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FIVE MILLION DOLLARS

ARTHUR AND PATRICIA RYAN HELP SET BUSINESS SCHOOL IN MOTION

by George Copley '16
Asst. News Editor

BUSINESS SCHOOL

The Providence College School of Business (PCSB) has just received a \$5 million donation from alumni Arthur Ryan '63 and his wife Patricia. Fittingly, the new business hub will be formally named the Arthur & Patricia Ryan Center for Business Studies.

Arthur Ryan graduated from PC in 1963 with a degree in mathematics. Additionally, in 1990 the school awarded him an honorary doctor of business administration degree. Ryan's postgraduate career conveys a number of impressive accomplishments; he was a COO and president of Chase Manhattan Bank and the first outsourced chairman and CEO of Prudential Insurance Co. of America. Ryan ultimately retired in 2008. Father Brian Shanley, O.P. has described Ryan as, "arguably one of the most successful business men who ever came out of Providence College."

On top of an outstanding professional career, Ryan's work in philanthropy and his evident commitment to education and Friartown also shines. Prior to the most recent donation, the Ryans donated \$1 million to the Smith Center for the Arts. The school showed their appreciation by naming the exquisite 272-seat Ryan Concert Hall after Arthur and his wife. Furthermore, the gracious donors founded the Arthur F. Ryan Family Scholarship Fund, which financially assists needy students from Suffolk County, New York, Ryan's childhood hometown, to study business at PC.

Arthur's school pride transcends rooting for the Friars numerous sports teams: "This gift represents an investment in the college that has meant so much to me." The successfully retired

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Photo courtesy of providence.edu

UNDERTHEHOOD

Providence College's Student-Run Newspaper Since 1935

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Sports

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NEWS

Donation: Arthur '63 & Patricia Ryan Donate \$5 Million to Business School

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businessman acknowledges the gifts that PC gave him and realizes an obligation to give back what he can. "I look forward to the day—very soon—when our students and faculty have access to a business facility that matches their collective intellect, passion, and commitment to the ideals of Providence College," said Ryan.

The 64,000-square-foot Arthur & Patricia Ryan Center was designed with input from faculty, staff, and students. The four-story building is planned to have, but is not limited to, a glass atrium entrance, classrooms, conference rooms, computer labs, collaboration rooms, interview suites, and a student café. Additional perks include a real time stock market ticker board, areas for shared learning and student-faculty interaction, and a "town square" that is meant to accommodate community-wide gatherings.

Constructed under the themes of collaboration and integration, the building's architecture encompasses the Dominican tradition while incorporating innovative trends. This ideology behind construction mirrors the objective of the PCSB, which is to provide a scholarly business program with a liberal arts framework. According to Senior Vice President of Institutional Advancement Gregory T. Walden, this "provides the best of both worlds... and aids in finding veritas in data, business, and the broader professional world."

The forthcoming addition to PC's

campus is a fitting and necessary complement to the already nationally praised business school. In 2012 the school was ranked nationally among other elite business schools with its accreditation by The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Additionally, it recently placed 75th in Bloomberg Businessweek's ranking of the nation's top undergraduate business programs,

which is 34 spots lower than the previous year. As a third of PC's student body majors in business—accounting, finance, business management, marketing—and a graduate MBA program is offered, the addition of the Arthur & Patricia Ryan Center will be a fully utilized and a wholly enjoyed facility.

The Arthur & Patricia Ryan Center is meant to be a symbol for students: not just

an example of what can be accomplished through financial prosperity, but an inspiration to uphold PC's core values of philanthropy and community after our years attending the institution. Ultimately, the Arthur & Patricia Ryan Center should be an encouragement to aspire high and realize the potential in being part of the PC family.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

New BOP Structure Breaks From Student Congress

by Marla Gagne '18
News Staff

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

At Providence College, students are always looking for some entertainment to break up the hours of studying and fill up some free time. One of the main clubs responsible for planning PC events is the Board of Programmers (BOP), hosting events like Tuesday Timeouts, Clam Jam, and the big spring concert. BOP works closely with Student Congress and the Board of MultiCultural Student Affairs (BMSA) to plan entertainment for students. Recently, BOP has made new changes to its constitution, giving the club more freedom to elect its leaders and other small internal changes.

Student Congress, BOP, and BMSA all participate in the Vice President Exchange, a system allowing vice presidents from all three clubs to attend meetings for the opposing clubs, vote on proposals and legislation, and keep other clubs updated with the latest information. The Executive Committees of BOP and BMSA need to be elected by the student body like any officer of Congress or class representative. Student Congress and BOP, originally known as the Board of Governors, used to function independently from one another. This independent structure led to some power struggles over student activities until BOP was declared a "subordinate board" of Congress, giving Congress sovereign authority over all student clubs. The VP Exchange was meant to keep

the clubs working together, while spreading voting power to all parties.

BOP members often worked around the requirement that the student body must elect the club's leaders. Instead, the club unofficially held members-only meetings to vote for the Executive Committee and then placed the chosen candidates on ballots for the student body elections. Vince Whalen '15, BOP treasurer, said this method of electing leaders "violated our [BOP'S] constitution and was not endorsed by our advisors," but this had been unofficial method "for a long time."

Once the new execs fully understood the process of being elected, they decided to change their constitution to legalize the process of "holding internal elections." While there are changes being made to the BOP's constitution, the club is making their method of electing student-leaders legal and official. Whalen said, "With Congress's approval of the legislation last month, we can now hold internal elections that do not violate any rules or regulations." The Execs for Congress, BMSA, and BOP still converse and work together, but, due to internal elections, act as "advisory, non-voting" members.

Although a small change, the restructure will hold benefits for BOP. BOP execs often had to wait for Congress to make the new exec positions official, leaving little time to interview and evaluate new BOP member applicants. The rewriting of the constitution allows the club to rework some qualification outlines for members and voting procedures. Whalen also believes



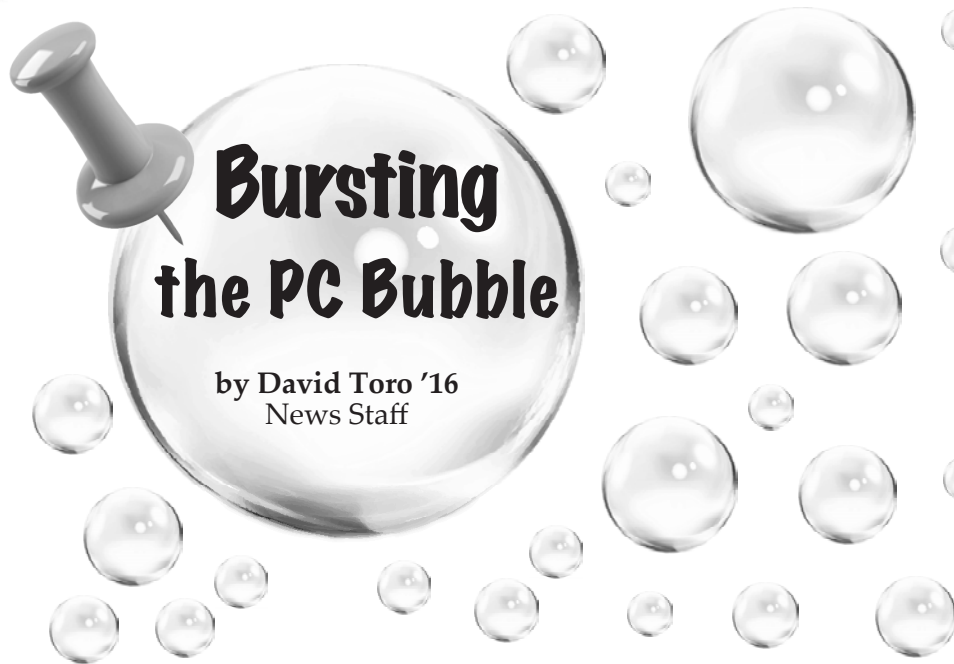
MORGAN PEKERA '12 / THE COWL

Pictured above BOP's executive board: Grace Agresta '15, Vincent Whalen '15, and Irma Babaic '15.

Student Activities will have a larger influence and role in selecting new BOP members, such as giving execs unbiased feedback on applicants. Most importantly, Whalen said, "We and the entire Board strongly believe that BOP members are the right people to determine who can best lead the club on Exec."

BOP worked on the changes in September through October and, with the support of Congress and BOP Advisor Sharon Hay, submitted the changes in November. The amendments gained Congress's approval at the Dec. 2 meeting. Congress Exec President Bobby Arruda '15 said, "Student Congress is excited about the change in our

relationship with the Board of Programmers. Even though their Executive Board no longer needs to be voted on by the student body, our discussions in the past few months have been focused on how to review, approve, and fund the organization in order to serve our students with the best possible events and programs." BOP will continue to work with Congress and BMSA, and the club will also continue to receive its allocated \$200,000 plus for planning events. As the second semester of the year begins, students can look forward to BOP planned events such as Pizzapalooza, the Friar Ultimate Challenge, and the spring concert.



Obama's Tax Hike and State of the Union

Obama's State of the Union speech on Jan. 20 was to address tax increases for the wealthy in order to help the middle class. The proposals made would raise \$320 billion over a decade to pay for benefits like tax credits. The State of the Union speech is a main event in Obama's political agenda, considering that the speech has the potential to shape the upcoming 2016 election. Obama's plans in the State of the Union included the closing of a loophole that allows the wealthiest Americans to pass on certain assets tax free, raising capital gains taxes from 23.8 percent to 28 percent, and imposing new fees on financial firms with more than \$50 billion in assets.

Uber to Create 50,000 Jobs in Europe

Following its criticisms worldwide, Uber has come into agreement with many European cities to create 50,000 jobs. Travis Kalanick, Uber's CEO, says the company is "committed to establishing a partnership with European cities to ensure innovation, harness powerful economic benefits, and promote core city functions." Following its bad press, Uber has taken new steps to ensure public safety. The company has claimed that it is developing new technologies and making efforts to perform background checks before hiring drivers.

IMF Downgrades Global Growth Forecast

The IMF (International Monetary Fund) expects a global growth of 3.5 percent down from the previously expected 3.8 percent that was forecasted in October. The main factor, according to the IMF, is weaker investment. Weaker investment greatly affects developing and emerging economies; if there is less opportunity to sell goods and services, there will be less incentive to invest. One of the main concerns in the Eurozone is deflation. Deflation will not cause the EU to fall into mayhem, but could potentially cause the debt crisis to re-emerge.

