

Globe Trotters in Australia & CUA Snow Day! Pg. 7

President Garvey Answers Student Questions at Presidential Town Hall

By ABBY ANDERKO
Tower Staff

Catholic University President John Garvey addressed the student body in a Town Hall on Tuesday, March 20th to inform them of new projects that the university is undertaking, improvements in different academic programs, and the overall status of the university. Put on by the university’s Student Government Association (SGA), this event is meant to enlighten students on the affairs of the university and give them the opportunity to pose questions for the president. The town hall was held in Heritage Hall, a switch from the Pryzbyla Great Rooms where it has been held in the past. Roughly 200 students and administrators attended on a cold and rainy night before a snow day. Before Garvey spoke,

SGA President Brianna Howard addressed the crowd with a small “State of the Union” address, highlighting the work SGA has done within the past year and its continued effort to be the voice of the student body at the university. Then President Garvey took the stand to comment on a few ongoing university projects and describe his vision for the university’s future. Garvey spoke on the ever-changing atmosphere of higher education, how recent trends have affected universities across the nation in regard to enrollment, and how the Catholic University of America is constantly improving its campus to draw students in. Garvey began by commending the SGA for the new crosswalk that was put in across the McMahon Parking lot over spring break. He

then described other ongoing and future university projects such as the installation of new heating systems throughout campus, the creation of a new pedestrian walkway by the metro entrance to campus, new turf fields for soccer and lacrosse, as well as the anticipated new dining hall and final renovations to Maloney Hall, which will house the Busch School of Business when it opens. All of these renovations

have been included in a Master Plan that can be viewed on the university’s website. Some larger campus improvements were also mentioned, like the plan to expand the DuFour Athletic Center and a potential new space for the performing arts. These renovations and upgrades to the university stated in the Master Plan are to be funded by the capital

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COURTESY OF ALYCIA MONACO
A student asks President Garvey a question during the Town Hall on March 20th.

Catholic Students Participate in ‘VHacks’ Competition in Rome

By LIZ FRIDEN
Tower Staff

This past spring break, most Catholic University students spent their week off school resting, having fun with friends, or volunteering. A group of five Catholic students spent their spring break differently, participating in VHacks, the first hackathon held at the Vatican in Rome, Italy. Emma Flanagan, a sophomore marketing major; LeQuan Clinton, a senior architecture student; Michael Monaghan, a senior computer

science major; Vy Bui, an electrical engineering doctoral candidate; and Van Lam, a biomedical engineering doctoral candidate, traveled to Rome, where they participated in the first annual Vatican Hackathon. Their team won second place overall against the top 25 universities in the world. The 36-hour competition took place on the weekend of March 8-11th, the last weekend of Catholic University’s spring break. A total of 120 students

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COURTESY OF MICHAEL MONAGHAN
Catholic students Emma Flanagan and LeQuan Clinton explained their creation in the competition.

Media, Drama, and Art Students Discuss Academic Renewal Proposal with Provost

By JIMMY CASSIDY
Tower Staff

A snow day cancellation of classes did not stop students in the Media and Communication Studies, Drama, and Art departments from coming to meet with Provost Andrew Abela to discuss the Academic Renewal proposal. Held in the Pryzbyla Center Great Room, the meeting on Wednesday, March 20th specifically covered the ramifications involving the first resolution of the proposal – the plan to move all academic programs of the aforementioned departments along with the Music School, and selected faculty into a new “School of Music, Visual, and Performing Arts”. More than 100 students came to ask questions and share concerns about the proposed changes which would go into effect after a final vote by the university’s Board of Trustees on June 5th. Abela invited all students from the three departments to meet so he could explain and clarify the proposal in person while taking questions on how

the changes would impact the academic experience. Students voiced concerns on the impact a new school would have on the credibility of their degrees, the effect that part-time instruction would have on their education, and the combination of media and art. Abela began the meeting by explaining the rationale behind the proposal to merge the Art and Media and Communication Studies departments into one “Arts and Communications” department. He cited talk amongst departments for years about starting a new major in film production to provide a film and video focus for students, and noted that a recent donor has prepared to give the school \$500,000 towards this film program. Abela said that the Art and Media departments have not been able to coordinate which should lead the film program, so the proposal was made to just put the two departments together to solve the stall in progress. The effort, from the proposal’s point

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NEWS

The Tower

The Student Newspaper of The Catholic University of America
Office Located in 103 Pryzbyla Center

620 Michigan Avenue, N.E. - Washington, DC 20064

Jimmy Cassidy
Editor in Chief

Alex Huntley
Managing Editor

Staff

Emily Prendergast
Social Media Chair

Alexander Santana
News Editor

Daniela Sol
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Duane Paul Murphy
Quill Editor

Jared Prenda
Sports Editor

Business Manager

Katie Ward
Copy Editor

Jamie Franc
Web Editor

Contributors/Staff Writers -

Brittany Young, Samuel Matthews, Iain Higgins,
Abby Anderko, Jissella Urquilla, Tom Dompkowski, Liz Friden, Rachel Stevens

Advisors -
Bill McQuillen & Chris Hodes

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THE POLITICS CORNER

Bolton to be Trump National Security Advisor

By Alexander Santana
Tower Staff

President Donald Trump announced by tweet Thursday evening that “effective 4/9/18, @AmbJohnBolton will be my new National Security Advisor. I am very thankful for the service of General H.R. McMaster who has done an outstanding job & will always remain my friend. There will be an official contact handover on 4/9.” Ambassador John Bolton will be President Trump’s third and the nation’s 27th National Security Advisor (NSA) since he took office in January 2017. His first National Security Advisor, retired U.S. Army Lieutenant General Michael Flynn, served from January 20th through February 13th, the shortest term of any National Security Advisor in its history.

