



Committee on Campus Climate Releases Findings



Dr. Rankin, from Rankin & Associates, discusses her findings regarding PC's campus climate to a crowd of students and faculty on Monday, January 27.

SAADIA AHMAD '14 / THE COWL

by Kathleen McGinty '16
Asst. News Editor

CAMPUS EVENTS

Dr. Susan Rankin from Rankin & Associates, an organization which has conducted over 120 assessments evaluating the work and learning environments of colleges and organizations across the country, visited Providence College this past Monday, January 27 to present the findings of the Campus Climate Focus Groups Study that was conducted on campus in October of 2013. Intending to identify successful initiatives, uncover challenges, and develop strategic initiatives, the focus groups study illuminated divergent perceptions of the campus climate and perceptions of negative stereotyping and indicated a need for additional education and awareness about diversity.

"I can never be resting until every person on this campus feels comfortable," said Fr. Brian J. Shanley, O.P., in his opening

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A&E Writer Applauds Aerie's Anti-Photoshop Natural Beauty Campaign

by Katie Puzycki '17
A&E Staff

FASHION

Over the past couple of weeks, American Eagle store Aerie—a loungewear and underclothing boutique for girls—has launched a new campaign called "Aerie Real," which stands as part of an effort to recognize that there is more than one body type in the real world. Aerie's recent release of photography for their 2014 advertisements features completely untouched models; there is no airbrushing of beauty marks, stretch marks, fat, or even tattoos, just the models in their natural states of beauty.

The modeling industry's harsh standards for supermodels have undoubtedly created an unrealistic sense of body image for females and males alike. Since the target age for Aerie's customers ranges from high school to college students, this campaign becomes even more important. The teenage mentality is that everyone wants to be as skinny and seemingly perfect as the models they see in magazines, on television ads, and elsewhere.

AERIE/ Page 13



Jenny Altman, above, an Aerie stylist and brand strategist, helped spearhead the new movement.

Photo courtesy of leadinglady.com

Sophomore Starts GoFundMe Campaign after Fine for Dorm Damage

by Andres Taborda '15
News Editor

CAMPUS NEWS

Students in the on-campus dormitories are no strangers to incurring fees. Students are usually alerted about the fines through an email and/or a posting in a common area. However, one Providence College student took to the Internet with a personal fine he received from the College.

On the first evening back for the spring semester, Joe McElhiney '16 and his roommates, who reside in Bedford Hall, found themselves with a broken door.

The damage, done by the residents themselves, was substantial enough to require a replacement. After taking responsibility, McElhiney was fined with a \$3,000 fee for a new door.

The incident happened just after midnight on Tuesday, January 21.

"For some reason our card access was not working," said McElhiney in a phone interview with *The Cowl*. He continued, "We were given

a temporary code, but that code expired at midnight." The residents of the room, however, did not make it home by the time the code expired and found themselves without access to their apartment.

It was then that with a kick to the knob area, a part of the door shattered and the gentlemen found themselves with access to their room, but a completely useless door. According to McElhiney, they were "not trying to break it."

By 11:45 a.m., the door with electronic locking and opening systems had been replaced.

McElhiney credits his roommate, JB Wendt '16, with the next move.

The residents of the apartment took to online fundraising campaigns to help defray the personal cost of the door replacement fee. They started an account

and began fundraising.

FUND/ Page 4

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PRO-CHOICE OR PRO-LIFE?

Two Opinion pieces offer opposite views on page 7.

Also in Opinion:

Cowl alums encourage students to attend more Men's Basketball games in a letter to the editor.

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Education Students Create Webinar

by Elizabeth Nako '15
News Staff

STUDENT WORK

Anthony Rodriguez, Ph.D., a member of the elementary and special education faculty here at PC, and his students are making an impact in the world of education. Last semester, Rodriguez and 10 of his 18 students, all seniors from his EDU 470 class, developed a Webinar for both the Golden Apple Foundation of New Mexico and Apex Education on project based learning. Rodriguez, who specializes in mathematics education at both the elementary and high school levels, worked with his class on how to teach students who do not receive a highly effective math career. The Webinar created by Rodriguez and his students will be used for professional development in numerous southwestern U.S. school districts in the next year.

Rodriguez, who originally hails from the Northeast, taught at a public school in New Mexico for 13 years before coming to PC in the fall of 2012. Also, he is a recipient of the 2011 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching, a prestigious award given to excellent educators.

Last year, Rodriguez was invited to attend the "INTEL Teach" and Golden Apple Foundation week-long professional development in New Mexico. Paige Gonsalves, a PC education graduate, who is now a teacher in Las Cruces, N.M., also attended this professional development and discussed her experiences with teaching in Rhode Island. Brian

O'Connell, the executive director of the Golden Apple Foundation, was fascinated in hearing about the teachers in Rhode Island, to which Rodriguez replied, "I got them." O'Connell then asked Rodriguez if he would be interested in starting a Webinar at PC to help out those struggling in school. Rodriguez described how the Webinar project then took off from there with the help of the College's Academic Media Services.

For students who find school boring and meaningless, project based learning offers a real-world relevance for learning and provides a method of teaching for 21st century learning skills. After completing 75-minute projects, students are able to remember what they learn and retain it longer than traditional teaching instruction. Rodriguez discussed how project based learning helps to empower the skill gaps that need to be filled and prepare students for college. The projects attach students' needs and interests so that students want to show up to class, learn, and do better. Rodriguez said this is a "transformation" for both young grammar school and high school students.

Rodriguez talked about how most of his class's assignments that were put on the Webinar were math related. He said all 18 students took this class as an elective and were "a really great group of students." O'Connell and the rest of the Golden Apple Foundation were so impressed with the Webinar that they asked Rodriguez if he could do another one this semester. Rodriguez described, "It is rare to have a professional organization of long tenured and distinguished teachers

not only seeing value in these student-teacher contributions but in viewing them as peers. This group performed like pros, and they are still in student teaching."

The members of Rodriguez's class found the class to be beneficial to their experiences in student teaching. Alexa Murray '14 talked about how "Dr. Rodriguez taught us about the importance of project based learning and how it has enhanced a variety of classrooms." Murray said she enjoyed sharing her experiences with project based learning on the Webinar with

both professionals and her peers. Christine Hartwich '14 described how "[the projects] have numerous benefits such as teamwork among faculty and knowing how to connect math standards." Both Rodriguez and his students saw learning more about project based learning on the Webinar as a positive experience.

Rodriguez invites any students or faculty who wish to learn more about project based learning in all subject areas to attend the conference being run by Beverly Paesano, Ph.D. on March 11.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ

Dr. Rodriguez and his students worked to create a Webinar for numerous school districts.

Climate:

Continued from front page

remarks during the first of two presentations on Monday afternoon.

According to the report, the Office of Institutional Diversity, in its continuing efforts to foster understanding of and respect for diversity, decided to conduct a Campus Climate Assessment. In contracting with Rankin & Associates to facilitate the Campus Climate Focus Groups Study, the College endeavored "to add 'voice'—qualitative data" to the embrace and enhancement of diversity on campus, as stated in the report. Dr. Rankin noted on Monday that this focus group study was a proactive rather than reactive project, adding that she was hired prior to the diversity issues which surfaced on campus last spring and this past fall.

The findings of the assessment, which solicited the input of 71 students, 27 faculty members, and 31 staff members who were invited through the Office of Institutional Diversity to participate after being selected by the Campus Climate Working Group and Fr. Shanley, implicate that not all members of the community feel comfortable and welcome. When divided into 16 focus groups separated by demographic characteristics and

asked four questions concerning their perceptions of the campus climate, the greatest challenges they face, and suggestions they have for improving the campus climate, participants shared a wide array of thoughts and feelings.

"All these findings are not unique to Providence," said Rankin. "They're higher education issues."

In her findings, Rankin observed what she called "a very masculine, patriarchal culture" at the College. The Report on the Climate Assessment Focus Groups concluded that among participants, student-athletes, students with disabilities, white students, and white male faculty members generally found the campus climate to be more positive than international students, white women faculty and staff, faculty and staff of color, members of the LGBTQ community, and participants with non-Catholic religious affiliations.

Negative stereotyping also appeared a concern for an Asian/Asian American student, an LGBTQ student, a white female student, multiple staff members of color, Latino/a students, and a woman faculty member. Participants who expressed this view felt that due to their identity, they experienced negative judgments, assumptions, and profiling.

The discussion of the College's continuing efforts to increase awareness

of and enhance communication about difference and diversity capitalized on the fact that participants felt that these efforts were most often made by members of under-represented groups on campus.

According to Rafael Zapata, associate vice president and chief diversity officer, the College will now turn its focus to reviewing its policies and practices, its communication both inside and outside of the community, and its efforts to educate and raise awareness about differences after assessing the responses of the focus groups.

"This project will not be successful if driven by the administration. It will fail," said Rankin, noting that it will also fail if driven solely by the faculty or solely by students.

Students, faculty, and staff are invited to attend the Action

Forums on Wednesday, February 5 and Wednesday, February 12 to discuss and develop specific actions capitalizing on the strengths and alleviating the challenges identified in the report. The Report on the Climate Assessment Focus Groups and the Campus Climate Presentation have been made available online internally to the College community and can be found on the Office of Institutional Diversity's webpage.

"There is no magic silver bullet," concluded Fr. Shanley. "I think this is the beginning. Hopefully we can show some demonstrable progress."

Rankin seems to think this is a feasible possibility for the College.

"The beauty of Providence is that you're small enough to make change," said Rankin.



SAADIA AHMAD '14 / THE COWL

Matt Smith '16 speaks during the question and answer portion of Monday's climate presentation.



Bursting the PC Bubble

by Carolyn Bothwell '15
News Staff

Satan Worshippers Steal Pope's Blood

On Monday, January 27, thieves stole a relic containing the deceased Pope John II's blood. The relic was originally placed in the Church of San Pietro della Ienca located in the Abruzzo region of Italy, a beloved ski destination of the Pope. Italian police believe that this was a commissioned robbery for the purpose of using the Pope's blood in satanic rituals. The Pope is due to become a saint in April 2014.

U.S. Implementing Security at Olympics

With the 2014 Winter Olympics approaching, the United States is taking extreme measures to protect their athletes, coaches, and onlookers. After a bomb threat from radical Islamists, who have a history of planting hidden bombs, the U.S. has shared its high-tech bomb detection technology with the Olympics security. Furthermore, two American warships are being moved into the Black Sea, along with helicopters and C-17 transport aircrafts that will be waiting on standby. Americans are advised not to wear their uniforms or red, white, and blue outside of the "ring of steel" stadium.

Maryland Mall Shooting

On Saturday, January 25, two employees were killed in a shooting at the Columbia mall. The attacker, Darion Marcus Aguilar, then killed himself after the attack. His peers described Aguilar, who graduated high school less than a year ago, as quiet and skinny. The two victims, Brianna Benlolo and Tyler Johnson, both were employed at Zumiez, a skateboarding store. Aguilar was also an avid skateboarder, but there is no evidence that he knew the victims.

Colorado Student Sets Himself on Fire

On Monday, January 27, a 16-year-old boy set himself on fire in a suicide attempt at Standley Lake High School in Denver, Colo. The school's custodian used a fire extinguisher to put out the flames on the boy. Aside from the critically injured boy, no one else was injured in the incident. It is still unknown how the boy managed to start the fire.

Ah, Rats.

An abandoned Soviet vessel docked in Newfoundland, Canada is finding its way to the British Isles, reports say. The ship, which has been out of commission, was being towed by Canada to the Dominican Republic to be dismantled and turned into steel drums. The curve ball, however, is that the ship is allegedly infested with hungry rats. Without food on the ship, it is believed that the rats have turned to cannibalism and are feasting on each other. After the towline snapped, a storm took the ship out into the Atlantic Ocean and on its way east. Irish and British officials claim they feel no threat, but they might receive some unexpected, hungry visitors soon.

Congress Updates

by Kathleen Sullivan '14
News Editor

STUDENT CONGRESS

The class of 2014 announced that 114 Nights Until Graduation is coming up on Feb. 8, and the theme is "Black and White."

The class of 2017 announced a Valentine's Day event where students from any grade will be able to fill out a survey and be connected with their perfect match.

There is now a fried egg station in Raymond Dining Hall.

Dr. Campbell, the new head of the Personal Counseling Center, spoke briefly and encouraged students to provide any feedback and suggestions they might have. He always welcomes any new ideas.

Congress discussed a piece of legislation that would amend the allocations process in order to help clubs get the funds they deserve and fix a policy that might limit certain clubs from receiving sufficient funds.

The Clubs and Organizations committee introduced two proposed clubs for discussion, the Friar Divers and a break-dance club. Representatives from both clubs spoke about their purposes and answered questions.

