

THE COWL



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Providence College

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LET YOUR MIND BE BAREFOOT



MORGAN PEKERA '15 / THE COWL

A Lesson in Selflessness from August Siu '15

by Kelly Sullivan '15
Opinion Editor

STUDENT PROFILE

Throughout our time at college, our schedules are packed. We have to go to the gym, do our homework, study for exams, cheer on the Friars, and attend all of our club meetings. Our lives bank on us wearing stylish clothes so we can fit in, and our success relies on us pushing for the same internships and jobs. Amidst this chaos, it is hard to find time to think of others or to partake in activities to help others for reasons other than embellishing our resume.

Let's be honest, throughout our packed routines being selfless is not a priority. We can't, however, use this as an excuse. Living in the college bubble is not an excuse to forget that the world is bigger than Providence College. We must remember what a privilege it is to be in college at all. According to the *Huffington Post*, a mere 6.7 percent of the world has a college degree.

While our daily lives revolve around striving to improve our own future,

we must think about our hard work differently. In addition to our own success, we must see our hard work as a way to improve the lives of others. As the minority of people fortunate enough to be able to go to college, isn't it our duty to think about how we can use this advantage to better the world as a whole? How can we use our knowledge to help others and improve the societies we live in?

BMSA member August Siu '15 has an interesting idea for getting into this mindset. She believes that we need to have a "barefoot" mind. She says, "I think the idea of barefoot itself is so meaningful. First, I really just love being barefoot, it's just really comfortable to not wear any shoes. Second, having a 'barefoot' mind makes me reflect on the core ideas of acceptance, freedom, vulnerability, and determination."

A "barefoot" mind embodies how a person should view situations. It is about viewing problems with vulnerability and humility rather than superiority

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Beliso-De Jesús Discusses the Religious and Power Dynamics in Transnational Feminisms

by Kathleen McGinty '16
Asst. News Editor

CAMPUS EVENTS

Dr. Aisha M. Beliso-De Jesús, an assistant professor of African American religions at Harvard Divinity School, visited Providence College this past Monday, March 24, to deliver her lecture entitled "Religion and Transnational Feminisms." Beliso-De Jesús discussed how when women become a unit of analysis, understanding of a culture's religion and complex history can help to reconcile differences and evaluate how new forms of gender dynamics can be constructed transnationally.

"Religion becomes central to the study of otherness," she said. "Religion becomes the central foundational focus on which scholars can understand differences."

According to Beliso-De Jesús, transnational feminist studies attempt to move away from looking at one singular subject of women, such



SAADIA AHMAD '14 / THE COWL

Beliso-De Jesús stresses the importance of religion in constructing transnational feminist projects.

as women of color, and instead capitalize on the relationships among globalization, race, sexuality, diaspora, and nationalisms from a transnational rather than an international perspective.

"Who can represent whom? Who can research whom?" she asked her audience,

referring to the problem of cultural imperialism that arises when scholars seek commonalities among women, searching for a baseline joining them, or evaluate female development with the conception that women around the globe

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Author Okey Ndibe Reads from New Novel

by Jackie McCarthy '14
News Staff

CAMPUS EVENTS

On Thursday, March 20, Providence College's English department hosted Okey Ndibe as a guest speaker. Ndibe is a critically acclaimed novelist, having written the widely popular *Arrows of Rain*, as well as the more recent *Foreign Gods, Inc.* Both novels have been well-received and successful. His visit to the college was one of many stops Ndibe will be making to promote his novel as part of an extensive book tour.

As Ndibe stood in front of his audience, he revealed two things about himself. These are that he is "constitutionally incapable of brevity," and that he is an "anti-reader." This preceded the many stories he would tell his audience in his allotted hour of presentation time. "I don't do conventional

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Providence College's Student-Run Newspaper Since 1935

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A&E

Have you seen *Divergent*? Katie Puzycki '17 discusses our obsession with dystopian tales.

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Portfolio

The final installment of Jose Martinez's '16 post-apocalyptic epic.

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Sports

Friar Faithful thanks the Men's Basketball Team for a great season.

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Francisco Oller '16 Delivers Second Motivational Talk

by Meaghan Dodson '17
News Staff

STUDENT LECTURES

On Thursday, March 20, 2014 at 6 p.m., Francisco Oller '16 addressed the Providence College community in Slavin's '64 Hall. Often called "Cisco" by his PC friends and professors, he gave a motivational speech about how he strives to live each day to its fullest.

A native of San Juan, Puerto Rico, Oller was born with Pelizaeus-Merzbacher disease. The genetic disorder is extremely rare and affects the motor abilities and cognitive functions of one out of every 200,000 to 500,000 males. Nevertheless, Oller considers himself exceptionally fortunate because he has a mild form of PMD that, while causing him to need a wheelchair to get around, leaves his intellectual functions very much intact.

Oller thanks God every day for the life he has been given, and he would never wish to have been born without his disease, since it made him the man he is today. He attested, "Life is what you make of it" and anyone has the ability to redefine the negative events or challenges in life as God's gifts. If we despair in our hardships, losses, or failures, he said, we forget our passions. He remarked that the day we



ELYSE BUTTERWORTH '15 / THE COWL

Oller shares his life with PMD and the role it has played in shaping the person he has become.

lose hope is the day we put limits on ourselves.

The transition from high school to college was the biggest change and hardest adjustment that Oller has made. Not only did he have to get used to the higher level of academic rigor, but he also had to adapt to a new culture in the United States. Coming from a small school in Puerto Rico, Oller was at first overwhelmed by PC and also

by the prospect of being completely independent. He revealed that while people were initially apprehensive to talk about his condition, after he explained PMD they were able to get to know him on a deeper level.

Today, Oller confirmed that attending PC was one of the "best and most powerful" choices he made. He wakes up every morning with a positive attitude and is ready to

embrace the day. He considers himself to have a challenge—not a disability—and this challenge is made easier through the camaraderie and support of his classmates and professors.

Oller's goal is to acquire experience in both leadership and communication, and he hopes to live a life of service and social consciousness. He has a passion for motivational speaking; in fact, the last presentation he gave at PC was so well-attended that it had to be moved to a larger venue. In the long run, he may even aspire to become a dean at the College, joking that future PC classes should "watch out!"

Every single person has a disability, Oller stated, whether it be a visible one like needing a wheelchair, or an invisible one like a fear of failure. Oller expressed his sincere belief that faith can help us overcome these obstacles, and that God never gives us challenges we cannot handle. He concluded that miracles happen every day in both big and small ways, and it is truly a miracle that he has the privilege to share his joy with others.

Zac Brown '17 reflected, "I thought Cisco's words were very inspiring—his thoughts on disability and how he thinks he does not have one are great. My favorite quote was of him saying that the only disability is a bad attitude, as I could apply it to my own life right away."

Miss Egypt '17 Crowned Miss Providence College

by Elizabeth Nako '15
News Staff

STUDENT EVENTS

On Saturday evening, March 22, the first annual Miss Providence College Pageant took place in '64 Hall. This event was sponsored by PC Student Congress Outreach Committee, PC Lifestyle and Fashion Club, and Six Gents. Admission to the show was that each audience member was asked to bring an article of clothing which would be donated to the Big Brothers Big Sisters Foundation.

Daelina Lockhart '15, a member of the Student Congress Outreach Committee, talked about how the idea to plan this pageant came to her when she was put in charge of the clothing drive for the Outreach Committee. Lockhart remarked, "I thought how could I do a clothing drive but in a fun way and I came up with the idea to do this pageant. I wanted for this to be something that was exciting for not only the contestants but the audience."

The night began with the showing of an inspirational women empowerment video. Afterward, current Miss Rhode Island 2013 Jessica Marfeo welcomed the audience members by thanking them for coming to support the female contestants as well as giving back to the community. Marfeo said, "Tonight is all about empowering young women and empowering these girls to show their education, their beauty, and their grace." Marfeo

also thanked all of the parents in the audience because if it were not for the parents empowering their young daughters, then the contestants surely would not be up on stage.

After Marfeo finished speaking, the MCs for the night, Devon Annicelli '14 and Grace Curley '14, were introduced. The MCs then announced the contestants: Miss United States of America, Kara Greeley '14; Miss Jamaica, Tiffany Devonish '17; Miss Cape Verde, Kelynn Offley '15; Miss Scotland, Lauren Thorpe '16; Miss England, Lauren Wyse '17; and Miss Egypt, Tyerra Dickerson-Porter '17.

The Miss PC Pageant had four rounds: formal, casual, cultural, and talent. The contestants were first introduced in their elegant formal gowns and said their name, major, year, hometown, and a fun fact. In the casual round, the girls showed off their fall, summer, and spring wear. During the cultural round, each contestant dressed up representing their country and gave cultural knowledge about what they learned about their country from their research. During the cultural round there was a question and answer segment, in which the contestants were asked questions such as what it means to be a woman and what it means to give back to the community. The talent round was definitely the crowd favorite, and contestants' talents ranged from impersonating Cher, singing, playing the piano, and one contestant and her roommates showing off their "Gangnam Style" dance skills.

In between rounds, while the contestants had a chance to change from one outfit to the next and the judges tallied up their scores, there were raffle prizes, history of PC trivia, Six Gents comedy sketches, a PC Dance Club performance, and a photo slideshow of all of the contestants from their pageant show practices.

At the end of the night, after the judges convened, the contestants came back on stage in their formal attire and the winner was announced—Miss Egypt, Tyerra Dickerson-Porter '17. Dickerson-Porter commented on being crowned Miss Providence College 2014: "In the end I took home the crown but I received so much more. We were able to donate many clothes

to a worthy charity, I was educated on another culture, I made new friends, and I overcame my fears."

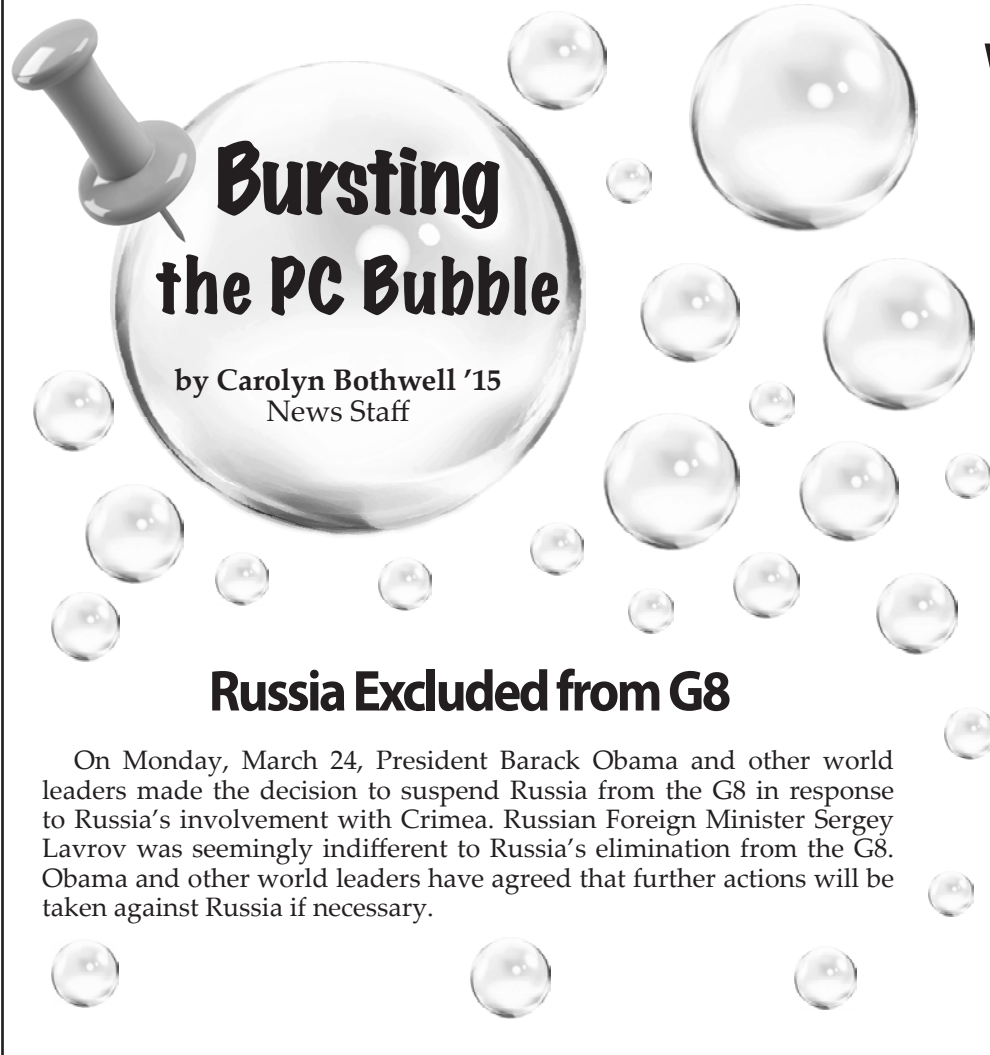
The first Miss Providence College Pageant was a success, which was apparent from the crowded audience of students and parents in '64 Hall. Audience member Ana Leon '16 commented, "It [the pageant] was a fun event that should become a tradition." Lockhart described the pageant planning not only fun, but both challenging and rewarding. "This event was important to me because it was presenting young women from PC in a positive and uplifting manner." Lockhart said she plans on doing the pageant next year and she aspires to make the event even bigger and better.



MORGAN PEKERA '15 / THE COWL

This year's Miss PC, pictured far left, poses with her competitors during the formal round.

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Bursting the PC Bubble

by Carolyn Bothwell '15
News Staff

Russia Excluded from G8

On Monday, March 24, President Barack Obama and other world leaders made the decision to suspend Russia from the G8 in response to Russia's involvement with Crimea. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov was seemingly indifferent to Russia's elimination from the G8. Obama and other world leaders have agreed that further actions will be taken against Russia if necessary.