Gap between Rich and Poor Grows, Oxfam Study Finds

A study conducted by the anti-poverty charity Oxfam has found that the wealthiest 1 percent will own more than 50 percent of the world's wealth by 2016. By 2020, the figure is predicted to grow to 54 percent. According to the study, if an individual's net worth is just above \$760,000, they are in the world's 1 percent. The findings from the study come right before the start of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Congress Updates

by Nicole Lania '15
News Staff

STUDENT CONGRESS

Providence College Student Congress, in conjunction with Johnson & Wales University Student Government Association, took part in a Question and Answer session. Assistant City Solicitor Sean Creegan fielded questions from students regarding issues of off-campus safety. He spoke generally concerning the Public Nuisance Ordinance, or as it is more colloquially known, "The Party House Ordinance." This policy prescribes that if a house meets the criteria of having more than five people present, illegal activity occurring, and a substantial nuisance at hand the house can be given an orange sticker, monitored for the subsequent six months, and have a \$500 fine levied for subsequent offenses. Creegan noted that this is a policy the city is "[having] lots of luck with." Students posed questions to better understand the policy in place.

There was a special election for the Class of 2016. Mark Maggio '16 was elected to the position.

The Class of 2015 announced that 115 Nights will take place on Feb. 6 and will have a senior snowball theme.

The Class of 2016 announced that class ring sales will take place Feb. 14-15 in the Overlook Lounge.

The Class of 2017 discussed class fundraising.

The Class of 2018 announced a freshman night occurring on Feb. 6, there will be a red, white and blue theme. With a heavy heart, the Class of 2018 reported the loss of their classmates, Fernando Morales.

Congress discussed the spring 2015 allocations process. So far no allocations have been made but the process is still in progress. A final report will be available next Tuesday.

Dive Into a New Club On Campus

by Sarah Gianni '18
News Staff

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

This year a new club has been introduced to campus, and has already received much student support. The Friar Divers is Providence College's first scuba diving club, which currently has 45 members on its roster. Danny Hentz '17, President of Friar Divers, estimates that there will be 60 or so certified divers by the end of the semester. "I was incredibly passionate about the sport when I came to Providence, and had already invested some of my high school career doing a science-led organization," said Hentz. "Last year, when I was a freshman, I

drafted a proposal and presented my case for the club in front of Congress," he said. The process of establishing the club took about a semester, but was finally passed last spring. Recently, the club went on a scuba trip to Florida sponsored by their outfitters, Enfield Scuba, and had the opportunity to participate in tropical dives. "Many divers were able to see extraordinary things such as endangered Hawksbill sea turtles," said Hentz. In the spring semester and beyond, all are welcome to join the Friar Divers, as no prior scuba diving experience is required. "The trick for me is selling students on the initial cost of the open water certification," said Hentz. "However, we out-compete most schools by our costs, and we welcome all who are interested!"



PHOTO COURTESY OF FRIAR DIVERS

Pictured above is some members of the Friar Divers in Florida during this past winter break.

Ethics Bowl Team Places Second in Regional Tournament

by Meaghan Dodson '17
News Staff

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

What would Aristotle have to say about modern-day issues such as child euthanasia or pet leash laws? For the Providence College Ethics Bowl Team, this kind of thinking is just a typical Tuesday night. Before leaving for winter break, the team won second place in the New England Regional Ethics Bowl. The day-long event consisted of three rounds of debate, and the people who placed best qualified for the national Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl Competition.

The topics discussed at the Bowl deal with ethical issues in the business, medical, and political spheres, with the participants trying to get to the core understanding of their topics. The competing teams argue their positions and then have the opportunity to critique each other, as well as respond to the judges' questions.

PC's Ethics Bowl Team was established in the spring of 2013, and it is already off to a good start. The College placed fifth in nationals last year, and it hopes to at least match this feat in the upcoming competition. The team is comprised of five philosophy majors who were all recommended by members of the PC philosophy

department. Dr. Benjamin Yost and Dr. Patrick MacFarlane of the department coach these students through the rigors of the academic sport. The team generally meets 2-2.5 hours a week to go over mock cases; now that it is nearing "crunch time," however, the students meet at least 4.5 hours a week.

Michael McCormick '15, the team captain, stated, "Getting back to Nationals this year was a big goal of mine. Last year we lost a lot of great talent, but with Dr. Yost and Dr. MacFarlane's help we drafted a really special team. This year's team has been something incredible."

Austin Harney '17 reveals that the

PC team has several advantages over the competition. First and foremost, he maintains that DWC is instrumental in developing the team's strength. Civ, he claims, teaches students about the history of morality. This knowledge has helped Harney to think critically and to learn from the minds of the world's greatest philosophers. Harney also states that while most teams have one designated speaker, *every* member of the PC team participates in *every* round.

McCormick stated, "I am used to debating with a partner but the relief and confidence one gets from sitting next to four so talented individuals

is exhilarating. The team this year is younger but I would not count us out...I could not imagine competing with anyone else by my side."

The teams that succeed in the Ethics Bowl are the ones that are logically consistent and make interesting, intriguing points. There are approximately 20 cases to prepare before the competition, and Harney discussed how this preparation would often spark controversy. Harney asserted that differing viewpoints would lead to arguments, and that these arguments would lead to people confronting their predispositions and even changing their original opinions. And yet, these arguments ultimately helped the team grow closer as its members had to work together to come to a consensus before the competition day. McCormick often served as group mediator and would tell his team, "don't raise your voices—improve your arguments." Harney recalls how several times he would have to argue for a position that he did not support, but that this made him a better debater in the long run. He emphasized that, as a whole, the competition really is team-oriented as members must work together to succeed.

Nationals will be held on Sunday, February 22, 2015, in Costa Mesa, California. The team is well underway in its preparations for the big day, and it is looking forward to concluding another successful season.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. BENJAMIN YOST

Members of the Ethics Bowl Team at the New England Regional Ethics Bowl.

MLK Day Celebrated at PC

by Emily Marzo '16
News Staff

CAMPUS EVENTS

Martin Luther King Day was celebrated in '64 Hall this past Monday with a day of service. The events of MLK's life left a legacy of love, freedom, and service to others that is both remembered and continued today. The day of service began with Kristine Goodwin, the VP of Student Affairs, welcoming the students, alumni, staff, and explore students. She called members to "wake up," to be alive, to be active, and to be witnesses. Like MLK we are called to continually choose love and freedom over hatred.

Next Meghan Griffith and Tiara Marshall showed a PowerPoint as a kind of Ink Blot Test. The PowerPoint was paired with the song "Glory" by Common and John Legend, featured in the motion picture *Selma*. The images were of peace, war, happiness, sadness, role models, women, and men from history and from present culture. This test is used to test people's emotions, point of view, and subconsciousness. Groups at tables were asked to reflect on what challenged them, inspired them, and what they thought was missing.

The next speaker was Ralph Travers. He talked about how his father met Martin Luther King just briefly, but ultimately was part of the greater movement. The Civil Rights Movement created great momentum that is still being fought today, either in small movements on campuses like PC, or in large media outlets like Ferguson. This momentum has been created through time, dialogue, change, persistence, and patience. These are the principles MLK understood and invigorated through his legacy.



MORGAN PEKERA '15 / THE COWL

Student and faculty take part in the MLK Day activities.

Next was a speaker from the Providence College sociology department, Cedric de Leon. He discussed "The Prelude to Ferguson," which has led to many riots and uprisings around the world. He discussed the problems of state regulation, mass incarceration, racial profiling, social movements, political parties, and structural inequalities that have all led to the "bomb" that has arisen in Ferguson. The problem did not just happen overnight, but was a string of events and developments that have built up over time.

The President of the NAACP's Providence Branch and this year's winner of the "Living the Dream" Award, Jim Vincent, came to talk about his experience with continuing to make the changes that Martin Luther King envisioned in the world.

He says that making a difference starts with knowing yourself and what you are able to do. He says that while he started protesting in high school, not everyone is able to do such things and that once you know what you are able to do, to get involved. He reinforced the importance of having a voice, that means we are able to vote and write to representatives and should do so.

There were three participating members of Brotherhood and two members from the "If You Can Speak It, You Can Say It" Group who recited their own poetry as well as performances from the Footprints Gospel Choir. There were other small discussions at tables. Participants were able to voice how they thought Martin Luther King's dream has been realized, where they can improve it, and how they can commit themselves

to working on the dream in this next year.

The event was sponsored by the Office of Cultural Education and Programming, the Office of Institutional Diversity, and the Feinstein Institute for Public Service. It was started by Thomas Witherspoon, Director of Cultural Education & Programming here at Providence College when he realized that different groups were having these types of discussions separately. He decided to create this event to start a safe space forum for members to reach across communities and be heard. It is the first of many anticipated speaker series in the coming months intended to create a greater conversation while building and educating the community.



Freedom of Speech Is a Two-Way Street

We Are Not only Responsible for What We Say, But How We Respond

by Carolyn Walsh '17
Senior Staff Writer

SOCIETY

Je suis Charlie: I am Charlie. Je ne suis pas Charlie: I am not Charlie. In the wake of the horrific shooting at the offices of the French satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* on Jan. 7, many people on social media and in public demonstrations around the world have defiantly declared themselves to be either "Charlie" or not "Charlie." The shooting left 11 members of the magazine's editorial staff and one French police officer dead.

Executed by two radical Islamic extremists, the attack was an act of retaliation for *Charlie Hebdo's* controversial depictions of the Prophet Muhammad and the Islamic faith featured in many of its cartoons. Those who belong to camp Charlie largely ally themselves with the magazine in the view that it and its content are the bastion of freedom of speech.

Those who say that they are "not Charlie" distance themselves from exalting the slain newspaper staff members as free speech martyrs because they believe that much of the magazine's published content crosses the satirical line into troubling Islamophobic, xenophobic, racist, sexist, and homophobic terrain.

The views of both the Charlies and the non-Charlies alike highlight an important discussion on the limits—if there are any—to freedom of speech in society. In finding a middle ground between these two groups of opinion, we also find that freedom of speech, as an absolute right, is one with equal

consequences.

As freedom of speech is an intrinsic value of a democratic society, it should be fully protected and upheld against the kind of violence seen in the *Charlie Hebdo* attack that seeks to suppress and intimidate free expression.

For example, there was strong public pushback against Sony Pictures' initial decision last year to pull *The Interview* from theaters last year. A film depicting a fake CIA assassination attempt of North Korea's dictator Kim Jong-un, *The Interview* was ultimately pulled due to ambiguous threats of violence displayed by North Korea in response. Such pushback was justified, as we should never let fear and bullying dictate what people can and cannot express because that would undermine the diversity and creativity that our society should encourage.