Greetings from the 64th Student Congress:

Dear Friars,

Hello and welcome home! We hope you all had a relaxing and joyful holiday. We are so glad to see you back safe. We are very excited to begin working for you on new events, needs, and concerns. It's our favorite thing to do! First, let's talk about what we've been working on:

2014: Raised money for the Katherine Grant Foundation as well as developed legislation regarding the use of Safe Space training for Clubs and Orientation

2015: Purchased rentable Mac chargers for student use in the Info Desk and hosted a dinner for all Commuter students

2016: Are responsible for getting you breakfast sandwiches in the Ruane Café, a new "BlueLight" stand near Davis Hall and the Sophomore Christmas Social

2017: Hosted their first successful apparel fundraiser (raising about \$1,800)

Student Life: Extended the hours of The Ruane Center, added an ATM to lower campus, and worked to revise the housing process with ResLife

Clubs and Orgs: Passed four new proposed clubs including Philosophy, Athlete's Care, Entrepreneurship Society, and Pre-Dental

Outreach: Provided over 200 turkeys to families for Thanksgiving with the first annual Turkey Drive...and of course planned out Madness

Academics: Worked hard to create, design, and finalize the 2014-2015 academic calendar

Publicity: Created a great new Instagram to follow (@pc_congress) as well as filmed Congress meetings for all students to view

Legislative Affairs: Developed the new Elections Calendar and always keeps us organized

All those and more! We are your Student Congress and want to know what you want to see. Meetings are always on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. in Ruane 105—stop by and join us, and let your voice be heard!

Or, you can always drop us a note in our new suggestion box located right outside our door!

Well, that's all for now, see you next Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.!

Go Friars!

Sean Aherne—Executive President

Amanda Talbot—Publicity Chair

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Lee Daniel's "The Butler" Sparks Discussion

by Jackie McCarthy '14
News Staff

CAMPUS EVENTS

On Thursday, January 23, students gathered in Guzman Theater for pizza, a special lecture, and viewing of the movie *The Butler*. The lecture and viewing are part of a series hosted by the Student Multicultural Activities Office. It is a series of various programs honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The event was facilitated by Professor Zahra Caldwell, who teaches Afro-American Studies at UMass-Amherst. Before the viewing of the movie, which was released in theaters in August 2013, Caldwell gave a brief lecture of the history behind African-Americans in film and the promotion of the civil rights movement in film. She also wanted the audience to "observe the representation of African-Americans in film," and the "images of African-Americans in relation to the birth of movies and theater," with regards to media representation.

Caldwell called for people to be "aware observers" when they watch movies and other images presented by the media. Caldwell described something called oppositional gains when she spoke about stigmas that are presented in movies and film. She

said, "That's what oppositional gains is; it means you have power in looking, because you're resisting whatever the image is. We can learn and understand without advocating what is wrong." Caldwell named a number of films in the past that have made an impact on society and its understanding and movement toward civil rights, and she considers *The Butler* one of them.

The Butler tells the story of an African-American man who became the butler to the White House, serving eight American presidents over three decades. The story follows the butler's life and the way society changed during the years he worked for the White House in response to the civil rights movement and other events.

This event and the remainder of the series are sponsored by Student Multicultural Activities, Black Studies, the history department, the sociology department, Institutional Diversity, SOAR, and the African American Society. The Martin Luther King, Jr. series extends until Jan. 30 with the Freedom Riders Panel at 7 p.m. in the Ruane Great Room. The Student Multicultural Activities Office will continue to host program series throughout the semester.

Fund:

Continued from front page

on the website GoFundMe. "We thought it was a hilarious idea," they said. "So we went ahead and made the account."

The page was allegedly made as a joke, but upon launching it, the fundraising actually took off. It was shared on multiple public and personal accounts on Facebook and Twitter, even receiving attention from alumni.

Within a few hours, McElhiney's campaign had raised about \$90 with supporters leaving encouraging messages on the site.

According to GoFundMe, individuals or groups raising money can request withdrawals at any point even without meeting their goal. McElhiney told *The Cowl* that he had to link his bank account in order to have the money transferred to him.

The donations poured in even outside of the online campaign. McElhiney claims that students, one which he had never met, approached him with cash to contribute to his cause.

McElhiney acknowledged that he had not received an official email from the administration with the fine total, but was told by an official of the Office of Residence Life. *The Cowl* attempted to contact the Office of Residence Life for confirmation on the amount of the fine, but received no answer.

The following statement was posted by McElhiney on the fundraising page for supporters of the cause:

"My name is Joe McElhiney and I am currently a sophomore at Providence College. At approximately 12:45 a.m. on Tuesday, January 21st, I made an extremely poor decision and took desperate measures to enter my on-campus apartment (see photo), causing significant damage to the door warranting its replacement. I have accepted responsibility for my actions and because of that was solely fined \$3000.00 which while I understand has to go toward replacing the door, I feel is an egregious amount. Needless to say I do need some assistance in order to meet this goal. This is where all of you come in. Please help me to right this wrong, anything is appreciated. Thank you, and God Bless America."



COURTESY OF GOFUNDME.COM

The remnants of McElhiney's apartment door.

Providence Friars March For Life

by Meaghan Dodson '17
News Staff

CAMPUS MINISTRY

On Wednesday, January 22, members of the Providence College community attended the 41st annual March for Life. The event coincided with the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that affirmed a woman's right to an abortion.

Each year, pro-life activists from across the country gather in Washington, D.C. to challenge the Court decision and to make the assertion that human life begins at conception and thus even a human fetus has a right to life. The event has gained momentum in recent years, with an estimated attendance of 650,000 participants at the 2013 March for Life. According to Robert McCartney, a Metro Columnist for the *Washington Post*, approximately half of the marchers are under the age of 30.

The theme of this year's March was "Adoption: A Noble Option," as the president of the march, Jeanne Monahan, claimed that for every child adopted in the United States, 64 fetuses are aborted. Monahan has taken several steps to revamp the event in recent years in an effort to specifically target the younger generation, as indicated by a youth rally held the day before the march and also by the #WhyWeMarch

Twitter campaign.

PC for Life, an on-campus group that promotes the pro-life position, sponsored the trip down to Washington, D.C. Despite the freezing forecast and prediction of heavy snow, 43 people boarded the bus at 6 a.m. on Tuesday, January 21 to begin the 11-hour trek to the nation's capitol. Fr. Justin Brophy, O.P., presided over a mass at St. Dominic's Church, and both he and the students spent the night at the church.

The forecast on the morning of the March was a high of 19 degrees and a low of nine degrees, with ice and snow coating the ground; in these dismal conditions, the participants gathered on the National Mall. Pro-life advocates and government office-holders began the rally with a series of speeches in order to articulate why they publicly espoused their convictions and also to motivate the participants. As the March began, the PC students walked with the Dominican Friars and countless others up to Capitol Hill.

Laura Wells '14, the PC for Life coordinator, reflected on the entire experience, stating, "One of the things that makes the March for Life an incredible experience is seeing so many young people, from all over the nation, from all different walks of life, and from various religious beliefs, all united together. When you see so many peers passionate about the cause to give a voice to the most vulnerable

of our society, the unborn, it places everything we do at PC in the broader, national perspective of the pro-life movement."

The PC students boarded the bus to come back to Rhode Island shortly after completing the March. The students arrived safely on campus at approximately 1:30 on Thursday morning.

President Barack Obama issued a statement on Jan. 22 to commemorate the passage of *Roe v. Wade*, affirming, "Today, as we reflect on the 41st

anniversary of the Supreme Court decision...we recommit ourselves to the decision's guiding principle: that every woman should be able to make her own choices about her body and her health. We reaffirm our steadfast commitment to protecting a woman's access to safe, affordable health care and her constitutional right to privacy, including the right to reproductive freedom...because this is a country where everyone deserves the same freedom and opportunities to fulfill their dreams."



Photo contributed by Madeleine Veith '16

Students hold Laura Wells '14, coordinator of PC for Life, before departing Washington, D.C.

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Awareness Is Key to Ending Intimate Violence

PC Offers Opportunities to Educate and Speak Out against Violence

by Jacquelyn Kelley '17
Opinion Staff

SOCIETY

Being back on campus means that, once again, our inboxes are inundated with emails concerning campus events. When receiving so many emails at once, it is very easy to overlook a few, but it is hard to ignore one that spells out the word MANDATORY in capital letters. Therefore, it was hard to miss the email informing all freshmen that they are required to attend a workshop for intimate violence education called Project SAVE. Because the thought of sitting through a mandatory workshop sparked some eye rolls and sighs, it is imperative to remind members of the Providence College community how important intimate violence education really is.

To understand its importance, one must first understand how common intimate violence is on college campuses across the country. According to a recent White House report, one in five female students is raped in college, but only one in eight actually reports the intimate violence that they experience. Furthermore, the study reported that seven percent of male college students admitted to acts of rape, and a shocking 63 percent of those same male students admitted to committing multiple acts.

These statistics demonstrate that intimate violence is not only an issue, but a devastating one at that. Such devastation led President Obama to speak out on the issue in hopes of not only raising awareness, but also encouraging both male and female students across the country to have

the courage to fight against intimate violence.

"We need to encourage young people, men and women, to realize that sexual assault is simply unacceptable and they're going to have to summon the bravery to stand up and say so, especially when the social pressure to keep quiet or to go along can be very intense," said Obama.

President Obama's words remind us that we all have the power to make a difference and to stand up against intimate violence. In fact, there are many ways to become educated on the issue as well as to show support for those affected by intimate violence right here on our own campus.

For example, if you are a freshman, the first step toward making a difference in the fight against intimate violence is

not to complain about the mandatory SAVE workshop, but rather to use the workshop as an opportunity to educate yourself. Listen carefully to how you can be an advocate in the fight against sexual assaults and how you can not only prevent acts of intimate violence, but also help those already affected. If you are not a freshman attending Project SAVE, however, there are still great ways to educate yourself and become involved.

For instance, PC students are organizing an upcoming production of *The Vagina Monologues*, a play that raises awareness about intimate violence, where the proceeds after production costs benefit both the global V-Day campaign as well as the Women's Fund of Rhode Island. To show your support for this particular cause, be on the

lookout for when the dates of the play become available in order to attend or simply make a donation to the play by visiting: gofundme.com/4qbwa4.

Aside from education and donations, there is another major way that each and every single person on this campus can take a stand against intimate violence, and that is to find the courage to speak up. If you are a witness to what you think may be an act of intimate violence, do not turn a blind eye. Speak up. If a friend comes to you saying that he or she has been a victim of intimate violence, listen to your friend and support him or her. It is important that we create a safe and supportive environment here at PC and the power to create such an environment lies in your very hands.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.THEPIXELPROJECT.NET

Olympic Security Precautions Hinder Sense of Nationalism

by Kelly Sullivan '15
Opinion Editor

SOCIETY

As the Winter Olympics approach, so should a sense of nationalism, pride, and excitement to share those feelings with other countries and cultures from around the world. The dire need for extreme security at the games, however, seems to be hindering a feeling of patriotism.

According to CNN, "The news about the security steps being taken to safeguard the U.S. Olympic team follow revelations this week that Russian authorities were searching for a wanted terror suspect in and around the vicinity of the upcoming Games."

An article from the *New York Times*, "Olympic Fears Rattle Athletes and Families," says that recently the teams from the United States and some European countries received emails warning them that they would be attacked if they took part in the Games. Although these emails were discovered to be a hoax, they nevertheless added to the feeling of uneasiness leading up to what is supposed to be a fun event.

The Olympics are different from other sporting events because they incorporate a vast number of sports, thousands of athletes, and a large

number of countries represented in the same space at the same time. The Games encourage international community and create competition that everyone can join in together and watch from all over the world.

Despite all of the terrorism and war that occurs globally, the Olympics should be an escape from the hatred. Take the opening ceremonies, for instance. The opening ceremonies allow for all athletes to dress in their national colors and represent their home countries. All of the countries join together in order to start off this event that enhances international community.

In order to protect themselves against these threats, U.S. athletes are not to wear their Olympic Uniforms outside of the venue of the event. For the athletes, it seems that representing the pride of their country and joining in unity with other countries will become a difficult task when they have to hide their nationality the moment they exit the arena.

According to the *New York Times*, many American families have decided not to attend the Olympics because of threats; this includes families of the athletes. Tim Oshie, whose son T. J., is on the United States hockey team said, "It's getting to the point where our lives are on the line if we go there. They're talking

about terrorizing families. I'd rather stay in the homeland."

In addition to having security for each athlete, the United States is also stationing two Navy warships in the Black Sea to aid in emergencies or evacuations.

It is a shame that an event that should foster harmony and unity could be tainted by hatred. Fans watching should be able to cheer for Shaun White with pure enjoyment and excitement without fear of being recognized as American. Ryan Callahan should be able to relax after a day of hockey without



Pro-Life Vs. Pro-Choice

Don't Deny a Child the Chance to Live

by **Brianna Abbott '17**
Opinion Staff

SOCIETY

While most PC students hunkered down for a Netflix marathon during the first snow day of the year, a bus full of students, Fr. Justin Brophy, O.P., and an extremely determined bus driver trudged forward in the snow to reach the March for Life in Washington, D.C. This group paraded the streets of the capital in frigid temperatures to fight for their cause: the abolition of legal abortion. Abortion is a crime that causes damage to the child, the mother, and the hundreds of thousands of families looking to adopt. Everyone suffers, not just the person who could have been. Abortion is a dark cloud over the world, a world that could certainly use more happiness and babies.