Weather Forces Hinder Search for Flight 370

On Monday, March 24, a search for the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 in the Indian Ocean was suspended due to gusty winds, treacherous rain, and large waves. The plane went mysteriously missing on March 8 and has been unaccounted for ever since. After intensive satellite analysis, officials have confirmed that the plane went down in the Indian Ocean and have informed families of the victims that all lives onboard were lost.

529 People Sentenced to Death in Egypt

On Monday, March 24, 529 Muslim Brotherhood supporters were sentenced to death in Egypt in response to violent riots that took place in August. The Brotherhood is a Sunni Islamist movement that rioted in support of the previous president Mohammed Morsy. This is the largest amount of death sentences at once in Egyptian history.

Deadly Landslide in Washington

On Saturday, March 22, a landslide struck rural towns in Washington state. The disaster, which covered about one square mile, was caused by groundwater saturation from recent heavy rain. Since the incident, 14 have been reported dead and 102 are still missing.

65th Student Congress: Executive Election Results

by Meaghan Dodson '17
News Staff

STUDENT CONGRESS

The results are in for Providence College's 65th Student Congress Executive Board Elections. The PC student body was invited to vote on March 25 and March 26 to choose the candidates who they feel will best represent the College next year.

Bobby Arruda '15 will serve as the Executive President for the 2014-2015 academic school year. He is excited to use the individual strengths and contributions of Congress members to create a deeper sense of community and to achieve committee and class goals. He affirmed that every single person must "recognize that we are all united in our love of PC and in our desire to grow the community and student body."

Serving as Executive Vice President is Matt Pavia '15. He aims to inspire members and get them energized about next year, as he knows that this enthusiasm is essential to Congress' success. One of the goals of the new executive board is to work closely with the administration and faculty to develop prevention-based attitudes toward issues, and Pavia addressed the entire PC community when he stated, "We all promise to work with each and every one of you to continue to understand issues within our community and foster solutions."

Ally Rohmann '15 was chosen as

the Executive Treasurer. She hopes that all four members of the executive board will "go beyond what our titles suggest" to act as an effective leadership unit. Rohmann reflected that she looked up to the seniors when she was a freshman on Congress, and—now that things have come full circle—she aspires to be a role model for the Class of 2018. She also intends to improve communication with PC clubs and organizations in order to make everything run smoothly and to ensure that nothing gets lost in translation.

Finally, Abby Hevert '15 will hold the office of Executive Secretary next year. She is "incredibly humbled" to be representing her school, and she is "looking forward to pursuing more socially-charged initiatives at PC." Hevert emphasized that next year will be a give-and-take experience as she will collaborate with Congress members while they, in turn, will challenge her to put forward her best effort. She promised that the 65th Student Congress will "listen intently, challenge respectfully, and communicate effectively."

All four of the candidates ran under the campaign of "4 Friars. 1 Vision." Each one has served on Congress for the past three years, and they are all sincerely grateful to the PC community for its support and encouragement. Together, they intend to make every effort to ensure that next year's Congress will be celebrated for its successes and remembered for its accomplishments.



Matt Pavia '15 (vice president) and Abby Hevert '15 (secretary) are currently studying in London.



(Left to Right) Bobby Arruda '15 (president) and Ally Rohmann '15 (treasurer).

PC Community to Discuss the Nature of Marriage

by Kathleen Sullivan '14
News Editor

LECTURES

Dr. John Corvino, chair of the philosophy department at Wayne State University, was scheduled to give a lecture at Providence College titled "The Meaning of Gay Marriage" on September 26. On September 21, the event was cancelled and postponed until the following semester as a debate between Dr. Corvino and Sherif Girgis, a doctoral candidate at Princeton University and a law student at Yale.

On March 5, the College published a press release stating that it will be hosting "Discussions on the Nature of Marriage."

The first event is titled, "Haters, Sinners, and the Rest of Us: The Gay Marriage Debate Today," and it is planned to take place on Thursday, April 24 in '64 Hall. Dr. Corvino will speak on the topic of same-sex marriage, and Dr. Dana Dillon, assistant professor of theology at the College, will present the response, just as the lecture in September had been planned.

Girgis will speak at the second event on April 30 in the Smith Center called, "What is Marriage? Man and Woman: A Defense and Response." Dr. Christopher Arroyo, associate professor of philosophy at PC, will respond to his talk. Dr. Arroyo was the main organizer of the original lecture and first spoke to Dr. Corvino about coming to speak at PC last spring.

On rescheduling the event, Dr. Arroyo said, "Once it had become clear that the Corvino lecture was in full compliance with official college policy, the nine original co-sponsors

and I rescheduled it and invited academic departments and programs throughout the College community to sign on as co-sponsors as a show of support for the lecture and for our academic freedom to host such a lecture." The event now has 30 co-sponsors.

Dr. Arroyo further explained, "The Center for Catholic & Dominican Studies has invited Sherif Girgis to lecture on same-sex marriage. He is co-author (along with Ryan Anderson and Robert George) of *What is Marriage? Man and Woman: A Defense*, which is the main contemporary philosophical critique of same-sex marriage."

He sees both of these lectures as signals to the caliber of academic work being done at PC and that the events "demonstrate the kind of intellectual environment the members of the Providence College community enjoy."

He expressed the hope that PC students will be able to gain a greater understanding of the philosophical arguments made in the same-sex marriage debate, along with the hope that "PC students and the wider PC community will see that we can come together and have respectful, reasoned, and rigorous academic debate about controversial issues."

He added a final hope that "people will understand that such debate is neither a *prima facie* rejection nor a *prima facie* endorsement of official Catholic teaching on such issues. That we debate such issues, however, is an important feature of the Catholic intellectual tradition."

Dr. Arroyo believes that the students have taken the lead on discussions of academic freedom and modeled how PC can have "open, smart, respectful discussion about controversial issues."

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Ndibe:

Continued from front page

book readings," he said, "What I do is share stories." In telling his stories to the audience, he tells the story of his experiences adjusting to a new life in the United States and of his writing processes when constructing the plot behind his novels and short stories.

Ndibe came to the United States from his home in Nigeria 25 years ago in order to pursue his writing aspirations. Since his move to the United States, he has completed two books, written columns for Nigerian and American newspapers, and has taught as a professor of English at Connecticut College, Trinity College, and Brown University. Though he has accomplished much since first arriving at his new home, he says, "There are still so many things in this country that are strange to me!" This concept has become the basis for much of his writing.

Things that might seem like normal, day-to-day happenings to Americans, Ndibe points out, might not be so normal for a person who is first encountering the culture. He brings this point into focus in what will be *Going Dutch and Other American Mis/Adventures*, his new book, which he describes as a collection of memoir-like essays that will likely be released next year. These stories, some of which were presented and resulted in laughter from members of the audience, tie into the subject of *Foreign Gods, Inc.*

Ndibe says of his most recent novel, released on Jan. 14, "It is an immigrant narrative and an explanation of ways in which we consume our cultures." People have a

desire to know about and experience other cultures, and Ndibe presents this desired knowledge to readers in a very real and accurate way. Through his stories, Ndibe projects an openness to American culture while still maintaining his connection to Nigeria's culture and politics.

"It is important to tell our stories," he says, "To tell a story is an act, not just an art. Stories become a way of remembering us. They become a way of having a voice." Ndibe attempts to expand the reader's knowledge and opinions through the stories he tells, and encourages his readers to do the same.



Ndibe discusses his journey to becoming a critically acclaimed author.

JACKIE MCCARTHY '14 / THE COWL

Feminism:

Continued from front page

need to catch up to the status of females in the Western world. "How does that already imply power relations?"

Beliso-De Jesús argued that these power relations are, in fact, inherent in feminist projects, and that these can actually create new lines of power by reproducing types of neoliberal or neocolonial projects. Thus, she advocated for thinking about the relationships among nation states

and the politics produced by global collaboration or co-production in transnational analyses of women, all of which can be facilitated through religious understanding. In fact, she stated that we need to pay attention to how feminist projects often demonize non-Christian religions and examine the desire for the sexual and erotica in the media.

She cited a case study from *The Oprah Show* in which Oprah raised awareness of female genital mutilation in West Africa, suggesting that the talk show host's decision to do so may have rooted itself in Western modern culture, taking an international rather than transnational approach to gender dynamics and possibly creating new lines of power.

"The notion of liberation itself can be viewed as an imperialist project," she concluded.

Beliso-De Jesús suggested that in order to adopt a transnational feminist approach to creating and evaluating forms of gender dynamics, we must be cognizant of the fact that Western rhetoric can exacerbate conditions for women living in other cultures and recognize, not ignore, the stories and complex histories that construct these cross-cultural differences.



Beliso-De Jesús is an assistant professor at Harvard Divinity School.

SAADIA AHMAD '14 / THE COWL



Updates:

Semester Delivery Total: 1,545 lbs.

Week Delivery Total: 25 lbs.

Congress Updates

by Kathleen Sullivan '14
News Editor

STUDENT CONGRESS

The Class of 2014 announced that Formal Night for Commencement will be held at Foxwoods Resort and Casino.

The Class of 2016 is hosting the Friar Ball this coming Friday, March 27.

BOP announced that tickets for the spring concert are on sale for \$25. The spring concert will feature Krewella and Radical Something.

New business included discussion on the proposal of the Middle Eastern Student Association (MESA). Ally Rohmann '15, chair of the clubs and organizations committee, and Mary Alice Sallah '14, treasurer, both noted that the club has done a great job throughout the proposal process. MESA has existed previously and is recognized by BMSA.

The other piece of new business was about dissolving the Hellenic Society. Rohmann explained that this was related to the recent legislation about clubs deciding to dissolve. A lack of interest and questions of longevity were reasons why the club is choosing to dissolve. The club will be free to start up and go through the recognition process again at any time.

Providence College Student Congress meets every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in Ruane LLOs. Meetings are open to the public!

Patchwork of PC

by Elizabeth Nako '15
News Staff

CAMPUS NEWS

PC students have noticed a new decoration hanging in the Slavin Overlook Lounge this semester—a quilt made out of PC T-shirts. The quilt was Shannon Gallagher '15's idea after she did some work with Project Repeat. Gallagher talked about Project Repeat, saying, "Project Repeat was founded on the basis of repatriating textile jobs to the United States. They make quilts out of customers' T-shirts hoping both to keep textile waste out of landfills and to employ people in the U.S. with fair wage and supportive jobs." Gallagher then spoke about how customers loved the idea of a T-shirt

quilt, and Project Repeat has continued to make T-shirt quilts for customers all over the U.S.

Project Repeat offered to donate a quilt to PC "as a way to show off our Friartown pride and keep T-shirts from going unused or thrown away." Gallagher then collected over 80 T-shirts from all over campus that were either old, worn out shirts or old shirts sitting in offices that had no use. She collected T-shirts from BOP, BMSA, Student Congress, the athletics department, the school bookstore, Residence Life, Career Services, SAIL, and Intramural Sports. Gallagher commented that now all the T-shirts she has collected "have a home in the quilt which reminds students of all their own PC memories."



The quilt features parts of T-shirts collected from numerous organizations and offices.

SAADIA AHMAD '14 / THE COWL



OPINION

Need a Lyft?

Friendliness and Convenience of Taxi Service Make It a Great Choice

by Jacquelyn Kelley '17
Opinion Staff

CAMPUS

How many times has a taxi service let you down? If you are a Providence College student, the answer is probably a countless number. Sometimes the cab you're counting on comes later than promised, while other times it does not come at all. When it does come, there's a good chance you're stuck with an overpriced ride from an irresponsible driver. There is no need to waste your time and money anymore thanks to Lyft, a new and more reliable taxi service being offered in the Providence area.

So what exactly is Lyft, and what makes it different from other taxi services? First of all, Lyft is an app you download that registers your location and the location of Lyft drivers in your area who are available to pick you up. When you request a "lyft," it matches you with the closest

driver in your area and shows you the person's name, what kind of car he or she drives, and how long it will take them to pick you up. It also shows you what his or her average rating is as a driver.

The rating system is one of the features that really sets Lyft apart from other services. As explained on their website, "Passengers and drivers rate each other after every ride. If you rate a driver below 4 stars, you'll never be matched with that driver again. If a driver's average falls below 4 and a half out of 5 stars, they are removed from the Lyft community. It's our way of maintaining high-quality standards."

I can attest to those high standards. I used Lyft for the first time this past weekend and was thoroughly impressed. My first driver arrived within 10 minutes of my calling and was incredibly friendly. She told me that the new Lyft drivers in the Providence area had a kickoff event earlier in the week where the drivers got together for pizza and played icebreaker games to get to know each

other. After hearing this, I was aware of how different Lyft is. It isn't just a group of drivers randomly hired and sent out to drive. It's like a little community where everyone takes the time to get to know each other. I found this very cool, and she received a five-star rating from me.

The second Lyft driver I used arrived within only five minutes of calling and was also really friendly. He told me that he liked the concept of Lyft because the drivers are personable and interesting. He wasn't kidding about the interesting part either, as it turns out that his main gig is commercial piloting. We chatted for most of the ride, and made it back quickly and safely. He also received five stars.

If you need a second opinion, take Nick Redeker '17's into consideration. He also praised the Lyft service when he said, "It came in under five minutes. The driver was really friendly and started talking to us about when he was in college."

At the end of the night, Redeker only had one complaint. "[The driver]

didn't know where the place was, so we had to look it up on the GPS ourselves and give him directions," said Redeker.

Both drivers I had simply used their own GPS devices and followed the directions accordingly, but other students have also complained that their drivers did not know the fastest routes to their destinations. Based on Redeker's and other students' feedback, you may want to factor a little extra time into your ride and prepare for a driver who is not necessarily familiar with the Providence area.

Despite this minor flaw, it seems that Lyft is the best service to consider when planning your next night out. Plus, each car has a giant pink mustache on the front of it! How much cooler can Lyft get? So, stop wasting your time and money on other services. Sign up for Lyft now, and for your first two weeks enjoy 50 free rides, a little friendly conversation, and a safe "lyft."

PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.WIRED.COM



#NoMakeup Selfie Trend Raises Breast Cancer Awareness

by Olivia Beesley '15
Opinion Staff

SOCIETY

While superficial appearances are not the most important issues in life by a long stretch, many people spend a great deal of time going out of their way to not be caught "at their worst" (I can certainly relate to this, occasionally finding myself comically dodging people I know in the grocery store due to my lack of makeup). So it may come as a surprise to hear that thousands of girls and women across the U.K. have been posting selfies to Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram that do not contain the smallest amount of makeup, or even a flattering filter. In fact, the girls are intentionally stripping themselves of cosmetics, something that they never would have dreamed of doing before this week. Why? For cancer.

So how can a naked or natural complexion posted onto your Facebook profile combat the complexities of such a deadly disease? Surely this approach is a little simplistic in the great search for the cure for cancer? However, it seems that these photographs are making a large impact, not only in raising women's awareness of breast cancer, but also in

raising a significant amount of money for Cancer Research U.K. in a very short time. With each selfie, the owner posts two things: a diagram of how women can carry out their own breast checks to prevent ignorance, and the details on how individuals can donate a small amount of money to Cancer Research U.K. via text. Simple, yet effective.

In fact, in just 24 hours the campaign raised £1 million in donations from 800,000 text messages across the U.K. alone, and who knows what is to come in the following weeks. While cancer and bare-faced women are certainly not matters to laugh at (unless you want to be physically assaulted by many offended females), the male population of the U.K. is encouraging humor with the campaign by creating their own version of the selfie—the male makeup selfie, further boosting donations and awareness.

It seems that these small acts of bravery on the Internet have the potential to make a large impact in the world of cancer research. The photos not only encourage individuals to donate, but encourage others to step up to the plate and fuel the campaign by posting their own selfies. However, while I do look upon the campaign with great admiration and support, I believe that



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.ITV.COM

the praise of these brave individuals must not overshadow the bravery of the thousands who discover they have cancer each year, the thousands who are subjected to invasive surgery, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy. These are the individuals that are showing outstanding bravery.

Such bravery deserves to be supported by as many people as possible, and what better way to show support than by demonstrating your own small act of bravery online? Many have found

the #nomakeupselfie frightening, but what are superficial appearances in light of the issue of cancer? I hope that the campaign continues in strength and endurance, not only supporting Cancer Research, but giving each individual affected by cancer some faith and hope for the future.

Until the new online craze arrives in America, you can help cancer research by donating online to the American Cancer Society at www.donate.cancer.org.



by Fr. James Cuddy, O.P.
Campus Chaplain

CAMPUS

"You either die a hero, or you live long enough to see yourself become the villain." Wise words from my boyhood hero, Batman. And I'm afraid that I've lived long enough to see them proven true.

For years, I've railed against the practice of pretending to do one thing while actually doing another. You can see it everywhere. Drivers pretend to be paying attention to the road, but are really using the phone on their lap to send text messages. Students in lecture halls look like they're paying attention to lectures, but in reality they are studying for other classes. But not me. I don't do that kind of stuff and am critical of those who do. I'm not that guy. At least I wasn't until now.

I'm writing this column on my laptop while suffering through a meeting with colleagues. The point of this mandatory assembly is not entirely clear, but it's as boring as it is long. And these people sitting around the table with me are all duped! They think I'm paying attention to their endless jibber-jabber and taking copious notes on this here computer. The fools!

(An aside to those of you with whom I've had meetings this week: I'm not referring to you. I would never do that. Our meeting was important and life-giving. It was the highlight of my semester and I'll never forget the good times we shared. I'm talking about someone else.)

Honestly, it's not mere disinterest that has me writing when I should be listening. (But to be clear, I am entirely disinterested.) The truth is that I'm just too busy and don't have any other time to write. The schedule is tight and things like study, prayer,

recreation, and even sleep are being squeezed out of my daily routine. And I'm not alone in this sorry state of affairs.

The way out of this predicament is something of a paradox. While we may think that the only way to prevail is to work more, sleep less, and constantly attempt to do three things at once, that approach seems to make things worse. Could it be that the answer is to actually slow down?

Jesus certainly seems to think so. He spends no little amount of time instructing his people on this very subject. His disciples come back from preaching and teaching, and he tells them, "Come away by yourselves and rest awhile." When Martha complains that she's doing all the work while her sister sits attentively at Jesus' feet, the Lord gently rebukes her and tells her that Mary is doing the more important thing.

Let's be clear: Christians are called to work, and to work hard. Think of

the Gospel. No one outworked Jesus. But in order for our work to be what it should be—an occasion to encounter Christ, who was always about the work of His Father—it needs to be paired with a life of equally intense piety. Activity needs to be paired with contemplation. Otherwise we miss the invitation of holiness that it offers. Make contemplation part of your routine and your work will give you life; leave it aside in favor of more meetings and your work will suck the life out of you.

And now with my column completed, my thoughts return to Batman and hoping that he will break through the wall of the conference room and save me from this dreadful meeting.

Stress Less: Resumes Are Not as Important as We Think

by Nicole Corbin '15
Asst. Opinion Editor

SOCIETY

As college students, we are conditioned to believe that our resume is the key to unlocking the metaphorical doors to our futures. We spend countless time pouring over every facet of that one-page document, trying to cram every internship, achievement, and skill into a tightly formatted, aesthetically pleasing manner (will Cambria or Georgia make my resume pop more?). But can potential employers truly see who we are by a simple, neatly organized resume? Perhaps not.

In the first place, we are all just a little bit guilty of embellishing our resumes (one might rather call it being "marketable"), so the resumes that employers receive are not even completely accurate. According to statisticbrain.com, 53 percent of resumes and applications contain falsifications, and 70 percent of college students surveyed admitted that they would lie on a resume to obtain a job they want.

The most alarming piece of data found in this study is that 21 percent of resumes cite fraudulent degrees, which is certainly more misleading than exaggerating your GPA.

Although these embellishments won't make a difference if employers are not even reading resumes thoroughly. Brad Remillard of IMPACT Hiring Solutions states, "I know many days I have reviewed hundreds of resumes and most in less than 20 seconds. I would say the average is probably around five to seven seconds." Remillard claims that reviewing resumes in this way allows him to quickly discard the ones without the qualification "must haves."

In any case, whether an employer spends five seconds or five hours reviewing a resume, they still cannot gauge an applicant's personality. One

might question if personality is an important factor to consider; after all, isn't it skills and education that matter most?

However, when it comes to the workplace, personality is extremely important. Similar to the differences between college campuses, workplaces also vary in atmosphere.

For instance, an applicant with a stellar resume (carefully reviewed by the employer), but who is not personable will not prosper in a community-oriented work environment and their quality of work will most likely suffer. This is information you cannot gather from any resume.

"Employee Selection: Will Intelligence and Conscientiousness Do the Job," an article published in *The Academy of Management Executive*, asserts that many employers, including those at large companies such as Southwest Airlines, are departing from "precise matching" of employees to job qualifications. These employers are focusing less on academic credentials, like those found on a resume, and are instead placing more importance on "employee attitude or character."

Thus, placing the applicant in the workplace atmosphere and observing how he or she interacts with current employees may be more beneficial than a resume for an employer to judge not only whether or not the applicant is the right fit for the job, but also to judge if they are the right fit for the company. Don't tell the employer what you can do, show them.

I'm sure that many of us have spent far too much time stressing and obsessing over our resumes as we frantically comb through the page searching for any embarrassing grammatical errors until all the words eventually blur in front of our eyes. However, although it is still a necessary tool in the hiring process, our resume might not matter just as much as we think it does.

Understand the Purpose of Lent to Feel Fulfilled

Lenten Commitments Reflect Commitment to God

by Matthew Tinsley '16
Opinion Staff

SOCIETY

How is your Lenten season going? Has it brought you great joy, or utter frustration? With Easter still a month away, it is important that we remind ourselves of the true meaning of Lent. As you will see, Lent presents us with the opportunity to become closer in friendship with God.

Since Ash Wednesday (that awful, dreaded day!), you have probably committed to giving something up. Perhaps you have stopped eating sweets, or maybe you are trying to cut down on swearing. Your Lenten promise could be anything, but it doesn't always feel fulfilling. Why is this?

All too often we forget why we make sacrifices during Lent. If you ask someone why he or she gave something up, you might hear, "It makes my parents happy." Or, if that person is making a dietary change, they might use Lent to jumpstart this new lifestyle. While all of these reasons to make a sacrifice are good, they must be secondary to our ultimate goal: to be in communion with our Creator.

Still, we might not understand why making sacrifices brings us closer to God. After all, how can giving up, say, dessert foods, strengthen my friendship with Him? The answer to this question is found in the example of Jesus Christ. To get excited about our sacrifices, we must first understand the purpose and significance of the Lenten season.

To help us explore Jesus's message, I will now introduce Father Robert Barron. A Catholic priest from Chicago, Rev. Barron started the "Word on Fire Catholic

Ministries" nonprofit organization in 1999 with the goal of drawing people into Catholic faith. Since then, he has reached millions of people through his "Faith Clips," or video commentaries that are found on his website. One such commentary concerns the purpose of Lent, and I wish to share Father Barron's message with you.

As Barron explains, our Lenten journey should symbolically resemble Jesus's plight in the desert. Recall from the Gospels that, while in the desert, Jesus is tempted three times by Satan. The Devil entices Jesus to turn stones into bread, to throw himself from atop the Temple in Jerusalem, and, lastly, to worship him instead of God. Had Jesus submitted to the Devil's temptations, he would have been rewarded with sensual pleasure: glory and power. As Father Barron explains, such temptations can "order your desires in the direction of something other than God." That is, to pursue fleeting, temporal pleasures as ends in themselves is to move further away from our friendship with God.

What does all of this mean for us students? Lent is time for us to look inwardly at ourselves—we must search for those things in our life that pull our attention away from God.

As students, we face a whole host of challenges: managing schoolwork and building friendships are just a few that come to mind. As Jesus explains to us in John's Gospel, "Without Me, you can do nothing" (John 15:5). I invite you to be excited about your Lenten commitments, since they should sharpen your focus on befriending God. We are halfway through Lent, and halfway through the semester. Let us not also be halfway committed to our friendship with God.

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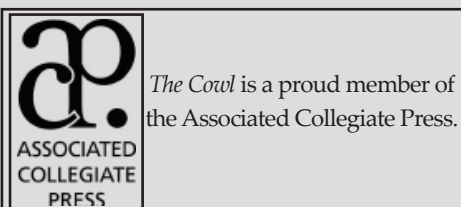
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Where Did the Ray Menu Go?

by Keely Mohin '14
Associate Editor-in-Chief

EDITORIAL



It's time that I confess. There are many weeks (more than many weeks) when Kayla and I don't know what to write for the editorial. It has, at times, been the bane of our collective existence, and we often joke that we never know what we think about anything at all.

Mostly, I just sigh, say I don't have time to think, and whine to no one in particular that there are still X amount of weeks until graduation. (Apologies to Kelly Sullivan '15 who has scolded me many times about mentioning my imminent departure. I'll regret looking forward to it, trust me. In the meantime, thanks for being my swag consultant. If anyone reading this doesn't know what swag is, look it up).

But this week the idea for the editorial seemed so obvious that I

couldn't believe I hadn't thought of it before: The Providence College Dining application. Has anyone else noticed that a menu for Ray has not been posted since the week of 2/24? Because I have, and I am not at all happy about this bewildering development.

I'm not, as a general rule, very big on "planning." I don't go to the library for set hours during the week, exercise regimens are entirely foreign to me (Dr. Sears asked me this week if he saw me in the gym. I snorted and assured him that he did not), and I have mastered the art of finishing essays/assignments under pressure.

But I definitely plan when it comes to food.

My boyfriend will tell you that there are two things you do not joke about with a Keely (yes, he says "a Keely" as if I'm some primordial beast in the wild): food and sleep. If I'm not eating, I'm thinking about eating, and when I've just finished a meal, you better know that I'm thinking about my next one.

So please, wonderful and dedicated workers of Raymond Cafeteria, remedy this terrible situation and give me my menu back!

Barefoot:

Continued from front page

or with ourselves in mind first. Having a "barefoot" state of mind puts a person in a humble state to think of more than just themselves. It allows a person to see past material things and allows a person to see what is really important to our world.

Helping others is crucial and we should do so without

motives but with a pure want to help the person. Think about how great our world would be if we all thought about others before ourselves. Volunteering truly does look good on a resume, but that should not be the only reason to volunteer.

August says, "Shoes are one of the necessities of life. Being barefoot could also literally mean understanding people who do not have shoes or those less fortunate than us. I think one of the best things in life is helping others

and volunteering. But there is just something about volunteering that I just don't like and

that's when I do volunteer, I don't want that person or organization, to feel uncomfortable. As volunteers, I think we should all be humble, we should be barefoot because we are all people and we all need help."

At this time in our lives, it is important to think selflessly because it will begin a cycle of selfless thinking that will continue for the rest of our lives.

"Being barefoot is the definition of YOU. You are completely bare; there are no Nikes, Sperrys, Hunters, or Uggs, that label or fit you into a certain group. To me, when I am barefoot, I am free from all of these labels. When I am barefoot, I'm not wearing material objects but I am what God made me and as a creature of God I have a duty to help others."