President Trump’s current National Security Advisor, General H.R. McMaster, 55, assumed the position on February 20th. In a statement from the White House President Trump said that “H.R. McMaster has served his country with distinction for more than 30 years. He has won many battles and his bravery and toughness are legendary. General McMaster’s leadership of the National Security Council staff has helped my administration accomplish great things to bolster America’s national security.” Ambassador Bolton had reportedly meet with President Trump at the White House in recent weeks and again on Thursday to discuss succeeding General McMaster. He had been originally considered as a possible secretary of state before Rex Tillerson was ultimately picked and has been visiting the President recently to discuss foreign policy events going on around the world and give his advice.

The National Security Advisor position has been in existence since the Dwight D. Eisenhower Administration and has been occupied in the past by Americans such as Henry Kissinger, Colin Powell, Condoleezza Rice, Susan Rice, and Catholic University alumnus Tom Donilon who served under President Barack Obama from 2010-2013. The NSA is the President’s chief advisor on national security issues and does not need to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate. The NSA is also a member of the National Security Council (NSC). The NSC is “the President’s principal forum for considering national security and foreign policy matters with his senior national security advisors and cabinet officials.”

According to the New York Times, “General McMaster had struggled for months to impose order not only on a fractious national security team but on a president who resisted the sort of discipline customary in the military.” It also says that President Trump and General McMaster “had little chemistry from the start, and often clashed behind the scenes. General McMaster’s serious, somber style and preference for order made him an uncomfortable fit with a president whose style is looser.” Both men also had opposing views on certain foreign policy issues including the Iran nuclear deal. General McMaster warned “against ripping up the nuclear deal with Iran without a strategy for what would come next.”

John Bolton, 69, was the 25th U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations from 2005-2006 under President George W. Bush. He also served under President Bush as the 3rd Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Affairs from 2001-2005. During the George H.W. Bush Administration Ambassador Bolton held the position of Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs from 1989-1993. A native of Baltimore, Maryland, Bolton is a graduate of Yale University and Yale Law School. While a student at Yale Law School during the early 1970s Bolton encountered a young Bill and Hillary Clinton who were both also law students at Yale.



CRIME BLOTTER

3/17

When: 3/17/18

Where: Unit Block of Hawaii Ave. N.E.

What: Robbery - Unit Block of Hawaii Ave. N.E. on March 17 at 12:30 am. The suspect was described as a black male with a short haircut, 40 years of age, wearing all black. The suspect was armed with a black handgun. The suspect fled on foot.

When: 3/17/18

Where: 100 Block of Webster Street N.E.

What: Robbery - in the 100 Block of Webster Street N.E. on March 17 at 8:18 pm One black male suspect, 40 years of age, 5’7”, white mustache, all black clothing, armed with a black handgun.

NEWS

Want to be a part of a community that values writing skills and cares about what’s happening at CUA?

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SGA Hosts President Garvey to Address Student Body at Heritage Hall

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campaign, which is currently in its preliminary stages. In building such a campaign, areas such as the intellectual experience and how much capital need to be through about before any of these projects get underway.

Next, Garvey spoke on is the university’s new Academic Renewal campaign. This renewal includes a new liberal arts curriculum to be implemented for the incoming freshman next semester, as well as a proposal from the Undergraduate Provost that is to combine the departments of Art, Drama, Music, and Media and Communication into one school to be known as the School of Music, Performing, and Visual Arts. Garvey summarized that these changes should enhance the student experience and make the university more marketable on the whole.

Other areas touched on by the President included campus safety, immigration issues in relation to the university students and staff, as well as his recommitment to be the university’s president.

The floor was then opened to student who posed questions regarding capital campaign funding, the construction by the metro entrance to campus, and the master plan. The first question of the night was posed by junior Duane Paul Murphy, on the topic of enrollment. He questioned how the university as a Catholic institution is responding to the changing demographics of the nation. Garvey replied by saying that the university has increased it population of students of other religions as well as looked to focus on other areas such as philosophy

in accordance with theology. However, Garvey said that this is a complex challenge and families are less likely to spend money on education than they used to.

The most applauded question of the night was posed by junior Media and Communication Studies major Julianna Fullam, who asked about the future of the department and school that houses her specific interests. Apologizing for her shaky speech, Fullam expressed serious concern about changes to her education.

“I am very concerned as to what this means for my future because somewhere it states that my major is going to be turned into an Arts and Communications,” she said. “If I wanted an art degree, I would have come here for art.”

In response, President Garvey emphasized that this proposal is just that, a proposal. He spoke about how this document still has three to four more stages of revision it must undergo before it is presented to the Board of Trustees to be signed and approved. He also pointed out that this program is not to change what already exists, but to create new possibilities. Instead of just analyzing how media works, students might have the opportunity to actually experience different areas involved in media, such as film, that have not been offered previously. He urged students to attend the meeting with the Provost the next day for more specific answers.

To end the night, Howard thanked Garvey for coming to speak with students in person and the students for braving the weather to attend.