Despite all of the cries claiming that a fetus is not actually a child, a fetus still constitutes a life and has a beating heart. According to New Health Guide, a fetus fully develops a heartbeat six weeks after conception. Universally, a heartbeat signifies life. A man in a coma may show no signs of alertness or any other indications of life, but that man is technically still alive as long as he has a heartbeat. Why is it different for a child in the womb?

In the United States, 88 percent of abortions occur within the first 12 to 13 weeks of pregnancy, as reported by the National Abortion Federation. All of the abortions that occur after six weeks literally stop a beating heart, and those that occur before six weeks stop a heart that is going to beat. Abortion stops a life that has either started or is just about to start, snuffing out the innocence of an untainted heart.

The untainted heart of the child ends with abortion, but sometimes the heart of the mother suffers as well even if the abortion was her decision. In the article "Effects of Abortion," familyandlife.org explains, "She [the mother] can experience shock or horror, she can experience a sense of loss and grief, and she can be filled with remorse, grief, and guilt." Some women also experience psychosomatic symptoms, sleeping problems, troubles with intimacy, emotional numbness,

and isolation. Abortion causes pain for the mother; it causes one life to end and the other to needlessly suffer. The mother experiences perpetual damaging effects, and the child does not experience anything at all.

Families looking to adopt do not even know the mother and child directly, yet they too suffer from the effects of abortion. An article by Keith Riler at LifeNews.com reveals that "36 couples wait for every one baby who is adopted." Even if the birth mother does not want the child, that same child is the missing piece to someone else's family, and to abort the child is to leave prospective, capable parents without the child whom they desperately want.

Adoption makes sure that the baby is taken care of and loved, whether or not the birth mother is ready for a child. Spencer Althouse informs his BuzzFeed readers that Steve Jobs was adopted at birth; abortion could have easily robbed us of his technological contributions. Who else is the world missing out on because some mothers did not consider adoption as an option? Abortion denies a person the chance to make his or her mark on the world, and for a loving family to be complete.

They say it is the mother's right to choose what she does with her body, but as soon as the mother is pregnant, it is not just her body anymore; it is her child's first home. She is taking care of two lives now. The mother can choose whether or not she wants to keep the baby, but she should not deny that baby a chance to live and thrive. When those PC students marched in Washington on the snow day, they marched in the freezing cold for the babies, the mothers, the adoptive families, and even the world. They marched for those who could not march themselves. They marched for the beating heart. They marched for life.

Women Should Have the Option

by **Tim Morris '14**
& **Mason Sciotti '15**
A&E Editor & Portfolio Editor

SOCIETY

Mason:

Let me start this article by stating that I am openly pro-choice. I will allow Tim to elaborate on his position for himself. However, I think that pro-choice gets a bad reputation at first glance. Though I am pro-choice, it does not mean that I actively encourage and support the abortion option. What I do believe, however, is that it should be a personal choice for which women have the legal option.

In their 2012-2013 annual report, Planned Parenthood recorded a total of 333,964 nationwide abortion procedures. Even as a pro-choice supporter, this number saddens me. I, however, do not feel that I have the right to make the decision that 333,964 people made for themselves. If abortion was made explicitly illegal, it is difficult to say exactly how much this number would grow or drop. However, it is reasonable to assume that there would still be a substantial number of abortions. By keeping abortion legal, we are also keeping it safe. If it were outlawed, people would not be able to rely on institutions like Planned Parenthood for safe, sterile procedures and would seek more extreme and certainly unsafe means.

I believe that it should be the individual's choice. However, I also adamantly believe that other options should be encouraged. I personally view abortion as an ultimate last resort; for example, if there were to be birth complications that could ultimately lead to the death of the mother. Abortion should not be a casual affair by any means. In the case of unplanned or unwanted

children, if the parents do not feel that they are able to take care of the child, I believe that other options should be encouraged, such as adoption.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports that roughly 1.4 million children were born to unwed mothers in 2003, and that roughly 1.7 percent of those children were voluntarily placed up for adoption. In total, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports that there were 2.2 million adopted children living in the United States in 2003. Though these statistics are old, they serve to present a baseline estimate. If we could encourage women to choose adoption over abortion while simultaneously encouraging individuals and couples to adopt from within the United States as opposed to adopting from abroad, perhaps we would be able to seriously cut down that number of 333,964 without explicitly outlawing the right to safe abortions.

Tim:

As Mason put it, the number of abortion procedures recorded in 2012-2013 is a shocking statistic. It is certainly upsetting when one imagines that each one of these 333,964 fetuses could have been well into his or her first year of life. What the statistic does not capture—and statistics are notorious for ignoring the complexity of the human condition—is the toll that the decision-making process takes on a woman in the midst of an unplanned pregnancy. In an instant, she is at the center of an ethical dilemma. Maybe the financial support needed to raise a child is unavailable. Maybe a mental or physical disability would prevent her from giving the child the care that he or she needs. A pre-existing condition might endanger the mother's health during childbirth.

The decision to go through with an abortion is not one that a pregnant woman makes without care, without deliberation. Like Mason, I would advocate that doctors make adoption known as an alternative, but I also respect a woman's right to decide what to do with her body. She should not have to forfeit her bodily autonomy because the politicians of Capitol Hill—who are having enough trouble doing their jobs already—deem it necessary. Reducing the number of options available to a woman is coercive, even if it is well meaning.



Christie Campaign Hinges on Public Image

Bridging the Gap to a Possible Presidency

by Carolyn Walsh '14
Opinion Staff

SOCIETY

So far, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie is not having a great year. He has found himself immersed in his own Watergate-esque scandal, as it was revealed that in September, members of his staff orchestrated a massive traffic backup on the George Washington Bridge. The motive was supposedly political payback for the Democratic mayor of Fort Lee's failing to endorse Christie for re-election as governor. Dubbed "Bridgegate," the scandal will prove to be one that could potentially make or break his 2016 presidential pursuit.

Although he has claimed to have neither been involved with nor aware of the incident, it is hard to believe that his staff members would feel that such a vindictive act is acceptable without any sort of inkling coming from their top commander. As governor, Christie is responsible for the environment within his camp and the tone he instills is extremely important and influential.

It is unlikely that many voters



Chris Christie speaks about the bridge scandal.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.TALKINGPOINTSMEMO.COM

will support a potential Christie administration in the White House if it means that the same bullying and petty actions displayed in "Bridgegate" could be repeated.

Ultimately, Chris Christie has to change the environment of his campaign and staff. He needs to make sure that his staff's actions reflect his ideals of straight-talk and "no nonsense" governing. Christie should scale back on his "tough guy" exterior in order to set a tone that is less

intimidating and more inviting to his adversaries.

This will take considerable time and effort; if Christie succeeds his presidential ambitions could, be strengthened, but if he fails, his candidacy could end up stuck in a never-ending traffic jam.

Make This Year Memorable

Maintain Persistence for the Upcoming Year

by Matt Santos '14
Opinion Staff

SOCIETY

The calendar has been switched for nearly a month now, the champagne corks have been swept away with the confetti, and the beautiful wagon has turned back into a pumpkin. We find ourselves back at school and struggling to maintain the vitality in an attempt to keep up with desirable changes in the New Year. It's about holding on to New Year's resolutions and starting the spring semester with a willingness to see things towards their end. It isn't always easy, but it's important to try and maintain a sense of persistence to tackle the coming year.

Try not to set too outrageous of an expectation for yourself. Often we view a new year or a new semester as a completely blank slate, an opportunity to begin rebuilding from nothing but the bare foundation. Realistically, that can be incredibly difficult. Focus on things that went well from the year before or the semester before. Modify and improve upon that which already exists rather than attempting a personal overhaul. Sure, there's plenty of merit in "shooting for the stars

so you land on the clouds," but if you have your heart naively set on the stars, you might just be disappointed in the end.

Understand the fact that you may frequently fail to maintain the goals you set. Never hold yourself to a standard of perfection that you would not expect others to meet. It's tough enough to struggle through maintaining a New Year's resolution; pulling yourself down seems like a sure-fire way to end up disappointed. Maybe find someone that is looking to accomplish a similar goal. Keeping one another on track may be the best way to work together in succeeding.

Coming from my perspective, a spring semester senior seems to have two different routes the struggle "self-improvement" may take in the New Year, in the last semester at Providence College. One path offers an opportunity to emerge from the undergraduate years as a transformed, better, more elevated person. One could view these last few months as the spring-board for success and happiness in the post-college years.

However, as the woes of senioritis begin to creep in and take the firmest root possible, this attempt at betterment becomes increasingly difficult. The allure of sheer enjoyment and a lack of reflection which arise in the last few months before the "real world" may greatly hinder progress toward maintaining resolutions and achieving goals. Here's where that perseverance comes across and becomes paramount. At the very least, it's where perspective can come into the picture and change the landscape of the spring semester. Rather than taking the spring as a joke, wishing it all away, or leaving it all as a beverage-assisted blur, something truly memorable can emerge. Maybe that's a good place to start with a resolution. Make it a memorable year, a memorable semester, a jewel in the college crown, the cherry on top, or some other cliché that hits home. Grow as a person while the comfortable confines of Providence College allow that growth to take place. If not now, then when?

ERIAN IN FRANCE

by Christina Moazed '15
Opinion Staff

ABROAD

We all have a special place that we admire or that we hope to uncover one day; to aimlessly meander through its beautiful streets and exchange laughs with strangers. For me, this place is Paris.

Everything, and I mean everything, in this city and the country of France itself is outwardly elegant and sophisticated. Although, not all that glitters is gold. For example, Coco Chanel's real name was Gabrielle Bonheur.

Every night as I look out the window from my bed, the Eiffel Tower dazzles for the first five minutes of every hour through the night. The lights that surround the city, as I have learned, reveal the importance of tourism and national pride as representative of the French national animal, the rooster. Paris is the most visited city in the world, with more than 70 million tourists visiting annually.

Interestingly, my host family has allowed me to accurately understand the current political and economic situations of France that are easily outshined from a tourist perspective by the glittering lights of the Eiffel Tower, bustling streets of the city, and extensive displays within the largest museums and palaces in the world. I would have never realized these valuable actualities if I had limited myself to a few tourist attractions.

Meanwhile, I'm living in a "chambre de bonne," also historically known as the maid's quarters. Surprisingly, the architectural necessity for ornate Parisian apartments to have a chambre de bonne is symbolic of the French tradition for aristocratic families to be tended upon. C'est la vie!

However, innovation is a sore subject amidst a culture founded upon precise traditions and historical monuments. The existence of DVD stores is praised and almost everyone brings a book, not a Kindle or an Apple device, when traveling in the subway. The music and entertainment industries are monitored closely, preventing the development of online music and video streaming, also known as Netflix and similar easy-access websites.

Apparently, an American study abroad student downloaded a song online for free in their Parisian home and the host parents received a severe fine from the French government a few days later specifying the precise location and time when the file was downloaded.

Regardless of the vast qualities that comprise the cultural differences between Parisians and Americans, I have realized in the past week of living as a Parisian that we as human beings innately desire to love, laugh, compete, succeed, and push our limits. Next stop, the Champagne region where I will be sampling French wine and exploring the vineyards! Oh là là!

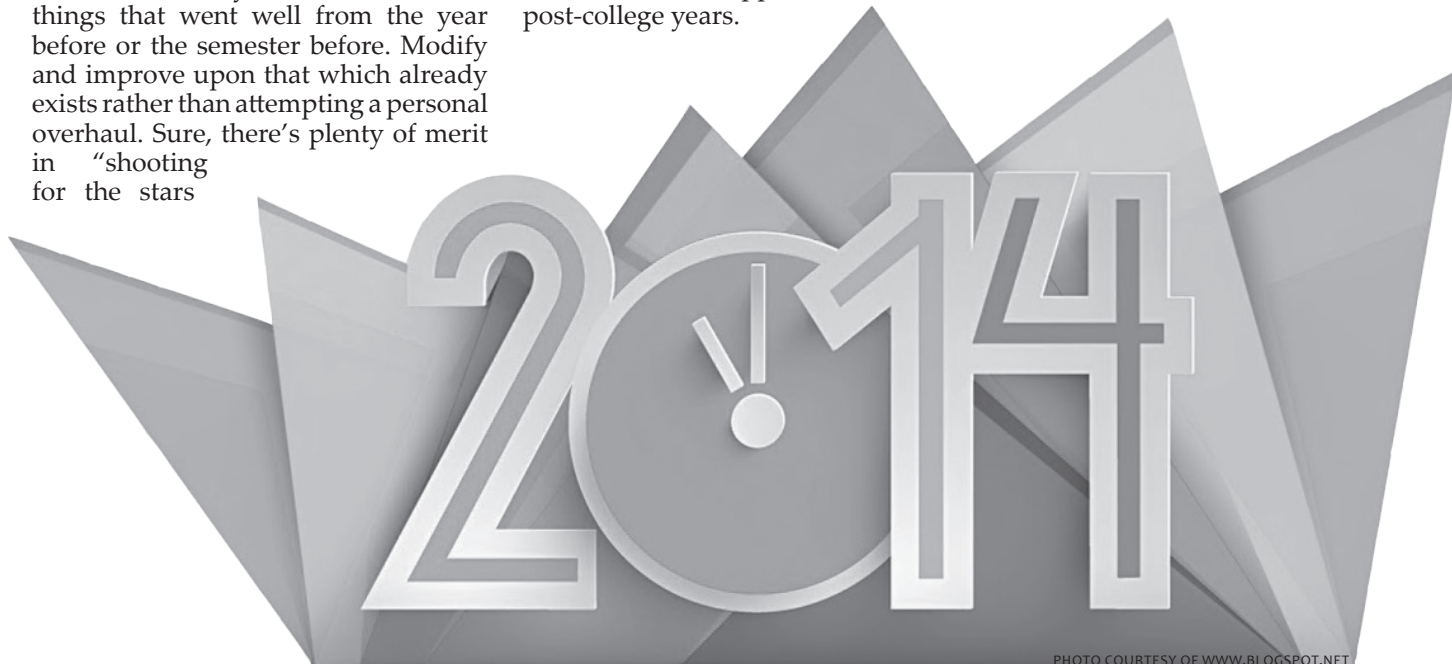


PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.BLOGSPOT.NET

Dear Providence College Students, *Getcha Heads in the Game*

The members of the Men's Basketball Team, who proudly wear the colors of our school, have been exceeding expectations and surging their way toward the top of the Big East. It seems, however, that many of you have failed to notice the accomplishments and efforts of your fellow classmates. Attendance and participation on the part of the student body have been flat-out pathetic.

