until this one when they fell from the rankings.

"St. John's is a more athletic team than any we have seen this year," said Seymore. "We need to put more points on the board and if we do that and rebound, I feel we have a good shot at coming out with a victory."

Tip-off is set for 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 29 at Mullaney Gymnasium.

# Friars Take UNH to OT, but Fall after Thompson's Goal

by Alexis Smith '12  
Sports Staff

## MEN'S HOCKEY

The Friars' weekend started out with a defeat, but ended with a well-deserved win. The Men's Hockey team (8-10-5) defeated the U.S. National Under-18 Team 5-4 on Sunday night during an exhibition game in Schneider Arena. The Friars utilized five different goal scorers during the night. The game-winning goal came from Matt Bergland '12, which was scored halfway through the game.

"Coming back from break was exciting knowing that the most important part of our schedule was in front of us," said Tim Schaller '13. "We knew we had our toughest challenges

at the Whittemore Center in Durham, N.H. with a final score of 4-3 in this Hockey East game. The Friars are now 3-8-4 in the Hockey East while the Wildcats are now 13-4-4 overall and 11-1-2 in Hockey East.

In the first period, the Friars had the lead when they jumped out early and scored three goals, but the Wildcats rallied for the win when they scored with 46 seconds remaining in overtime. It was a good night for Germain who scored twice during the game and added one assist to lead the Friars.

Providence had the lead in the first period with two power-play goals in a span of 46 seconds to make the score 2-0. Germain opened the scoring at 8:57 when he snapped a shot from the top of the right circle over the right shoulder of the UNH goalie. This marked Germain's fifth goal of



COURTESY OF TIM GILLIGAN

Derek Army '14 assisted on a goal by Kyle MacKinnon '11 in the Friars' overtime loss to UNH on Saturday, Jan. 22 in Durham, N.H.

ahead so we knew we had to really bear down in practice and make our play as solid as possible."

For the whole of the first period, the teams went back-and-forth starting with Team USA gaining a goal on a power-play at 4:13 making the score 1-0. Ten seconds later, Myles Harvey '13 evened the score on a shot from just inside the blue line. Team USA regained the lead 2-1 on a shot from in close to the net at 10:36. Coming back with a response was Ian O'Connor '11 who scored to tie the game, and Ben Farrer '11 who added a power-play goal with two seconds remaining in the period to cement the Friars' lead for the rest of the game.

It did not end there. The Friars increased their lead to 5-2 in the second period on a goal by Schaller and the game-winner by Bergland. Team USA cut their lead to 5-3 late in the period when they scored from a high shot on the net. They continued to trim the lead when they made the score 5-4 halfway through the third period on their third power-play goal of the night. With 56 seconds left in the third period, Team USA pulled their goalie for an extra skater but could not score the equalizing goal.

"Playing the U-18 was fun," said Schaller. "We knew going in that they were going to be as good as any team we have played all year. It is the best kids in the U.S. at their age, so we did not want to take them easily."

In the end, Team USA finished with a 43-32 shot advantage. PC goalies Alex Beaudry '12 and Justin Gates '12 had a combined 39 saves while Team USA's goalies had a combined 27 stops.

"Even though it was an exhibition game it was still important to stick to our game and gain some momentum for the rest of the season," said Gates.

Their Friday night game did not go as smoothly. The Friars were defeated by No. 7 New Hampshire

the season. Eric Baier '11 assisted on Germain's goal. At 9:43, Co-Captain Kyle MacKinnon '11 netted his team-best twelfth goal of the season when his shot from the slot passed right through the UNH goalie. Derek Army '14 and Germain were credited with the assists on the goal.

Germain, struck again just 16 seconds into the second period as the Friars increased their lead to 3-0. Germain stole the puck in the neutral zone and skated into the UNH end before rifling a fast wrist shot right into the corner of the net to bring the Friars to 3-0. This marked Germain's second-career two-goal game. UNH cut the lead to 3-1 at the 2:50 mark.

The Wildcats pulled to within 3-2 just 2:48 into the third period when UNH scored again on a loose puck. They then evened the score at 3-3 at the 13:27 mark. In overtime, UNH's Paul Thompson fired a shot from the left circle that took a deflection and found the back of the net at 4:14.

Beaudry finished with 31 saves in the game, while the UNH goalie stopped 22 shots.