The acts of violence carried out against the staff members of *Charlie Hebdo* warrant full condemnation as a blatant attempt to silence the magazine's self expressions and cannot be justified in any way. However, as freedom of speech and expression is essential, so is the freedom to criticize any individual or publication's speech. A free society is not just measured by an individual's ability to say what he or she wants, or a media publication's ability to publish the content it desires, but is measured by another person or organization's ability to counteract such expressions.

Although *Charlie Hebdo's* cartoons are supposed to be satirical, people have legitimate reason and right to express their belief that the magazine has overstepped its humor boundary and has crossed over into being outright offensive. Criticizing the content and style of *Charlie Hebdo's*

cartoons does not take away from its right to publish what it wants freely nor should it. Rather, it leads to greater public discussion on issues such as racism and religious discrimination that in turn can lead to an overall greater respect and tolerance for different groups in society.

Both the slogans of

"Je suis Charlie" and "Je ne suis pas Charlie" ultimately serve to oversimplify the issue of freedom of speech in the aftermath of the massacre in France. Freedom of speech is a two-way street in which individuals are responsible for what and how they express themselves while others are equally responsible for how they respond. In the spirit of French philosopher Voltaire, "I do not agree with what you have to say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it."



PHOTO COURTESY OF OPENCLIPART.ORG

Our Obsession with Apps Hinders Real Life Experiences

by Sarah Kelley '18
Opinion Staff

SOCIETY

Despite 2015's lack of flying cars or hoverboards, as predicted in *Back to the Future*, today's technological innovations have allowed for some pretty amazing apps found on iPhones, tablets, and other electronic devices.

From apps that allow you to edit photos, keep track of your diet and exercise, find the best restaurants, and stay up-to-date on current events, almost anything you can think of can be found in the app store on your iPhone or Android smart phone.

Although the technology of 2015 offers a wide variety of interesting apps, I still find myself sitting in Ray with my friends using our phones and staring at the usual apps on our screens—what some may call the "core four," Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat.

While these apps and many others provide us with a medium through

which we can share our thoughts, photos, videos, and embarrassing selfies with the rest of our friends, all too often we find ourselves engulfed in the world of social media and consequently missing out on life's real world moments. Despite the entertainment and great (and sometimes not so great) memories with which these apps can provide, the amount of the time that people lose staring at photos on Instagram or screenshotting last night's Snapchat is nothing to laugh about.

The reality of these apps is actually scary once you really start to think about it. We all know that feeling of looking up at the clock after browsing through Facebook or playing a game of Trivia Crack, after what you thought was a mere five minutes, only to realize that you've lost a half hour or more of your time that you'll never get back, having yet to do anything productive—besides perhaps changing your cover photo or posting a funny comment on a friend's photo.

And while many of these apps have the potential to be great conversation

starters, more often than not I find students—myself included—sitting together at Ray all staring down at our phones, opting to waste time using different forms of social media or playing games, when we could be socializing with our own friends.

What I believe is the most perplexing aspect of all of the apps we use is their addictive nature. Even though we may realize how much time we lose playing Candy Crush or Snapchatting our friends, there is something about these apps that we just keep coming back to, something that continuously causes us to waste more time liking photos, laughing at our phone screens, and playing games when the real world is right in front of us. Whether this need to use apps is because of their entertainment or the false feeling of connectedness they create or something else, the amount of time we spend on apps could be used in much more beneficial and positive ways in the real world.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMORE.COM

Expand Your Worldwide Web Horizons

by Christina Moazed '15
Opinion Staff

SOCIETY

The worldwide web is, well, a wide world of its own. So wide that every minute of every day there are 571 new websites created, and 217 new mobile users every minute. And frankly, a select number of websites and social media networks have actually destroyed our attention spans and relentlessly occupied countless hours of our lives. Don't let mainstream websites dictate your thoughts and hinder your desire for exploration or experimentation. I'm here to break this barrier and share unknown, yet incredibly awesome websites with you.

Want to get paid for being healthy or losing weight? Well, dietbetter.com is like an online gambling website, but for your health. Oh, and you can enter as many games as you want and track your progress with other members of the bet.

Have you ever wanted Pandora but for books? Well, all you have to do is enter a book you like, and this website spits out similar recommendations: <http://whatshouldireadnext.com>. The slogan for gobookyourself.com boasts: "Book recommendations by humans, because algorithms are so 1984." Witty mantras always win my heart.

Tired of listening to music at the gym? Well, now you can multitask and read a book during a long run via audiobooks. Check out audible.com to discover thousands of audiobooks. There's also a social media network for books called www.goodreads.com, which could also be considered Tinder, but for nerds. I'll stop talking about books now.

Have a song stuck in your head but all you remember is the tune? This website lets you hum songs to find all your jams: midomi.com. Hopefully they don't record the submissions.

There's no limit to education, especially a Yale education. Ever wanted to take free Yale courses online? Expand your brain waves at the click of a button here: oyc.yale.edu.

Tired of Facebook or Twitter? Create your own social network for business or pleasure. Design and cultivate your own community in minutes with www.ning.com.

How many times have you registered for a website and had to provide an email address? Maybe five times a day? Well, now you can use this website to borrow a fake email temporarily and never have to deal with annoying spam emails again: <http://bugmenot.com>.

Have you ever wanted a universal login password for all of your numerous accounts, without all being hacked? Using lastpass.com will create safe passwords for each of your accounts, but will also allow you to only remember one password by logging in through their website portal. Smart? I think so.

For those of you interested in keeping your dignity and privacy, use this website to instantly find out which sources have access to your personal information and revoke their access if you so choose: mypermissions.com.

If you're an entrepreneur that

deals with clients on a daily basis, clientsfromhell.net is like the infamous investment banking Twitter account GS Elevator Gossip, but for entrepreneurs. If you're a finance major and invest personally, stockmapper.com is out of this world.

Today, January 22, is National Blonde Brownie Day and tomorrow is National Pie Day, thanks to nationaldcalendar.com a site that lists thousands of national holidays for every day of the year, you can know and celebrate too. As we come to the end of this article, if none of these websites appealed to you, then you must be high maintenance. I suggest 100happydays.com or www.something.com for you.

Oh, and one last thing. Don't let websites take advantage of your time and self-worth. Don't let them dictate your mental capacity. And don't become reliant upon a select number of websites.

Hold the Celebration: Education Reform Is a Long Way Off *Obama's Proposal to Cut the Cost of Community College Is not Effective*

by Nicole Corbin '15
Opinion Editor

SOCIETY

America is known as the land of opportunity, but as an increasing number of jobs require advanced degrees, and so many American citizens are unable to afford them, it seems that the window of opportunity is closing at a fast pace.

President Obama addressed the Pellissippi State Community College in Knoxville, Tennessee, earlier this month to discuss bringing opportunity back—making affordable education a reality. Inspired by Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam's Tennessee Promise Program, Obama proposed instating two free years of community college available to students in all fifty states.

Obama stressed that these possible two years of free education are not a handout—they have to be earned by remaining in good academic standing. In this case, the proposal not only offers the opportunity for education, but also promotes the idea of merit-based opportunities yielding better-educated individuals. A part of this proposal is based upon American students falling behind those of other countries.

Sounds like a win-win situation, right? Not exactly. This proposal, needing Congress's approval, does nothing to alleviate the rising costs of tuition for four-year colleges and universities, but it does provide a stepping-stone to a degree for many students who may otherwise not receive any type of advanced education. However, what happens when these students want to continue their education and receive a Bachelor's degree but cannot afford to do so?

Making a community college education more widely available is the first step, but higher education reform needs to continue further by instituting limits on the cost of higher education.



President Obama discusses education reform, among other issues of national interest, during his first State of the Union address of 2015.

The salaries that are available to recent college graduates are outweighed by these students' student loan debts—the rising cost of education is out of line with the cost of living and current salaries.

Obama's proposal sounds simple enough: free education for two years as long as a C+ average is maintained. However, it isn't free to run a community college; there are professors, maintenance staff, and administrators to pay among numerous other costs. These details remain ambiguous and have not been presented clearly. According to the White House, the federal government will supply about two-thirds of the costs with states absorbing the rest. In the end, the true cost will be at the expense of taxpayers, which is troublesome as this cost has not been revealed, even if there is a full plan in place.

Chairman of the Senate's education

committee Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, suggests that Obama's approach to education reform is not the best approach. He argues, "The federal government can help by simplifying the financial aid application and expanding the Pell Grant program."

Sen. Alexander's plan is more effective than Obama's proposal. By restructuring the financial aid process and expanding the Pell Grant, affordable education becomes more widely accessible to all college students rather than just those who attend community college. From there, further action regarding reform can be taken while alleviating some of the financial burden from students in the meantime.

Obama's proposal also included free vocational training for current workers seeking employment in order to receive the skills necessary for their field. This is beneficial for both individuals and the economy—possible employment

for many who are struggling, which stimulates businesses and leads to increased tax revenue.

However, before the President can stand in front of the American people and celebrate the advent of education reform, he needs to have the answers to questions that the public deserves to know. How much will taxpayers be affected? Will anything be done about rising tuition costs? How can students afford to pay their loans?

Full education reform needs to start simple, as Sen. Alexander suggests, with the financial aid process by making it easier for college students to obtain federal loans and grants. Free education cannot appear out of thin air as the President presents it to the people; it needs to grow and develop from small changes now in order to make college more accessible and affordable to a wider range of people.

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The Cowl welcomes guest opinions and letters to the editor from members of the Providence College community and outside contributors. All submissions must include the writer's name, signature, a phone number, and an email address where he or she can be reached. Letters should be no more than 250 words in length and will be printed as space permits. Guest commentaries should be limited to 500 words in length, and only one will be published per week. *The Cowl* reserves the right to edit articles for grammar. Submissions must be emailed to *The Cowl* office no later than 9:00 p.m. on the Sunday before publication. We do not print previously published articles. Email responses to cowlcommentary@gmail.com, and remember a guest submission is only an email away!

