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By Kyle ZiemnickCopy Editor

It was March 29, 2013, and the top-seeded Kansas Jayhawks were well on their way to the Elite Eight—the quarterfinals of the NCAA basketball tournament. With two and a half minutes left, they led the fourth-seeded Michigan Wolverines by 10.

My dad and I, avid Michigan fans, watched in dismay with the rest of our family as the Wolverines failed to put up enough of a fight. All seemed lost.

But Michigan rallied. Sophomore star Trey Burke led the Wolverines back into the contest. Despite his best efforts, though, Kansas led by three with 12.6 seconds left. A Kansas player just had to make a free throw, and the game would be nearly out of reach.

The free throw clanked off the rim. The clock started moving.

Tim Hardaway Jr. rebounded the shot and swung the ball to Burke.

Burke received a screen five feet behind the three-point line. He pulled up to shoot.

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I'll never forget what happened next. As we all held our breath, the ball flew through the air of Cowboys Stadium—and swished through the basket. With four seconds left. Tie game.

My mom, who never watches sports, jumped off the couch screaming. I screamed. We all screamed.

That's the beauty of March Madness.

Every spring, on Selection Sunday, 68 college basketball teams enter the bracket, receiving a seed, an opponent, and a dream. In response, millions of people around the world fill out their own brackets, trying to predict who will emerge victorious. Bracket mania sweeps through workplaces, families, and colleges. PHC is no exception.

Junior Cooper Millhouse took over the PHC bracket group last year. Currently, it includes 21 entries from students all hoping to claim the glory of top bracketologist.

"It's a great way to connect with other students through just a little bit of trash talk," Millhouse said. "You don't have to know what's going on."

Exhibit A? Senior Daniel Fierer, who won our wing's bracket competition last year.

"Growing up, I never really watched basketball, so March Madness wasn't really a big deal to me. I'd just sort of check in to see who won at the end and that's it," Fierer said.

He doesn't think he watched a single game during the tournament. But he emerged with free pizza and bragging rights for the rest of the year, much to the dismay of real fans in the wing such as myself.

The competitive camarade-

rie of bracket groups doesn't look like it's going away any time soon. Even the freshmen are already getting involved. CJ Fellenbaum said that he and a few of his friends will be starting a group as well.

"I know almost nothing about college basketball." Fellenbaum said. "People like me who know nothing have just as much a chance of winning as people who follow it religiously."

For regular fans, the tournament provides some memorable moments. Last year, the Oregon Ducks played the UNC Tar Heels in a thrilling national semifinal before a packed D5 lounge. Every basket and stop drew frantic applause and dismayed silence.

"The beauty of a single-elimination tournament is that anyone can be lucky enough to win," Millhouse said.

In 2013, the Wolverines were lucky enough—almost. They rode the momentum from Burke's shot to an overtime victory and all the way to the national championship, where they lost to the Louisville Cardinals. I won't forget that night either, but it wasn't a joyful one.

But even the sad moments remind me of why we love the NCAA tournament. For three action-packed weeks, casual fans, bracket lovers, and diehard supporters will live and die with every final score. And in the end, one team will stand above the rest.

It's incredible God-given talent on display to the world. It's the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat.

It's the insanity that we call sports. ◆

"There's no way my buddy's going to jail!"

PHC qualifies for mock trial Nationals after winning the Opening Round Championship Series

By Kara Brown Social Media Editor

After a 7-1 win-loss record at the Opening Round Championship Series (ORCS) tournament, PHC's mock trial A Team is advancing to Nationals. Determined to not be left out of the national championship like the previous year, the team battled top squads like Rutgers University, the University of Virginia, and the College of William and Mary to win the tournament.

"Some people probably think it's 'just another tournament," Ashlyn Roberts commented on the way students unfamiliar with mock trial might feel about hearing of the win. "But these guys work really hard and they can never assume that it will be another win."

Shane Roberts, a four-year mock trial veteran, described the tournament's defining moment between the third and fourth round when his coach, Frank Guliuzza, called him into a room. Guliuzza told him teams were splitting ballots (winning some rounds and losing others).

"[Guliuzza] said that most every team had either a 3-3 or 4-2 record, and then he paused, looked up and said, 'except one team who has a 5-1 record.' Then he winked and said, 'I'll let you guess who that team is," Roberts



recalled.