"What we are focusing on in the second half of the season is consistency," said Gates. "As we make a push for the playoffs, it will be important for us to play well every game and do the little things to help give us the best chance to win every game."

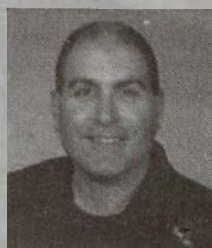
"Now with all our exhibition games out of the way we can focus on the rest of the season and hope to make a strong run come playoffs," said Schaller.

"I think personally, as well as collectively, we just need to work on consistency. If we work hard and play our game, we will give ourselves a chance to win every night," he said.

Be sure to come out to Schneider Arena on Friday, Jan. 28, at 7:00 p.m. to cheer on the Friars when they take another crack at UNH and hope to earn a win on their home ice.

## Got a Minute?

Alexis Smith '12 catches up with Bob Deraney, Head Coach of the Women's Hockey Team.



Bob Deraney  
Head Coach  
Women's Hockey  
West Roxbury, Mass.

**Must-See TV:** Championship events or historical documentaries  
**Karaoke Song:** "Lean on Me"  
**Mall Guilty Pleasure:** Ice Cream  
**Late Night Snack:** Pizza  
**Surprising Skill:** Sewing  
**Must-See Entertainer:** Bruce Springsteen  
**Food He Can't Stand:** Cauliflower

# Swimmers Return from St. Thomas

by Joe Dalli '14  
Sports Staff

## SWIM & DIVE

The Christmas break was anything but relaxing for the Swim and Dive Team as the Friars took their annual training trip to St. Thomas in the United States Virgin Islands. The team swam hard in the tropical setting, keeping their focus on the Big East Championship.

"Double sessions both here at school and then on the trip lead to a great training base for the championship segment of our season," said Coach John O'Neill. "We are going to be ready for any opponent we swim against."

Another highlight of the holiday-season training was Samantha Schlich '13 qualifying for the Big East Championship in Louisville, Kentucky. Schlich becomes the 30th Friar to qualify for the Big East Championship, an extremely impressive feat for this year's Swimming and Diving squad.

As the team enters the second half of the season, many challenges lie ahead. Despite their first scheduled meet against Villanova being cancelled last week due to inclement weather, the Friars are anxious to start swimming competitively again. Back in action on Saturday, Jan. 29, Providence will swim against rival Holy Cross for its annual Senior Meet.



COURTESY OF SEAN MCBRIDE '11

# The SPORTSBOSS

with Chris Torello

## Fans Put Davis on the Hot Seat

### COMMENTARY

The Friars were definitely a surprise to many as they finished their non-conference schedule at 11-2. This was the best start for a Friars team since the 1988-89 squad began 13-0 under then-head coach Rick Barnes. (Yes, the Rick Barnes who now coaches at Texas, and yes, the same coach who would have had Tim Duncan in a Friars uniform had he remained our coach beyond the 1994 season). Though there was a nice reaction from the Friar fans, they knew that the real season was about to begin. Many had argued that the Friars played a string of cupcake teams and lost to an inferior Atlantic-10 La Salle squad down in Cancun, and lost the most important game of the non-conference schedule at Boston College.

Friar fans knew that this team would struggle out of the gate; having to deal with two top-10 opponents in their first three Big East games. Providence traveled to Syracuse right after Christmas and went into the Carrier Dome with little expectations from their fans. The Friars lost by eight, but were only down four in the final two minutes. It was a moral victory (if you believe in that kind of thing) and Friar fans were pleasantly surprised by the team's effort.

Providence returned home on New Year's Day to take on new-look St. John's with new head coach, Steve Lavin. The Friars rallied back from 10-down, only to lose 67-65.

Then the negativity started from fans. "How do you lose at home to St. John's?"

"Why did we almost beat Syracuse, but then lose to this ESPN analyst's team?"

To be fair, St. John's is a good team; they have plenty of upperclassmen and look a lot like the 2008-2009 Friars when Jeff Xavier, Weyinmi Efejuku, and Geoff McDermott headlined a senior class that fell one win shy of going to the NCAA tournament.

Next was No. 5 Pittsburgh at the Dunkin' Donuts Center. Providence stuck with the Panthers and grabbed a four-point lead with only 1:20 remaining. Then, after a Pittsburgh lay-up, the Friars had the ball and could take the game well under a minute. I remember the play vividly—as vivid as my memory of storming the court against Pittsburgh two years ago—Coleman came around a high screen and let a Vincent Council pass fall through his fingers and out of bounds. Pittsburgh proceeded to knock down a three and then iced the game at the free throw line. Final Score: 83-79.