COURTESY OF ALYCIA MONACO

President Garvey began his talk with upcoming projects the university is working on.

Group of Catholic Students Spend Spring Break in Rome for Global Competition

VATICAN HACKATHON, from page 1

with all different faith-backgrounds came together for a weekend of innovation and project creation. They leveraged their technology to address current global problems. This was an event to promote collaboration among youth leaders across diverse academic, ethnic and religious backgrounds. Another aspect of the event was to encourage value-based institutions to embrace technology to further their missions.

Each of the 25 teams were assigned a topic at the start of the 36 hours. Flanagan explained how her team created an innovative solution to solve interfaith dialogue, one of the three challenges of the VHacks competition. The solution was called “Faithstrings”, a virtual-reality app that allows users to explore and learn about different faiths. It aimed to “connect individuals from across the world from one another to learn through a virtual reality shared experience and community platform.”

“Toward the end, about 75% of participants slept for last 3 hours,” Monaghan explained. “The rest, including myself, stayed up.”

Every team’s project was due at 9:00 AM and everyone presented as if it was a science fair. The winners were determined by a panel of experienced professionals across tech companies and the Vatican institution. They judged teams based on creativity, potential impact, feasibility, relevance to the topics provided and technological innovation.

Three finalists were selected in each category to give a slightly longer and more formal presentation in another building. Catholic’s group was among those chosen, and came in second place, winning \$1000. In addition, they won an award from Salesforce for best implementation of their software.

Food was provided buffet-style for the entire duration of the competition. The students stayed in and worked in the Columbus hotel, less than a quarter of a mile away from the Vatican. The students were surrounded by professionals and students from all around the world.

“Everyone was very friendly,” Monaghan said. “There were priceless works of art everywhere we went, it felt like we were in the National Gallery of Art.”

Each team member was chosen to go to this event after each participated in an event at CUA earlier this semester, called Hackathon for Homelessness. Hackathon for Homelessness took place on January 27th, and all five students who went to Rome competed on different teams against each other in it.

Although Flanagan is a sophomore marketing major with no real background in computer science, she decided to get a team together, knowing a trip to Rome in March for the Vatican Hackathon would be a possibility. Clinton also heard about V-Hacks through this first Hackathon event. After participating in it, he was chosen from his original team to go to Rome.

Monaghan was among the participants chosen to go to Rome from this first CUA Hackathon for Homelessness competition as well. When asked about how he felt as the only computer science major chosen to go to VHacks, Monaghan replied he was “surprised and slightly concerned.”

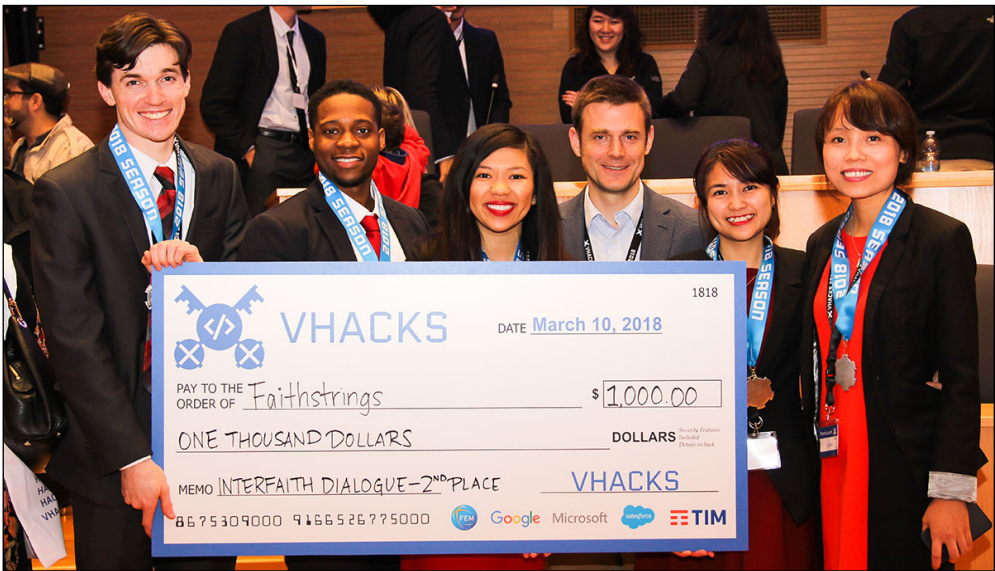
“To make up for the lack of programmers, we focused heavily on our concept and how to sell it to the judges,” he explained. “Our diverse backgrounds turned out to be a killer combination that I think could win again next year.”

The team came from very different majors and had very different skill sets, with backgrounds in business, architecture, engineering, and computer science. From the end of January to spring break, the team met every Thursday for hours on end, even doing a 10-hour simulation one weekend to get them ready for the 36-hour hackathon.

Clinton explained the dynamic saying, “We all got along well because we each knew what our respective role was and stuck to it while trying to help each other where we could.”

“Our team’s diversity and ability to relate to people on a personal level was one of the major elements that led it to success,” LeQuan explained. “Additionally, the level of attention to details and graphic communication combined with our unique idea gave us the extra push to cross the finish line and pull in second place.”

Just another spring break in Rome for these Catholic U students.



COURTESY OF MICHAEL MONAGHAN

The group of Catholic students and School of Engineering Dean John Judge pose for a picture after the competition in which Catholic took 2nd.