If they lost the next two ballots they would be cut out of the national championship, but if they won the two, they would win the entire tournament.

Baldacci, playing the defendant, looked like "the most innocent looking, sheepish human being in the world—and he did it brilliantly," Roberts said.

In his closing speech, Roberts explained to the judge that life goes on for everyone in the courtroom... except Baldacci.

"After I said that line, I paused and looked back at our table. Everybody had a little smile on their face and Chris had tears welling up in his eyes," Roberts said. "For that brief moment, it didn't feel like a mock trial—it felt real. In my head I was like, 'Shoot, there's no way my buddy's going to jail!"

Many students have the misconception that mock trial is only for experienced debaters or those who run in the debater crowd. "But that's just wrong," Roberts said. "I had never done mock trial before I came to PHC and I was downright bad at it for my first few rounds."

The team is now awaiting the release of the updated case. The champion-ship competitors are yet to be determined, but Stanford University and the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA) will most likely be in the tournament.

So, how can PHC bring home the national title? "The simple answer is just to beat everybody that we hit," Guliuzza said.

Championships will take place mid-April in Minneapolis, Minnesota. ◆



PHOTOS COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Risks of Being an Assassin

By RACHEL GROVE Contributing Writer

"David, I have a question," Susanna Hoffman said while walking up to David Slaughter, who immediately bolted in the opposite direction. There is a simple explanation for that kind of bizarre behavior on campus lately: Assassin. So far, no student has leapt from the BHC roof to ambush an unsuspecting classmate, but some have taken pretty drastic measures to kill or avoid being killed in the role-playing game.

Weapons for Assassin include, but certainly aren't limited to, nerf guns, pens, rubber band guns, rubber knives and Dr. Favelo's keys. "Most kills aren't that exciting though... usually people get stabbed or shot before they even realize they're under attack," competitor Nathan Karnes said.

At the start of the game, Hoffman turned out to be the target of her own

roommate, Susannah Shaifer. But Shaifer never got the chance to kill Hoffman because she was swiftly dispatched by Alejandro Ortiz. Ortiz's new target: Hoffman.

On the night of the US History extra credit movie, Hoffman found out she was in trouble when Karnes texted her a warning about Ortiz. With this in mind, she kept her eyes open for her enemy as she walked into the classroom. Suddenly, Karnes made his move and assassinated his own target, Ortiz, with a knitting needle. "Watching [Karnes] kill Alejandro put the fear of God in me. It was so scary because he put him in a choke hold and did this," Hoffman said, making a stabbing motion.

Over spring break, Hoffman forgot about the game. Her new assassin, Karnes, did not. Sitting in the coffee shop one evening, Hoffman watched as Karnes walked in with a group of friends. He and Hoffman made eye contact before Hoffman's eyes dropped to a pointed object in his hand. "Oh no," Hoffman thought, and stood to sprint around the couches and out the door, flashbacks of Ortiz's brutal murder flooding her mind.

Hoffman was miles ahead of Karnes. She could have gotten away unscathed... well, should have gotten away, but at the bottom of the BHC stairs, Hoffman turned a sharp right and her knee turned left. Hoffman, who has a history of knee problems, knew she'd injured something as she fell and rolled down the hill. She'd later find out that she tore her meniscus, but Karnes appeared at that moment, ready to dispatch her. Hoffman wishes she had had a pen. "He saw me fall so he was kinda hesitant to kill me. He was so close I could have killed him," Hoffman said.

Karnes killed her with a gentle tap on the shoulder. ◆

with reporting by Marjorie Pratt





By Vienna Jacobson Editor

I have given permission to a handful of friends in my life to say whatever they want about my behavior whenever they want. We call it the "open-door policy." It means they can, at any time, question my behavior and actions about anything. It may be lifestyle choices, boys, friendships, my devotional life, etc.

In college, it is especially easy to get away with behav-

ing however you want. Your close friends are most likely all peers, and your parents no longer have direct jurisdiction in your life. But peer friendships have the potential to be one of the most important things you will have on earth. I firmly believe Victor Hugo had incredible insight when he wrote, "To love another person is to see the face of God."

True friendship can be one of the most re-

warding things in your life, but only once it is cultivated and grown to the point where you feel comfortable giving these people complete access to your life. The people that I trust completely to criticize me are the ones who love me despite my flaws and choose to stay my friend, even when I am choosing not to grow.