Optimism mixed with anger as several fans called the officiating the worst they had seen in quite some time. It was a way of easing the sting from another loss.

So the Friars were 0-3 and heading down to Rutgers. Friar fans were confident that this was the game to put a number in the win column. "We're gonna win!" was a thread started on Scout.com (a popular chat board for obsessed Friar fans). The Friars got smacked in the mouth. They lost in miserable fashion. (I would tell you the final score, but I turned it off with seven minutes remaining.)

Then Providence got embarrassed (on ESPN2) down at West Virginia, 93-63. As if the rage of an 0-5 start couldn't reach a higher level, fans were disgusted when they heard Keno Davis say that his team lost by 30 because they "tried too hard."

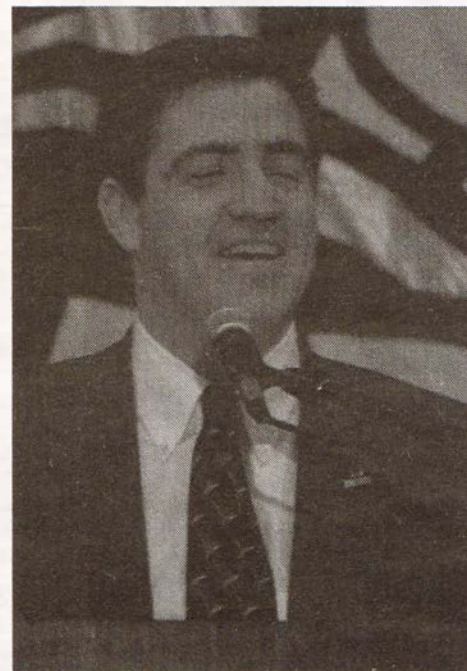
This was when the rumblings about Keno's job security started to surface. People were saying they talked to anonymous insiders (always reliable) and donors who were not happy with the team's performance.

All was thought to be calm after a 41-29 lead at the half against USF. But when the Bulls adjusted—and the Friars did not adjust to those adjustments—they lost 79-72.

Scout.com forums were flooded with posts that were calling for Keno Davis' head. Posters were coming out with "inside information" that claimed that donors were beginning to look into the process of buying out Keno's contract and replacing him in the offseason. Reports of team discipline and coaching issues were surfacing on a daily basis.

Keno was out the door; never to be welcomed back in Friartown—then they beat No. 15 Louisville. They followed that win by dominating No. 7 Villanova by 15 (and the Friar Fanatics stormed the court).

Who knows if these two wins will be able to change the opinion of every Friar fan out there. Some will jump back on the Keno Davis bandwagon. Others will continue to drive the plow that will sweep him out of Providence. We do not know Davis' fate.



JOHN VAGHI '10/THE COWL

Despite some grumblings from disappointed fans, Keno Davis has every reason to be smiling now that his team has beaten two ranked opponents.

What we do know is that this team—built with 11 freshmen, 3 sophomores, and 3 seniors—has already surpassed the 2009-2010 win total of 12 wins. They have shown more effort than any team under Keno Davis. We have one top-15 recruit already on the way in 2012 and a top-5 recruit inching towards a 2013 commitment.

Davis knows winning and good recruiting will cure everything and silence the critics who hide behind typed rumors.

## Friars Hang on to Beat Pitino's Cardinals

by John Butler '11  
Sports Editor

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Nobody saw this one coming. After dropping their first six Big East matchups of the season, the latest stretch in a string of sixteen consecutive conference losses dating back to last January, the Friars defeated No. 19/15 Louisville on Saturday before a packed crowd at the Dunk.

With the 72-67 win, Providence avoided the dubious distinction of remaining the last Big East team without a conference victory. That honor goes to DePaul, who at 0-7, is still on the hunt for a win. But perhaps even more important, the victory over Louisville served as a morale-booster for a young team in need of some optimism whose innocence is quickly fading away.

Marshon Brooks '11 and Gerard Coleman '14 turned in impressive performances offensively, but it was iron curtain defense in the second half that won this one for the Friars. Providence allowed just 24 second half points and did not allow a single Louisville three-pointer in the second half. The Cardinals—one of the premier perimeter shooting teams in the nation—shot just 17.4 percent from behind the arc on the night.