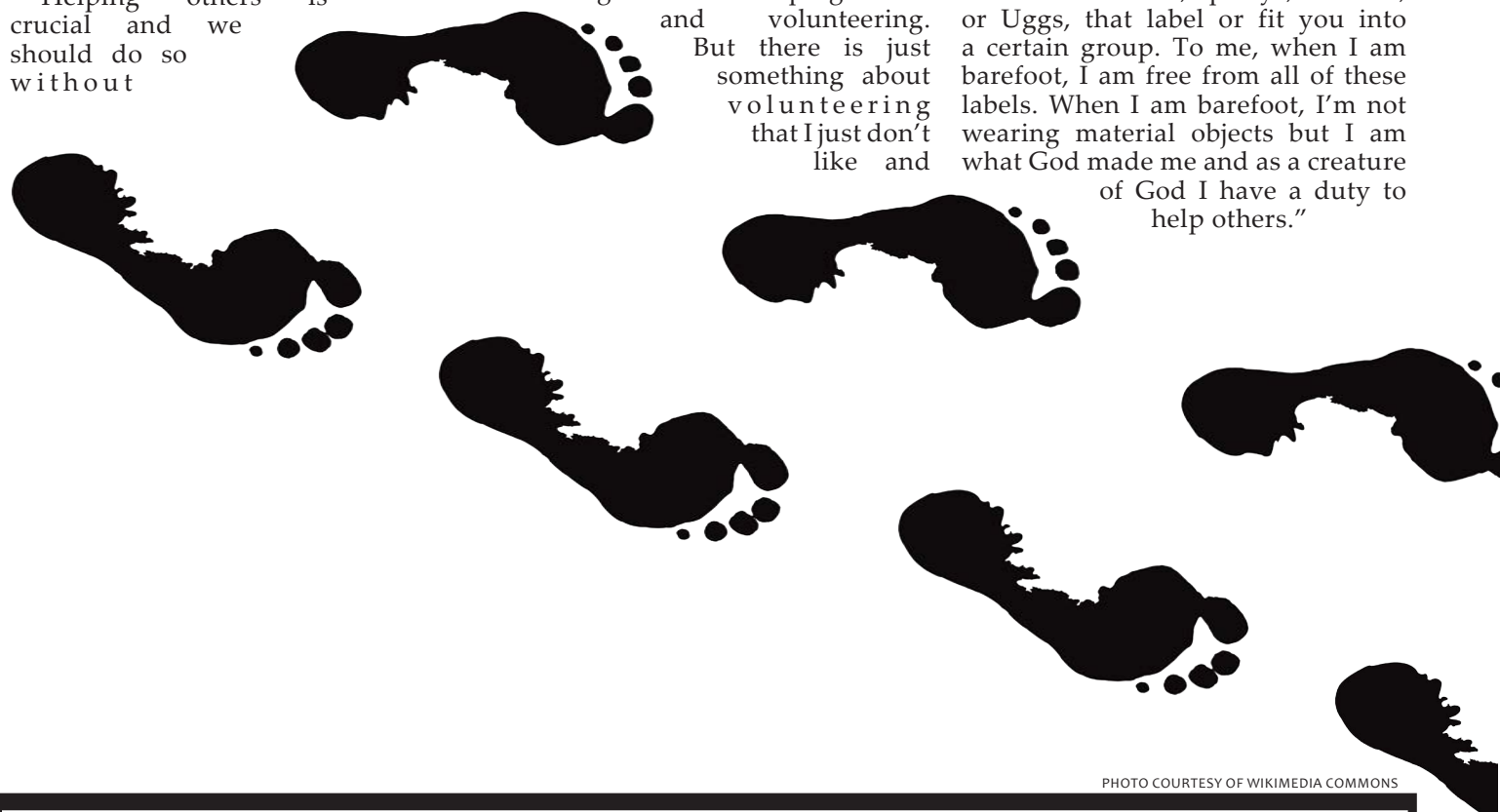


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Tips for Saving, Spending & Budgeting
Tues. 4/8 @ 6:00pm
& Wed. 4/9 @ 6:00pm

Library 233

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moneysmartweek.org

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50 Years 1964 2014



PROVING PHOTOGRAPHY

How are you coping with the winter weather in March?



**"I'm optimistic that spring will come soon."
Patrick Rogers '17**



**"I'm so done with winter weather. I'm going back to Georgia."
Rose DeRienzo '15 and Ariel Rivera '15**



**"By staying inside and then awkwardly shuffling to class."
Olivia Wolak '17 and Megan Donohoe '17**



**"It's not optimal."
Josh Ahmad '16 and Dave Chinappi '16**



**"Today was cold and windy; it's spring, it should be warm."
Jenna White '16 and Nick Coggin '15**



**"With constant emails to Fix It; I need heat."
Brianna Coley '15, Aida Cruz '15 and Takisha Pierre '15**



"Winter's a good time to stay in and cuddle, but put me in summer and I'll be a...happy snowman!"

-Olaf



PHOTOGRAPHY

The Cowl 11

March 27, 2014



ANNA WIECIORKOWSKA '14/ THE COWL



ANNA WIECIORKOWSKA '14/ THE COWL



MORGAN PEKERA '15/ THE COWL



MORGAN PEKERA '15/ THE COWL



SAADIA AHMAD '14/ THE COWL



SAADIA AHMAD '14/ THE COWL

TOP LEFT: The Center for Catholic and Dominican Studies features Rev. Oliver F. Williams, C.S.C. to present the annual St. Joseph Lecture, a talk entitled "Can You Do Well While Doing Good?"

TOP RIGHT: The SAIL Office, Career Education Center, and Institutional Advancement sponsor an etiquette dinner, providing a multi-course dinner and tips about general etiquette and manners.

CENTER LEFT: The Career Education Center sponsors its biannual Career and Internship Fair, which over 740 students attended.

CENTER RIGHT: The Motherland Dance Group sponsors a discussion entitled "Breaking the Borderline," where members of the community discuss the American dream.

BELOW LEFT: The Interfaith Dialogue group of Campus Ministry, along with the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Sharon, Mass., hold a "Muhammad: Messenger of Peace" conference, featuring a short biography of the Prophet, a panel discussion, and dinner from Kennedy Fried Chicken.

BELOW RIGHT: The history, political science, and military science departments bring in Dr. Douglas Little from Clark University, presenting a lecture entitled "SEALS, Drones, and 'Containment': Obama and the Muslim World."



SAADIA AHMAD '14/ THE COWL



MORGAN PEKERA '15/ THE COWL



SAADIA AHMAD '14/ THE COWL



SAADIA AHMAD '14/ THE COWL

TOP LEFT: BOP sponsors field trips to the New England Aquarium and Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

TOP RIGHT: PC Dining and the SAIL Office feature a no-bake cookie bar for Things for Thursday.

ABOVE: Campus Ministry sponsors its biannual Dinner with Dominicans event, featuring a meat-free pasta dinner and cake from LaSalle Bakery shared among Friars on campus.

CENTER ABOVE: Circolo Italiano sponsors its biggest food event of the year, Mangia, featuring an Italian dinner of calzones, cheese ravioli, grilled vegetables, meatballs, chicken marsala, and sausage with peppers.

CENTER BELOW: PC After Hours, Residence Life, and SHEPARD, sponsor a speed dating event, providing a list of questions designed to help participants track down possible friends or a partner.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The Division of Student Affairs and PC Athletics sponsor a NCAA Basketball Watch Party, providing HDTV live streaming of the game and unlimited pizza from Little Caesar's.

BOTTOM LEFT: Athletes C.A.R.E. sponsors a talent show to raise money and collect food donations for the local food bank in Providence, featuring performances from various varsity and club sports teams.



ANNA WIECIORKOWSKA '14/ THE COWL



SAADIA AHMAD '14/ THE COWL



SAADIA AHMAD '14/ THE COWL



The Psyche of Our Dystopian Obsession

by Katie Puzycki '17
Asst. A&E Editor

FILM

Ever wonder about the recurring themes of major blockbusters? From *The Hunger Games* trilogy to newly anticipated film *Divergent*, as well as AMC's hit series *The Walking Dead*, the industry of cinema, writing, and television capitalizes on the similar background story of a dystopian society struggling under the oppression of bad government in a world gone wrong.

Unsurprisingly, these storylines in particular seem to be among the most popular when it comes to viewer ratings. When both *The Hunger Games* and *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* were released in theaters, they each grossed a total of over \$400 million, but the obsession started long before the movies were released, with millions of copies of Suzanne Collins' young adult trilogy being sold. *Divergent* is also a young adult trilogy that has more recently been transformed into a film series. Additionally, this past week, Lois Lowry's well-known children's novel *The Giver* was given a release date for this coming summer.

Unlike series such as television's *The Walking Dead* and older dystopian novels *1984* and *Brave New World*, which are dedicated to the adult consumer, these new series are all targeted toward adolescents. The distinction between these target audiences is that adult dystopian storylines are generally grimmer, whereas the adolescent storylines generate a sense of hope, despite all the terror. Regardless, the matter is still highly enjoyed by both groups, and adults have even taken



PHOTO COURTESY OF POACHEDMAG.COM

interest in the youth stories as well. The message of all of these is nearly the same: an individual, or group of individuals banding together, uniquely emerging from the seams of the everyday dreariness and rigidity of totalitarian life, and through some form of rebellion attempting to find a better outcome for their whole community.

So why are we so obsessed with worlds gone wrong? For adolescents, it is believed to be that dystopian novels are reflective of the psyche of young adults. The "nobody understands me" complex is prevalent in these stories, and teens can relate more to the protagonist who most likely also feels isolated, misunderstood, or

trapped within their society's standards. Veronica Roth's *Divergent* was described by the *Wall Street Journal* as "an extended metaphor about the trials of modern adolescence: constantly having to take tests that sort and rank you among your peers...agonizing about where you fit in, and deciding when (or whether) to reveal the ways you might diverge from the group."

Other reasons for this popularity include a mistrust of authority and the overall survivalist nature of humans. Recent polls from *USA Today* have suggested that only 44 percent of "university-educated" participants actually trusted the government, leaving more than half the group feeling sentiments of uncertainty toward it.

This culmination of emotions of the adolescent mind, between its own self-uncertainty and uncertainty of the government, gives rise to a desire for more courageous and rebellious role models such as those in *The Hunger Games*, *Divergent*, and *The Giver*.

The survivalist tendencies of human behavior also give us insight to the popularity of these plots. More often than before, individuals are awaiting the arrival of disorder in their communities and governments, and are avidly preparing for the worst of life situations. These habits are especially highlighted on *The Walking Dead*, which is to an extent another example of a dystopian society. Much of the show's premise insists and proves that those people who possess morality in even the darkest of times will go the furthest in their crumbling world. Perhaps it is that humans naturally believe that we can defeat any obstacle, and that ultimately, as is commonly taught, good will trump evil—a point that is exhibited in not only the world of entertainment, but in history as well (i.e. the defeat of Nazi Germany, or the defeat of English tyranny).

If it seems as though these types of films and scenarios are getting to be overkill, that is because it is. The unending releases of these stories absolutely feed into our growing obsession with the dystopian world, but they may actually be more than an obsession. The plots offer various points of reflection for ourselves in our respective societies, but most importantly they raise the point that if we are not mindful of our own poor behaviors, then the fantasy worlds that we are so obsessed with have the potential to become our own.

Writer Reflects on Kurt Cobain's Death

by Marisa Uργο '14
A&E Staff

POP CULTURE

Twenty years ago on April 5, 1994, the world lost Nirvana frontman Kurt Cobain to suicide. The story goes that soon after being released from rehab following a drug-induced coma in Rome and arguing with his wife, Courtney Love, Cobain injected himself with heroin and shot himself in the head. Cobain's body was discovered in Seattle three days later on April 8, 1994. This was Cobain's second attempt at suicide, after he allegedly tried to kill himself using tranquilizers in Rome earlier that year.

Now, on the 20th anniversary, police have released photos from the scene of his suicide. Apparently, police counted on being asked questions about Cobain with the 20th anniversary of Cobain's suicide coming up so soon. Detective Mike Ciesynski (maybe a Nirvana fan himself?) reviewed the case files, including evidence photos and statements. Not much new evidence was found, except for one interesting thing. Police discovered four rolls of undeveloped film from the suicide scene. Last week, Seattle police released two previously unseen images from those rolls.

Even though we were all very young, or not even born at the time, everyone is aware that this was a huge loss to the music world and especially the grunge scene. On top of that, like with every big celebrity's death, there is also controversy. Many fans or conspiracy theorists believe that Courtney Love actually killed Kurt Cobain, rather than him committing suicide. According to the *Huffington Post*, these photos contributed to the idea that Cobain did, in fact, commit suicide. Detective Mike Ciesynski, who found the four rolls of undeveloped film at the crime scene, said, "Sometimes people believe what they read. Some of the disinformation from some of the books, that this was a conspiracy. That's completely inaccurate...it's a suicide. This is a closed case."

Personally, I have always felt a bit bad for Courtney Love. Although I was only a year old when this controversy developed, I discovered Nirvana around middle school and have always been both intrigued and disappointed by this conspiracy theory. People might not want to believe their idol Cobain killed himself, but it is unfair to point accusations at Courtney Love. She lost her husband and the father to her child (Frances Bean Cobain, who is 22 now). The last thing she needed to deal with was backlash

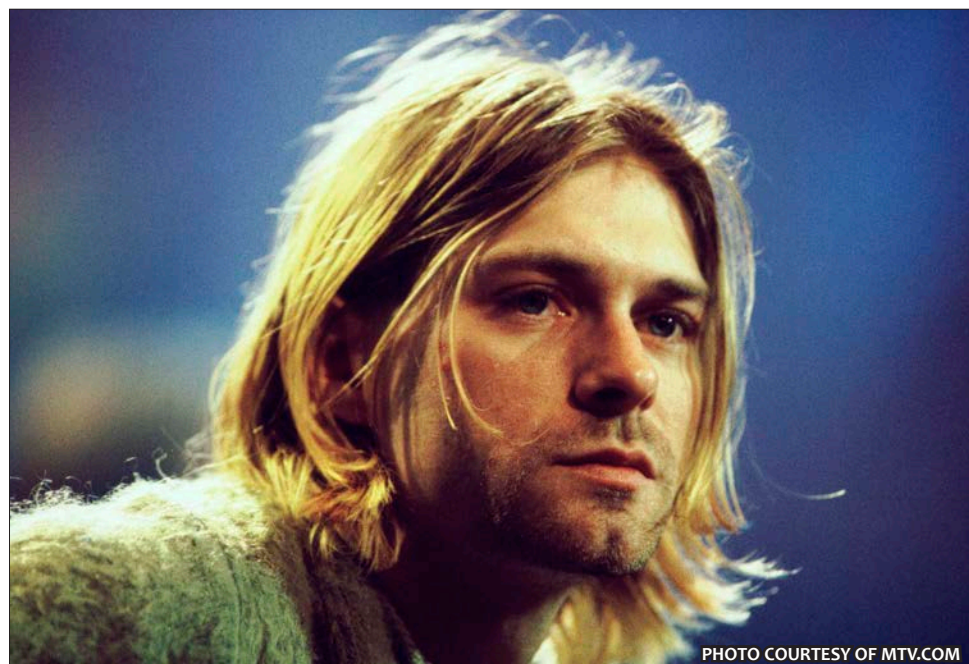


PHOTO COURTESY OF MTV.COM

from fans.