The Dunkin Donuts Center has always been a venue that has made life uncomfortable for opposing teams, even moving some opponents to tell ESPN Magazine that they hated and dreaded playing at the Dunk. The student section has always been a main contributor to these antics.

Any proud Friar alum will tell you that attending Men's Basketball games as a student and witnessing big moments, such as wins over Michigan in 1976, UNC in 1978, and Pittsburgh in 2009, were highlights of their time on campus.

It is beyond disappointing that during syllabus week, on a Saturday afternoon, against Xavier, a team the Friars may be fighting for an NCAA Tournament bid, many of you failed to show up. You are depriving yourselves of one of the better experiences you can have at PC. Trust us, when you graduate, you'll wish you had gone to more of these.

With that, we encourage you to put on your black, white, and silver and show up, stand up, and get loud on February 4th for the next Friar home game vs. St. John's and at the remaining home games this year. Show your support for Coach Cooley, Bryce, Kadeem, LaDontae, and the rest of the team, who are putting together a very special season.

A major Division I college basketball atmosphere is not the same without the student body.



Sincerely,

Rick Treleaven '09, Ryan Holt '09, and Fellow Friar Fanatics from PC Class of 2009

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the Associated Collegiate Press.

The Cowl Strives to Maintain Balance of Opinions

by Kayla Fernandes '14 &
Keely Mohin '14
EIC & Associate EIC

EDITORIAL



For the first time in a long time, *The Cowl* contains a point-by-point style of discussion regarding a sometimes tense topic of debate: abortion. In the past, we, as an editorial board, have found it challenging to balance correctly the first amendment rights of our staff and our goal to remain neutral in most, if not all, controversial issues on campus. In the past, we have feared that our readers have mistakenly believed that if we published an opinion article with a particularly fervent or controversial view, then we as an organization all adhered to that same notion. We hope this new strategy shows that we are open, have always been open, and will always be open, to a broad spectrum of

opinions. With any luck, this issue will be the first of many that place, side by side, two respectful, though opposing, arguments. We exist to serve you, our campus and community, and we want nothing more than to be an outlet for your thoughts and accomplishments. Without your support or your interest, our efforts are for naught. You all are our most important and most valued resource. All the writing, Photoshop, Indesign, and web skills in the world mean nothing if we are not impacting the lives of our fellow students. We have written this before, but it deserves repeating: Should you ever feel that we are not covering something that you think deserves attention, please email us at thecowl@providence.edu or visit our website at thecowl.com and complete an electronic application. We look forward to hearing from you.

TANGENTS & TIRADES

**Embrace the Negative to
Revel in the Positive**

by Jenn Giffels '14

With the recent onslaught of cold weather, our return to campus has been filled with complaints about the freezing temperatures and laments of far-away summer sun. While the brisk walks to class and internal debates about how many times to leave your dorm seem pesky now, they will only emphasize the beauty of warmer days and T-shirt weather once spring arrives. Just as the weekends are fun because they are a contrast to productive, sleep-deprived weeknights, we desire warm weather in part because it is a contrast to the miserable frostbite of winter. Hanging out with friends is in opposition to being alone, eating a home cooked meal is a nice change from Ray, waiting in long bookstore lines is a contrast to free time you'll have later on in the semester. So even though a certain circumstance may not be enjoyable in and of itself, it may help to make other moments better. The power of perspective, with these kinds of simple changes in mind, and positive psychology are up-and-coming topics under study today. In the first months of this New Year, let's embrace even the seemingly negative moments as necessary reminders of their opposites.

**Shootings Indicate Need for
Change**

by Nicole Corbin '15

The recent mall shooting in Columbia, Md., which left three people, including the shooter, dead at the hands of 19 year-old gunman Darion Marcus Aguilar, further continues a disturbing trend in modern America. Aguilar fired numerous shots, killing a man and a woman before taking his own life. This tragic event is, unfortunately, not the first of its kind, and what is most disturbing is the alarming frequency in which mass shootings have occurred within recent years. Only a few months ago, a fatal shooting occurred at a Nevada middle school, which followed tragic shootings in Newtown, Conn. and Aurora, Colo. Many agree that these events indicate a need for change in our society. While this is true, most efforts pushing for change are directed at reforming gun control. However, the actions of these shooters, most of whom are young men under the age of 30 who end their acts via suicide, raise bigger questions than "How did they access firearms?" Rather, the pertinent question is how did the apparent mental issues these men clearly suffered from go unnoticed to the point where they committed these horrendous acts? The answer to this question may not be easily resolved, but every effort should be made to understand how to recognize signs of unhealthy behavior to prevent future tragedies. If even one life is saved, it makes all the difference.



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PHOTOGRAPHY

The Cowl 11
January 30, 2014



PHOTO COURTESY OF MORGAN JUTRAS

ABOVE: The Sociology Club and Student Multicultural Activities sponsor an annual MLK Church Visit to Calvary Baptist Church. Students also enjoyed a homemade lunch and conversation with the church community.



SAADIA AHMAD '14/ THE COWL



PHOTO COURTESY OF MLK DAY OF SERVICE STAFF



SAADIA AHMAD '14/ THE COWL

ABOVE: Student Multicultural Activities Office, Campus Ministry, and the Providence College/Smith Hill Annex co-sponsor the second annual MLK Day of Service. Students arrived on campus early to help clean up parts of Douglas Avenue.



EMILY HURLEY '17/ THE COWL

ABOVE: The clock strikes 2:45 on the snow-covered Slavin Lawn as students enjoy their first snow day on the second day back from Christmas break.

BELOW: Gus Uy '15 assembles a plate of food at the Asian American Society's Lunar New Year celebration, featuring the Year of the Horse.

LEFT: Career Center advisees Elizabeth Lombard, Anne Lipsitz, and Joe McCarthy perform a common scenario experienced by nervous students when networking, at the "Breaking the Ice Without Falling In" networking workshop.



SAADIA AHMAD '14/ THE COWL



PROVING PHOTOGRAPHY

What are your plans for the Super Bowl?



"Watch it with my family."
Andrew Fagundes '17



"Knights of Columbus Super Bowl Party!"
Andrea Tempesta '14
Nicholas Fannarone '14



"Watching it with Father Brophy."
Zach Keefe '15
Meaghan Boyd '15



"Eat about 50 hot wings from Big Tony's."
Liz O'Connell '15



"We're hosting a Super Bowl party."
Liam Hillery '15
Shane Quinn '15



"Ordering some wings and pizza."
Chris Morgan '17



**"Watching *Bachelor*
reruns"**
-Tom Brady



Universal to Expand Wizarding World of Harry Potter

by Alanna Smith '14
A&E Staff

TRAVEL

When The Wizarding World of Harry Potter opened in Universal's Islands of Adventure in 2010, fans of "the boy who lived" rejoiced. The 20-acre section of the park faithfully recreates sections of both Hogwarts Castle and the neighboring village Hogsmeade, from the Hogwarts Express train station to the top of the Astronomy Tower, giving guests the most authentic wizarding experience possible.

Near the end of 2011, Universal Park officials announced that they would be expanding The Wizarding World of Harry Potter. Several months later, the Amity Harbor section of Universal Studios Florida was closed and demolished, and rumors about plans for the area began leaking out. These rumors were quickly replaced with facts: the former home of Jaws would soon house Diagon Alley.

This magical expansion is slated to be completed sometime in 2014. While design plans and concept art have been slow in coming, it is easy enough to see past the fencing and scaffolding to guess what the area will look like. The exterior resembles several London landmarks, including the Wyndham Theater, Leicester Square, and Grimmauld Place. From there, park guests will enter the hidden world of Diagon Alley.

Several shops and attractions have been confirmed for the area. These include many names that should be familiar to fans of the books, such as The Leaky Cauldron, which will serve as a pub-style restaurant, Weasleys' Wizard Wheezes, and Florean Fortescue's Ice Cream Parlour. There will also be a larger and more appropriately located Ollivanders Wand Shop, and possibly



a Knockturn Alley for dark wizards. The focal point, however, is said to be Gringotts Bank, which will be topped with a dragon and will feature a ride based on events in the final book of the *Harry Potter* series.

One part of the expansion that seems to be exciting most fans is the addition of Platform 9 3/4, complete with a Hogwarts Express that will shuttle guests between "London" and Hogsmeade. This will make it easy for fans to explore all aspects of the Wizarding World in one day, should they so choose.

Until opening day, though, there is still plenty to do in Hogsmeade and Hogwarts. There are three rides: Flight of the Hippogriff, a family-friendly steel coaster, Dragon Challenge, the queue of which features various Triwizard Tournament props, and Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey. This last ride takes guests inside Hogwarts

itself. The queue passes through the greenhouses, Headmaster's office, Defence Against the Dark Arts classroom, portrait gallery, and Gryffindor common room, and past the Mirror of Erised, Hogwarts House Hourglasses, and other familiar objects.

The ride itself uses state-of-the-art technology to allow guests to travel through several wizarding environments, including the Forbidden Forest, the Chamber of Secrets, and a Quidditch match. These environments are depicted via a mix of giant screens and physical sets. Guests are brought face to face with favorite characters—and horrifying villains—in an experience that is impossible to forget.

Outside of the castle, Hogsmeade is home to several shops and eateries. In The Three Broomsticks or The Hog's Head Pub, it is easy to pick up a shepherd's pie and an icy mug of butterbeer. Next door to the restaurant

is Honeydukes, an overwhelming store that sells all manners of Harry Potter sweets, including Chocolate Frogs with collectible cards and Bertie Bott's Every-Flavour Beans—all in their original film packaging. Connected to the sweet shop is Zonko's, complete with Fanged Frisbees and Extendable Ears.

The whole area is filled with extensive detail. A mandrake plant cries in the window of an herbology store, while the windows of the bookstore across the street are filled with winking portraits of Gilderoy Lockhart. Several times a day there are performances by toad choirs and Beauxbatons students. And the best part? Universal Park officials have stated that the "wow" factor of the Diagon Alley expansion will eclipse that of its predecessor. This is really everything that a Harry Potter fan could ever wish for—other than their delayed Hogwarts acceptance letter, of course.

PHOTO COURTESY OF foxnews.com

Retailer Gets Real

Aerie:

Continued from front page

This desire in young people has sparked an age of eating disorders, excessive exercise and dieting, negative body image, and lower self-esteem in general. In a statement released by Aerie's brand representative Jenny Altman, "We're (Aerie) hoping to break the mold... we hope by embracing this that real girls everywhere will start to embrace their own beauty."

According to studies done by ANAD.org, more than half of both boys and girls have admitted to eating disorders, dieting, purging, etc., and part of this is due to the manner in which media portrays the human body. The modeling industry frowns upon models being over a size six—in fact, anything over this is looked at as being "plus size." In this case, well-known Victoria's Secret model Kate Upton does not even fit the bill for what companies consider an average size for a model. For those of you who know what Kate Upton looks like, you know that she is nowhere near appearing to be a plus-sized model, yet that is what

she is called in this line of work. However, Upton is the completely healthy and confident type of model that the business needs.

Fortunately, Aerie is not the first brand to drop Photoshop in their work. Among other well-known fashion and beauty empires are Dove with their "Real Beauty" campaign and Verily, a fashion and lifestyle magazine that targets women from ages 18 to 35, which has an explicitly written policy against retouching their models. Dove launched their program back in 2004, with a mission to fill the "need for a wider definition of beauty," according to the company's website. A recorded global study, which was executed by the enterprise, found that only two percent of women would actually describe themselves as being beautiful—a sad truth.