"Louisville is probably the best shooting team we've seen all year from the three-point line," said Friars Head Coach Keno Davis. "They shoot an incredibly high percentage for shooting a lot of threes ... I think we were able to give them not as many open three-point looks in the second half. We challenged every one of them."

Providence's half court defense was enough to halt Louisville from establishing much of a rhythm throughout the entire game. Rick Pitino's team is excellent on transition defense, and for that reason, the Friars opted against the full court press, which ultimately worked in their favor.

Most of the first half saw an even exchange of baskets between Providence and Louisville. An 8-0 Cardinal run at the midpoint of the half, however, sent Friar fans reeling as PC stood on the short end of a 27-20 score. But the deficit would not remain thanks to two lay-ups by Coleman and a trey by Vincent Council '13 which tied the score at 27 and sent the crowd into a frenzy. Coleman totaled 19 points in the game and is rapidly becoming everything that Friartown expected he would be.

"My teammates kept us in the game," said Brooks of the neck-and-neck first half. "[Gerard] gave us a big spark at the beginning."

But Brooks himself deserves much of the credit for turning the ignition. He closed out the first half with a dunk that put the score at 43-39 in Louisville's favor, and in so doing, provided a foretaste of the second half, in which he posted an additional 20 points.

The Cardinals' four point lead at the break was erased just 61 seconds into the second half thanks to some sharp shooting by Brooks from the outside. He banked back-to-back treys and led the offense in rising to the challenge.

"We came out in the second half, and unlike the game against South Florida, we had the energy like it was the start of the game," said Coach Davis.

The South Florida game ended in an unfortunate five point loss, but it was

this newfound Friar energy that earned them the win against Louisville. As the second half progressed, it became clear that the momentum was shifting in Providence's favor, and with the momentum also came a degree of confidence and swagger which this Friar team desperately needed.

With the score at 64-63 at the two minute mark and the crowd on its feet, Providence buckled down for a defensive stand which ended in a missed Louisville three-pointer. The Friars took advantage of the opportunity to build on their narrow lead, as Council registered a quick jumper. Another Providence defensive stand again resulted in a Cardinal three-point attempt gone awry inside of the minute mark, at which point Brooks recovered the rebound and slowed the game down. It was all over but the fouling.

The Friars walked away with the win against one of the conference's best teams in a nail-biter, which was anybody's game for 39 of the 40 minutes of play. Providence walks away from this game with the knowledge that they can win a close game against a good opponent—knowledge which was not so apparent in the first half of the conference season.

"We have a quiet confidence about us," said Coach Davis. "We might not be a top team right now but we're not bad, and we're going to keep working hard with our group."

Hard work as will be absolutely essential if the Friars are to finish the conference season respectably. Ten conference games remain, which provides Providence with plenty of opportunities for more experience and more wins. They will very likely need both.

## HOOPS: Consistent Improvement

continued from back page

shot an atrocious 4-22 from behind the arc. Davis admitted after the game that his team is not very strong defensively, but they nonetheless were able to get the job done this past week.

"I didn't think there was any way we could knock off the No. 8 team in the country, shooting 37 percent from the field at home," said Davis. As they say, a win is a win. What separates a good team from a great team is whether they can still win when they do not play their best.

Although the young Friars are not a great team yet, they are improving, and Davis thinks his squad might be a consistently ranked team like Villanova or Louisville in a few years.

"All we need are a few more pieces to the puzzle and we will be able to turn the corner," said Davis. "I don't see why we can't make Providence a powerhouse like Villanova. That's the goal and I can't

For up-to-the-minute news on all of your favorite Friar squads, visit [www.TheCowl.com](http://www.TheCowl.com).



If you have any topics for debate, email PCI  
cowsports@gmail.com

Now that we are well into the conference basketball slate,  
which team has been the biggest surprise in the Big East this season?

The UConn Huskies were unranked at the start of the season, but have since catapulted to number five in the nation. Led by the stellar play of junior guard Kemba Walker, who averages 25 points per game, the Huskies have gone from a dark horse in the Big East to one of the top contenders for this year's conference title.