NEWS

The Tower Elects 124th Editor-in-Chief for 2018-19 Academic Year

By DUANE PAUL MURPHY
Tower Staff

The Tower student newspaper at the Catholic University of America held editorial elections on February 25th to select the next editor-in-chief for the 2018-2019 academic school year. Staff writer Liz Friden, a junior politics major, was announced as the 124th editor-in-chief of the student-run publication.

“My initial reaction was shocked excitement,” Friden said. “This position is a dream come true. When I re-read the email that I got it, all of my ideas and goals I have written down came rushing through my head. They were no longer ideas and goals, they are plans.”

Before becoming editor-in-chief of the paper, Friden, who hails from upstate New York, was already involved a variety of extracurricular activities and internships on and off campus. These particular opportunities have included interning for Republican New York Congresswoman Elise Stefanik on Capitol Hill, being a Fox News Channel associate in Washington, D.C., and becoming a member of Catholic’s Program Board organization and Student Philanthropy Council. She has indicated that she is willing to give up these responsibilities to dedicate herself to the time and effort that running a university publication demands.

In terms of her experience with The Tower, Friden began contributing as a staff writer her freshman year. She became much more involved with the publication’s operations during this academic year as a junior, writing more articles and helping with editing efforts. Friden has covered a variety of issues and events, including the Women’s March in D.C., Title IX policy changes at the university, and a speech that former presidential candidate Carly Fiorina gave last fall.

Something the excites Friden the most about the new position is the chance to hear different perspectives from all parts of the university community.

“I love listening to people,” Friden said. “I love hearing their side of the story because it is what they really believe and I think that is fascinating.”

As the next editor-in-chief of the paper, Friden wants to further enhance the publication more towards a digital platform.

“I want the future of the student newspaper to be online,” Friden said. “I want the news to show up in people’s inboxes. I want the news to be new, meaning I want it to be relevant. I want people to learn from it.”

Friden also wants the publication and its staff to be very detail-oriented in its work.

“I want us to be trained student journalists and to take pride in our work. When I was a freshman, I would read the paper and cringe when I saw grammar mistakes,”

Friden said. “If one small detail is off in a story, how are you supposed to trust the accuracy of it?”

Many of Friden’s colleagues and coworkers on campus have shown strong support for her new position.

“I’m super proud to see that Liz is becoming the editor-in-chief,” said junior politics major Katie Hodgdon, a coworker of Friden’s at the university’s Office of Events and Conferences Services. “I have known her since our freshman year, and as her current coworker, I am so proud and I know she will represent The Tower with grace and poise, carrying the legacy of strong editors.”

The publication’s editor-in-chief for the 2017-2018 academic school year, senior media and communication studies major Jimmy Cassidy, expressed optimism for Friden’s vision for the organization.

“I think Liz is a very driven person with a great passion to succeed in whatever she takes on,” Cassidy said. “With the right amount of dedication, she will do a great job as editor-in-chief.”

When asked about the year in charge, Cassidy noted some satisfaction, but a need for continued effort.

“Overall, I will take pride in the work our staff did this year. The analytics show the reader traffic has increased, and I feel that we had a slightly larger presence on campus with our work in print and digitally online,” Cassidy said. “It was a tight-knit group we had reporting on the news of the university, but there are still many ways we can improve to properly inform the readers in the community.”

The current editorial staff will round out the academic year with twenty-five editions published for the university community. Some notable stories that the publication has reported on include a mumps disease flare-up on campus, notable school curriculum changes, Puerto Rican students affected by Hurricane Maria, faculty layoffs, and the



COURTESY OF JIMMY CASSIDY
Junior Liz Friden will take over as Editor-in-Chief of The Tower next fall for the 2018-19 year.

Provost Abela Addresses Student Concerns in Meeting on Snow Day

ACADEMIC RENEWAL
from page 1

of view, would improve the quality of the departments and attract new students.

Multiple questions of a similar theme followed: video production is just an aspect of each of the departments’ curricula -- how will this emphasis attract new students who don’t come to study film? Students worried that it would actually hurt the value of the major, slowly disregarding some of the humanities-based focuses at the core of each department, like media literacy and art theory.

“Media and art are so much more than making movies,” one student said. “Is this department just going to become a film department in the next five to ten years?”

In his response to the concerns, Abela stressed that the new film production major would only add to, and not take away from, the current academic programs. He repeated that course offerings would remain the same, and said it should not be a worry for those concerned that a new school without any history would lack credibility, pointing to recent success with the new business school.

“So actually people look at a new school with an optimism, seeing that we care so much about the arts that we’re creating its own school. But I’m very open in hearing who should be in it, what it should be called, and other thoughts on it.”

Abela explained the idea behind the new school further, noting that a new building for the arts is expected to be built, which would be an ideal place to house these departments together. In general though, the responses continued to oppose the inclusion of Media and Communication Studies in this new school specifically. Abela, taking notes on each student’s thoughts, made note of the amount of perspectives in that favor.

“That might actually be the solution,” said Abela, responding to a student who suggested Media and Communication Studies be left out of the consolidation, “and you all clapped when I suggested we leave it alone before. Whether Media Studies is in an Arts School or not, I think, is an open question.”

Students left the meeting feeling that their opinions were at least heard, but hoped it would continue that way.