While it is important that people of all ages gain an understanding of confidence in their bodies, it is necessary that this positive mentality be rooted in the minds of the younger generations. Because Aerie's prime customers are young girls, they are doing a respectable job by providing the type of imagery that adolescents should be subject

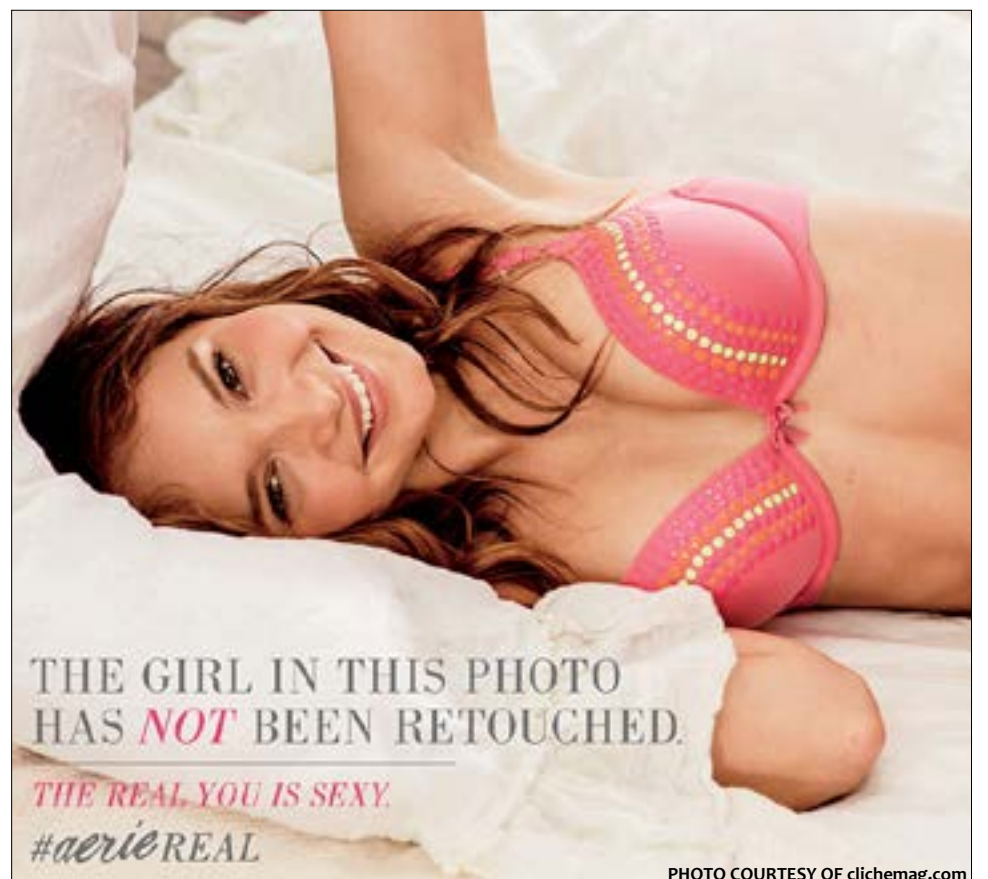


PHOTO COURTESY OF clichemag.com

to under today's media influence. It is important that youths are accepting of the idea that not every two bodies are alike, and they also need to be made aware that skipping meals and extreme dieting are not healthy, but rather deprivation that can lead to illness.

In the future, it would be nice to see more establishments following the footsteps of these companies, but for now, raising awareness of their progressiveness is the best remedy. Beauty that is real comes in all shapes and sizes; it is not a result of digital imaging, and human manipulation.



New Year, New You

by Christina D'Adamio '16
A&E Staff

FASHION

Last year's fashion disasters and style mishaps are long forgotten. It is a new year and a new you, so start 2014 the right way. While those typical New Year's resolutions are wonderful, try something new. Write a list of fashion resolutions to kick-start your wardrobe. While everyone's resolutions will be different, five resolutions are suggested below to get you started. Get inspired and embrace the new year, one stylish step at a time.

Cleaning out your closet is the first step. If you have not worn it, toss it. If the tag is still on it, return it. Think twice about those ill-fitting cardigans and uncomfortably tight skinnies. Say goodbye to ripped and stained garments. Either throw them away or donate them, suggests *Bustle Blog*. Remember, a proper fit will do wonders. Find a tailor and have your favorite pieces hemmed. After your clothes have been sorted and rearranged, organize your closet. No more broken hangers and ragged shoeboxes. A structured closet will do wonders. Once your closet has been organized, evaluate what you have and what you need. Think about adding some essential pieces to your wardrobe. When making this decision, keep your best features in mind. Complement your figure with proper fit, color, and fabric.

Now it is time to go shopping. However, do not go on a buying frenzy; focus on investment pieces that are missing from your wardrobe. Purchase items that are versatile and functional. Think practically, advises *Bustle Blog*. Buy a timeless piece that will add instant appeal to your clothing collection. Do not be afraid to splurge on a designer

brand. When it comes to investment purchases, quality is more important than quantity. Tailored blazers, professional slacks, and ladylike pumps are investment pieces worth considering.

With designers vamping up their collections, it is the perfect time to explore new trends. Remember to keep your personal style in mind; however, take fashion risks. As *Metro Blog* shares, choose bold patterns and prints. A beautiful floral ensemble, from head to toe, never looked better. Opt for blousy and ultra sheer fabrics. Layer with lace undergarments for a chic statement. Experiment with silver and gold-toned statement pieces. A metallic dress is an instant eye-catcher. Try pleats this year. A pleated mini skirt is elegant and sophisticated.

If runway trends are not for you, add some color to your wardrobe. This is a risk worth taking. Stray from neutral tones and experiment with the latest shades. According to *Bustle Blog*, cobalt blue, sunset peach, and winter gray are in style this year. For a more adventurous shade, cayenne red is the color for you.

Now it is time to accessorize those ensembles. This year, go beyond the typical gems. While a wrist full of jewels looks ultra glam, a clutch or cross body satchel is dashing. Belts are also in style, reveals *Bustle Blog*. Belts are essential to every wardrobe. With many sizes, shapes, and colors available, a belt can transform a look within minutes. While new accessories are exciting, do not forget about those trinkets you already own. Mix and match old and new pieces for fashionable combinations.

This year is going to be your year. Your ambitious attitude and fashion-forward look will get you just about anywhere. You are off on a wonderful adventure, just do not forget your purse on the way out!

PHOTO COURTESY OF [diamonddiploma.com](#)

Why I Hate Teavana

by Marisa Urgo '14
A&E Staff

CULTURE

I am a tea girl. I have grown up drinking black tea and discovered green and white tea as a teenager. Since then, I have about three cups a day. Thus, I thought I was going to be ecstatic about Teavana, the new tea chain that has been opening in malls across America. There is one in our very own Providence Place Mall. However, that was not the case.

As an expert on tea but a novice to Teavana, I went in with the mindset of sticking to the familiar. I decided to get the Sencha Jade Reserve Green Tea. "Sencha" means that the tea was made without grinding the tea leaves, but "Jade" and "Reserve" seem to just be a title. I chose this tea because I do like green, but also because it was only \$10. I did not want to spend a lot of money on a tea I might not like. That's the tricky thing about buying tea, though. You cannot sample it. Teavana waves the lid in your face and you inhale a whiff of dried leaves, and sure, it smells good, but



I am still clueless as to if I am getting my money's worth. Those samples at the door are not representative of the real tea. They are loaded with more tea per ounce and more sugar than recommended.

Here is my first tip to Teavana: Stick to your guns. They kept pushing me to buy the Gyokuro Imperial Green Tea, which is \$19.98. That is \$10 more than I wanted to spend. I get that they need to make a profit, but I'm going to buy something anyway, so relax. After refusing their numerous offers, the salesman informed me that my tea would cost close to \$16. Second tip: The prices advertised

are sometimes false. Teavana forces you to buy a certain amount, which I believe is 2 oz. That \$10 represents less than that.

Then the salesman informed me that I had to buy a \$6 tin to keep it fresh. I was literally about to pull out a Ziploc and tell them to shove the tea in there and shove their sales tactics somewhere else. They also sell you a much larger tin than needed. Later, I found that you can ask for a smaller one.

It is not the extra money that I mind. It is the fact that these extra fees are not advertised anywhere. On top of that, there is plenty of research

saying that Teavana might not be as "all natural" as it claims to be. Taking everything with a grain of salt is wise when buying any item in general, but that was my third tip for Teavana. Instead of making a trip to the store, buy online. They ship their tea in bags and you avoid pushy salespeople. I am not saying not to shop there, because I think tea is a business that deserves to thrive. But I do suggest knowing what to expect and perhaps finding better alternatives.

PHOTO COURTESY OF [walkertea.com](#)

Drake and Josh Prep for the Big Screen



by Kelly Laske '16
A&E Staff

FILM

Getting over 158,000 retweets and 160,000 favorites, Drake Bell took Twitter followers by surprise when he tweeted a picture of him and Josh Peck with a caption saying, "We are BACK!!! Who is ready for the new movie?!!!" on Jan. 17. Fans were very surprised because there had not been any rumors of a reunion. For all those who grew up in the *Zoey 101* and *Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide* Nickelodeon era, this will bring everyone back to their middle school days.

After being on the hit Nick show *The Amanda Show*, both actors were picked to star in *Drake and Josh*. *Drake and Josh* is a television show that aired 60 episodes on Nickelodeon from

January 2004 to December 2008. The show is about two teenage boys with completely different personalities whose parents get married, making them new stepbrothers. While Drake is popular, immature, a ladies' man, and a musician, Josh is nerdy, funny, and has trouble talking to girls.

The show follows the two boys, along with Drake's conniving and mischievous sister Megan. They get themselves into outrageous situations and obstacles while dealing with the everyday struggles that come with attending a cliquey high school. While the two boys do not typically get along, their bond and friendship grows as the seasons progress. Shortly after the show ended, the cast reunited for a made-for-TV Christmas special called "Merry Christmas, Drake and Josh."

Since the show and TV movie, Drake Bell, now 27, has stayed out of the spotlight by doing small movie

projects and continuing to record music. He starred in a few movies such as *Superhero Movie*, *College*, and a gig in the movie version of *The Fairly OddParents*. Bell simply avoided the common child star downfall by staying closely associated with Nickelodeon and often helping them with directing small projects and children's shows.

Like Bell, Peck, 25, has also avoided a troubled child star path by signing on to various movie projects since the sitcom ended. Peck became a huge part of the *Ice Age* animated film series, starred in *Drillbit Taylor* and *Mean Creek*, and as of September 2013, hit three million followers on Vine, a social media app where he made hilarious six second videos. His Vine account became so popular because he would quote some of his best one-liners from *Drake and Josh*. Peck has also amazed fans with his unbelievable weight loss that occurred during the filming of

Drake and Josh that he has continued since the end of the show.

Since announcing the reunion, Bell has kept his lips sealed about the storyline, cast, and predicted air date. Although he is not revealing much, Bell has told *Media Mass* that he is extremely worried about the movie because he does not want to disappoint people. But Drake did reveal that he would like to see a different, wiser version of Drake Parker and would prefer to show that the characters have matured and grown up, while still showing their immature sides for which their characters are most famous. While fans are begging for answers to their questions, Drake Bell and Josh Peck are keeping quiet about details regarding the new movie.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF fanshare.com

EDITOR vs. EDITOR

This Week: Favorite Thing about Andrew Butler

Tim Morris

Favorite Thing: His Eyeglasses

His Views: If the old proverb is true, and the eyes are the windows to the soul, four windows fill the soul of Andrew Butler with the light of a thousand suns. What could be so special about his eyeglasses? The average man wears them out of necessity, told by a school nurse that he should have been able to read an absurdly small *PXYOT*. Then there are those who wear glasses because they are fashionable. Andrew Butler is not your average man, and he is not a hipster. We can't be sure what Mr. Butler sees through his lenses, but we can guess – especially when we listen to *On the Verge of Vertigo* – that it's much like Paradise.

His Views on Serena: Several years ago, Andrew Butler went out for one of his nature walks and came across an abandoned ukulele. He bent down to clear off some of the dirt that had collected on the instrument, and that's when he began to cry. He wept for all of the instruments that had been abandoned, for the beautiful sounds that they once made. Then, he held the ukulele up to the sky, pleading with God to restore it to its former glory. A ball of light descended from the heavens. Dropping the ukulele, the young musician threw up his hands to shield his eyes from the glare. His eyesight was permanently damaged, but, after the light faded, he discovered that the instrument had been repaired.



Serena Ambroselli

Favorite Thing: His Ukulele

Her Views: A musician is nothing without an instrument, and there are a world of instruments that can be chosen from: guitars, keyboards, pianos, drums. However, these seem to pale in comparison to a ukulele. It is quintessentially unique and uplifting, which suits the young man who can be identified by his ukulele and his Safari Ranger attire. The instrument Andrew Butler has chosen to hone his musical inclinations with is just one reason why he is set above all other people in the industry of music-making. Without it, I am confident that he would find countless other ways to express his musicality, but thankfully we the people need not worry about a world in which Andrew Butler did not have a ukulele.

Her Views on Tim: In the case of Andrew Butler, I will concede that his glasses are equally as iconic and necessary as his ukulele. They go hand-in-hand, because what use is a musician who cannot read sheets of music? Or, even worse, what use is a musician who cannot see his audience dancing and singing along to the songs they know and love? I know that nothing is quite as fulfilling as seeing other people enjoy your good work, and for this reason I know that Andrew Butler's glasses are worthy to note. They are windows through which he can see crowds gathered to experience his lively performances on stage, and someday he'll especially need those glasses to see his legions of fans lining up to watch him play.