The Huskies started out the season with a bang, beating then-ranked No. 2 Michigan State and No. 9 Kentucky en route to winning the prestigious Maui Invitational crown. The Huskies have since won all but two games including recent victories over Texas and conference rival Villanova. The only two blemishes on their scorecard are losses to Pittsburgh and Notre Dame, but every team in the Big East, even those among the top ten nationally, expects to lose a game here or there. All that matters is that the team is able to rebound for their losses and not allow notches to pile up in the loss column.

This season, Kemba Walker has emerged as one of the nation's premier scorers. He has truly put his team on his back and carried them to their 17-2 record, which nobody thought was possible at the beginning of the season. When Walker has the hot hand, he is nearly unstoppable as he can put points on the board like no other player in the country. Without this guy playing his best basketball, the Huskies are a totally different team. That is why it is imperative for Walker to play well in order for the Huskies to keep winning games against quality opponents. Look for the Huskies to make a deep run in both the Big East and NCAA tournaments this spring.

- Nick Aiken '12

Things looked peachy for Georgetown at the beginning of the season. The Hoyas were picked to finish fourth in the Big East Preseason Coaches' Poll not far behind Syracuse. John Thompson III's record alone is enough to set the bar high, and a core group of upperclassmen led by Chris Wright, along with five highly-touted freshmen led many to pick Georgetown to have a solid season.

But that has not been the case so far. The Hoyas are now a submediocre 3-4 in conference and are sitting in eleventh place in the midst of St. John's and Marquette. Greg Monroe or no Greg Monroe, this is unfamiliar territory for Georgetown, and their poor play has made their performance so far the biggest surprise in the Big East.

Three straight Big East losses this month, including two at home, have created a hole that the Hoyas will spend the remainder of the season trying to get out of.

We might be seeing the seeds of that resurgence right now. Georgetown posted two wins against Rutgers and Seton Hall last week. Neither team is Big East royalty, but the victories undoubtedly provided the Hoyas with some moral support as they head into match-ups with Villanova and Louisville this week.

Chris Wright and Co. will have to buckle down and play some defense if they want to maintain their top 25 ranking. But if they slip up as the season progresses, that ranking and their hopes of a good tournament seeding will be in serious jeopardy.

- John Butler '11

## DOPE



## SHEET

by John Butler '11  
Sports Editor

SPORTS DIGEST

**Friar History in the Library.** The good folks over at the library have set up a wonderful display case featuring lots of Friar memorabilia in honor of the athletics Hall of Fame. The exhibit features some great old (and rare) pictures of various athletic personell and players dating back to the early years of the College, along with Hall of Fame programs and other pieces of general interest. Be sure to spend a few minutes on the way into Phillips perusing the display.

**Unhappy Homecoming.** The always intimidating Sixth Man at the Dunk—comprised of Friar Fanatics, that is—made his presence felt at the Louisville game last weekend. It was in this way an unhappy homecoming for Cardinals Coach Rick Pitino, who coached PC from 1985-1987. The jeers and jokes were loud and clear, and certainly left a sour taste in Coach Pitino's mouth. Perhaps it was the Fanatics' relentlessness that muddled Coach Pitino's mind and contributed to the Friars' big win over Louisville.

**A Tip of the Cap.** A tip of the cap goes out to Matt Marcin '11 and Andrew Sousa '11 who were both selected in the MLS Supplemental Draft last week. The Philadelphia Union picked up Marcin, while the nearby New England Revolution drafted Sousa. Both Marcin and Sousa played major roles in the Friars' NCAA Tournament berth this year.

**51 Pick-Up.** No. 9 national rankings are not given out to just anybody, so it was no surprise that the Friars' goaltender Genevieve Lacasse '12 turned in two astounding performances against Boston College and Northeastern last week. Lacasse had 51 saves against Boston College, including 33 in the third period. Lacasse's impenetrability is nothing

short of awe-inspiring, and her play will certainly determine the Friars' fate as the postseason nears.

**Ledo on the Move.** Ricky Ledo, the high school junior who has committed to the Men's Basketball Team, has moved up to No. 11 from No. 13 in the national rankings for juniors. Ledo also recently transferred to Notre Dame Prep in Massachusetts from his previous prep school in Connecticut.

**Three Commit to Tennis Team.** It was announced last week that the Tennis Team has signed three high school seniors who will join the team for the Fall 2011 season. Taylor Ahlborn, Allison Carnall, and Katherine Ripple will head up the incoming class which Head Coach Kyle LaBranche expects will be full of talent.