“I am definitely more optimistic,” said junior media major Jake Walsh. “I feel as if Provost Abela heard a lot of opinions that he was not originally aware of and I hope that he keeps that in mind when amending his proposal.”

“Overall, while I left the meeting with some answers, I still feel extremely concerned with the proposal and the future of

the department,” said sophomore Caroline Firriolo. “I am hoping this dialogue will be able to continue truthfully and honestly.”

The aspect that Provost admittedly did not enjoy reading and the students did not enjoy hearing was the reduction in faculty to make these changes. Abela explained that teaching loads would be increased to a three class per semester plan, a standard described in the faculty handbook. The increased loads would allow faculty to be cut while the amount of courses stay the same, according to self-studies the office completed in the last year.

In the proposal, the Art department would lose one of its three full-time faculty, Media would lose three of its five full-time, Drama would lose one of its eight full-time, and the Music School would lose four of its nineteen full-time instructors. Most of these departures will be voluntary, but students worry that resulting part-time and adjunct instruction would hurt the quality of education and community.

“I am just worried that we are going to lose this sense of community with these changes, because it’s one of the strongest things we have here,” said Christian McCarren, a junior media major.

Abela acknowledged this as the most powerful argument he had heard, and thanked the crowd for giving him helpful insight on the student perspective.

“When I presented this to the Senate, it was not my goal to get this approved as written, it’s my goal to get discussion going on and make amends to the point where we get a consensus and go forward,” Abela said.

To the concern about continued dialogue, Abela described the process in which the proposal must progress before a final vote. It must be reviewed by the Academic Senate twice more, as well as an ad hoc committee and an academic affairs committee of the Board of Trustees. These committees have student representation in the form of a few SGA members like Vice President Jon Paul Weiss, who reiterated his role in being a channel of communication with students concerning the proposal.

“My goal is to hear the concerns of all students because we all have a goal to receive the best education,” Weiss said. “I hope to do this by hosting similar town halls like the Media and Drama one, as well as speaking in the SGA Senate on March 26th in which we intend to speak about the issue.”

Students are welcome to attend the Senate meetings and voice concerns, or raise them with faculty who can then get in contact with members of the Academic Senate.



COURTESY OF JIMMY CASSIDY
University Provost Andrew Abela (far left) takes questions from students.

QUILL

TOWER EDITORIAL

The State of Higher Education

The state of higher education nationwide is deteriorating as we speak. Despite its global rankings amongst developed countries, accessible, qualitative, and affordable higher education in the United States of America is becoming more rare and scarce than ever before. While Catholic University of America is facing economic controversies with expanding exterior projects and contracting vital academic departments, other schools across the country are facing similar issues. Enrollment has recently declined not only due to rising costs associated with an increase in bureaucratic mechanisms and costly projects, but also, especially for religious schools, student demographics. Latest census information analyzed by the Pew Research Center, Gallup, and the Public Religion Research Institute have shown that young Americans between the ages of 18 to 35 years old are now gradually identifying as unaffiliated or non-religious. Big Roman Catholic families simply can't send all their kids to private colleges for a quality education like they used to.

To improve enrollment, Catholic University is trying to revamp its reputation as a research institution in order to offer a high quality education and maintain its accreditation. Examples of improving qualitative curriculum have included the addition of open-ended questions to its

core. But costs remain the issue as the university is expanding. Students are graduating from private or public institutions with large amounts of student debt that often create a burden for them to have their own property or start a family. Even at Catholic, the tuition has increased over 3.5% every spring semester for the past three years, meaning the price of attendance when you're applying is not a promise of what you'll be paying years later.

Cost saving measures such as attending community college to transfer enough academic credits over to a public or private university and replacing public or private student loans with grants and scholarships provided by the university have been seen throughout the country. Furthermore, accelerated undergraduate and postgraduate degree programs can reduce the costs as well as open textbooks that are under an open copy license and expanding technology and electronic appliance rentals. If the university were to consider these proposals, cost-efficiency can become the new norm on campus for generations to come. How can this school make itself stand out amongst the litter of similarly-sized, religiously-affiliated private schools for students if families no longer want to send their children to THE Catholic University of America?

GUEST COMMENTARY

Tom Lahey
Class of 2016

The Left Should Talk about the Founders

It is a political myth that conservatives in America have a monopoly on interpreting the "intent" of the nation's founders as it relates to the text of the Second Amendment. It is true that conservatives have an almost reverent affection for the Founding Fathers and believe their writing of the Constitution to be an infallible inspiration of natural law and the rights of man. It's time for the left to challenge that notion.

As a law student, I am confronted with being put in the challenging position of having to argue a position in a wholly objective manner. Given the recent shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and countless other instances where a military-grade weapon of war has been used on the American people by their fellow citizen, and oftentimes, their neighbor, it's been more difficult than usual to argue for stricter gun-control without letting my emotions get the better of me. Recently, in my constitutional law class, I've found the answer.

For those unfamiliar, *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570 (2008) is a case that made its way to the Supreme Court following a police officer's challenge of D.C.'s law against the ownership and possession of handguns within its jurisdiction. The majority, led by Justice Antonin Scalia, cited the country's Founding Fathers' intent that there be a "citizen's militia" that is necessary not just for the "security of a free State," as expressed in the Second Amendment, but as necessary for self-defense. The self-defense argument took a strange turn when Justice Scalia suggested that not only was this for self-defense of the individual person, but also of the public, for if the newly founded government should turn on its standing army (of which many founders were fearful would lead to tyranny) then it is the duty of the citizen to resist with his arms. Such logic, as referenced by

Scalia in *Heller*, was imported to the colonies by the English from a declaration from 1689 wherein William and Mary declared that Protestants in England would never be disarmed.