PHOTO COURTESY OF facebook.com

True Detective Hits HBO

PHOTO COURTESY OF thecontroller.com

by Mary McGreal '15
A&E Staff

TELEVISION

Three episodes in, the new HBO show *True Detective* is a welcome variation on the cookie-cutter mystery crime drama genre. However, with a title that might sound familiar to fans of a certain HBO vampire drama, there must be a writer who is just itching to send the whole group straight to Bon Temps, where Sookie Stackhouse could use her telepathic abilities to help the detectives wrap up the case a lot faster. Set to air in an anthology format—which has recently enjoyed a resurgence of popularity in mainstream pop culture through avenues such as the FX series *American Horror Story*—the first season opens in 2012 Louisiana with a pair of detectives (Michael Potts and Tory Kittle), who have an acute interest in a 1995 murder case that reeks of the

occult. They interview the two men who worked the case, while the action cuts back and forth between 1995 and 2012, giving viewers only a fragmented idea of what exactly is going on. While the former detectives, Cohle (Matthew McConaughey) and Hart (Woody Harrelson), hint that the mystery was solved in 1995, suggestions that a similar murder has occurred in 2012 cause a prevailing sense of unease. Who exactly was—or is—the murderer and what is it exactly that Cohle and Hart are so reluctant to share?

It is easy to describe Hart as a possessive, misogynistic middle-aged man who deserves any misfortune the universe happens to bestow upon him. Hart patronizingly asks the office secretary to get him coffee and rationalizes his affair with a younger woman, all while seeming to expect his wife to be perfect. Thankfully, this is not without commentary. Hart is called out by several characters, including Cohle, who seems to know exactly what is going

on. Central to the plot is the intersection between family and the job—specifically the effect that Hart's work has on his two young daughters. Harrelson captures the tension that exists between Hart's two worlds and the chaos that ensues when they collide.

Detective Rust Cohle is a more sympathetic character; a lean, squirrely Texas transplant who is not particularly well-liked by his colleagues is a mystery in and of himself. His young daughter died years before, which tore his marriage apart and sent him spiraling into an addictive state that is still visible in 2012. Even though Cohle appears to be alone in the world, it seems as if he has the most to lose.

While the show focuses mainly on the partnership of Cohle and Hart, it would be refreshing to see the female characters have the ability to be more than nagging wives, young seductresses, and sexualized objects. Over the course of three episodes, Martin's wife Maggie (Michelle Monaghan) has shown that

she is growing frustrated with her husband's antics. The relationships between Hart and Cohle and the women in their lives demonstrate deeper traits that are not necessarily visible in the confines of a conference room. Of course, one must always question the reliability of a 17-year-old account conveyed by two very different men.

Episodes are an hour long. They feel substantial enough to satisfy the viewer, yet stagnant enough to pique the viewer's appetite until the next week. As Cohle works his way through a pack of beer over the course of three episodes, the viewer is reminded that only a few hours have passed and that this conversation—or perhaps interrogation—is currently set in one workday. Speculation that there might be darker elements to the crime—such as Cohle or Hart being the actual murderer—is currently unfounded. But with five episodes left, the story is far from over. Because as with the best mysteries, nothing is really as it seems.

The Globes Kick Off Award Season

by George Killian '15
A&E Staff

TELEVISION

Jan. 12 marked the closing of a great year of film, and the beginning of another season of award shows. Presented by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, the Golden Globes have been given out annually since 1944, focusing on both film and television, for best leading and supporting roles for dramas, comedies, and television series or mini-series.

The event was hosted by the spectacular and hilarious duo Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, and while they joked at themselves saying people would get tired of them doing another show, they were anything but uninteresting. No star was left untouched, as the *SNL* veterans made fun of everybody, even referring to the great Matt Damon as "basically a garbage man" on a night like tonight.

But we always watch these award shows to praise those that have displayed a great amount of talent on the screen, and the teams that support them. Although the awards were predicted to be a sweep of just Steve McQueen's *12 Years a Slave*, many deserving movies received the credit they earned.

Jennifer Lawrence took the Best Supporting Actress in a Musical or Comedy for her work in *American Hustle*. She won, even with the hard competition of June Squibb in

Nebraska and a breathtaking Lupita Nyong'o in *12 Years a Slave*. Lawrence spared none of her natural charm as she received her award, though kept her composure as she walked up the stairs this time. *American Hustle* also took home Best Leading Actress in a Musical or Comedy with Amy Adams, as well as Best Motion Picture: Musical or Comedy.

Breaking Bad fans will be pleased to know that the incredible final season won a much-deserved Best Television Drama, and leading man Bryan Cranston took home the Best Actor in a TV Series, Drama.

Other television shows that seemed to stand above their competition were Netflix's original political thriller, *House of Cards*, where the leading lady, Robin Wright, won the Golden Globe for Best Actress in a TV Drama. And in the TV Comedy category, *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, a new Fox comedy starring Andy Samberg, took home Best TV Comedy Series, and Best Actor in a TV Comedy. Both of these shows return for a second season within the next two weeks, and with this, hopefully some increased support for the truly amazing new shows.

The highlight of the Golden Globes is always the award for Best Motion

Picture Drama, and it was no surprise to see *12 Years a Slave*, take that one home.

The Golden Globes always preview the Oscars, which will be aired Sunday, March 2 this year, hosted by Ellen DeGeneres. If you have not seen any of the more recently released

movies, most of them return to theaters for a short time leading up to the Oscars. Be sure to tune into ABC, because if Tina Fey and Amy Poehler were any indication, it will be a night of laughs and serious competition.

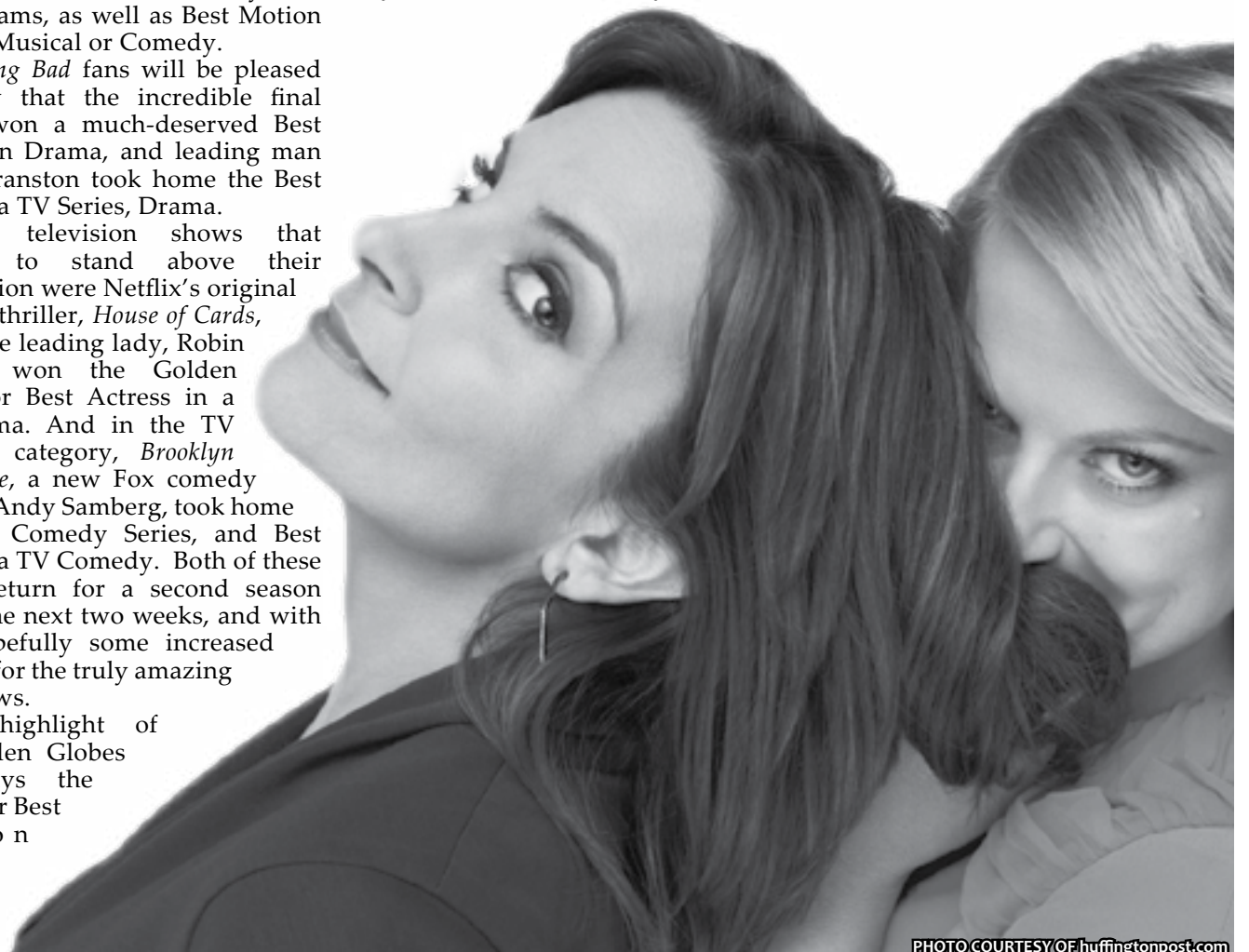


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A Calculated Life

by Kiernan Dunlop '14
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

Walter Denton spent the majority of his life doing one thing: waiting. In the morning he would wake up precisely at 6:18, take a five minute shower, get dressed in record time,

eat breakfast (either a bowl of oatmeal or an apple, never both), and be ready just in time to reach the bus stop at 6:43, giving him three minutes to wait for his 6:46 bus.

Once on the bus, he would find himself waiting again, 30 minutes, to reach his office. Walter was an expert at waiting, since he'd had so much practice. He would fill the time calculating anything, from the average speed of the bus to the average age of the passengers on board. This may seem like an odd way to pass the time, but not for Mr. Denton. Walter was an actuary; his life consisted of making calculations. It was only natural that he would bring his work home with him.

Walter arrived at his office building 14 minutes before his shift began, giving him just enough time to make a pot of coffee (which took approximately three minutes and 27 seconds), listen to his messages (two customer rants and a misdial from a very confused grandmother that all lasted six minutes and 13 seconds) and have four minutes and 20 seconds left to sit and organize his desk while sipping his freshly made cup of coffee.

Walter would never say that he didn't enjoy his job, but we've all experienced the urge to look at the clock and count down the minutes until freedom. Walter would go further than counting down. He calculated the average number of cases he could finish each day and would then slowly subtract each case from that average. He did find some small joy in trying to increase his number, just to show some small way his life was improving.

Once Walter's shift was over, his day ended in much the same way it began. He had a slightly longer 35 minute bus ride home due to traffic, but he passed his time in the same way. When he arrived home he made himself one of two things for dinner, either spaghetti and meatballs or chicken with a side of green beans and mashed potatoes. It was only on the rare occasion that Walter didn't go grocery shopping that he would order in his dinner, and since Walter wouldn't allow himself to forget, he only ordered in once when the grocery store down the street was closed for repairs.

After dinner he would allow himself a half hour of television and then he would read until his predetermined bedtime of 10 o'clock.

This was the way Walter Denton lived his life for five years: rarely, if ever, deviating from his schedule. This all changed one day when he was about to leave work. Walter wasn't one to make friends, but at work he found it made his life easier to interact politely with his coworkers and they seemed to like him for it. As he was getting up to leave, one of his nearest cubicle mates made Walter aware of a bet that was going around the office. Apparently

someone had come up with the idea of putting all the actuaries' information into the computer to determine which one of them would live the longest, and everyone could bet on who they thought it would be.

Walter agreed to play along, and even bet five dollars that he would live the longest. This bet, however, was far from a winning one. His "friend" determined that, in fact, Walter should have died two years ago according to the actuary software. All his coworkers found this hysterical and Walter played along for a while and then made an excuse so he could go catch his bus.

Walter walked out of the office in the direction of his bus stop when, 30 minutes later, he looked up and realized he had never stopped. He looked around him and saw that he had walked into the park. Walter had lived in the city for years and had never once stepped foot in the park. He began to feel a pulling in his chest and he knew it was because he had broken his routine. But then he thought of what happened at the office, and he felt anxious for an entirely different reason. If he were to die right then, in that moment, he knew his life could be summed up into a few sentences, and it wouldn't even be leaving anything out. He himself could describe what he had done in the past five years in one word: waiting. He had been waiting for something to happen to him, while at the same time making it impossible for anything to happen.

This thought began to eat away at him and he needed to sit down. He found his way to a park bench and sat first just concentrating on breathing in and out and then concentrating on all the people around him. There was a playground with dozens of kids running, jumping, and skipping. Surrounding the playground were concerned adults looking on, not wanting to interrupt the fun, but wanting to get home before it got dark. As Walter watched this he realized why he had scheduled every part of his day, because if every part of his day was scheduled there was no time for him to realize how lonely he was. Just as he was letting this thought marinate in his mind, a hot dog was shoved in front of his face.