**There's a Draft Coming In.** The latest word is that Marshon Brooks '11 has a good shot of being drafted to the NBA. Brooks is having a lights out senior season and has consistently led the Friars (and the Big East) on the stats sheet. Some sources are suggesting that Brooks might enter the NBA undrafted, but he is currently ranked 33rd on NBAdraftnet.com.

**This Week's On-Campus Game to Catch.** Revenge has an uncanny capacity to motivate, so the Friars should be super-motivated this weekend when UNH comes to Providence for a Friday night rematch of last weekend's contest. Providence dropped the game 4-3 in overtime. Face off is set for 7:00 p.m. on Friday at Schneider Arena.

**This Week's Off-Campus Game to Read About.** The Men's Basketball Team is squaring off against Seton Hall in Newark, N.J. this weekend. Like any road game, this game presents a unique set of challenges for the Friars, but it seems that Providence and Seton Hall are very evenly-matched, which should make this game exciting to watch and interesting to read about.

# McCarthy and Greany Pace PC in Exhibition Weekend

by Sean Bailey '14  
Sports Staff

INDOOR TRACK

The Women's Indoor Track Team made the short journey southward to URI for their first indoor track meet of the new semester. The meet was a non-scoring meet, and will not affect the Friars' record. But that does not make this meet worthless, as the Friars were able to get a barometer of what their competition will look like in the spring, with Big East foe UConn, and in-state rivals Bryant, Brown, and URI in attendance.

The Friars performed strongly, receiving good contributions across the board from their runners, with five runners finishing in the top five of their respective races, and the distance medley relay team snatching first place. Although the match was un-scored, and ultimately holds the importance of a preseason football game, there was a lot to be excited about for the Friars.

Sophomore Shelby Greany '13 had her usual strong performance in long distance running, finishing first in the 3000-meter race, with junior Mary Kate Champagne '12 following right behind in second place. Greany clocked in at 9:36.74, with Champagne

punching in at 9:55.76, the only other runner to finish the race before the 10 minutes plateau. Hannah Davidson '12 also ran very well in the one mile run, crossing the finish in 4:55.36, with fellow Friar Charlotte Ffrench O'Carroll '12 taking fourth, completing the mile trek in 4:57.60. Emma Perron '11 also finished in the top 10, with a time of 5:06.73.

The UConn women were able to secure a majority of top spots for the shorter distances, but PC had several runners place in the top five, with Molly Shapiro '13 finishing third in the 400-meter race with a time of 1:01.85 and Ffrench O'Carroll finishing fourth in the same event. Jackie McCarthy '14 notched a nifty fifth place finish in the 500-meter race, and Laura Isabelle '14 seized fifth place in the 800-meter race. The women's distance medley relay team (comprised of O'Carroll, Perron, Davidson, and Julie Wolf '11) also captured first, finishing the race a full minute faster than the second place team from Quinnipiac.

The Men's Indoor Track Team also competed this weekend on Sunday, Jan. 23, in the GBTC track invitational held in Harvard University's track facility. This un-scored affair housed many athletes, some of whom compete at the collegiate level and others of whom entered the meet from local towns surrounding Boston.

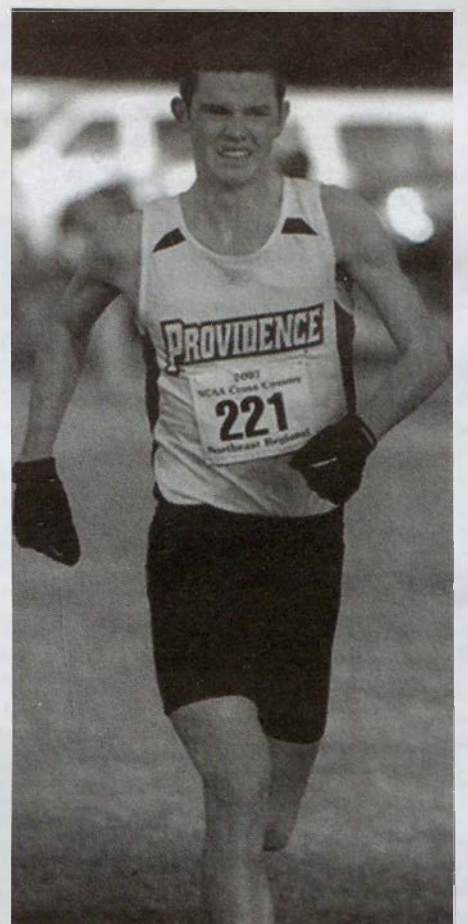
PC was not to be outdone, however, as there was a long list of winners and top finishers for the Friars.