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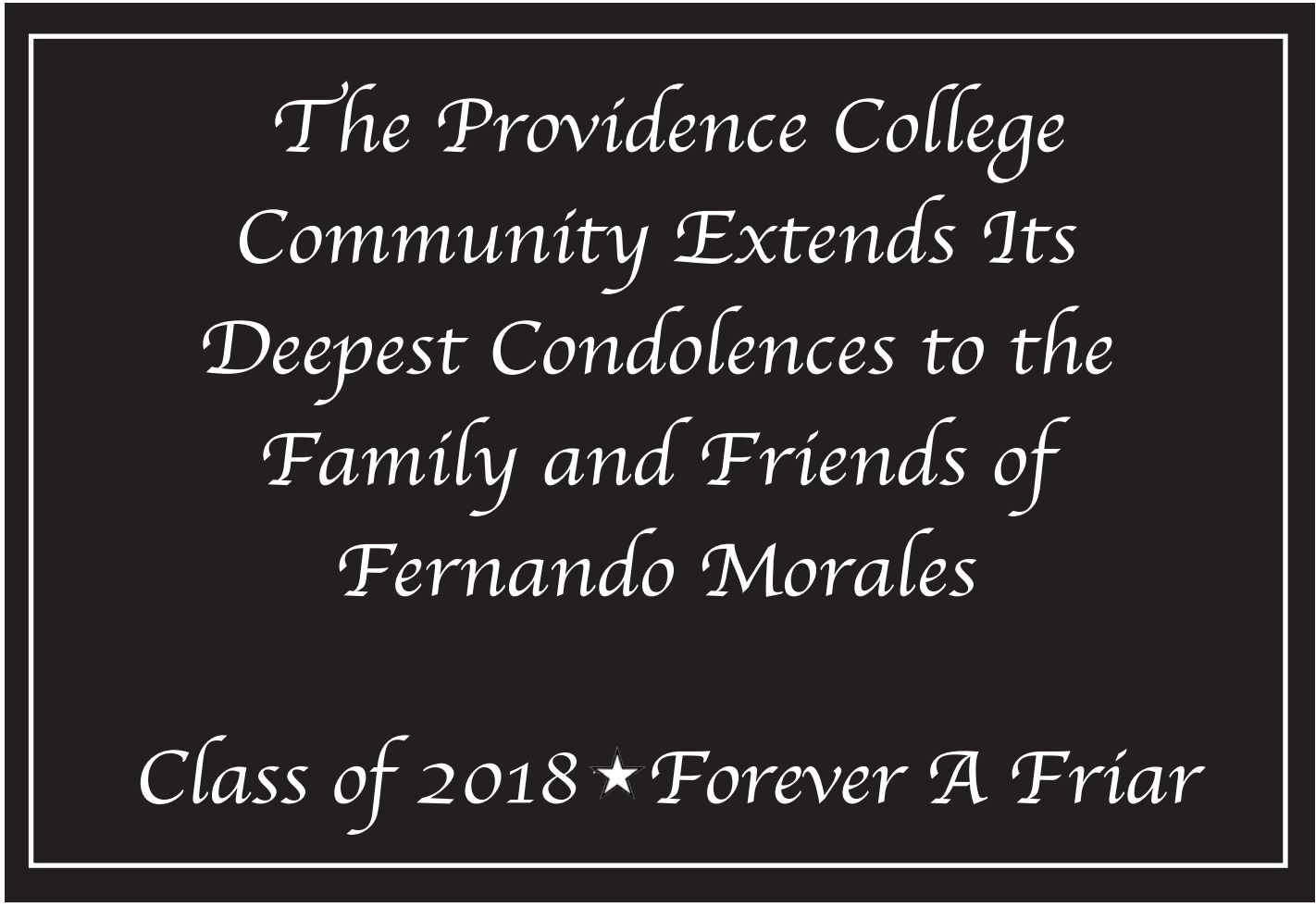
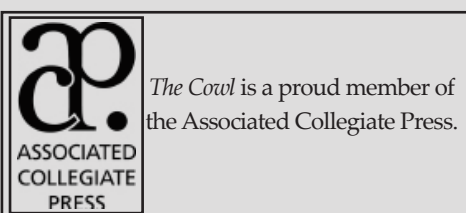
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TANGENTS & TIRADES

Become More Involved in the PC Community

As the weather gets colder, the football season is coming to a close. The final two games before the 49th Super Bowl had McPhail's packed this past Sunday afternoon and night. After the Seattle Seahawks won the first game against the Green Bay Packers, a whole new crowd of fans gathered in their Patriots jerseys to watch the big game against the Indianapolis Colts. I have to admit, being a New York Giants fan myself, my friend and I seemed to be the only two people rooting for the Colts. The game was played on a giant flat screen on the stage and the feed was about two seconds behind the other televisions also broadcasting the game. This made it interesting when the Patriots got a touchdown, or did anything remotely good. Half of McPhail's would scream; two seconds later the other half would follow suit. Even though the Patriots (sadly) played an amazing game, with the final score of 45-7, just being in the room, playing some pool, and enjoying some overly buttered popcorn was a great time. It reminded me, after being away on winter break for a month, how much of a united and spirited community PC is. There is always something to do, whether it be attending basketball games, Zumba classes, or a post-Mass bash. Instead of watching all 10 seasons of *Friends* on Netflix, which yes, I know, are amazing, take a walk around PC and get more involved. You won't regret it.

- McKenzie Tavella '18

Please Bring Back Syllabus Week

Those of you who know me are well aware that I am a geek. For those of you who are unfamiliar with my nerdiness, I regret to inform you that I checked the online bookstore every day over break in anticipation of the new and exciting literature I would be reading this semester. Needless to say, I'm a little excited about my classes. Despite being a geek, I have nothing against a good, old-fashioned syllabus week. The majority of you probably know what I mean by "syllabus week," but for the select few of you who may be even geekier than I am, syllabus week is the first week of classes in which you only review your courses' syllabi and do nothing more. It is a week in which students are free from the overwhelming amounts of reading, papers, and projects that will inevitably consume the remainder of their semester. It is a glorious week in which students catch up with the friends they missed over break and ease their way back into waking up early yet again. However, is it just me, or did syllabus week cease to exist this semester? As if our winter break wasn't short enough, mine was cut even shorter by reading assignments due the very first day of classes and unfortunately, the week was only uphill from there. Don't get me wrong, I'm still happy to be back in the classroom, but I could have waited to geek out until after going over my syllabi word for word with professors all week long.

- Jacquelyn Kelley '17



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PHOTOGRAPHY



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MORGAN PEKERA '15/ THE COWL

TOP LEFT: In preparation for the Providence Networking Night, the Career Education Center hosts "Break the Ice Without Falling In," an interactive workshop that teaches how to work the room, create an elevator pitch, and construct important relationships.

TOP RIGHT: Campus Ministry hosts their semi-annual open house where students have the chance to speak to student coordinators and learn about the different clubs and organizations that build community and foster spiritual life at the College.

ABOVE: To honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., students, faculty, and staff participate in the annual MLK Day of Service, sponsored by the office of Cultural Education and Programming, which includes important dialogues and speakers on current social issues, and encourages positive activism.



JESSICA ARTIGLIERE '17/ THE COWL



KRISTINA HO '18/ THE COWL

ABOVE: The Career Education Center sponsors its Providence Alumni Student Networking Night in Slavin's '64 Hall for alumni who want to give back and share their advice, and for students to explore different career options and build lasting relationships.

LEFT: BOP's Tuesday Timeout, "The Roaring 20th," features a screening of The Great Gatsby, plus 1920s style ice cream sundaes, a candy bar, hot chocolate, and a themed craft for students to enjoy.



PROVING PHOTOGRAPHY

What is your New Year's Resolution?



"My new year's resolution is not to have a new year's resolution."

Michelle Ea '16 and Brianna Coley '15



"To make strides into finding an interest that could be a career."

Jake Sutfin '16 and Chris Guerrero '16



"One plate of food at Ray."

Cisco Oller '16



"To find a job!"

Midori Kihara '16



"To go to the gym, get involved, be more optimistic, and make better choices."

Ben Tyler '18, Tyler Mead '18, Sean Sweeney '18, and Christian Hernandez '18



"To travel around the world, be happy, make money, and try new things."

Peggy Jameta '16 and Tracee Yeboah '16



"Drink less, oh, and quit smoking, and keep New Year's resolutions."

-Bridget Jones

PHOTO COURTESY OF INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Photos Taken By Kristina Ho '18, Assistant Photo Editor



Will Physical Media's Return Last?

by Ryan Charland '18
A&E Staff

FILM

In the midst of the e-book/MP3/digital download revolution, physical media is making an unprecedented comeback. Recent poll results and sale predictions suggest that the world may not favor the electronic over the physical as much as we thought. From vinyl records to printed books, consumers seem to be turning away from the latest and greatest technology in order to embrace the long-established methods of purchasing media.

However, analysts and companies alike are asking the same question: "Can it last?"

One of the most surprising events in the music industry has been the resurrection of the vinyl record format in recent years. After years of declining sales following the introduction of the compact disc in the '90s, record sales began to recover in 2006, eventually leading to what some have titled the "Vinyl Revival." Over the past nine years, vinyl records have dramatically increased in sales, with 2014 seeing an almost 50 percent increase from 2013. In the United States alone, the number of vinyl records sold annually jumped

from under one million in 2006 to nine million in 2014.

This vinyl boom we are witnessing started as a fad and grew into an entire cultural movement. While many initially predicted sales to temporarily increase before falling again, sales have not fallen from one year to the next since 2006. This phenomenon has given rise to "Record Store Day," an annual celebration of the format falling on the third Saturday in April. On Record Store Day, vinyl collectors flock to independent record stores for discounts, rare albums, and unique offerings produced specifically for the event by musicians like Jack

White, The Black Keys, and Childish Gambino. With such a strong cultural push behind it, the Vinyl Revival shows no signs of slowing down.

Equally surprising as the return of the record is the recent fall in e-book sales, as physical, printed books have begun to gain ground once again. Retailers like Barnes & Noble and the UK's Waterstones are reporting a drop in demand for e-readers and e-books. This, coupled with recent poll results by American University linguistics professor Naomi Baron indicating that 92 percent of college students prefer physical books, suggests that paperbacks and hardcovers are not going anywhere for a long time. Baron's survey suggests that headaches and the physical experience of reading a book are the top reasons for the shift back to the physical choice.

Whatever the reasons may be, there will be a demand for physical versions of our favorite novels and albums for years to come. The emotional connection between the consumer and a piece of art is something that is partly established through the tactile experience of playing a record or reading a book. Whether it is the feeling of dropping a needle onto a record, flipping through the pages of a novel, or simply nostalgia, electronic media loses something in its pursuit of convenience. These recent sales turnarounds mean that an all-digital world is still years away from becoming a reality.



PHOTO COURTESY OF lifehacker.com

Zac Brown Band's New Single, Anticipating Fourth Album

by Ryan Cox '18
A&E Staff

MUSIC

The award-winning country group Zac Brown Band released their 16th single this past week with "Homegrown," the first single off of their upcoming fourth album, set to be released later this year. The release of "Homegrown" comes amid a storm of change for the band, as they ended their contract with Atlantic Records and signed a three-way deal with Big Machine Label Group, John Varvatos Records, and Republic Records. Despite this change, "Homegrown" proves to Zac Brown Band fans that they have, as the title of the single suggests, remained true to their roots.