I took a look at the photos and they were somewhat underwhelming. Even though they were from the suicide scene, they were not gory at all. Instead, they were almost ordinary. They were just pictures of drug paraphernalia (a decorated box with needles in it), sunglasses, a wallet, and some cigarettes. It is slightly creepy to look at these items and know that the person who used them is now dead, but the photos do not reveal anything too interesting. The medical examiner knew Cobain had taken a massive

dose of heroin by the autopsy. Seeing the actual needles he used did not contribute to any more certainty.

In his suicide note, Cobain quoted Neil Young by saying, "It's better to burn out, not fade away." I worry that Cobain might have glorified suicide in some way. On the 20th anniversary of his death, let us use these new photos to recognize that suicide and drugs are unfortunately prevalent in today's society. Spreading awareness of how to understand these issues may help to save lives.

Ten Years Later, Lost Stays Relevant



PHOTO COURTESY OF ENTERTAINMENT.IE

by Alanna Smith '14
A&E Staff

TELEVISION

Ten years ago, a show premiered on ABC that changed the face of television. It was a show that combined the mystery of cult classics like *Twin Peaks* and *The X-Files* with the action of fan favorites like *24*. A show with a one-word title that both hid and hinted at its complex and convoluted nature: *Lost*.

While the 10th anniversary is still six months away in September, *Lost* has been in the news during the last few weeks for a few reasons. One of these, which is both tragic and a bit tasteless, comes from conspiracy theorists comparing the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 with the plot of the show. The other reason is that the cast and creators of *Lost* have already started the convention circuit, where fans are able to question them at various reunion panels.

This past weekend was PaleyFest, an annual television and media festival held in honor of William S. Paley, the founder of CBS. *Lost* showrunners Damon Lindelof and Carlton Cuse were present, as were several cast members. These included Josh Holloway, Jorge Garcia, Ian Somerhalder, Maggie Grace, Henry Ian Cusick, and Malcolm David Kelley.

The internet has been rife with articles about the panel, all proclaiming the same thing: "*Lost* creators say that the castaways were not dead the whole time." Since this fact was clear to anyone who was a big enough follower of the series, it is a relief for fans to have at least one crackpot theory squelched. The creators were not as open when asked other questions, however. Without giving any spoilers as to which parts of the show they were asked about, their unwavering response always seemed to be that they want to leave *Lost* with a healthy amount of its mystery and dignity.

The mystery of *Lost*, while a big part of the show's draw, was not the only reason why the series is among one of the most successful in recent television history. Its popularity can also be attributed to its high production

quality—and huge budget—and to its strong ensemble cast. Many of the actors and behind-the-scenes workers of the show have gone on to have a good deal of success in both the film and television industries.

Some actors have continued working in shows with similar blended themes of science-fiction or fantasy. Michael Emerson (Ben Linus) and Josh Holloway (Sawyer) star in shows *Person of Interest* and *Intelligence*, which are crime shows with sci-fi twists. Ian Somerhalder (Boone) plays a member of the undead in teen favorite *The Vampire Diaries*. Evangeline Lilly (Kate) recently appeared in the most recent installment of *The Hobbit* trilogy.

Lost writers Edward Kitsis and Adam Horowitz created the ABC hit series *Once Upon a Time*, which stars some actors who got their acting start in bit parts on "the island." The show contains many sneaky references to its television big brother. J.J. Abrams, who directed *Lost*'s pilot and helped to create the show, also directed the two very successful *Star Trek* film reboots, and is slated to direct *Star Wars Episode VII*. It has also been rumored that should anything happen to John Williams, Michael Giacchino, who composed the music for *Lost*, will take over the position of scoring any new *Star Wars* films.

Even though *Lost*'s final episode was aired four years ago, the show's long-reaching effects on the industry and culture are undeniable. The characters, named after various philosophers and scientists, convinced younger minds to study philosophy. One of the most popular lottery number sequences is still 4-8-15-16-23-42, after an important plot device in the show. "Easter eggs," or hidden references, to *Lost* appear in many video games. The band Weezer even named one of their studio albums *Hurley* after a much-loved character.

It would not be too outlandish to think that in another 10 years, the show's place in culture will still be just as significant, due both to diehard fans and to those tantalizingly unanswered mysteries. Thanks to Netflix, fans can keep going back to the island anytime they want, introducing new generations to the show along the way.

Tao Lin's Mandalas

by Frank Flanagan '15
A&E Staff

ART

Over the course of the past month, 30-year-old author Tao Lin has furthered his status as a leading creative mind in American culture. Lin, who is predominantly regarded for his novels and poetry, has been recently publishing intricate mandala drawings to Twitter and auctioning them off on eBay. The author/artist has built a fascinating campaign by exhibiting his art in this fashion, as it may be challenging traditional conventions of how we publish art and the methods through which it is traded.

Last year, Lin published the most highly anticipated novel of his young career. *Taipei*, which centers around Paul, a twenty-something, ultra-self-conscious New Yorker of Taiwanese ancestry, takes place in New York City as well as Taipei, Taiwan, where Lin spent a significant amount of time writing the book. The novel's release garnered national attention as well as comments from major American authors such as Brett Easton Ellis, Blake Butler, and Frederick Barthelme. Ellis went as far as calling Lin "the most interesting prose stylist of his generation." Additionally, *Publishers Weekly* claimed that *Taipei* would be Lin's breakout novel, and in many respects it was; however, anyone familiar with Tao Lin understands his cult-like following.

While Lin is just emerging into the spotlight of the mainstream, his earlier works have also impacted his reputation. With two books of poetry early on in his career (*you are a little bit happier than i am* and *cognitive-behavioral therapy*), as well as two other novels, (*Richard Yates*, and *Eeee Eee Eee*), a novella (*Shoplifting from American Apparel*), and a collection of short stories (*Bed*), all published in the last eight years, it is impossible to doubt Lin's work ethic and audience. Lin's following tends to be associated with the New York/Brooklyn art scene.

With the conclusion of 2013 roughly six months after *Taipei*'s release, Lin's novel earned itself a place on many culture-magazine top 10 lists. After closing the year out successfully, Lin moved into 2014 without foreshadowing major projects. Aside from a few non-fiction and parody writing side projects, the young author had not admitted or hinted at any new major writing projects. Until last month, Lin, aside from handling his Twitter, seemed to be taking a break.

On February 16, 2014 Lin tweeted, "I'm selling a mandala I created on eBay." The tweet included a link to

eBay, as well as a picture of the mandala. After three days and 57 bids later, the mandala ended up selling for a grand total of \$234.49. Lin has gone through this same process with two more of his original mandala drawings with the most recent, titled *mandala 3*, selling for \$200.00 on March 25, and the middle one, *mandala 2*, selling for \$162.50.

Mandalas, which are traditionally square paintings or drawings, are traced back to early forms of Hindu and Buddhist art. In both religions the mandala can represent a number of conventions, but especially those of balance and focus. Lin's original mandalas, as abstract and untraditional as they are, do seem to maintain some aspects of the conservative form. According to the description of the mandalas on eBay, Lin has used simpler tools such as markers and crayons to distinguish his work.

The colorful and brilliant looking mandala drawings have not received much attention except for on Twitter where Lin has made comments about them almost daily. He has not explained why he is drawing them or what their purpose will serve in relation to his other works. Aside from the mandala's traditional Eastern thought ancestry, and Lin's Taiwanese background, it is hard to say why he chose this task. What is clear, based on the volume of his mandala-based tweets, is that the mandalas are on Lin's mind.

Tweets about the mandalas from Lin's Twitter handle (@tao_lin) include "complicated mandalas as units of basic information," "created the most horrific-seeming mandala I think I've ever seen," and "pessimistic mandalas," amongst many others. Lin's unconventional exhibition of his work through Twitter and eBay raises an interesting conversation about the way artists are moving in displaying their work. Professor Alison Espach of the Providence College English department had the following to say: "Selling your own work on sites such as Twitter and eBay challenges the expectation that writers must go through the traditional publication process (agents and editors)."

In his short career, Tao Lin has made a name for himself in the literary world. He has challenged form in his prose as well as his poetry, and it seems that he is at it again in his mandalas. Regardless of Lin's intentions, which are completely unapparent at this time, he is emerging as a radical thinker. Whether or not the mandalas reap any sort of acclaim is uncertain, however it is certain that Lin will continue to be a tour de force in American culture.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FULL-STOP.NET

Orphan Black Returns for Season Two

by Mary McGreal '15
A&E Staff

TELEVISION

On April 19, BBC America's original sci-fi series *Orphan Black* returns for its second season. Starring Canadian actress Tatiana Maslany, the show focuses on Sarah Manning, who assumes the identity of Beth Childs after Beth commits suicide by jumping in front of a train. Sarah quickly finds out that Beth was not her only look-alike. By the end of the first season, there were 10 known clones (all portrayed by Golden Globe-nominated Maslany), several of whom were assumed deceased at the start of the show. Some of the women, including soccer mom Alison and scientist Cosima, work together in order to discover who created them and why. In preparation for the second season, producers revealed the identity of an 11th clone, Jennifer, a teacher and swim coach who is unaware that she is a clone. Jennifer may be the newest confirmed clone, but there is still the possibility that there are others. According to *Entertainment Weekly*, co-creator Graeme Manson recently told *Entertainment Weekly Radio*, "If one were going to go fishing for a new clone in our pond you might have a chance of catching another." Viewers will also have the opportunity to get to know some of the clones who had less screen time in season one. *E!* Online reports that when asked about a clone she is excited to explore in more depth Maslany responded, "Rachel. I think because she is a little bit of a hard nut



PHOTO COURTESY OF STUFFPOINT.COM

to crack and we didn't really see a lot of her last year. I really love her and she's given me a lot to play with."

Those returning for the second season include Kevin Hanchard as Detective Arthur Bell, Beth's police partner; Michael Mando as Vic, Sarah's vindictive ex-boyfriend; Jordan Gavaris as Felix, Sarah's British foster brother; Maria Doyle Kennedy as Mrs. S, Felix and Sarah's foster mother; Dylan Bruce as Paul, Beth's boyfriend and monitor, who enters a relationship with Sarah; and Skyler Wexler as Kira, Sarah's biological daughter. According to bbcamerica.com, there will be three additions to the cast—Michiel Huisman, Peter Outerbridge, and Ari Millen, as well as guest appearances by Michelle Forbes and Patrick Adams. With the inclusion of characters such as Felix, Cosima's French girlfriend

and monitor Delphine, and a number of international clones, the show appears to have a large European cast. However, *Orphan Black* is actually a Canadian production, and the majority of the cast is Canadian, including the actors who play Felix and Cosima's girlfriend. Maslany tackles 10 different accents and 10 different characters flawlessly.

The complexity and mystery extends beyond the clones to the rest of the characters and the plot. In regards to her character, Mrs. S, Maria Doyle Kennedy tells *Entertainment Weekly*, "In real life, I don't think anybody is all one shade. People who are perceived to be really good have bad thoughts and inclinations that they sometimes act on, I'm sure, and people have different sides to themselves. They're never always good or bad or melancholy or

angry, but you often don't get to show that, particularly on television." This is true of the clones as well. Even with one actor portraying all the clones, they still have a wonderful diversity of personality. Maslany also explains to *Entertainment Weekly*, "We sort of embrace the idea of every human having the potential to be anything, and I think that opens the door for all kinds of dialogue about sexuality and about gender." The characters may be clones, but they are not carbon copies, which is part of what makes the show so fascinating, Maslany. So what should fans expect from season two? Maslany tells *E!*, "We left all the women in a really intense place and no relationship is what it seems and no alliance is what it seems."

A Working Wardrobe: Eight Tips for Success

by Christina D'Adamio '16
A&E Staff

FASHION

The transition from college life to the work force is not too far off in the future. There are different expectations, responsibilities, and most importantly, wardrobe essentials. It is time to start thinking about work attire. To be successful in the professional world, you must dress the part. The initial purchases will be the basics; they will be the fundamental pieces of your working wardrobe. Therefore, invest in quality fabrics and brands. Steadily build your wardrobe while mixing and matching the old and the new. When making purchases, proper fit is critical and comfort should be a consideration. When you feel comfortable, you feel confident.

To master the working wardrobe, eight staple pieces must be purchased for both men and women. When it comes to the working wardrobe, these pieces are essential. Keep in mind, professional attire changes slightly by season. In addition, appropriate professional attire varies depending on work environment and specific position.

A traditional suit is the first staple item. The traditional suit includes a tailored blazer and tailored pants. A stretchy, cotton material is recommended. The traditional suit should be purchased in black or navy.

A dress shirt is the second staple item. Opt for a dress shirt in white cotton.

A crewneck or V-neck sweater is the third staple item. The sweater can be layered and therefore a lightweight

material, such as cotton or cashmere, is preferred. The sweater should be neutral in tone.

A cardigan is the fourth staple item. Avoid oversized cardigans, as fitted cardigans are advised. The cardigan should be knit or cashmere, in black or navy.

Chino pants are the fifth staple item. Even on casual workdays, chinos are still a professional look. Opt for straight-legged chinos. Purchase cotton chinos in beige, black, or navy.

A walking shoe or loafer is the sixth staple item. This is a necessity for the commuters and the travelers. The sneaker or loafer should not be worn in the office, but rather to the office.

Therefore, any style walking shoe or loafer will do.

A tote or messenger bag is the seventh staple item. Choose a leather tote or messenger bag in black or brown.

A watch is the eighth staple item. Opt for a silver or gold watch. When it comes to bands, stay away from bright colors. Brown and black bands are recommended.