David McCarthy '11 made the most noise for the Friars, running a four-minute mile which was just three seconds off his career best. Dominic Channon '13 held strong for PC as well, finishing second with a time of 4:08.99. Francis Hernandez '14 finished third amongst collegiate runners at the meet, ending his run 4:14.40 after it started. These runs also proved significant, as they sealed their respective trips to the Big East Championships.

The Friars 4 x 400-meter relay team (comprised of Tom Manglaviti '11, Brian Stannard '11, Nik Andrews '14, and Chris Booker '14) took first, finishing in 3:25.32. Nik Rebovich '13 ran well enough to earn third place in the 800-meter race. Alex Wallace '14 was the first collegiate athlete to finish the race, with Ahmed Ali '13 following Wallace up as the second collegiate harrier.

The Friars also had strong showings from seniors Phillip Connaughton '11, who took seventh in the 60-meter hurdles, and Stannard, who grabbed eighth in the 200-meter race.

The men's team continues to run through Boston, competing in the Boston University Invitational this weekend. The women's team will join the men's at the BU Invitational this weekend, as well.



COURTESY OF SPORTS INFO

David McCarthy '11 won the mile at the GBTC Invitational in a time of 4:00.74.

# SPORTS

The Cowl 36

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## How the Mighty Have Fallen!

Providence Earns Its Second Straight Victory over a Ranked Team for the First Time Since '98

by Nick Aiken '12  
Asst. Sports Editor

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Providence Friars have not beaten ranked opponents back-to-back since the 1998 season, but that changed last night when the Friars trounced highly ranked Big East foe Villanova. It looked as if the Providence Men's Basketball Team was the No. 8/7 team in the nation playing an unranked Villanova squad, not the other way around, as they beat the Wildcats 83-68 in their biggest victory since knocking off No. 1 Pittsburgh in 2009.

The Friars got off to a very hot start, taking a 6-0 lead thanks to three pointers by Gerard Coleman '14 and Vincent Council '13. And many more Friar triples were to follow. At the 14:00 mark, Duke Mondy '13 knocked down a jumper from behind the arc to break the eight-all tie and give the Friars a lead that they would not relinquish.

Bryce Cotton '14, who finished the game with 10 points, knocked down several big shots throughout the game, including a three-pointer in the first half that opened up the Friars' lead to six points. Soon thereafter, in perhaps the play of the game, Council threw an alley-oop to Coleman who slammed it home to stretch the PC lead to eight points halfway through the first half.

For the rest of the half, the Friars maintained their advantage as they nonchalantly outshot, out hustled, and outplayed the much more highly touted Wildcats. It looked as if PC would carry a 32-25 lead into the locker at halftime, but the birthday boy, Marshon Brooks '11, saw it differently.



Marshon Brooks '11 led the Friars with 20 points in their 15 point rout of No. 8/7 Villanova. Brooks was 12 for 14 from the free-throw line, and the Friars shot 81.6 percent from the line as a team.

With mere seconds remaining, Brooks meandered his way through the Villanova defense and put up a mid-range jump-shot which floated through the iron, making the halftime score 34-25.

As the second half began, everybody in the near-capacity crowd wondered if the Friars could maintain their momentum and stellar play in the second half to complete the upset.

But once play resumed, it was obvious that the upset was not only possible, but very likely to occur. At the 18:30 mark, the Friars lead increased to 13 points, but would dwindle down to ten a few minutes later. It looked as if the Wildcats were trying to mount a comeback, but the Friars hanged tough. A Council three-pointer sandwiched between two lay-ups by Kadeem Batts '14 gave PC a 67-56 lead with five minutes to play.

**For the inside scoop:**  
The Cowl breaks down the Friars' weekend win over Louisville on page 34.

The final dagger came with three minutes left as Cotton swished a three to give PC an insurmountable 18 point lead. Villanova refused to give up though, as they fouled until the final buzzer sounded. Either they were unaware of their deficit or they just did not want to return to Philadelphia without a victory, but whatever the case may be, they are heading home with a big checkmark in the loss column.