The song opens with more of a country-rock feel than many of the band's past songs, but as lead singer Zac Brown begins the first verse, the sound is still uniquely that of the Zac Brown Band, and fans of the band will feel comfortable with it. Even though the song retains Zac Brown Band's signature country-folk sound, the slight change in style is hard to ignore and may signal an upcoming change or experimentation with sound and style in the upcoming, unnamed album. This is possibly a product of the new

partnership with Big Machine Label Group, whose CEO Scott Borchetta has watched and helped two country stars, country-turned-pop superstar Taylor Swift and country/hip-hop duo Florida-Georgia Line, bridge the gap between country music and other genres. Borchetta told *Rolling Stone Country* that the band has "always been a great live band, as well as a country staple. I think [Zac Brown Band] are entering their most successful and prolific chapter."

Putting the changed but constant sound aside, the song is country at its core. The lyrics paint a picture of the speaker's home: "I got some good friends that live down the street / Got a good-looking woman with her arms 'round me / Live in a small town that feels like home / I got everything I need, and nothing that I don't," Brown sings in the chorus. The comfortable feeling of the entire song is enhanced by the lyrics, and as the song reflects one person's home, it is easy for the listener to connect their own memories of home, good friends, and great nights out. Overall, "Homegrown" is a feel-good, fun song that suggests another stellar album from Zac Brown Band later this year. "Homegrown" has been released to country radio and is available for purchase on iTunes or streaming on Spotify.



PHOTO COURTESY OF aceshowbiz.com

What to Expect from Musicians this Spring

by Dan Gagnon '15
A&E Staff

MUSIC

This spring will prove to be an exciting time for music fans, with several major upcoming releases. Artists such as Imagine Dragons are seeking to continue their streak of pop-rock hits. Others such as Giorgio Moroder (ask your parents who he is) are releasing comeback albums after laying low for several decades. And sadly, artists such as Lil Wayne and Coldplay are releasing what may be their final albums.

Imagine Dragons—*Smoke + Mirrors*
Release Date: February 17, 2015

Smoke + Mirrors promises to be one of the most anticipated worldwide releases of 2015. The American alternative rock band's debut album *Night Visions* (2012) was the most-streamed album on Spotify during 2013, won *Billboard*'s Top Rock Album of 2014, and was certified platinum in 15 countries. So far, two singles have been released: the pop-sounding "I Bet My Life," which has a similar feel to their previous album, and the darker yet bouncy "Gold." Both are exciting tracks and have received large amounts of radio play. *Smoke + Mirrors* promises to be one of the musical highlights of 2015.

Lil Wayne—*Tha Carter V*

Release Date: TBD (Spring 2015)

Weezy is back with his first album since 2013's *I Am Not a Human Being II*. This upcoming release features collaborations with Birdman, Drake, and Christina Milian. Back in 2012, Weezy announced that *Tha Carter V* would be his final album so that he could retire before the age of 35 and spend more time with his children. The album was originally set to be released



PHOTO COURTESY OF fanpop.com

in October 2014, but the release date was changed to Dec. 9 and then to spring 2015 due to a dispute with Birdman and his label Cash Money Records. Four singles have been released, including "Believe Me (ft. Drake)" and "Start a Fire (ft. Christina Milian)," which was debuted at the American Music Awards in November. If the singles are any indication, Weezy's final album will live up to his fans' high expectations.

Giorgio Moroder—*74 is the New 24*
Release Date: TBD (Spring 2015)

Legendary Italian disco musician, producer, and electronic dance music pioneer Giorgio Moroder will release his first album in 30 years this spring. Best known for his synth disco music, for co-writing and producing several of disco superstar Donna Summer's

biggest hits, and for writing the song "Danger Zone" for the movie *Top Gun*, Moroder made a surprise comeback in 2013 when he was featured on Daft Punk's *Random Access Memories*. The 74-year-old Moroder's new album seeks to prove the irrelevance of age in defining musical relevancy. The single "74 is the New 24" sounds much more like Daft Punk than classic disco or "Danger Zone," and has the potential to be one of the biggest electronic hits of the year. Vocalists featured on the forthcoming album will include Sia, Britney Spears, Mikky Ekko, and Charli XCX. The album is sure to be popular among fans of Daft Punk and fans of electronic music in general.

Coldplay—*Head Full of Dreams*

Release Date: TBD (late spring

2015)

Only eight months after *Ghost Stories* (2014), Coldplay is already finishing another album *Head Full of Dreams*. More importantly, Coldplay vocalist Chris Martin has said that it could be the group's last album, at least for the foreseeable future. In an interview on *BBC Radio 1*, Martin said, "It's our seventh thing and the way we look at it, it's like the last *Harry Potter* book. That's not to say that there won't be another thing one day, but this is the completion of something." Coldplay's previous album *Ghost Stories* has sold over 794,000 copies and reached #1 on the *Billboard* Alternative Albums chart. After an enormously successful career, only time will tell the direction that Coldplay takes for their final album.

Don't Overlook HBO Series Looking



PHOTO COURTESY OF deadline.com

by Mary McGreal '15
A&E Staff

TELEVISION

HBO's *Looking*, referred to Brian Moylan of *The Guardian* as "TV's only gay show," is back for its second season. While *Looking* may currently be "TV's only gay show," it exists in the legacy of shows such as *The L Word* and *Queer as Folk*, but perhaps, as some critics suggest, with not nearly as much excitement as its predecessors. Claims of boredom aside, *Looking* tackles life on the macro level—a group of young friends living and loving in San Francisco.

Jonathan Groff stars as Patrick Murray, a video game designer with a relatively quiet personality—in the first episode of the season, Patrick tries to convince his rowdier friends that hiking and bird

watching are better ways to spend their weekend away, as opposed to going to a wild dance party in the woods. Dom (Murray Bartlett) and Agustín (Frankie J. Álvarez) round out the group as Patrick's less pulled together and slightly wilder friends. Patrick has his secrets though, in the form of an affair with his charming British boss Kevin Matheson (Russell Tovey), who is in a long-term relationship.

Tovey is not new to the small screen, but he may be unfamiliar to American audiences, having starred in BBC's *Being Human* and the film and stage versions of *The History Boys*. With season two comes the return of many supporting characters including Raúl Castillo as Richie Ventura, Patrick's ex, and Lauren Weedman as Doris, Dom's sidekick and best friend. Additionally, Daniel Franzese of *Mean Girls* fame joins the cast as Eddie, a potential love interest for Agustín, who works at a homeless shelter and is

HIV-positive.

All of the actors have impressive resumes, and *Looking* unfolds more as a highly stylized documentary than a daytime soap—realistic enough to forget it is scripted, but not so dramatic that it seems contrived. *Looking* barely manages to sidestep accusations of whitewashing with characters such as Agustín and Richie, but it still is essentially the story of a white, gay man. According to *Billboard.com*, there was a "45 percent decrease from the show's January 19, 2014, debut, which was seen by 338,000 viewers" in regards to the first episode of season two. The show may be losing its appeal to a broader audience, which would be a shame. Critics may call the show boring, but one element that is impossible to deny is the gorgeous imagery and stellar music choices. Watch *Looking* if only for the song that plays at the end of each episode.

For the viewer with dreams of West Coast living, who knows how realistic it actually is? Either way, *Looking* sells the idea of long weekends, brunch, and getting by in San Francisco with ease. And for those of us who are not gay, bisexual, or otherwise identified men living a fairly comfortable life in San Francisco, it is difficult to untangle fact from fiction—episode one has Patrick, Dom, and Agustín floating down a river right into the middle of a gay beach, later ending up at the abovementioned magic forest dance party. But it is HBO, and HBO does unrealistic realism so well (What do you mean, Khaleesi's dragons aren't real!?) it is best to just accept *Looking* for what it is, whatever that may be.

Fashion for the New Year: What to Expect in 2015

by Christina D'Adamio '16
A&E Staff

FASHION

As iconic fashion designer Oscar de la Renta once stated, "The great thing about fashion is that it always looks forward." With the start of 2015, excitement is in the air. It is a new year in fashion, and designers will not disappoint. Designers are showcasing their Resort 2015 collections and keeping those fashion fanatics on their toes.

While spring may be months away, there is no time like the present. Long live the dated delights of 2014; prepare for a fashionable 2015 by refreshing your wardrobe. Playful prints, streamlined silhouettes, and eye-catching accessories are in trend this season. *Vogue*, the iconic global fashion and lifestyle magazine, predicts the most noteworthy styles.

From suede to gingham, designers are opting for velvet leathers and lightweight cottons. Suede jackets, skirts, and pants are the craze. *Vogue* says, "Suede is the new leather." Gingham is back and better than before, and with white and bold color prints, gingham makes a statement. *Vogue* notes that it is, "gamine, fresh, and so very 2015."

White lace is elegant yet sophisticated, and with the option to be made of cotton or silk, this fine fabric crafts the most delicate of garments. Flattering on everyone, this all-white look is breathtaking. *Vogue* says, "White lace is fast becoming fashion's most alluring new staple."

Say goodbye to light wash denim and hello to dark denim. Classic denim jeans are making a comeback. *Vogue* says, "Jeans are coming out of the closet and they are as sharp as any pair of straightforward trousers." Jeans are an office essential, however, leave your frayed, ripped, and overly distressed pairs at home.

To keep you guessing, designers are playing with mismatched accessories. Opt for a sparkly stud in one ear and a beaded hoop in another. *Vogue* says, "Just as intentionally added as the single statement earring, only twice as much fun."

Expect the unexpected this year, and keep an open mind when opting for these *Vogue*-inspired looks. There are plenty of trends to try. Get motivated and search for your inspiration to be bold, bright, and beautiful. Have a delightful new year in fashion.



PHOTO COURTESY OF christinahh.wordpress.com

Three Series to Watch On Netflix If You Haven't



by Periklis Fokaidis '17
A&E Staff

TELEVISION

The Netflix phenomenon has given the millennial generation a way to pass the time. Men and women all over the world spend hours watching a variety of different TV shows and movies streamed right from Netflix. Many Providence College students have memberships and surely used them over break. Here are a variety of different shows that will help pass the time.