My question, then, is why can England, 329 years after the Declaration of Right, find in itself the strength and courage to change its gun laws so that it is virtually impossible for a civilian to own an AR-15 or even a handgun, but here in the United States, 230 years after the final ratification of our Constitution, we cannot? I believe this is because we are interpreting the Constitution incorrectly and pretending that its text cannot be changed.

The entire purpose of the Second Amendment was to maintain a "well-regulated militia." The phrase "self-defense" does not appear anywhere in the text of the Amendment. State constitutions that predated the U.S. Constitution included a reference to self-defense, but did so explicitly, making its omission in the federal Constitution conspicuous. Congress was authorized to organize, arm, discipline, and provide for the calling forth of "the Militia" (U.S. Cons., Art. I, §8, cls. 12-16). Surely the word "militia" in Art. I, found again in the Second Amendment, cannot mean different things. The Second Amendment, therefore, was meant to describe the duty and right to have arms available and ready for military service, "being necessary to the security of a free State," not unregulated private ownership.

To close, the right does not have a monopoly on quoting or referencing the Constitution or the Founding Fathers. As liberals and progressives, we should feel comfortable debating with our conservative friends on the true meaning of the Second Amendment, and never shy away from honest, intellectual debates on this topic. However, a little emotion won't hurt from time to time.

Fire Island Ignorance



GUEST POETRY

Cameron Hosseinian
Class of 2018

Red tipped waves and frothy
skies

And cigar boats and ash trays
and a salty

breeze. Some nights the moon
shows,

some it doesn't. The people
don't notice.

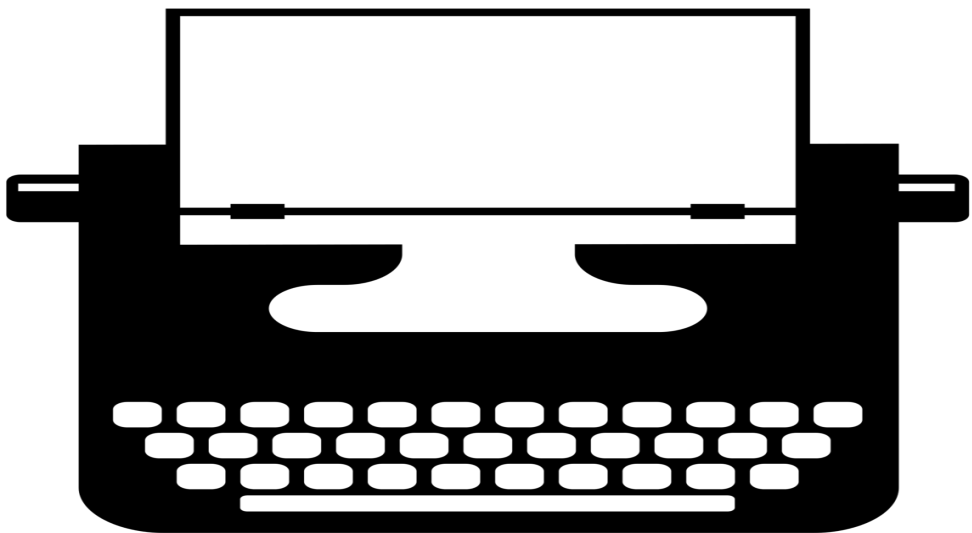
The screen is shut too tight and
the lock is

stuck. I wish it were here every
night,

gilding the rails in silvers and
grey and

confusing the mosquitoes.

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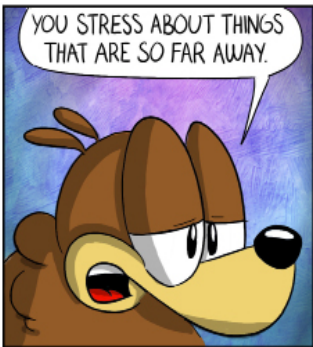
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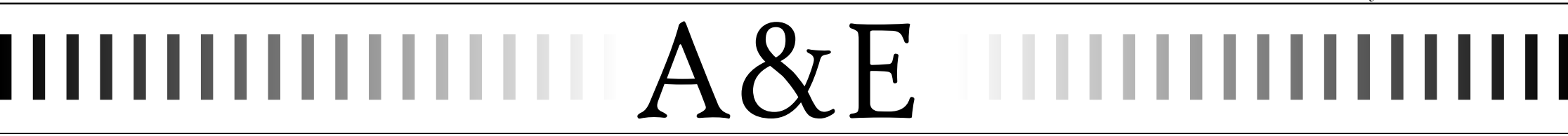