For the Friars, Brooks finished with 20 points and eight rebounds, Council finished with 16 points, eight rebounds, and eight assists, and Coleman finished the game with 16 points in another outstanding performance. "It's a great win," said Brooks. "We've just got to keep feeding off of it." And hopefully they will be able to do just that as they face Seton Hall next, who just knocked off Syracuse on the road.

How did the Friars beat two ranked opponents? A major factor in the wins was that Providence did not allow either Louisville or Villanova to make perimeter shots. "Louisville and Villanova are two of the best three point shooting teams that you're going to find in the country," said Friars Head Coach Keno Davis. Villanova

HOOPS/ Page 34

## Solid Penalty Killing Leads Friars Past Eagles, Huskies

by Al Daniel '11  
Sports Staff

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Head Coach Bob Deraney wouldn't quite characterize it as his pupils pushing their luck, but that was the feel in the climactic phases in each of the Women's Hockey Team's last two games.

Twice in a row, the Friars went for more than 40 minutes without taking a penalty, all the while sculpting a 2-1 lead. But once that lead was in place, gale-forced whistles started blowing exclusively by their bench in the direction of their sin bin.

Both times, though, the penalty killing brigade averted collapse, thus salvaging a 3-1 home triumph over Boston College last Friday and a 2-1 win at Northeastern on Sunday.

"The PK was definitely huge," said forward Jessie Vella '13. "When a team gets a power play and they're able to capitalize on your mistakes, it can change the momentum of the game. So if we're able to stop them from that, it's a huge game-saver."

As it happens, the Friars have now gone through a full five games without authorizing a power-play goal. They have now denied their adversaries on 14 consecutive opportunities and killed 27 out of 29 total penalties since returning from their holiday respite.

But over the past weekend, the shorthanded shifts were anything but routine. They arrived in abrupt, toe-curling, nail-chomping droves.

On Sunday, barely four minutes after Corinne Buie '14 roofed the go-ahead



Forward Corinne Buie '14 scored the game-winner and earned an assist on Sunday against Northeastern. Buie now has nine goals on the season.

goal, Leigh Riley '11 was flagged for hitting from behind, equaling the first blemish on the Friars' disciplinary record with 13:25 to go.

Northeastern mustered merely one shot on that power play, but would have another 50 seconds after Riley's jailbreak, courtesy of a holding call on Nicole Anderson '14. Vella, though, blocked the only shot attempted by a Husky and the second kill was attained in fairly breezy fashion.

Northeastern was allotted one more swirl within the final minute, with PC's Jean O'Neill '11 off and Husky stopper

Florence Schelling benched in favor of a sixth attacker. But once again, the Friars confined the onslaught to one stab, which Genevieve Lacasse '12 handled to dry out the drama.

"I can't explain it," Deraney said of the penalty parade. "But I'll tell you one thing: it's not our kids' fault."

"We've been practicing our penalty kill a lot," he added. "That practice has paid off."

Any PK seminar, or even Sunday's late triple-shift, is sure to pale in comparison to what Providence faced last Friday. After accepting five unanswered power plays in the first two periods, one of

which amounted to Abby Gauthier '12 equalizer, balance started catching up to the Friars.

"It's inevitable," Deraney said. "And I think the referees called the penalties that were out there. They did their job and we just had to be aware of it and we were able to overcome it. At the end of the day, I've never seen a game where the [penalty calls] were lopsided one-to-one."

Accordingly, beginning at the 46-second mark of the closing frame, 21 seconds after Rebecca Morse '14 gave them the lead, the Friars were cited for four consecutive infractions. The last three—assessed to Jess Cohen '13 at 9:05, Vella at 9:50, and Amber Yung '11 at 10:54—all overlapped, forcing PC to play down two skaters for a continuous stretch of two minutes and 29 seconds. They would be at less than full strength for nearly four minutes, beginning at 9:05 and ending at the 12:54 mark.

But in that time, Lacasse repelled all 11 shots the Eagles thrust at her. And in the seven minutes after Yung's release, Lacasse stopped yet 10 more bids and top gun Kate Bacon '12 ultimately found an empty net with 29 seconds remaining.

In Deraney's eyes, though, PC was as good as victorious once it had ended the last of the BC's power-play time.

"I was really disheartened that it came down to that, that we had to kill 5-on-3 penalties," he said. "But I don't have any fault on our kids at all. I thought they did a terrific job. . . We've got to deal with adversity and persevere, and that's what we did."