In addition to the eight pieces listed, other clothing items and accessories are recommended. Men should purchase dress shirts in small patterned print, such as stripes and checks. For accessories, men should purchase dress shoes in black or brown, leather

belts, ties/bowties, cuff links, and pocket squares. Alternatively, women should also purchase a modest, knee-length dress and a pencil skirt in black or navy, as well as a silk blouse. For accessories, women should purchase closed-toe heels in black and ballet flats in black. Nude pantyhose and a statement necklace are also important.

Remember, it takes years to build a working wardrobe. Therefore, take your time purchasing items that are timeless. Keep it simple, keep it classic, and keep it sophisticated. With your working wardrobe underway, you are ready to take on those interviews and dream jobs.



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Fashion Trends for the Spring

by Isabella Goldstein '17
A&E Staff

FASHION

Goodbye winter jackets; say hello to spring! Friar Fashion here again, your on-campus source for all of the new and exciting trends that can easily be incorporated into a college wardrobe. Though it seems as if the cold weather is never going to leave, I will give you Friars a list of 10 must-haves so you are ready for when the long-awaited spring season has finally arrived.

First, before buying any new articles of clothing, pay attention to this season's family of "it" colors, none other than pastels. With such a variety of options, such as mint-green, baby blue, and lavender, one can easily find a soft color that will match her complexion.

Next, consider expanding your collection of jackets to one that consists of both boxy and cropped cuts, coming in an assortment of prints and textures. A jacket of this sort can be fabulously paired with anything from a body-con dress to your favorite pair of jeans. However, a collarless coat achieves just as strong of a fashion statement. Up for a risk? Instead of just a neutral colored collarless jacket, go for one that is embellished with a daring print. But as if you did not need another coat, consider adding a bomber jacket to the collection. It is both cool and versatile. It can contrast well with a delicate, feminine outfit or complement a more edgy look.

Fifth, if you are feeling bold this season, try a dress shirt with a contrasting collar and cuffs, whether it is

a different color or texture from the rest of the shirt. It is the perfect statement piece that will surely complete the look for an interview.

Next, we loved the maxi skirt and dress so much last year that a long bottom has carried on to this season as well. However, in 2014, experiment with the tea-length skirt, which is between a midi and maxi. In order to keep the look both modern and youthful, pair it with a crop-top or bare a bit of arm and shoulder.

Want something even more daring? Experiment with a wide-leg trouser. Despite popular belief, this chic and easy-to-wear trouser was not designed just for models; anyone can easily wear this type of pant. Just make sure the trouser does not have too much flare and is high-waisted in order to elongate shorter frames. But for an even bolder bottom, try an athletic trouser with stripes. Both sporty and sophisticated, the trouser will look fabulous with a simple top without buttons or any embellishments.

Ninth, a spring knit is absolutely essential for this time of year. It is incredibly easy to wear and pairs well with almost anything. To make more of a statement, find a knit with bright colors or an interesting cut. For something just as easy to wear, but a bit more sophisticated, opt for a shift blouse. It complements most body types and feels almost as comfortable as a t-shirt, which we all love to hear!

And so, that's my top 10 for you, Friars. Please remember, whether you are wearing a casual outfit or glamorous dress, Friar Fashion says always be fashion forward!



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Let's Rant: Where are the Olsen Twins?

by Kelly Laske '16
A&E Staff

POP CULTURE

It is a scary feeling when you come to the realization that the Olsen twins are nearing their 28th birthday. Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen were easily the most famous twins of the '90s, so the question is, where did they go? After the release of VHS tapes, each twin having a net worth of over \$150 million, the Olsen girls have since then shied away from the spotlight, leaving fans questioning their current whereabouts. Once role models to young girls everywhere, the twins decided Hollywood and movie making was not for them, and started to live their low-key lives away from the spotlight. With the sudden news that Mary-Kate Olsen is engaged to be married, the twins are back on the radar and fans are itching to know more.

It has been over 27 years since the Olsen twins got their big break on the hit TV sitcom, *Full House*, back in 1987. At just age one, the Olsen twins won over American hearts for their famous phrases, "You got it dude!" and "You're in big trouble mister!" Because the twins both played Michelle Tanner, many did not know that they were two different girls until they started to take other roles on the side of *Full House*. In 1992, the twins recorded their first album and starred in their first movie, ABC's *To Grandmother's House We Go* the following year. In 1993, the Olsen twins created Dualstar Entertainment group, becoming CEOs and owners of a company at just age six. Just



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEDIA-CACHE-ECO.PINIMG.COM

recently, in 2013, Ashley admitted to *Daily Mail*, that she and Mary-Kate commanded the business meetings and could not even see over the table. After a successful eight years on the show, *Full House* ended and the Olsen twins created their very own empire. Throughout the rest of the '90s, the twins never stopped, whether it was making sing-along soundtracks or filming another sitcom titled *Two of a Kind*. In 2001, the Olsens made their power move by creating a fashion line for Walmart, reportedly already having been millionaires since age

10. In 2003, their empire grossed more than a billion dollars in sales just that year.

The twins continued into the 21st century by filming more straight-to-VHS hits that were filmed in all different parts of the world. They filmed one last sitcom, *So Little Time*, that aired on ABC Family. Their final project before leaving the spotlight was *New York Minute*, their first movie to hit the big screen. Although it was a flop, the twins were reportedly given a hefty paycheck after the job. While the twins were cruising

their way into being members of the A-List, Mary-Kate was going through a dark period that still haunts her reputation to this day. At the time of their 18th birthday, Mary-Kate spent her birthday in rehab for treatment of an eating disorder, while Ashley sat poolside in Mexico.

Like many other child stars who grew up under the microscope, Mary-Kate took a turn for the worst, and since her stint in rehab, she hid from photographers and avoided making more movies and television shows. Fast forward some years, and the twins are now fashion icons and major moguls in the industry, constantly being seen attending major designer fashion shows and promoting their line Elizabeth and James, which is popular for its combination of their two different personalities, which is "sophisticated and feminine" versus "laidback and edgy," according to the line's website. After years of barely being seen in the tabloids, the Olsens are back on the covers due to Mary-Kate's \$81,000 Cartier vintage engagement ring from Oliver Sarkozy, age 44. With a 17-year age gap, reporters are questioning how long the future marriage will last between the two. Not a trace of the '90s and early 2000s can be seen on Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen, and the two barely allow reporters to ask them questions about their past. After being role models to girls worldwide, the two have completely shed their old image and are now nearing the era of marriage and babies, which only leaves us mourning the past of these child stars and wondering, where has time gone?



Paradise Is Where I Am, Part 4: Infelix Finis

by Jose Martinez '16
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

I stand there indifferent to the bitter cold, more taken aback by what I just heard and from who said it. Ajl, who has been a close friend for as long as I can remember. A close friend to everyone, a man of a large and warm heart, stands before me now, ready to pull the plug on my innocence. I refuse to believe any of this.

"I demand to see my parents now! Them or Donna! This is absolutely ridiculous—" I begin to yell.

"Donna is dead! And so are your parents! They were the first to go after you returned!"

I fall to my knees; the news is too great to bear. I can't breathe, or I'm breathing too much. My heart is pumping too fast. Ajl is pulling a joke on me that has stretched the boundaries of cruelty, that is the only explanation. At least, it's the only explanation I'll accept at this point.

"I don't know what happened to you on those mountains, but it has brought a curse on all of us. A curse that has already claimed the lives of one of Puentes' most valued citizens, and your own parents..." Ajl explains.

"Well, then what the hell happened! Tell me! Instead of telling me that something bad happened, tell me what exactly it was that happened—"

"You turned into a freak! A murderous freak!"

I'm taken aback. "A f-freak? What, what do you mean?"

"I mean that something happened to you in those mountains. I don't know what it is. I don't know what you found. I don't know what happened to you. But the changes it caused in you...it turned you into something else."

I look at my hands. These aren't the hands of a murderous freak, much less a normal one. And nothing inside of me feels like it wants to do harm to anyone. If anything, right now it feels hurt. Hurt and confused. Hurt, confused, and scared.

"You woke up one day," Ajl continued, "Came out of one the recovery tents, blade in hand, and walked over to where she worked. Townspeople caught you. They ushered for you to make your way back to your tent, but you didn't listen. No, instead you threatened them with the blade to keep out of your way..."

He takes something out of the pocket of his coat and he throws it down to me. It's a bloodstained picture of Donna with her family; a picture that she always had on her.

"You killed her like it was nothing, like all those years of trading and providing for your family and boding meant jack to you!" Ajl yells, the words without a hint of sorrow in them, only accusation and hate, as if he wanted

me to bleed out from guilt.

"And then you walked out, and you did the same thing to your parents. Your own parents. The very people who brought you into this world, and you repay them by taking them out of it."

It is at this point that Ajl has taken out a blade of his own. Instead of pointing it at me in a threatening way, he places it on both hands, like it was a timeless artifact that had been passed down; that or it had the answers to my current messed-up situation.

"Three people were enough for the town. You had to be stopped, even if it meant killing one of our best Leopards. Whatever changed you, it made you immune to death. Six stabs and you still weren't down. Something inside of you finally woke up, saw the blood that was pouring from your body, and went out cold."

It all made sense now. The weird nightmares. The fact that they felt too real despite their surrealist nature. Waking up just now, and finally feeling the pain that came with being stabbed multiple times. The stab wounds themselves.

"Well, where am I? This certainly as hell isn't anywhere near Puentes. You wouldn't risk putting me back in a place so close to the town, not if it means I could kill more people."

"You're on the outskirts of Puentes, in a little prison we call the Maiden. It's been used only a few times in the history of Puentes' time as a town. Only in the Maiden do we store Puentes' absolute worst; the kind

that can't be contained, no matter how hard we try."

"No, no, NO! This can't be—No! No no..." I yell to both Ajl and to the hard and icy ground. This isn't going to be my destiny, the rest of my life. I endanger myself for the safety of my family, I let one little error happen... this can't be how I'm "punished..."

"I won't kill anyone! How do you know this state is permanent? It could be just a one-time thing! Ajl, please..."

"No Iana, this is how things are to be. It is to happen. It has to happen. With you behind closed doors, we'll be a great town. A peaceful town. A safe town..." He says this as he motions for the guards standing near him to arrest me.

"You know, you're right Iana. You shouldn't be alive. Not with all the pain and grief you have caused..." he proclaims.

"So then kill me..." I whisper, as the guards bind my arms together, ready to take me back into the Maiden.

More blood was spilt than necessary that day. Ajl and his guards never made it out alive. The hurt inside of me triggered rage and hate, the same that caused the deaths of my parents

and Donna. Except this time it knew it only had to get me out of the state of danger I was in before putting rationality back into the palms of my brain's hands. After that, I went back to the only place that would accept me calling it "home": the mountains... or more specifically, the mountain that housed the eye that turned me into a deranged murderer.

I couldn't go back. Not ever. The things that I did to my family, the town, they would seize the chance to burn me at the stake the first glimpse they caught of me. They'd waste every resource to ensure I was punished justly. They'd keep me burning for hours; one hour for every person I killed. After everything I did to them, I could never be one of them, never again.

They say a monster is someone who deviates from normal behavior or character in a grotesque way. If I could add anything to that definition, I'd add "...even if it all started as one big mistake."

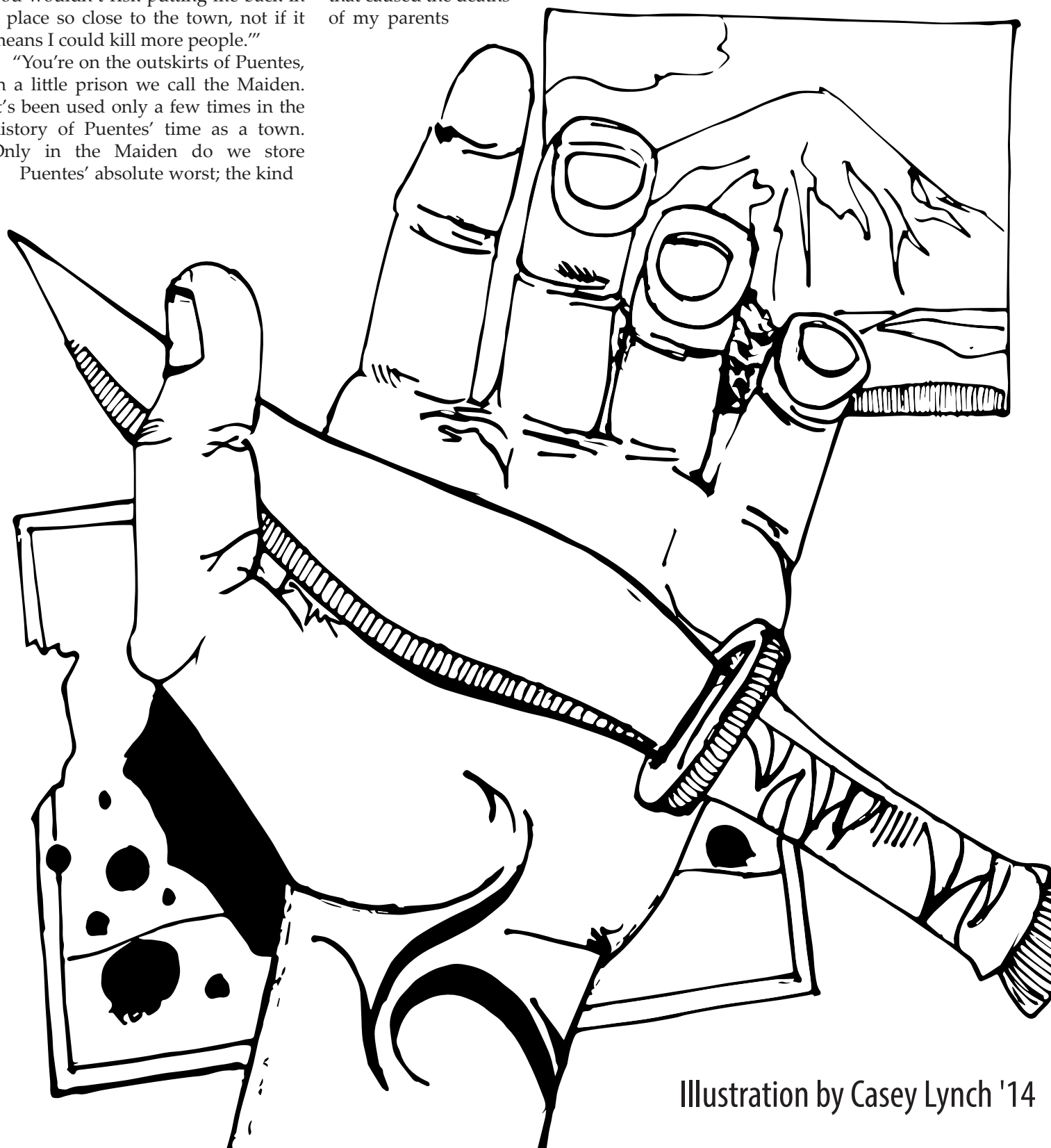
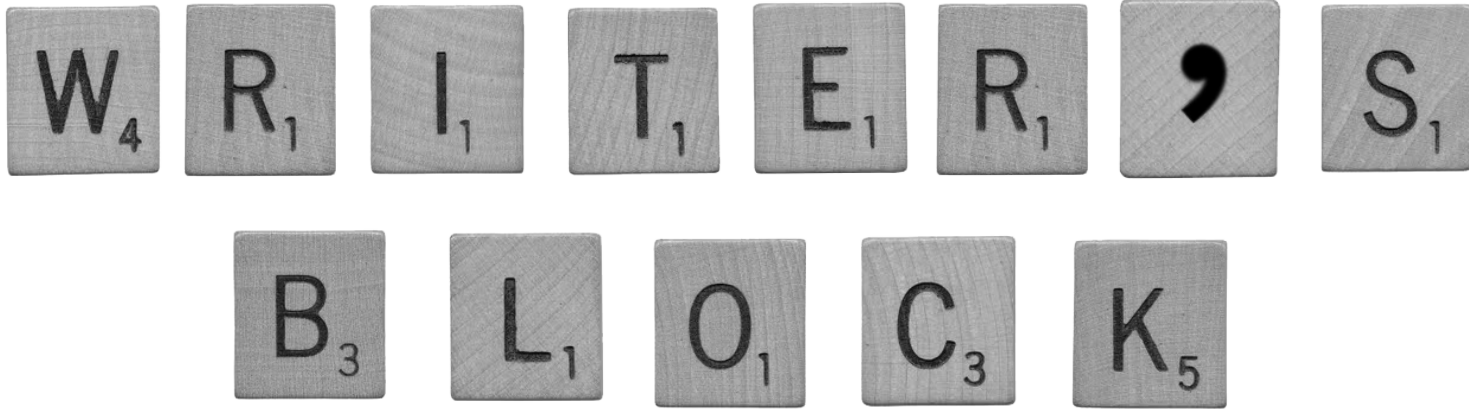