By: L. A. Bonté



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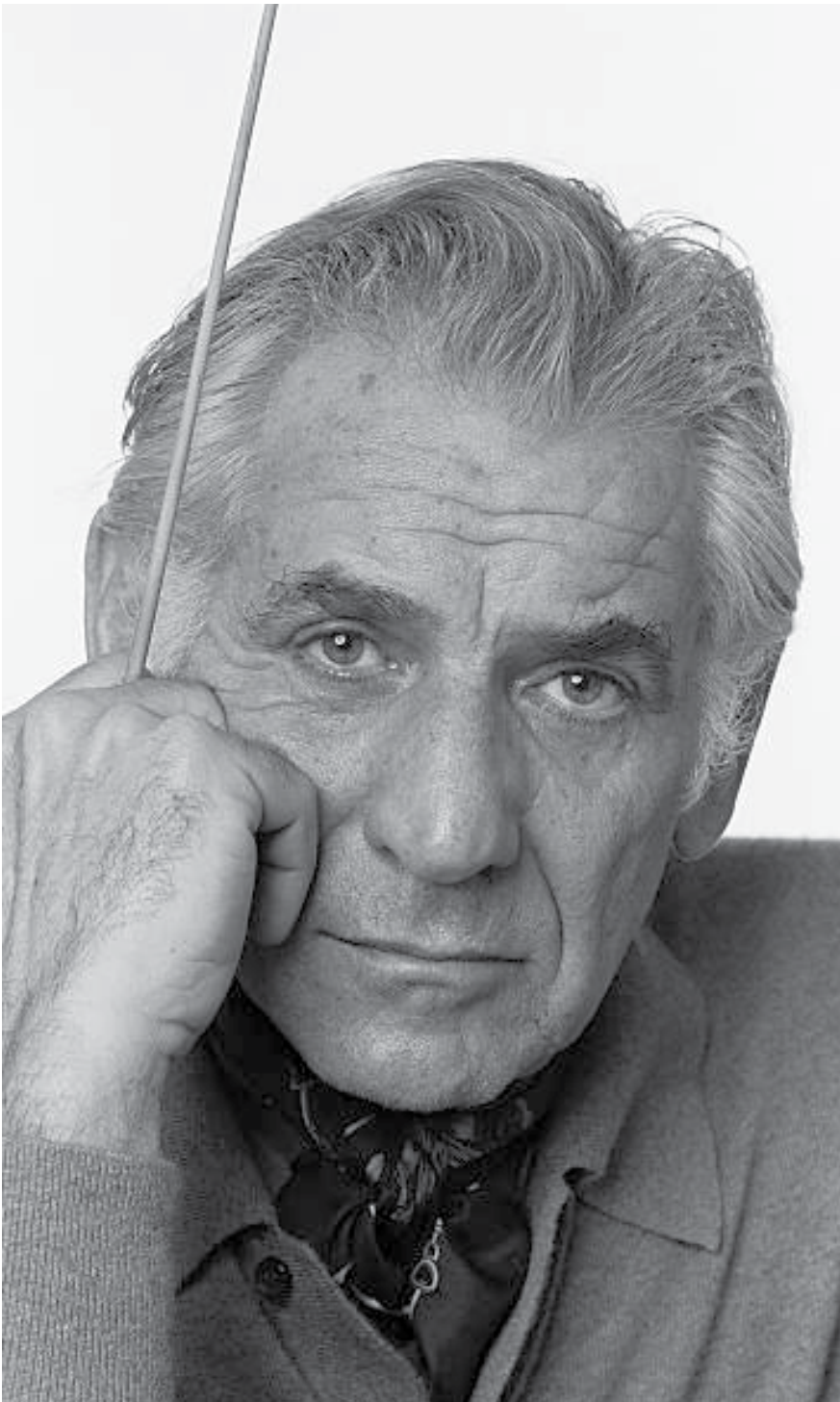
D.C. Celebrates the 100th Birthday of Leonard Bernstein

By: BRITTANY STERLING YOUNG
Tower Staff

The year 2018 marks the 100th birthday of renowned American composer Leonard Bernstein, and naturally D.C. (along with the rest of the world) has plans to celebrate! Throughout the year, the Washington area will put on jazz, theater, classical, choral, and dance performances to recognize this influential man in music. Bernstein spent a significant portion of his life in D.C., and he was often a visitor of the White House. He also often composed for and conducted D.C. performing arts groups, premiered his own works in the area such as *West Side Story* and *MASS*, and even served as emcee for the National Performing Arts Center, now known to all as the Kennedy Center. The Kennedy Center will partner with venues such as the Atlas Performing Arts Center, AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Cathedral Choral Society and, most importantly, the Catholic University of America Music Theatre Division and Arena Stage,

as well as other performing organizations, for its celebration of “Leonard Bernstein at 100”. This past January, Catholic students performed at the Kennedy Center for a 55-minute, revue-style show including pieces from *1600 Pennsylvania Avenue*, *The Lark*, *Peter Pan*, *Wonderful Town*, *A Party with Comden and Green*, and *West Side Story*. Then, coming up between March 27th to April 1st, D.C. residents can expect to see the the New York City Ballet at the Kennedy Center performing *Fancy Free* to celebrate Bernstein as well as choreographer Jerome Robbins. Later this spring, from May 5th to May 26th, the Washington National Opera will perform *Candide*, the operetta by Bernstein based on the 1759 novella by Voltaire. On Friday, May 4th and Sunday, May 6th, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra will put on a performance entitled “To Bernstein With Love”. To celebrate Bernstein’s centennial renowned violin-

ist Nicola Benedetti will join the Orchestra to play Bernstein’s *Three Dance Episodes from On the Town*, *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story*, and *Serenade*. The Cathedral Choral Society will explore the works of Bernstein from a different perspective and will showcase him as a humanitarian through a series of speeches, videos, and finally a musical performance. Bernstein conducted a “Concert for Peace” on the eve of Nixon’s second inauguration in 1973 featuring Haydn’s *Mass in Time of War*, as a calling to peace during a time of instability. To commemorate this effort, the Cathedral Choral Society will perform this same mass (*Mass in C Major, Hob. XXII:9*) as well as Bernstein’s own *Make Our Garden Grow*. As such a monumental influencer in the history of D.C.’s arts, these are just some of the events the city has planned to honor the musician. Many more are expected to be announced.



COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA.COM

Review: *Rise, Dare to Dream*

By: KATARINA IVANCIK
Tower Staff

Coming from the producers of *Parenthood* and *Friday Night Lights*, *Rise* is living up to high expectations. It premiered March 13th and is airing every Tuesday 10 PM EST; the latest episodes are available online on NBC’s website. Reminiscent of TV shows like *Glee* and recently successful movie musicals like *La La Land*, a new NBC show about a high school theatre has recently premiered; the show is tugging at the heartstrings of veteran theatre kids and first-timers alike. The show takes place in Stanton High School, where students have a new teacher, Lou Mazzuchelli— played by Josh Radnor from the famous sitcom *How I Met Your Mother*— who has a vision to revive the drama program with a powerful, albeit controversial, production of *Spring Awakening*. Before they went into the rehearsal process the school had already granted permission for them to produce the show. However, after a second glance at the script, they recant permission and force the students to put on *Pirates of Penzance*

instead, which is still a classic and a great show to produce but lacks the groundbreaking impact the students were aiming for. The administration goes so far as to replace Mr. Mazzu, to ensure that future shows will be safe and traditional. Naturally the students revolt against it and along with their drama teachers they fight, not only for this new production, but for the future of their arts programs. Their dilemma seems small, but the heart of the issue is really centered on how much schools value the arts. The actors are well cast and

the script is good by all standards. Like most things it has its clichés: the athlete with the secret singing talent, the shy girl with the incredible voice who gets cast as the lead and has a crush on her co-star. In fact, anyone who only reads the character descriptions might see the show as a *High School Musical* rip-off or *Glee* wannabe, but despite these clichés, *Rise* hits on deeper issues ranging from high school struggles to political changes that threaten the future of the arts. This show is not another *Glee*, it is its own unique production with an emotional

core that is being compared to successful dramas like *This Is Us*. Unlike *Glee* the material is heavier, the issues are deeper, and as fun as the *Glee* music was, *Rise’s* soundtrack is a true testament to musical theatre. Most importantly *Rise* is a reminder that every child, no matter their situation, should be loved and welcomed in the arts. And because of this, arts programs in public schools should be a prioritized necessity, not an underfunded afterthought.



COURTESY OF NBC.COM

THE REAR END

GLOBE TROTTERS:

FEARLESS ADVENTURING IN AUSTRALIA

By Sophia Brumme '19

The first trip I took in Australia was to Fraser Island in Queensland. It is the world's largest sand island. The day we departed, we were divided up into groups of eight. My friend and I were the only Americans. We were grouped with a boy from Israel, a girl from the U.K, another from the Netherlands and a pair of friends from France. The eight of us had our own car to drive for the next three days, but only four people were qualified to drive stick shift on the sand in our group. There were three other groups of eight and a tour guide that would be traveling with us around the island. After we introduced ourselves, we packed up our four-wheel drives to head to the island. When we first got there, we drove down the beach for about two hours until we got to Lake Wabby. We had to hike for 45 minutes and walk through the desert just to get to this lake, but it was worth it. It was a beautiful, green lake with tiny fish that ate the dead skin off our feet! After this, we drove to the campsite that we would be staying at for the next two nights. On the way there, we were lucky enough to spot some dingos, which are feral dogs that live on the island.

The second day, we drove to Eli Creek where we got to float down the creek like a lazy river. This water

was so clean we could drink from it. We borrowed a giant flamingo float from some kind Aussies to travel down the river on. After this, we drove to Lake Garawongera. This was a lake that had tea tree oil, so it is really good for your skin and hair! This was my favorite part of the trip because I love tea tree oil so I soaked in the lake, getting the most of this natural spa treatment until we headed to the Champagne pools. These pools get their name from the bubbles that are formed when the waves hit the rocks. With each wave there is a flood of champagne-like bubbles into the pools. We ended our day by visiting the SS Maheno shipwreck. This is a shipwreck with a long history of being a luxury cruise liner which was ultimately bought by the Japanese during World War II. It never made it to its destination and still sits on the shores of Fraser Island today. On the last day, we visited the famous Lake McKenzie. This lake is called "Australia's most beautiful lake" because of the white sand and light blue water. It was the perfect way to end the trip. This was an amazing first experience of traveling not only because there were breathtaking sites, but also because I made so many amazing friends from around the world.



COURTESY OF SOPHIA BRUMME

Catholic junior Sophia Brumme joined a group of students from all over the world for a weekend of exploring some of Queensland's coolest spots.

CUA GLOBE TROTTERS

Are you studying abroad right now and have a story or moment to share? Maybe you want to hear about your friends studying in a foreign country?

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Lake McKenzie on Fraser Island in Queensland

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

AA MEETS ON
THURSDAY AT 7:30 PM

CALDWELL HALL 331B



The Champagne Pools on Fraser Island in Queensland

SNOW DAY AT CUA 3/21

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