"You look sad, I think you need this more than I do," a little girl said as an angry parent approached her from behind.

"Marybeth, how many times have I told you not to talk to strangers? And I bought that hot dog for you, not for someone who can clearly afford to buy his own," the woman screeched as she pulled her daughter away by the arm. Walter smiled to himself, realizing that these kind of unscheduled human interactions were exactly what he was missing. He walked up to another man sitting on a bench and asked him for the best restaurant within walking distance. Walter proceeded to the restaurant and ate out.

Illustration by
Casey Lynch '14



Food



by **Melanie Souchet '14**
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

Animal lovers always have this weird fantasy of being able to talk to their pets. In a way, I can see where they're coming from. It would definitely give a person certainty to know that he was actually doing what their pet wanted. But really, after communicating with my dog, I can say with complete honesty to the pet owners of the world that you do not want to communicate with animals. You don't. Animals are freaking weird.

Or it's just my dog. That's a possibility as well.

My dog, just for reference, is an ugly bulldog mix with a breathing problem and a bad ear. He's a good guard dog, sure, and keeps cats out of Mom's garden, but he also drools all over the place. And, as I discovered when my latent ability to communicate with some (but not all) animals kicked in, he has a one-track mind unlike anything the world has ever seen. Most of my dog's thoughts can be summed up in one word: food. I have a teenage brother, and he thinks about food less than this dog does. It's appalling. You'd think we were starving the dumb beast.

Another thing you have to understand is that dogs don't really communicate with words. It's not like telepathy with a human, where you'd just be thinking things at each other and that would suffice. Dogs do know a few words, like *sit* or *no*. On the whole, though, they communicate with images and sensations (smell is a big one). So when I say that my dog greets me every day when I come home with, "Food?" I'm simplifying things a bit. What he really greets me with is a mental image of various scraps from my lunch box, the taste of said food, and me talking in the gibberish that was my dog's understanding of English. He expects a treat from me, but at least has the decency to ask. "Food. Food?"

"Fine." As if his cheerful persistence wasn't enough, my dog is the master of the have-pity-on-me-and-feed-me face. So, as always, I cave and give him some leftovers. "You're gonna get fat, you know."

Dogs have no concept of fatness. I sometimes envy them for that.

As time passed, I started noticing that my dog's never-ending quest for food had certain variations to it. When he confronts my dad, the food he thinks of is dog treats. With my mother, it's his kibble. And with my brother, it's table scraps, and lots of them. He associates us with the kind of food we each give him. Logical? Sure. But, at the time, it was still weird to think that my dog saw us less as other living beings and more as food dispensers.

Other humans have other sensations he associates with them.

Being in the presence of the vet makes him think of pain; the very sound of the mail truck has him thinking, "Intruder, badbadbadbad." As I noticed this, I wondered if my dog was just stupid, or if all dogs were genuinely incapable of learning the names of things. Even words he knows didn't have the associations you'd think. When I say "car," his thoughts go to sticking his head out the window and smelling too many things at once. The image of our actual car doesn't even cross his mind. Early on, I tried my hardest to show him that car meant car, not necessarily car rides, but he didn't seem to catch on. I thought it was a lost cause. I really did.

It took me a while to realize that he wasn't doing anything wrong. I was.

It was a Saturday when I realized it. I'd been having a rough night. Loan payments and the existential crisis of "I'm graduating in a few months, now what" had hit me like a ton of bricks, and I didn't want to do anything. I was afraid I'd start crying if I opened my mouth to talk about it, so I just hid until everyone had gone to bed. Everyone, of course, but the dog.

"Food?"

Of course, I thought. "Not now," is what I said aloud. "I don't have anything..."

This didn't deter him. He just shuffled into my room and stared at me. "Food."

I was about to yell at him to go away when I realized he didn't have his pleading look. He wasn't begging, he didn't actually want food. Then why did he keep saying it?

I examined the sensation more closely. I noticed, for the first time, that there was more to it than just the lunch

scraps I fed him. There was me, my voice, my smile. My hand scratching him behind the ears. In that moment, he wasn't asking for food. He was asking for me.

My dog wasn't stupid. He was just speaking a different language, one where my name meant food and companionship and happy things. And now he was worried about me.

"...I'm okay, buddy." I finally got out of bed to give my dog a hug. "I'm okay."

Like I said, dogs are weird. Trying to talk to them is like learning a language not even of Earth. But I guess in the end it's worth it.

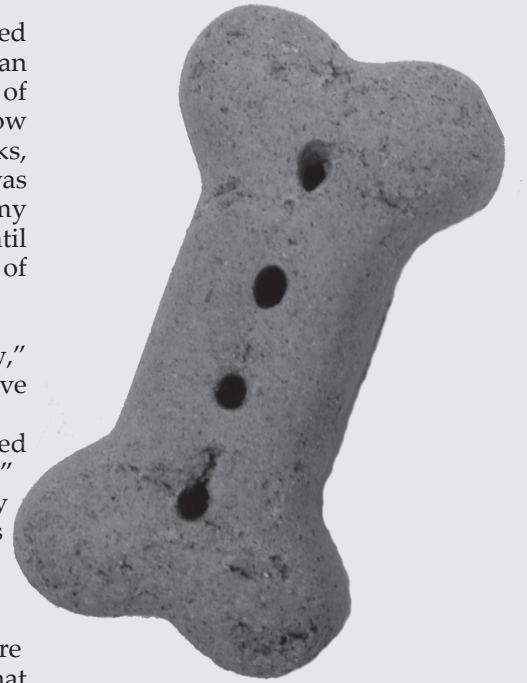


Photo courtesy of twinrexxes

Solstice

by **Emily Goodnow '14**
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

He blinds her like a winter solstice sun,
Glazing over snow, impairing her sight.
His illuminating rays sometimes stun
When they penetrate the surface just right.
He is the single snowflake that suspends
Untouchably among the atmosphere.
She observes each of his drifting trends,
Longs to embrace him but can only peer.
He crystalizes her glass window pane,
Sparkling the ordinary outlook.
Like a dream catcher, she gazes in vain
She hopes he's not a myth that she mistook.

A love that begins on winter solstice
Elicits a certain whimsical bliss.

Photo courtesy of Krappweis

Winter on a Summer Day

by **Justin Fernandez '15**
Asst. Portfolio Editor

POETRY

Poured out, the skies return to normal hues.
The overcast slides away, gone without a clue.
And Earth now quivers under the weight,
While dreams collapse to tear the fate.
Into the cleft and crooked cracks
Tears collect and form a pool.
Drip drop
"What's that?"
The wind whispers to not a fool.
Drip drop
"What's that?"
No one will ask.
Day to night and day again,
The tears, to heaven, return again.
Poured out, the skies return to normal hues.
The overcast slides away, gone without a clue.
Dead tree with branches hanging there
Will blow away, and no one cares.

Photo courtesy of gnmills

LAX



by Amanda Brown '14
Portfolio Staff

LYRICS

LAX it's 9:03.
Thought I heard you next to me.
I saw the sun rise twice today.
Smoked my first cigarette
Since that time last May.

I fly to L.A. all the time
The time, the time, the time it grows,
Like buildings I don't know.
I know I'm always on your mind
Your mind, your mind, your mind it lies,
Burns my city in the skies.

Polaroids in winter's heat.
Melting sidewalks, sinking feet.
You're on the other line
Saying "It can't wait."
These broken taxi cabs
They always make me late.

I fly to L.A. all the time
The time, the time, the time it grows,
Like buildings I don't know.
I know I'm always on your mind
Your mind, your mind, your mind it lies,
Burns my city in the skies.

The Who are on the radio.
Left or right or, I don't know.
Skinny models, suits and ties.
And I'm just screaming out
Why oh why oh why oh why I,

I fly to L.A. all the time
The time, the time, the time it grows,
Like buildings I don't know.
You know you're always on my mind
My mind, my mind, my mind it lies,
Burns my city in the skies.

You know you're always on my mind.
You know you're always on my mind.

Want to hear it live? Visit <https://soundcloud.com/huxleyri> or scan the code!

Tiffany & Earl

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

This week...

Dear Tiffany and Earl,

I'm a second-semester senior, and I'm ready to be done with school. I have a total lack of motivation for my last semester, but I know that I can't cop out because I need to finish with a good GPA for the job search. How can I stay motivated for the home stretch?

Sincerely,
Contagious Senioritis

Dear Wannabe James Franco,

Yawwwwn. Seriously, I am so tired of hearing the "elderly" drone on about this clichéd collegiate conundrum. Your time has come. You enjoyed your four years here, so I feel entitled to say this: just grow up.

I know this is probably not what you want to hear, but there's no excuse for your so-called senioritis because, face it, in a matter of months, your urge to flip the bird at your seven semesters of brainpower just to shout YOLO will leave you with a 2.1 GPA. Picture a postgrad life consisting solely of sitting on the couch with empty six-packs surrounding you, pants that no longer fit your newly-acquired beer belly piled on your floor, greasy hair matted to your oily face, an excessive collection of buffalo wing-stained resumes crumpled next to you, laptop burning as you obsessively refresh an empty email inbox. No, you have not heard back from those interviews. Yes, this is where senioritis got you.

Sweetie, these are not those glamorous high school days of the senioritis you see on *Freaks and Geeks*. You are not James Franco, and you cannot just repeat senior year over and over again. College senioritis is a different ball game. Fifty grand is a lot of money to waste, as is your future, and honestly, you're probably just not hot enough to pull off the Daniel Desario look.

Dear Too Good for Kollage,

Congratulations. You get to graduate. Whoopie doo. You have toiled for four years, and have spent enough money to buy eight brand new Subaru Outbacks. And you are all happy, and can't focus, because you got what you came for: a piece of paper with your name and major, with a whole six-hour presentation of you receiving said paper while you are dressed in a ridiculous gown and an even sillier cap. I know what they say: your degree is the ticket to greener pastures. It sounds all good, and sure makes all the hard work and money seem worth it.

Or that is what you think.

I'm going to let you in on a little secret. The "real world" is not like the TV show. You are going to be slammed every day and night with work. Your boss is going to ride you like Coach Cooley rode Sidiki Johnson, or Dr. Drogula rides his Senior Thesis students.

Not only that but those greener pastures you fantasize about are an eight by twelve foot square equipped with a small desk and an elderly computer.

And what happens when you're not in work? You are so tired that when you go to Ava's Wrath, you are ready for bed by the time the first 23-year-old freshman from Illinois stumbles in.

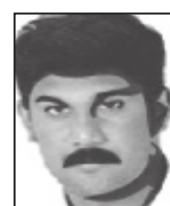
So, yeah, keep dreaming of next year. I'm sure you are going to never look back at your PC experience and want it back.

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

Will PC Basketball Make the NCAA Tournament?

No Yes

I want with all of my being to believe that the Men's Basketball Team is going to make the NCAA Tournament.

When I look at the situation rationally, however, it is hard for me to see the Friars dancing come March.

Before everyone jumps down my throat, let me just clarify; I have been rooting for these Friar teams ever since I stepped foot on campus four years ago. I have always done my best to be at every PC home game. I want more than anything for the Friars to punch their ticket to the Tournament, but it just is not realistic.

Look at this team. There are six people in the regular rotation, with Ted Bancroft '14 and Lee Goldsbrough '14 subbing in sparingly for toughness and defense; Bryce Cotton '14 averages nearly 40 minutes a game! There is simply a lack of depth that could cripple the Friars as the season continues. These guys are going to get tired eventually.

Not only that, but the team is predicated on one man. Cotton carries the offensive load, whether it is scoring or simply setting up the offense. He is the only reliable ball handler when an opponent presses or traps. If he is taken out of a play, the offense never sets up, and turnovers occur.

All that being said, I am extremely proud of this team. They have dealt with tremendous adversity and continue battling. This is easily Coach Cooley's best work as a Friars coach. However, their lack of depth is going to be an unfortunate Achilles' heel.

-Sean Bailey '14

The 2014 Providence Men's Basketball Team has as good a chance as any Friar squad in recent years at making it to the Big Dance in March, with one caveat; they must continue to defeat top-tier opponents, as well as take care of business against the bottom half of the conference. During their recent five-game winning streak, the Friars have garnered the attention of the national media, most notably ESPN's famous bracketologist Joe Lunardi. In his recent bracket projections, Lunardi has Providence squarely on the bubble, with little leeway to lose more than three or four games the rest of the way.

Provided that the Friars defeat the conference's lesser opponents, namely St. John's, Butler, Seton Hall, and DePaul (twice), they will have a plethora of opportunities to get themselves on the right side of the bubble. A home date with top 10 opponent Villanova looms large on Feb. 18, as well as chances to sweep first-place Creighton in the season finale on March 8 and Xavier on Feb. 8. Splitting two road games, if not winning both, at Georgetown and Marquette would likely be necessary as well in order to keep the selection committee interested.

While the task may seem daunting, this Friar squad has shown incredible willpower and heart despite dealing with a great deal of adversity on and off the court. With Bryce Cotton playing the way he is, as well as Kadeem Batts '14 and LaDontae Henton '15 pacing the offense, Providence should feel very good about their NCAA chances if they continue to play at the level they are currently playing at now.