***Sons of Anarchy*:** This show, created by Kurt Sutter, stars Charlie Hunnam as Jax Teller, Katey Sagel as Gemma Teller Morrow, and lastly, Ron Perlman as Clay Morrow. Touching upon the Northern California motorcycle club culture, this series focuses on a club called the Sons of Anarchy Motor Cycle Club Redwood Originals, known as Sons of Anarchy for short. The club owns and operates an auto body repair shop by day, and conduct in highly illegal activity by night, characteristic of a gang. SAMCRO sells guns to a variety of different gangs in their area, and in return makes these gangs promise to keep their illegal business out of their hometown. Hunnam's character Jax is the series' protagonist; he serves as the club's vice president. Jax tries to make the dangerous way of life that he and his friends lead a little safer. His stepfather, played by Perlman, struggles with a variety of decisions, as some of them lead to murder. Finally, Sagel's character Gemma is the glue that holds the club together. She works to keep everyone happy, even if she compromises her own. Overall, the show provides a very good insight into a style of life which many people are not quite familiar with. There are seven seasons available for

direct streaming from Netflix and it is rated an 8.7/10 on IMDB.

***Sherlock*:** *Sherlock* is a show based on the work of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's detective stories. This series stars two of England's most recognized actors: Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock Holmes, and Martin Freeman as John Watson. The series consists of three one-hour-and-a-half long episodes per season. Each episode is presented as if it were a movie. The two men pursue a variety of different cases that are all solved in a short amount of time. Sherlock's primary job is a detective, and he is very intelligent, introspective, and, at times, arrogant. John Watson is a doctor who balances Sherlock out. The two work in conjunction to keep London safe. There are three seasons available on Netflix streaming. The series is rated 9.3/10 on IMDB.

***New Girl*:** *New Girl* stars Zooey Deschanel as a woman fresh out of a rough relationship. Deschanel's character Jessica moves into an apartment with three other men. Her three roommates are named Nick, Schmidt, and Winston. Nick is a bartender, Schmidt obsesses over his social status, and Winston is a former competitive athlete who will not let his dream go. Together these four characters form a bond and create a somewhat dysfunctional family dynamic within their apartment. This series captures the group's daily interactions, which will surely have the viewer laughing. This series is rated a 7.9/10 on IMDB.

These three are only a few of the many other series Netflix has to offer. There are a variety of other comedies, dramas, and thrillers available to the Netflix member, providing something for everyone out there.



FAMILY FOREVER

by David Martineau '18
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

The dig site was blocked off by lines of yellow tape, but Marcus Johnson was undeterred. Ducking underneath one of the barriers, he made his way toward a group of men gathered around a small patch of dirt. A short distance behind them, the tall, gleaming digging suits stood in silence. They were the latest model made by the premier manufacturers of enhancement suits in the world. Marcus had never been fond of them. The other archaeologists joked with him about it—it was 2100 A.D. after all, and it would be madness to embark on such a complicated dig without access to the latest and greatest technologies the world had to offer. Still, Marcus would have preferred to work without the metal monsters looming constantly over him.

Approaching his colleagues, Marcus saw that they were staring at a small hole in the ground. Their interest in this hole had been enough for them to exit their digging suits, and Marcus knew that could only mean one thing—they had found something.

Pushing his way between two of them, he glanced at the most experienced archaeologist among them, Jack Henry, a friend of his. "What is it?" Marcus asked.

Jack gestured at the hole. "See for yourself..."

Marcus knelt, not knowing what to expect. The area they were excavating had been leveled in the catastrophic floods of 2091, buried under miles of silt and rock that had been ripped from the ocean floor by the swells. No one lived here anymore. The

area had only just been approved for excavation by the World Council, who were insecure about the dangers it could pose. No one had any need for ancient relics...

Marcus Johnson had convinced them otherwise. The eastern coast of the United States had been populated by a diverse and fruitful culture. He would not let it go undiscovered...or unremembered.

What was in the hole was far less dramatic than Marcus had expected. It was a backpack, beaten and weathered, but astonishingly intact. Gently, he reached into the hole, his gloved hands extracting the bag with practiced caution. Placing it on the ground, he unzipped its main pouch.

Inside, he found very little. A pencil case, a sweater, a pair of books with pages withered and wrinkled and nearly illegible. Frowning, Marcus was nearly tempted to throw the backpack back in...

But before he did, his probing hands found one last thing, hidden deep within the old, dirty backpack. He pulled it out and looked it over. It was a notebook, its cover decorated with a floral design. With gentle fingers, Marcus opened it, and his eyes beheld what lay within. He knew right away that he had found something special.

"It's a journal," he said.

The weeks passed like days. The excavation was accelerated almost immediately when word of the find reached the World Council. But Marcus did not join his comrades in digging up what remained. He spent his time in his laboratory, deciphering the faded, almost unreadable words that were written on the journal's pages. He scanned, photographed, and analyzed every page. He learned.

The notebook was the journal of a

college student, who had attended one of the many institutions on the eastern seaboard. It detailed four whole years, with each day transcribed in stunning detail. Marcus was astonished, and though his scientific professionalism urged him not to, he began to read in greater depth.

It did not take him long to learn that the name of the school was Providence College. The name wasn't familiar to him, but to the nameless voice of the journal's owner, it seemed to mean something profound. The journal was filled with stories—tales of professors good and bad, of love and parties and reading, of winter and spring breaks and long, lovely summers. Two days stood out to Marcus most of all. The first was dated September 1, 2011: orientation started today. I was so nervous! I didn't know if I could really do this. I miss my parents, my brothers, and all of my friends. But as the day went on, I felt a lot better. Everyone here is so nice and helpful! They keep talking about us all being a "Friar Family"...I can really feel it. I think I'm going to like it here.

The second was denoted as May 16, 2015: This is it. I graduate tomorrow. Four long years are coming to an end. I'm so happy, but I'm worried about the future. Will I ever see my friends from college again? Will I get a good job, raise a family, live a good life? I don't know for sure, but I know one thing...PC will always be a home to me, my home away from home. What they said was true: we are a Friar Family, and we will be forever...

Marcus laid the journal down and sat back in his chair, running his fingers through his hair. He thought quietly for a moment, and then he got up.

The world of 2100 A.D. was a world that prized advancement over

sentiment. Antique machines and outdated works were cast aside in favor of shining metal and digital information. But the raw power in the words he had read moved Marcus in a way he had never been moved. There was something about this voice's simple values, the emphasis on family and friendship, that made everything in his world seem...insignificant. Marcus knew he had to change that.

Picking up the journal, Marcus marched out of the door to his lab and headed towards the site's compound. He needed to speak to the World Council, to tell them that they were all wrong, that this was what they should be looking for, not new machines and novel ideas. This was more important than that, and Marcus knew that this simple idea, this concept of "family," was something that needed to live on.

Forever...

Torrent

by Johnathan Coppe '18
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

As a torrent and a gale
And wind beat down a tree,
So does this world of noise assail
Each gentle soul it sees
To tear down every rampart held
To stay the pure and sweet
Like poisons sent by wicked men
To the lips they meet.

For life cannot long feed on rot
And stay with strength and health,
So deadly food takes on a veil
Of pleasure in its stealth,
To catch each wand'ring eye by means
Of promising delight
When death it swiftly brings to those
Deceived by errant sight.

The world will sing that in each sin
Is freedom and sweet light
When blindness, darkness it does bring
And silent death in spite.
To arms my brethren! Take the Cross!
It leads us to repose
There in the goodness of the Christ
Whose Mercy this heart knows.

Photo courtesy of Mattox

Smokewisp

by Branan Durbin '16
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

Seeming to nearly shoot,
swirling through sacred air,
dancing as you rise
to the palace of the Almighty.
Born of an extinguishing,
your figure flits yet stands,
a mystifying presence fast lost.
Is that when you are
finally with God?

What would it be to be you,
quickly created,
powerfully weak.
Dancing in that strange,
unpredictable glory,
then gone.
Ride our prayers,
carry our intentions to the throne.
Isn't that what you saints do,
anyway?

Photo courtesy of anitab000

Zone

by Jose Martinez '16
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

It was a strange town with strange customs. Quite frankly, that was putting it nicely.

Granted, there was nothing that wasn't strange about us to begin with. Gifted with strange telepathic powers from birth, I would give away every luxury I own to anyone who could observe me, a friend, or a family member, using said abilities and then recognizing these abilities as "normal."

I say this because of the fact that as abnormal as my family and I are, and anyone else who is gifted with these abilities (which is about 95 percent of the world's population, the last I heard), this was a strange town we chose to move into. A week into the move, on a Friday if memory serves me correctly, after walking onto the front porch to get the mail, I noticed that everyone on our block was outside on their respective lawns. They were spread out, absorbing the sun's rays, relaxing without a care in the world. And it was not an exaggeration that meant a lot of people on our block were relaxing—literally everybody on our block took to their lawns to relax. It was as if the street had a weekly festival. Every Friday, in order for everyone in the town to better bond, they would take to social gatherings such as this one. They relax nearly all day on their lawns or their neighbors'

lawns, talking over whatever events occurred during the week. As far as privacy went, it did not exist during this day; everyone had their arms wide open to whatever social interaction came their way.

I get the mail out of the mailbox, set it on the living room table, and decide to walk along my street to observe how my neighbors interact with each other. Some families that are skilled in cuisine put out tables of food and drinks for whoever wants any; other families open their big lawns for games of sport. Some were even musically gifted and held "concerts" on their lawns.

I pass a couple of more houses before I finally see her. Mystery Girl.

A couple of nights after the family moved into the neighborhood, I chose to "set up" the TV before setting everything else up, like a "normal" person would. The reason being that right before our move to this new town, the mailman delivered one last package to our old house. It was the complete series of this anime series that I enjoyed watching, illegally, a series entitled *Sword OverDrive*. I mostly got it in the hope that maybe I could make a few new friends in this new town. Fast forward to our arrival at the house, I dug into one of the many boxes loaded off the moving truck, and being careful not to damage anything, settled into our new house with grace. It was late at night, I was a couple of episodes in before I heard a knock at the living room window. It was a girl, motioning for me to open

it. Considering that I only anticipated for her to say something, I was a bit taken aback when she welcomed herself into my home. She propped herself on the living room floor and was hypnotized for about half an hour of *OverDrive*. I wanted to say something, something like a simple, "Hello, nice to meet you." But just as I was ready to say anything, she got up from her spot and quickly turned to me to say, "Yup, *OverDrive* is some really good stuff," before opening up the window again and vanishing.