Illustration by Casey Lynch '14



by **Branan Durbin '16**
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

At first, nothing
and then
a flicker,
something, maybe...
Clearly:
It was in
your simple
sideways
smile.
As time ticked,
and cold air seeped
surrounding us,
it grew
and grew...
at first, nothing,
deep silence—
but then
slight hope
came through.

*Two writers,
one line:
"At first, nothing
And then"*

by **Justin Fernandez '15**
Portfolio Co-Editor

POETRY

At first, nothing
And then
Tomorrow follows
Tomorrow into
A never-ending cycle
Of empty sound.
And then
All our yesterdays
Appear as
Ghosts and
Follow us
Under the earth.
And there,
In the distance
A light burns
For eternity
Growing farther
And farther away.
But nothing turns
To nothing here
As we begin again.



Subjective Experiences: Beauty

by **Melanie Souchet '14**
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

When my creators began the process of writing my emotional coding, they knew it would be an imprecise science. As long as any emotion or concept had a direct causation (positive events=happiness, negative events=sadness or anger, further context needed to determine), then including it in the programming was easier. However, there were some emotions or concepts that could not be included. Love, for instance, relies on too many subjective variables to be programmed properly. I had never considered the absence of these emotions a loss. In fact, I consider the absence of some of them a benefit, having witnessed how humans react to feeling them and seeing the negative consequences that can occur.

There are some concepts that, although I was not originally programmed to understand, I feel I have created my own definitions for. This includes the concept of beauty. The first time I asked about the concept—one that my programming

did not give me a direct definition for—I was told that beauty was too subjective an idea. What some might find beautiful, others might consider ugly (the opposite of beauty). Deciding on a universal definition was proving to be too time-consuming. Ultimately, they had decided that giving me a definition of "beauty" would be irrelevant, and left it out of my programming.

Understand, my programming is primarily learning-based. That is my primary objective: to learn about humans and human behavior, so that I may better learn to imitate it. You could say that because of this, I have a sense of curiosity. It was this "curiosity" that drove me to examine works that were generally considered "beautiful" by the staff of the facility where I was stationed. I tried to keep my data pool limited to works of visual art and music, examined them closely, and compiled a list of what impressed me most about the works. The list is as follows:

1. Technical mastery. I discovered that many of the works I compiled featured elements that required a great deal of hard

work and technical knowledge to accomplish. They were finely crafted, intricate, like the computer systems in the facility. Everything is in the proper place, acting as it should. I find this is a quality I admire greatly.

2. Competency of execution. While some of the works were, perhaps, not as technically complex as others, I found that even these were executed with some degree of competency. The fact that the artist had mastered even these simple skills and applied them well overshadowed the fact that the skills were perhaps not as complex.

3. Symmetry. I believe it is my status as an artificial being that has given me an appreciation for symmetry and balance. It is in my structure, in the structure of other artificial beings. Symmetry and balance mean that everything is functioning as it should. When I recognize it, I feel something that can only be described as comfort.

4. Similarity to reality. Obviously, this detail only applied to the visual arts, but the pieces that more closely emulated reality in appearance, I found, tended to have a great technical mastery. I also found them easier to understand; their meanings and imagery were less

subjective, more concrete.

5. Simplicity. The more complicated a work, the more difficult it can be to appreciate the individual elements. I'm sure there are some who would make an argument for complex works as technical marvels, but what good are these if you cannot discern the individual technical feats due to clutter? Simplicity allows for greater appreciation of the craft. At the very least, any complexity should be laid out in a clear, well-structured way.

It was from this list that I was able to create what I could call a definition of "beauty." Its application is limited to artistic works, yes. I still struggle with the definitions of beauty that apply to the natural world, and to individual humans. It is likely that I will never be able to make a definitive statement in regards to beauty of these objects. But I have something, this single definition that I compiled on my own. Perhaps it is not the same as everyone else's, but is that not the definition of subjectivity? Is this subjectivity not a part of existence? I might have been created by humanity and made of electronics rather than flesh and blood, but I exist. I feel I have some right to be subjective.

Item no. 9827-01

by Ariana Pasquantonio '16
Portfolio Staff

POETRY

If you looked out to the beach in the morning you'd find me right where you left me, cradling baby man-o-wars, those misshapen bubbles, in sand to drop back into the water (even when the locals said that they should be popped).

I kicked up a sand dollar, and I thought it was just too bad that it was still alive because I, crook that I am, wanted to pocket a little bit of the ocean's precious currency.

It must be hard to be so beautiful that humans are waiting for you to die so they can sell you in an anonymous souvenir shop, so they can give you as a gift, so they can place your dusty corpse on display on a shelf in a drafty bathroom

and say,
"Isn't it beautiful?"

PHOTO COURTESY OF NEILTHORNE

"There is chaos in the streets! The situation is excellent."

by Austin Harney '17
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

It has been nearly six months since the bombing. Nothing was the same for my father and me since then. The government has been frantic to suppress any further violence and any form of protest, and responds to criticism with oppression. My father says that even if a revolution is suppressed and if its leaders are killed, the people galvanize with the spirit of their martyrdom.

My name is Phlux Jambone, and I am the son of a radical. My father is a member of the People's Party of Jusqua. In response to the economic crises that occurred in the past eight years, the party formed in response to the exploitation of workers, the uneven distribution of wealth, and the upheaval of our country's liberal-democracy. The depression that ensued catalyzed the people's fury and emotions. They began to organize under one banner and rejected the two-party system that was the structure of our country's democracy for the past 200 years. I was in middle school when this all happened. I have progressively come to understand why my father joined. Being a laborer, he felt the burden of unrest and inequality.

The government's response to this protest and organization was oppression. They arrested and jailed the party's founders and worked to abolish the movement in general. The people became radical in

response to this; the government's action reaffirmed their beliefs. Within months, protests became more violent. Protesters met head-on with the shields of riot squads. Tear gas accompanied the tearful cries of unrest. Fire bombs lit the streets; its momentary burst of immolation became a mode of fury for the people. I remained inside; school became a prison. My father had me read the works of revolutionary thinkers in the time I missed from school. He wanted me to remain inside to avoid the violence, but I would leave my bedroom at night and journey along the rooftops of the city to see the festivities.

Protests became a social gathering. My friends and I would meet and watch the fighting and hear the cries. We would see banners and flags burned and throngs of people disperse and convene like a school of fish; the police were the sharks who imposed fear.

Everything changed when the government brought the military in. Security checkpoints were ubiquitous among the city. TVs only played the news now. A public announcement from the prime minister would blare at two o'clock every afternoon. He preached messages of freedom and denounced the radicals as anarchists, fueled by destruction and communism. The news would saturate the government's benevolence and call the radicals inhuman. My father had to leave the city and I now remain with my

grandfather and grandmother.

One day, while being searched by a police officer, I heard a loud "BOOM!" followed by screaming. Officers ran towards the noise. A black cloud of smoke began to develop overhead the city buildings. Screams and sirens rang. My eardrums were ringing, I couldn't hear anything. I rushed to the scene, only to be blocked off by a police line. In the background I saw the state building burning. Explosions continued to follow the harmony of chaos. Window glass and rubble rained in the streets. Riots ensued, police open fired. The last thing I remember was Jusqua's national monument erect and stalwart in the background of chaos, as if it was the tempest of a storm that never ended.

I awoke in a hospital with stitches on my temple, going down the right side of my neck. I remained there for a few weeks and returned to my grandparents' apartment. The People's Party was all over the news. Specific members were being deemed the terrorists of these acts; people who rioted at the state building were arrested and are being held without bail. My father's face was on the news.

My grandparents knew that the government would soon be after our family. That night we were contacted by an officer of the People's Party and were given instructions to leave the city and sneak out to the countryside.

I haven't heard from my father in months. I haven't watched the news and have become isolated in the forest outside Lattame, the capital city. Other families on-the-run live here with us.

The government has issued a martial order and limited the rights of the country's individual citizens. Those in the city are trapped. I haven't seen my friends and can't contact them as it would reveal my location. The chaos of the city doesn't reach the forest. I feel like I'm in another world, a world of solitude...

The green hills and the shade of trees provide a tranquil moment during the revolution. It rains a lot, but you get used to it. I continue to read my father's books and I write letters to him that he will never receive. I met a girl named Alice. Her mother is part of the revolution and apparently launched a cyberattack against the government and is on the wanted list along with my father.

The movement itself has become a flickering flame amongst the rubble of the revolution. Tanks and infantry companies search the countryside for guerilla communities. It is only a matter of time before they find us.

But for now, I merely write my letters and talk to Alice. Our families eat dinner together and we play board games on Fridays. Saturdays we dance and those that can play music, do. Sundays we meditate and sing for the fallen. Sometimes when everyone is asleep, Alice and I journey to a cliff that overlooks the city about 30 miles away. We sit there and drink flat-soda, watching continuing protests, hearing the song of the people, and knowing nothing had changed yet everything had.

Listomania

Runner-Up Commencement Speakers

Kanye West

Dr. John Corvino

Stephen Colbert

Sarah Palin

Oprah

Joel Osteen

Jerry Springer

Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino

Any of the Kardashians

Mr. T

Sylvester Stallone

Joseph Kony

Porky Pig



Branan Durbin

Branan Durbin, woodland elf queen, was born in Kakariko Village. As a child, she enjoyed playing tag with the cuccos, rolling around in grass, and breaking pots. One day she was visited by a man known only as the Happy Mask Salesman. He scared the crap out of her, so she ran away to the forgotten woods.

After her brief stint as a forest nymph, she was picked up by aliens. It was from the aliens that she learned the essential skills of intergalactic rhetoric, writing poetry, and writing trafalmadorian literature. Finding the latter two to be completely useless, she used her newly developed skills in intergalactic rhetoric to persuade the aliens to drop her back off on Earth. Hurling toward Earth after being shot out of the air lock, she nearly burned up in Earth's atmosphere, where she was mistaken as a falling star. As a result of this incident, she is famously worshipped as the Greek goddess of the stars.

Her fall was broken when she landed on the overflowed Huxley Avenue after a heavy rainstorm. It was here that the Dominican Friars found her and began to instruct her in Creative Writing and Theology. She is currently in her second year of study.

Tiffany & Earl

Making PC an emotionally stable place one letter at a time

This week...

Dear Tiffany and Earl,

Commencement plans are starting to happen, and I'm in an awkward situation. A really close friend of mine just asked me to go with him, but I don't really feel that way about him. There's a guy in my business capstone class that I really hope asks me instead; he's so dreamy! How do I let my friend down gently?

Sincerely,
Just Not That Into You

Dear Bee-Ouch,

Superficial much? Usually I kvetch at you losers for not reading my column thoroughly enough, but in your case, I think you may be taking me dangerously seriously (and I la-la-love it). But I feel responsible for your happiness, so I am going to tell you that the dreamy boy in your business capstone is definitely not worth ruining a special friendship or an even more special night that has the potential to make so many memories.

Throwback time to illustrate the significance of aforementioned memory-making: *The Lizzie McGuire Movie*. Imagine yourself as Lizzie, my little minion; you are in Rome for the very first time and just want to live it up, making the best memories possible, because who knows when you will have this opportunity again? Your best friend Gordo is always there for you, and you lean on his shoulder the entire flight, relying on him for comfort, advice, and consistent fun, but you yearn for sexy airheaded Paolo in your shiny chiffon pantaloni. Spoiler: Paolo is nothing but a let down; pretty face, but sucky person. You end up realizing that Gordo is perfect, and end your trip in Rome as a fabulous superstar in puppy love with plenty of memories to last a lifetime; clichéd, but parfait.