-Joey Ciccarrello '16

In the Spotlight

Men's Basketball: The Friars have turned their fortune around in the new Big East. After losing their first two in-conference games, the team has been on a five-game winning streak, beating high-caliber teams like Creighton and Xavier in the process. In the most recent game for the team, they were able to come out victorious against Xavier in an 81-72 game. The team has played so well as of late that they were predicted a 12 seed in Joe Lunardi's latest Bracketology report. The next test for the Friars will come on the road Jan. 30 against an under-performing Marquette team.

Women's Basketball: The Women's Basketball Team has been on a tough stretch as of late. They have dropped four straight games in-conference and now sit at 6-14 overall on the season. In-conference play has been very difficult for the Lady Friars this season, as they have only registered one win in the nine in-conference games they have played. Tori Rule '15 has been able to cement her role as the leader of this team, logging over 30 minutes and 16 points a game during this tough season. She will try to lead her team out of a rut in their next game against DePaul on Feb. 1.

Men's Ice Hockey: The Friars are going into one of their biggest games of the year this weekend, as they will host No. 2 Boston College on Friday, January 31. Despite losing 6-1 to UMass-Lowell in the second game of last weekend's series, the team retained the No. 7 spot in the most recent USCHO National Top 25 rankings. The first game of the team's two-game series against UMass-Lowell came in front of the Friar Faithful, and the team was able to escape with a 5-4 victory. Trevor Mingoia '16, Mark Jankowski '16, and Ross Mauermann '15 all scored in the final seven minutes and 32 seconds of the game to seal the Friar victory.

Women's Ice Hockey: The Lady Friars are 11-16 this season, but there have certainly been a number of bright spots for this year's team. The team recently beat a University of Connecticut team by a score of 1-0. The game's only goal came from Lexi Romanchuk '16, who has scored three game-winning goals in this season alone. The team's next game will come on Feb. 1 against Boston College. They will look to improve on the 3-3 record that they currently hold against in-conference opponents.

Friars Put in Balanced Effort at Sorlien Invitational

by Billy O'Brien '17
Sports Staff

TRACK AND FIELD

A balanced team effort brought about the Friars' successes on Jan. 18 at the URI Sorlien Invitational, where they earned four first and second-place finishes.

Austin King's 50.22-second 400 meter dash and James Campel's 1:07.26 500 meter dash earned second place finishes for the underclassman sprinters. Distance runners Julian Saad '14G and Liam Hillery '15 also earned second-place finishes, with Saad, a graduate student, coming in at 4:20.46 in the 1600 meter run, and Hillery coming in at 8:23.82 in the 3000 meter run.

Joseph Vercollone '16 finished first in the 800 meter run, coming in at 1:56.14 while Kevin Cooper '14G finished first in the 1000 meter run, coming in at 2:27.85. Narrowly edging teammate Saad, Harvey Dixon '16 finished first in the 1600 meter run with a time of 4:20.07. Likewise, in the 3000 meter run, Friar teammates fought it out for first place, with Benjamin Connor '15 outracing Hillery on his way to an 8:22.52 finish.

The Friars also earned spots three and four in the 3000 meter run to capture each of the top four spots, as Stephen Robertson '16 and Christian Costello '16 finished at 8:35.90 and

8:37.95, respectively. Costello's effort marks a personal best.

The Friars' successes continued at the BU John Thomas Terrier Invitational on Jan. 25 as Providence saw seven runners qualify for the IC4A Championship and six reach personal bests in their respective events.

Julian Oakley's '16 personal best 4:01.05-second finish in the 1600 meter run qualified him, while Connor and Hillery earned qualifying times in the 5000 meter run, each earning personal bests. Connor finished in third place at 14:17.98, while Hillery finished in fourth at 14:20.81.

Saad and Cooper also earned personal bests on their way to qualifying times and 10-ten finishes in the 3000 meter run. Saad finished in eighth at 8:03.34 while Cooper finished ninth at 8:04.29. Dixon also qualified in the 3000 meter run, finishing in 23rd at 8:18.17. Joseph Vercollone '16 posted a personal best in the 1000 meter run, finishing in seventh at 2:24.71 and qualifying.

The Friars' recent strength offers signs of promise moving forward. Providence will race next on Feb. 1 at the URI Coaches' Invitational in Kingston.



Super Bowl Picks

Super Bowl XLVIII will be fought for in the Northeast on Feb. 2, as the Denver Broncos and Seattle Seahawks will clash in MetLife Stadium to decide who is the best team in the National Football League. Both the Broncos and Seahawks have earned their way into the game, holding the no. 1 seeds for the playoffs in both conferences. They lived up to their regular season results, beating two very tough competitors in the New England Patriots and San Francisco 49ers during their conference championships.

The Denver offense has arguably been the best in the history of the NFL this season, but even they have shown that they are capable of faltering. When an opposing team has been able to keep Peyton Manning off the field, they have had tremendous success against the Broncos. The San Diego Chargers did so in both of their division matchups in the regular season, and were even able to take a win away from the Denver team.

The Seattle Seahawks have one of the best running games in the NFL. Since Pete Carroll was hired as the coach for Seattle four years ago, the Seahawks have completely changed their identity as a football team. Their style has become that of smash-mouth football after acquiring Marshawn Lynch, an underachieving Buffalo Bills running back that has since transformed into one of the most dangerous players in the league. He showed his explosiveness a few weeks ago against the 49ers, when he took a handoff nearly 40 yards for a touchdown against a tough Niners defense.

They have drafted tremendously on defense and got a gem of a quarterback in Russell Wilson in the 2012 draft. Wilson has proven his ability to move around in the pocket and create plays in very tough situations. I think that he and Lynch will go a long way toward keeping Peyton Manning on the sidelines in this championship game.

In addition to their strong offense, the Seahawks ranked best in the NFL in overall defense this year. They have playmakers all over the field on D, with top caliber defense players in both the front seven and in the secondary. Bobby Wagner, Michael Bennett, and Cliff Avril will put pressure on Peyton Manning throughout the entire game, and the Denver quarterback will get no relief when trying to throw at the Seahawks' secondary. Richard Sherman takes the best opposing receiver out of most football games, and his fellow Legion of Boom teammates Kam Chancellor and Earl Thomas are versatile safeties that can also cover the great receivers of the Broncos.

This game has the potential to go down as an all-time classic, but I don't think the Seahawks will let this game slip through their grasp.

-DJ Anderson '16



Correctly predicting the Super Bowl any year is usually a toss-up. It is a night with more Americans tuned to their televisions than any other of the year, and a night where all prime time performers are determined to bring their best. And what makes this game even more of a toss-up than normal is that it features the Denver Broncos' top-ranked offense against the Seattle Seahawks' top-ranked defense. Now choosing which of these specialties will be the difference maker is tough, and with the Super Bowl set in the harsh winter chill of the Northeast, many would lean towards the defense. However, unfortunately for Seattle fans, no weather will be able to erase the league's finest general, Peyton Manning. He has been through trials and tribulations in his time, but this will not be another one. Look for Manning to put a stamp on a career that is arguably greater than any quarterback before him, in a commanding final score of Denver 27-Seattle 13.

-AJ Steuck '14

There is, of course, that old adage "Defense wins championships," and while we could argue the truth of it, a good defense certainly can't hurt. Led by league interception leader Richard Sherman and Cliff Avril coming off the edge, Seattle statistically has the best defense in the NFL. By the same statistical ranking, Denver is decidedly mediocre.

Peyton Manning is one of the best quarterbacks in NFL history. There is no use arguing that fact. However, Seattle's Russell Wilson is everything you want in a mobile quarterback. He makes good decisions about when to take off and is calm under pressure. He throws just as well in the pocket as on the run and has yet to sustain a major injury.

Also, there is location to consider. With temperatures predicted to be below freezing, Sunday night weather could be a factor for the first time in a while. Manning has not proven himself to be a good cold-weather quarterback. Wilson has had good games in the cold while at Wisconsin and good games in the pouring rain since coming to Seattle.

If the ball starts getting away from both quarterbacks, Russell Wilson has two things Manning does not: the ability to run and Marshawn Lynch. This leads us to the running game. Lynch is the post-season rushing leader and you would call him a big-game running back if he weren't so good in the little games as well. Denver's running game is, much like their defense, decidedly mediocre.

The real question here is, does Manning make up for the rest of Denver's deficiencies? I tend more towards the belief that a great quarterback can steal you a couple games, but it's another thing entirely to steal a championship.

-Veronica Lippert '15



This year's Super Bowl will be big. Between the big offensive stats of the Broncos, the big play of Seattle's defense, and the enormity of both Peyton Manning's head and Richard Sherman's mouth, the football game on Feb. 2 is bound to be memorable. As for who will win the big game, big people say big things like, "Defense wins championships." Unfortunately, these people have small brains, as the greatest quarterback ever will ride his record-setting offense into the sunset by doing something pundits say could never be done: have a Manning win at MetLife Stadium.

Stupid people and Brady supporters alike (usually one and the same) will argue that Manning has trouble against quality defenses in poor weather, which is expected on Sunday. Must I remind people what happened in the 2007 Super Bowl, however? Prince gave a wonderful rendition of "Purple Rain." And also Manning put on his own big performance to win in the rain against the third scoring defense that season.

Also, as much as this author loves praising Manning, the Broncos can beat the Seahawks in the running game. The two back tandem of Moreno and Ball rushed for more combined yards than Marshawn Lynch, and Denver has the seventh-ranked rush defense this season. Cold weather will not be a problem for a run-based Denver victory, and if Manning cannot throw the ball then Russell Wilson certainly cannot.

This author expects big things from the Broncos this Super Bowl, but nothing bigger than the Lombardi Trophy.

-Bryan Blum '17



SPORTS

Photo courtesy of morning hangover



Friars Restore Faith for Friartown

by James Kirby '15
Sports Staff

COLUMN

The odds of picking the perfect March Madness bracket are one in 9.2 quintillion. How much is a quintillion? It is 9.2 followed by 18 zeros. While any number with 18 zeros certainly is intimidating, it puts into perspective the unpredictability of college basketball. It is so unpredictable that Warren Buffett is offering a billion dollars to anyone who correctly chooses every game this year during March Madness. If the favorites were to win every game (or even most games), Buffett might be out of cash by April.

Simply put, picking winners in college basketball is impossible. The numerical odds of picking every single game in the bracket are not the only evidence that college basketball is virtually unpredictable. In fact, the entire month of January for the Friars has proved to be a solid example that a little heart, passion, and maybe some good Fortune can turn even the most abysmal of events around.

On the rollercoaster of Friar

fandom, the ride went for a nosedive that hit rock bottom on Jan. 5 when the Friars suffered a 30-point loss to Villanova. The loss capped off a string of events that made it seem as if the Friars are just destined to fail. Undoubtedly, the worst news came when Friartown learned starting PG Kris Dunn '16 would have to undergo season-ending shoulder surgery. An announcement that the Brandon Austin and Rodney Bullock '17 suspensions would be a full year, followed by Austin's announcement that he would be transferring, were the next dominoes. On the court it was not much better, as heartbreaking back-to-back overtime losses to University of Massachusetts and Seton Hall University followed. Finally, the loss at Villanova was the tipping point. Fans were questioning Ed Cooley's ability to coach, as well as the future of the program while bracing for yet another "rebuilding year."

Fast forward a month, and the Friars sit in third place in the Big East after winning five straight conference games that included wins against Georgetown, St. John's, Creighton, Butler, and Xavier. Ed Cooley is being

considered for Big East Coach of the Year. The disaster that was only a month ago feels like it was eons ago.

What changed between the 30-point loss at Villanova to the 18-point victory against Georgetown only three days later? Ed Cooley would say the team's chemistry, after all the events that transpired, fell into a comfort level with each other and are now embracing their roles. Or is it the Division I leader in average minutes a game Bryce Cotton '14 who is averaging 23 points and seven assists during that five-game span? Kadeem Batts '14, LaDontae Henton '15, and Tyler Harris '16 have all stepped up when needed to aid Cotton. It is difficult to pinpoint the exact turnaround point of the season, maybe because there was not any. Cotton and Cooley emphasized that the team never lost faith, and knew their potential even after the losses.

The turnaround is nothing short of remarkable. Considering the adversity this team has been put through, it is easy to root for the Friars, who continue to prove doubters wrong. The last five-game win streak for the Friars in conference play came during the '03-'04 season. That season was

also the last time the Friars played in the NCAA tournament. No one could have predicted the earlier events that looked to plague the season.

It may not have been a quintillion to one odds, but the turnaround that followed was even more unpredictable. Despite that four of the five wins were home, and thus an added advantage, the team has shown its maturity by closing out close games, not to mention containing the best players in the conference in Doug McDermott of Creighton University and Semaj Christon of Xavier University.

The Friars are getting little attention nationally, which is fine with the team and Coach Cooley as they are doing pretty well as the underdog. The goal has not changed. Clinching a spot in the coveted field of 68 for March Madness is still the ultimate endpoint. The moral of January for Friar fans is to not give up on this team. It will likely be a rocky ride, but if the Friar team can win with the hand they were dealt with in early January, then anything is possible.



Photo courtesy of zimbio