The memory fades, and it's today again. I walk over to her, wanting to know why it is that she invited herself to my house and then disappeared without a word of interaction. Except I choose not to say all of that all at once. Instead, I use my telepathy, which can work pretty well from long distances, and get two cups of lemonade from one kind family, putting one in my hand, and the other at Mystery Girl's side, barely touching her knee. I take a couple of sips from my lemonade from my cup before finally deciding to say something.

"Hey."

Nothing.

"You only stayed for an episode you know."

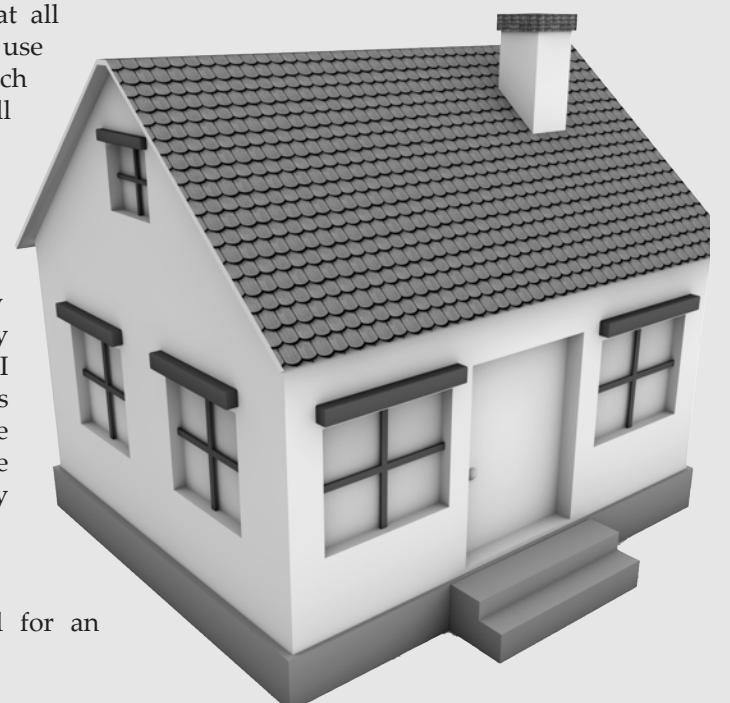
Still nothing.

"If you want, we could finish the series, and perhaps we could find time so that we can talk about how you knew I was watching *OverDrive*."

"That would be nice," she finally says, raising her cup to signal for a toast.

I oblige her request for a toast, taking in the sun and the sugary goodness, and Mystery Girl begins to tell me that much like I can use telepathy to "carry stuff," she can use her to detect things that she feels closest to. I feel a rush of positivity coming into me, a familiar rush that comes over someone when they feel like a new connection, a friendship, is being made.

Photo courtesy of upbeacon.com



Listomania

Matthew, Mark, Luke,
And....

Buddy Cianci

The Red Power Ranger

Tom Brady

Your Mom

Carl

The Girl with the Awesome Face

Disgruntled Otters

Captain Jack Sparrow

Coach Cooley

Shelby, Ohio

Dot from Ray

The IRS



Dust Jacket:

David Villa Madero Oscar Maria de la Renta Muneca Francois John "De Jota" Burke III, esq.

You may recognize David Villa Madero Oscar Maria de la Renta Muneca Francois John "De Jota" Burke III, Esquire, from FIFA '02 where he was a measly 54. If you don't recognize him from there, then you probably have a life.

David learned everything he knows about life—and that's quite a lot—from Clifford the Big Red Dog. His best tricks include: sit, stay, and lay down. That's a good boy. As a young pup he would often pass his days making lists of the soccer players that he dreamed of becoming but in reality never would.

In the year 2015, a mysteriously delayed Y2K computer virus accidentally shot him out of the newest FIFA game. He proceeded to find himself, kill him, and take his place. Unfortunately his real self had sustained a terrible tibia infection and is now working as a lowly editor for a college newspaper. The name of this paper is not disclosed.

Tiffany & Earl

Making PC an emotionally stable place one letter at a time

This week...

Dear Tiffany and Earl,

Lately I've been thinking: Why do I need to go to college? I think I've been so consumed by some sort of social decorum that I've lost any sense of who I am as an individual. My question is this: Do I drop out? Do I follow my dreams?

Best,

Ozy Mandias

Dear Ozzy Osbourne,

Love Black Sabbath, don't eat a bird though... nobody likes H1N1. You go to college so that you have a valid reason to drink Burnett's, Karkov, jungle juice, Natty Daddys, and Four Loko at any given hour of any given day. It's like a perpetual four-year hall pass of chugging, vomiting, rinsing (with the most sterile, cheapest form of vodka), and repeating. If you aren't DV8ing in extreme XS (or whatever you kids do nowadays...RIP Clubbies, or Ava's...aging myself here), then no wonder you're having an existential crisis of sorts. Sure, college is, in theory, all about the books and the knowledge, but babe, the fact of the matter is that social decorum should not exist whilst you are at school. Before you drop out, dance on a table, bar, or stage, and belt out "Can't Fight the Moonlight" in leather bell bottoms and a choker (yes, I acknowledge your potential to be a male, but who doesn't look good in a choker and leather?). Drink some Henney and rage at the raunchiest house party you can find. Screw social decorum, just be you. And if you don't think you can conform or find that you enjoy this college life, then no need to worry, your dreams of being a tap dancing Johnny Cash impersonator will always be awaiting you.

XOXO

Tiff

Dear Social Squid,

Dreams? What other dreams?

College is the dream. If you drop out you forfeit the dream, my man.

Earl knows who you are. You're a social butterfly on the verge of bursting out of your cocoon.

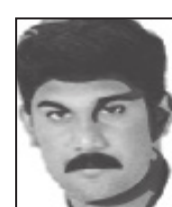
It's time to bloom, Charlie; embrace the ways of the the Earl and stay in college for all eternity.

Disclaimer

The Tiffany & Earl feature is a satirized account of Providence College. Both the question and answers are purely works of fiction. Tiffany & Earl are anti-heroes whose comments ultimately satirize the stereotypes they each represent.



Tiffany



EARL


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the
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IN ACTION

Join the Division of Marketing and Communications for a reception to celebrate the opening of *One Voice, Common Goals: The PC Brand in Action*. This exhibition features graphic and editorial expressions of the PC brand identity, and will be on display until June 1.

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Women's Hockey Sweeps UNH

by **Gretta Schultz '17**
Sports Staff

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

The Women's Hockey Team defeated UNH in their first game back. In two home-and-home games, the Friars were able to defeat their rival. UNH had defeated the Friars in early December by a score of 5-0. Before the game, the team was led by forward Beth Hanrahan '15 who has scored eight goals in her last nine games. Hanrahan and Haley Frade '15 have played in every game of their careers.

In two home games, Providence beat UNH and improved their record to 4-14-4 overall. Providence opened the first game with a score early in the first half with a shot by Liv Halvorson '17. Kendra Goodrich '17 and Frade each assisted on Halvorson's goal. Madison Sansone '18 widened the gap for the Friars with her second career goal, which healed up as the game winning goal.

The Friars' offense was strong, and their defense complemented that nicely by shutting UNH down for the majority of the game. Providence goaltender Allie Morse '16 stopped 21 of the 22 shots attempted during the game. After their defeat of UNH at home, the Friars traveled to UNH the following day to take on UNH once again in Durham, New Hampshire.

The Providence defense stood strong once again in their second game, only allowing one goal by UNH the whole game. Their second win improved their record to 5-14-4. Like the first game, the Providence offense came out shooting. Brooke Simpson '15 scored the first goal 5:26 into the first period after collecting a pass that bounced off the leg pad of a UNH player.

UNH scored shortly after, but the tie score did not last long, with Hanrahan scoring off of a power play in the second half. Brooke Boquist

'18 followed with another score for the Friars, as did Cassidy Carels '17 increasing the Friars lead to 4-1. Morse stopped 22 of the 23 shots she faced during this game.

After two wins over UNH, the Friars looked to take on Maine at home. Before the game against Maine, Hanrahan was named Hockey East Warrior Player of the Week. She recorded three points in her games against UNH the previous week. She is currently tied for third in the Hockey East for conference game-winning goals.

Maine entered the game on Sunday with a 7-11-13 record and a third place ranking in the WHEA with 13 points. Providence fell to Maine with a final score of 2-0. While the Friars' offense was not able to get any points on the board, goalie Morse still had a strong game stopping 27 shots. Even though the Friars outshot Maine 30-29, including 12-8 in the third period, Maine goalie Meghann Treacy stopped every shot taken and led her team to the shutout win. The Friars will take on UConn in a home-and-home series this weekend.



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Who Has Been the Most Impressive Player for PC Men's Hockey?

Trevor Mingoia

Tom Parisi

Over the last few months, Trevor Mingoia '16 has proven himself the breakout player of the Friars' hockey team. While opposing teams have devoted significant time and energy to stopping last year's star players like Ross Mauermann '15 and Nick Saracino '16 others have stepped up to provide the goal support and none have done so more consistently than Trevor Mingoia.

As a transfer from Union, he has only been eligible to play since halfway through last season. Through the back half of that season and the first month or so of this season, he had put up good numbers, but remained under the radar. He is a pure goal scorer, rarely flashy but always efficient and able to find the back of the net.

Mingoia hit his stride in November when he began a hot streak with 14 points in 11 games, including a four game goal streak. He showed himself to be one of the best players on the ice game after game. He currently leads the team in points, with 20, and in goals with 11, the only Friar in double digits.

He has also been a force on the Friars' power play, which has been lacking at times this season. His five power play goals also rank first on the team and his 4 game winners have him tied with usual line-mate Shane Luke '15 for the team lead.

-Veronica Lippert '15

While the Providence College Men's Hockey Team has seen its fair share of ups and downs this season, there has been one constant anchoring the Friars' defense. That constant is Tom Parisi '16, who has been extremely impressive this season. Parisi has been instrumental in aiding the Friars' mid-season surge after an early season slump, and has been a pleasant surprise amongst the defensive unit.

Parisi is having his best statistical season as a Friar, posting an eye-popping plus 12 when he is on the ice. In other words, when he is out on the ice, Providence has scored 12 more goals than its opponent. This is not only indicative of Parisi's offensive prowess as a two-way defenseman; it also speaks to his progression as a defenseman. He and the fellow Friar defensemen have paved the way for Jon Gillies '16 to post a stellar 2.02 goals per game average.

Offensively, Parisi has been lethal from his defense position, as his three goals are tied with Jon Gilmour '16 for the most amongst Providence defensemen. His seven assists have him tied with Anthony Florentino '17 for most amongst defenders, speaking to his ability to distribute the puck. Overall, his 10 points in total lead all Providence defenders, a unit stacked with NHL draftees and highly-touted prospects.