You are distracted by the dreamy, fabulous, Paolo-like hair of that hot guy in your capstone, but do you really know him like you know your close friend? Commencement is your last hoorah, and you want to enjoy it with someone you know you will have fun with. So girl, go get your Gordo; you're too old to be coming of age like Lizzie McG.

Dear Caught In the Clouds,

I don't know how to put it delicately, so I will refer to the J. Geils Band to break the news: love stinks!

You have a romantic fantasy that Business Capstone Class Romeo is going to put aside his ambitious business dreams to notice little old you. Well, if he is as good of a businessman as I speculate, he should be more ready to crush you than mate with you.

Not only are your romantic notions of love ill-advised in the cutthroat world of business, but you seek romance with little time left before you forever leave Providence College. Let's suppose this businessman is weak, and not focused on crushing the competition through capitalism. Let's assume that he aspires for little more than becoming a business drone, forever trapped in a cubicle, rushing to get coffee for those ruthless enough to make it big. Your impending departure from the school will leave you little time to foster and grow your love with this businessman. It will last as long as a Kardashian marriage.

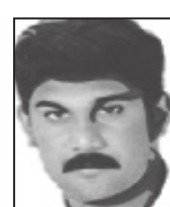
So, here is my advice: accept defeat. You have no chance here. Think about this realistically, Juliet, because otherwise you probably will end up killing yourself. Go with your friend. It is easy to assume this friend is weak, which is why you must use your knowledge of business to dominate the power

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

Are you a business major looking to expand your resume?

Consider joining The Cowl business staff and market advertising space, plan Cowl events, and maintain a yearly budget.

Pick up an application at Slavin LL04 or email Managing Editor Iryna Bocharova at ibocharo@friars.providence.edu.

Do you have interesting thoughts? Do you want to share them?

Consider applying to The Cowl as an Opinion section staff writer.

Visit thecowl.com, click on the "join" tab, and fill out an electronic application today!

This week in P After Hours

Saturday, 3/29

9:00 pm in McPhail's

Grocery Bingo & Pool Tournament

You could win a bag packed with all your favorite groceries! Peanut Butter lovers? You've got a bag. Breakfast lovers? There's one for you too. Do you think you're the next pool shark? Enter our PC Pool Tournament! 1st place winner gets a \$100 Amazon gift card, 2nd place winner gets \$50 gift card to The Providence Place Mall.

Thursday 4/3

9:00 pm in McPhail's

Team Trivia

Come with a group of 2 to 6 friends to participate in Team Trivia! Enjoy LaSalle sandwiches while competing with your peers and proving your smarts! First place winners will receive gift cards to PF Changs and second place winners will receive gift cards to Dunkin Donuts.

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NEXT WEEK.



SPORTS

Dear Friar Men's Basketball 2013-2014,

Fans are sometimes overly romantic about sports. We always try to make a team seem like something larger than itself. When all is said and done, though, it is just a game. A game that one team has to lose.

Ten years from now, many will look back at the game against UNC, see the “L” in the column next to it, and not think too much about it. Nobody may remember, or care to remember, how Bryce Cotton played the game of his storied career in black and white when the Friars needed him the most. Nobody may remember the “and-1” Kadeem Batts hit with four minutes left that opened up a seven-point Friar lead. Nobody will vividly remember the look on Coach Cooley’s face with .7 seconds left when he realized that the season had come to a close. We will forget the atmosphere in Alumni Hall, or wherever we joined as a campus to watch, as the Friars took UNC to literally the last second. In essence, we will forget all of the elements of that game; the “L” will be the only thing that most fans, alumni, and students see. More importantly, however, we may forget the story that brought us to that point.

Winning is the only cure to a program and fan base that is “caught in the mud.” With every game that the Friars won, the team’s popularity grew, and fans started to believe a bit more. Safe to say, the campus has not seen such hype for a game in the past few years as was present for Providence’s first NCAA game in 10 years. From Senior Night against Marquette, to the Big East Tournament at MSG, to the Selection Sunday Celebration, to the game watches in Alumni and McPhail’s, the support for this team was absolutely incredible and unseen in a long time.

For all fans, young or old, devoted or fair-weathered, this season was the most enjoyable in a long time. It will be extremely hard to adjust to a prolonged period of time when the Friars are not in a close game, giving you a heart attack, or taking years off of your life, yet enjoying every second. The 2013-2014 season will always be remembered for the improbable Big East Championship and NCAA berth. Bryce Cotton '14 will go down as one of the greatest Friars of all time. What will not go down in the record books or be played over and over again in Friar highlights is the backstory that took us on that wild journey. It is a story that some fans are not even aware of. It consists of losing a starting point guard, two devastating suspensions to two highly anticipated recruits, heart-breaking losses to start conference play, and other off-the-court issues that led every single fan to having their doubts. To end the season in the first round of the NCAA tournament with a six-man rotation playing neck and neck against one of college basketball’s most prestigious programs is truly special.

Remember this team as Big East Champs. Remember this team because of Bryce Cotton. But also remember this team for the adversity it conquered, for the heart it showed, and for waking up a community. Remember this team as the turning point in Friar basketball. Returning students—remember this season for next.

Fans always look for the “inspiring” and “underdog” story in sports. We love to see unlikely victories from unlikely teams. The 2013-2014 Men’s Friar Basketball will likely be remembered for winning the Big East Tournament, which is unfortunate because what this team did in the larger picture is bigger than any trophy that can be put on a shelf.

Thank you to all the Faithful who showed their Friar pride in the past few weeks. Thank you to Coach Cooley, Bryce Cotton, Kadeem Batts, and every member of the team for inspiring a fan base to believe again. As corny and cliché as it sounds by now, this is just the very beginning for Friar basketball.

Go Friars,

Friar Faithful

Editor's Corner: Baseball is Back

by Sean Bailey '14
Sports Editor

COLUMN

I know this is hard to believe, but spring is actually coming. This is even harder to believe when I look outside and the wind is howling, with snow swirling about. But spring *is* coming, and with it comes America's pastime. Yet millions of Americans and a vast majority of Providence College students will not be taking note of Major League Baseball's Opening Day.

The sacredness of Opening Day in baseball is unquestioned. In fact, there is a recent campaign to make MLB's Opening Day a national holiday. The petition, which was started by mega sponsor Budweiser, has over 100,000 signatures. And as the petition's website puts it, "MLB Opening Day is more than just the beginning of the season. It's a symbol of rebirth. The coming of spring. The return of America's national pastime. It's a state of mind where anything is possible." What is more American than that? It is exactly what the American Dream

is founded on, the rebirth of one's self, and the dream that anything is possible. It is what makes great American comeback stories like Rocky, Gatsby, and others. It is the dream that makes the Pittsburgh Pirates, a perennial bottom feeder team rise to the playoffs. Or the Red Sox go from worst to first, all in one year.

Also, when it comes to baseball, it is so easy to watch any game. Going into a stadium is the greatest feeling ever, with the bright green grass, the warm sun, the smack of a ball slamming into a mitt, or the crack of a bat to a ball. Not only that, but baseball is so slow, and relaxed, it truly is a stress relieving sport. This is a relieving contrast to basketball and football, which are so fast paced that they can leave one feeling more stressed than when they started.

But there is more than this purely poetic aspect of Opening Day. The league itself is one of the most well-run leagues across professional sports. The parity in the league is unparalleled. No team since the New York Yankees dynasty of the late '90s has won back to back World Series. Every year there are



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHIGANMIRACLE.ORG

teams that miss the playoffs that storm all the way back to them. The Red Sox are a recent example, as are the Pirates, but nearly every year features one team new to post-season play. The sense of optimism is apparent with every team, because you never truly know when your team will climb the mountain.

I know that baseball can be slow, but its slow pace should be embraced. It

allows you to watch a game, and soak up the strategy involved with each pitch and movement. Not only that, but for those number geeks, baseball stats are so in depth and fun to analyze.

So, do not miss out this year. Baseball is back, and America should embrace its pastime.

Racquetball Medals at Nationals

by James Kirby '15
Sports Staff

MEN'S BASKETBALL

While PC's Division I programs get the bulk of publicity, unbeknownst to most is our racquetball club team. The Providence College Racquetball club team traveled to North Carolina State University over spring break to compete in the National Intercollegiate Racquetball Championships. The event hosted more than 200 racquetball players and over 30 colleges including names like UConn, Penn State, University of Texas, University of Florida, Florida State, and Brigham Young University.

The six players who represented PC were Kevin Rockwell '14, Joey Bonitatibus '14, Joey Rockwood '14, Logan Bruneau '16, Krista Sevigny '16, and Dana Blakeley '17. The trip marked the second consecutive year in which Providence College racquetball went to nationals. The team brought home four

medals, and it was one of the most successful trips for Providence College racquetball.

Nick Montalbano of Colorado State University and Jose Diaz of Delta College, two players who are currently ranked in the top 50 in the world, competed in the tournament. Rockwell had the honor of playing Montalbano in a match in which he states, "The score was a bit lopsided, [but] I was happy to have scored a few points off of a professional in the sport." Following the tournament Rockwell said in perspective, "The team played with immense passion, and represented our league and the school well. I believe that Providence College racquetball is now back on 'the map' and we are beginning to make an impact on the national level that had been missing for many years. Our goal is to continue to represent ourselves at Nationals for years to come and continue to make Providence College a household name in the sport of racquetball."

Men's Hockey to Open at NAAs

by DJ Anderson '16
Sports Editor

MEN'S HOCKEY

On Wednesday, March 26, 2014, it was announced that the Providence College Men's Hockey Team will be competing in the 2014 NCAA Men's Hockey Tournament. Coach Nate Leaman's team was one of only 16 teams in the country to make the tournament, and earned the three seed in the East Region.

For those of you who are not familiar with the tournament bracket, there are four regions that contain four teams each. There is an East Region, a Northeast Region, a West Region, and a Midwest Region, and traditionally the higher teams in each region are placed closer to home for their games. Providence was given a three seed in the East Region for this year's field, and will take on

Quinnipiac University in the first round of the tournament.

Quinnipiac is the defending 2013 runner-up, as they dropped the championship game in Pittsburgh to in-state rival Yale last season. The team played up to its standards this season, going 24-9-6 to earn one of the number two seeds in this year's tournament. However, as both Quinnipiac and Yale proved last season, any team can make a run with a hot goalie. The Friars will look to do so this year, as Jon Gillies '16 is primed and ready for his first ever appearance in the NCAA Hockey Tournament.

The two teams will play this Friday, March 28. If the Friars can pull off a win in the first round, they would go on to play either Union College or the University of Vermont in Bridgeport, Conn. on the very next day for a spot in the Frozen Four.

Which Sport Has the Best Playoff System

NFL College Basketball

The BEST sports playoff system of all time has to be the National Football League's. Sure, March Madness is exciting, but there are always issues with the seeding. More often than not, March Madness fans know that their team is not going to make the big dance about halfway through the season. The NFL is awesome because it keeps your pulse pounding until the end, and even when your team is struggling, more often than not, they are not always out. At the end of the season you get the top six teams pitting themselves against each other.

The best team gets home field advantage and a first round bye. The second best gets a first round bye. Three gets to play six with home field advantage, and four plays five with home field advantage, five and six being the Wild Card teams seeded appropriately. Essentially, top teams that have won the Super Bowl within the previous season or two can completely choke and not even make the playoffs (looking at you and your huge forehead Eli). Teams that have always been counted out can rise to the occasion and win the Super Bowl against teams that even Vegas had winning (like this past year with the Seahawks).

It makes it more exciting when every game matters and could greatly impact your season. Therefore, the NFL has the right idea; as far as college football goes, there are just way too many bowl games. I do not know which I am supposed to care about. When an entire nation comes together to enjoy one game like the Super Bowl, the organization that planned it had to do something right.

-Pat Shea '14



PHOTO COURTESY OF RSVLTS.COM

To paraphrase the late-great Andy Williams, March Madness is the most wonderful time of the year. With some mid-major victories, and buzzer beater threes, and ACC tears, it's the most wonderful time of the year.

It's the hap-happiest season of ball. With those fans causing racket and ripping up brackets when the top teams fall, it's the hap-happiest season of ball.

There will be parties for seeding, the blowing of leading, and no-names that will steal the show. There'll be Cinderella stories, and tales of the glories of champions long, long ago.

It's the most wonderful season of ball. There'll be many calls daring, and coaches are swearing when refs blow the call. It's the most wonderful season of ball.

There'll be nets to be cut down and halftime turnarounds and singing of fight songs so loud. There will be final second countdowns, and smiles turned to frowns when that final buzzer does sound.

It's the most wonderful time of the year. There'll be stress-filled late free throws and teams that hit new lows when they lose to their peers. It's the most wonderful time, it's the most wonderful time, it's the most wonderful time...OF THE YEAR!!!!

-Bryan Blum '17

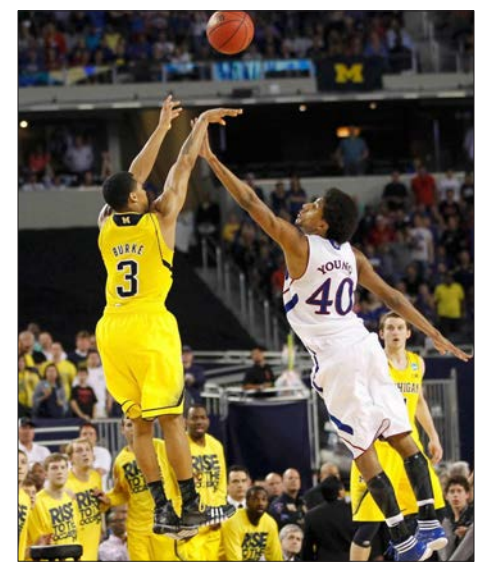


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