Tom Parisi has made a huge step forward this season, leading many to regard him as one of the better players, and the most impressive player, on this fast-improving Providence College Men's Hockey squad.

-Joey Ciccarello '16



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Editor's Corner: Should the NBA Realign?

by **DJ Anderson '16**
Sports Editor

COLUMN

Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban, one of the most successful and passionate owners in all of professional sports, brought up a very interesting change earlier this year. Cuban said that his league, the National Basketball Association, has a very serious problem that needs to be addressed. In the past few seasons, it has become clear that the NBA is a one-sided league. If not for LeBron James and the Eastern Conference dominating Miami Heat, the East would have been considered a Western Conference punching bag. People have to face the facts; the East has become a shell of its former self.

Even after LeBron James decided to stay in the East when he went back to his hometown Cleveland Cavaliers, there is still no reason to believe in the conference as a whole. The sad truth is that we are now long removed from Bird's Celtics, Isaiah's Pistons, and Jordan's Bulls facing off in huge regular season match-ups. At this point, basketball fans are begging for early 2000's eastern matchups such as Allen Iverson's 76ers against Vince Carter's Raptors.

As ridiculous as this entire argument

sounds, it holds a lot of validity. If the season were to end today, the bottom three seeds in the East would be occupied by the Milwaukee Bucks, the Miami Heat, and the Brooklyn Nets. Respectively, these teams hold records of 21-20, 18-23, and 17-24. This is an alarming fact in a league which rarely sees teams grab playoff spots with subpar records. On the other side of the league, the Oklahoma City Thunder and the New Orleans Pelicans would both miss the Western Conference playoffs if the season were to end today.

These teams currently sit at 21-20 and 20-21, and feature Kevin Durant, Russell Westbrook, and Anthony Davis, three of the best young players in the league. However, the win-loss records of the Pelicans and Thunder have a lot to do with the level of competition that they consistently face. An average team in both the East and the West has played nearly 10 to 12 more in-conference than out-of-conference games. This equates to a much greater degree of difficulty in the west than the east, where only one conference faces a tough test on a nearly-nightly basis. Quite frankly, I don't think that people can take many more matchups involving the Philadelphia 76ers and New York Knicks.

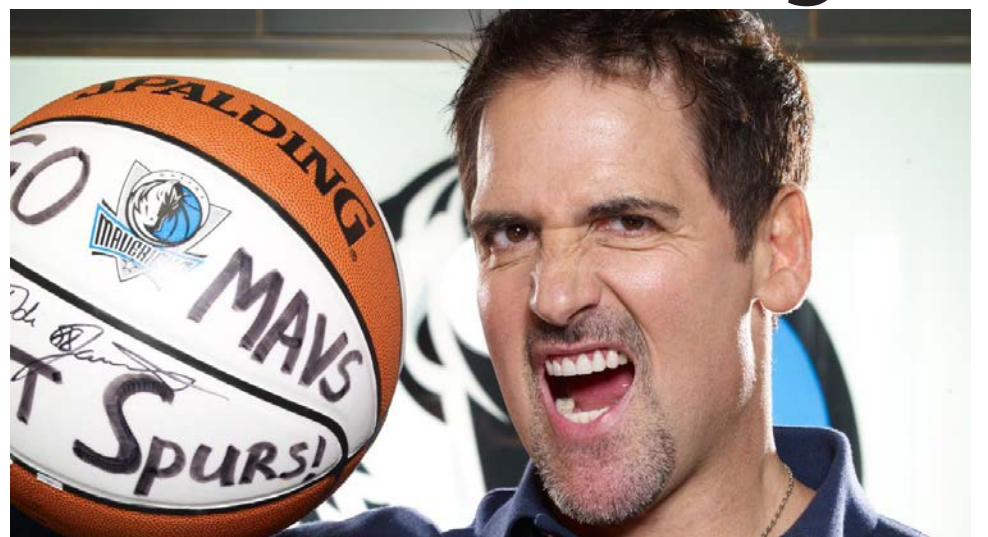


PHOTO COURTESY OF PARADE.COM

This is where Cuban's plan comes in. On November 27, 2014, Cuban suggested that the NBA consider realignment. In his version of the realignment, Cuban said that the San Antonio Spurs, the Houston Rockets, the New Orleans Pelicans, and his Mavericks would move to Eastern Conference, with the Chicago Bulls, the Indiana Pacers, the Detroit Pistons, and the Milwaukee Bucks moving to the East. This type of move would really bolster the bottom portion of the Eastern Conference, and would not inflict too much harm upon the West. In fact, there are probably many Western Conference owners that are in

the same boat as Cuban, waking up every morning with crossed fingers on the subject of conference realignment.

It is simply too difficult to make the playoffs in the Western Conference at the moment. There is no way that teams like the Pelicans and Hornets should miss the NBA playoffs when the Heat and Nets are making it in on the other side. If the season continues to trend in this direction, Adam Silver and the other members of the NBA decision making process should really consider making a change.



SPORTS

Getting it Dunn for the Friars *Kris Dunn Wins Big East Player of the Week*

by Bryan Blum '17
Sports Staff

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Providence College community has waited two long years for Kris Dunn '17 to be fully healthy, and it has been well worth the wait. Coming out of high school as the top point guard recruit by both Rivals.com and Scout.com, the former McDonald's All-American has been named to *Sporting News's* Second Team Mid Season All-American, and was named Big East Player of the Week after leading the Friars to wins over both Butler and Georgetown.

Plagued by a shoulder injury his first two seasons, Dunn missed the first nine games his freshman year and only played in four games last season before having season-ending surgery on his shoulder. This year, Dunn appears to be fully healthy and has lived up to hype that he carried over from high school.

Dunn averaged 31.4 points and 10.1 rebounds per game during his senior year at New London High School and lead his team to an undefeated state championship his junior year. He was also named to the All-State Team three times in his career before attending Providence College.

Now in his first year without injury problems, Dunn has averaged 13.8 ppg and 7.6 apg, leading the country in assists. He is also 10th in the country in steals, averaging 2.59 stpg. His offensive and defensive presence has been one of the main reasons for the Friars 14-5 start to the season.

In the comeback 66-62 victory over Butler on Jan. 6, Dunn had a career-high 25 points, scoring 20 points in the second half. He also contributed eight



Dunn '17RS handling the ball during his freshman year.

PHOTO COURTESY OF COLLEGE BASKETBALL TALK.NBCSPORTS.COM

rebounds, six assists, and two blocks. After trailing 36-29 at halftime, Head Coach Ed Cooley benched all of his starters besides Dunn and LaDontae Henton '15, starting the second half with reserves Ted Bancroft '14GS, Junior Lomomba '16, and Paschal Chukwu '18. Chukwu came through in the clutch, hitting two free-throws with nine seconds left to seal the victory for the Friars.

Against Georgetown on Jan. 10, Dunn once again led the Friars to a 60-57 overtime victory over the Hoyas. In overtime, Dunn scored eight of the team's 10 points, outscoring Georgetown 8-7 in the extra session. His most important points came from two free throws in the final 10 seconds

to seal the three-point victory for the Friars. Dunn also added nine assists and three steals in the win at the Dunkin' Donuts Center.

Although Providence lost 83-70 against St. John's in their most recent game on Jan. 14, Dunn played well with a double-double, scoring 17 points and dishing out 10 assists. He also grabbed seven rebounds and had two steals in the losing effort.

However, the Friars bounced back from their loss to defeat Creighton on the road 74-65. Once again, Kris Dunn led the offense dishing out seven assists and scoring 17 of his 21 points in the second half in Providence's third straight win over the Blue Jays. With the win, the Friars currently

stand at 4-2 in the Big East, second in the conference behind fourth ranked Villanova.

The Friars are also projected to make the NCAA Tournament for the second year in a row according to *ESPN's* Joe Lunardi. Although it is still early in the season in a conference that currently has seven teams projected to make the tournament, this early season success of the team with a healthy Dunn leading the offense is very promising for future success in one of the toughest conferences in the country.

Kris Dunn and the rest of the Friars look to continue their success when they play next at home against Xavier on Jan. 22.

Power and Parity Remain in the Big East *Big East Conference Shows Semblance of Former Dominance*

by Nate Svogun '16
Sports Staff

COLUMN

When the new Big East formed back in 2013, the updated conference lineup certainly drew some naysayers. There were folks who said that Big East men's basketball would never be the same power conference that it had been for so many years, especially with the departure of established winners such as Syracuse, Louisville, and Connecticut. Many of these naysayers also doubted the legitimacy of Big East newcomers such as Creighton and Butler—despite their respective successes coming into the realignment.

But the Big East has quieted the critics so far this season, producing an impressive amount of legitimate contenders for an NCAA tournament berth. Current Big East leader Villanova is in the conversation as one of the best teams in the country, ranked fourth nationally. At 17-1 on the year, Villanova's only loss came to another Big East team, the often-overlooked Pirates of Seton Hall, who have quietly worked their way to a 13-4 record on



Villanova and Georgetown squaring off in a huge Big East contest. PHOTO COURTESY OF WASHINGTON TIMES.

the season, 3-2 in Big East competition. Although #24 Seton Hall is the only other team in the Big East ranked in the top 25 nationally, the case can be made for more than half of the conference. Our defending conference champion Friars have a 14-5 overall record, with four wins and two losses in Big East play. With Ed Cooley at the helm, and the stellar play of LaDontae Henton '15 and Kris Dunn '17, the Friars could very well repeat as Big East champions.

Georgetown and DePaul also boast 4-2 records in conference play, and St. John's, although currently sitting on a 1-4 conference record, remains dangerous. Even Creighton, the only team in the Big East without an in-conference win, has a victory over 18th-ranked Oklahoma on their resume.

The fact that every team in the conference has at least one loss in Big East play could end up being important as the NCAA bracket-makers do their

research at the season's end. The parity in the Big East, combined with its strong non-conference play across the board has led some experts to speculate that six to seven teams from the Big East could make the NCAA tournament this year.

ESPN's Joe Lunardi has certainly been a believer in the power of the new Big East this season, giving the conference seven bids in a recent edition of Bracketology, a thoroughly researched predictor of the NCAA tournament based on current standings that gets updated throughout the season. Lunardi felt that the Big East deserved more bids than any other conference due to stellar nonconference play, although he stressed that five or six bids would be more reasonable to expect by season's end, once the "usual in-fighting" starts.

All things considered, there is no doubt that the new Big East has shown great potential in its second year. And with each crucial conference win that the Friars accumulate, their case is strengthened for another NCAA tournament berth.