As a friend this is also where I strive to find myself—loving people so much that they know when I do point out a fault, it is because of that love.

Having a friend to keep you accountable is far more about the good things than the bad ones. Friends who are close enough to know your most intimate struggles can rejoice with you in the victories you win, both small and big. Not only is accountability in friendship a good idea, but it is also a biblical one. James 5:16 (NKJV) says, "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

A friend who walks with you, prays with and for you, and is willing to drop everything to be there in a moment of weakness is a treasure. But you cannot have a friendship like that unless you have laid down your pride.

These friendships, I have found, are not easy to come by. You have to fight for them, invest in them, and pour into

them everything you want to get back.

The Bible also makes it clear that we are to walk with the wise, and I do not think that only applies to our mentors. Proverbs 13:20 (NKJV) says, "He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed."

Part of successful accountability is wanting that accountability; it does not matter how many times someone



Рното ву Helena Lopes

tells you to do something if you do not want to be kept accountable. Often I hear people talk about how they long for these deep friendships, but I think you would be surprised at how many opportunities you have to grow with the people already in your life.

As a side note: I think it is also easy for us as college students to only have peer relationships. While this is wonderful, it is not enough to just have friends your age. To be in fellowship (whether that is a friendship or a mentorship) with someone in a different age of life is crucial to walking well.

A real friendship of accountability means that you have to lower your walls, lay down your pride, and let someone else—someone who loves and cares for you deeply—point out your flaws. This isn't out of meanness, but to help you be a better person, more equipped to fight the good fight. •



"I am the dance floor." - JP Schumacher













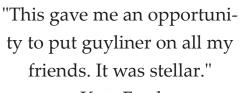
"The best moment was when Leo's date stole him [from Andrew]." - Esther Katz



Prom King and Queen Share a Dance

"I was standing on stage, and I realized I had all this power. I could make [Andrew and Leo] dance if I wanted to, so I did."

- Christian McGuire



- Kate Forde





Sadies: Throwing It Back to High School

By Marjorie Pratt Assistant Editor

"I'm pretty much the same as I was back then," proclaimed pop-punk band Bowling for Soup in the last verse of "High School Never Ends." The song plays on high school stereotypes and teenage angst to express the feeling that the cliques, trends, and some of the immaturities of high school tend to follow graduates into their adult lives. Bowling for Soup released the song in 2006, when most of today's college students were still in elementary school. PHC's current students couldn't have begun to grasp what the song was trying to say. But now, over a decade later, the song's message still speaks to PHC seniors Christian McGuire, Spencer Milligan, Keith Zimmerman, and Mark van Matre.

The four acted as the inaugural allmale dance committee for the Sadie Hawkins dance last Saturday. "When I think of Sadie's, I think of an intentional decision to turn the world upside down for a day, to rattle our comfort level, our paradigm," Dr. Doug Favelo said. The committee took it upon themselves to rattle comfort levels more than usual. "I think it's cool if girls plan the dances they're asked to and guys plan the dance we're asked to," Milligan said. McGuire figures that "if you're going to [swap gender roles], you might as well go all the way." The four continued to shake things up when they announced that the theme for this year's dance would share a title with "High School Never Ends."

"We were like, 'What's the corniest theme we can come up with, without turning people away?" Milligan explained. They were going for something that would be easy to find a costume for but would still be fun. The committee considered a masquerade theme but thought that was too "hoity-toity" for Sadie's and decided a high school themed college dance was perfect.

Though 75 percent of PHC's student body was homeschooled throughout high school and never had the typical high school experience of lockers, cafeterias, and homecoming, most everyone can relate to the problems of adolescence and the thoughts expressed by the term "high school never ends."

"You get your first life-altering experiences," Milligan said. "It's your first relationship, and all your friend groups change. Your first break-up. It's all shell shock to you." High school is the time when most get their first taste of adulthood. It's something kids that age have never experienced before, and it's scary at the time. "It's just life, and you learn from it," he added.

"I spent high school in California," McGuire said, "and that fact is what makes me identify as Californian, why I listen to the music that I listen to and gives me the expectations that I have on how people will act in social settings. It's the reason that I'm Catholic, because goodness knows there weren't that many influences here. I think that the influence was more profound than any other time in my life so far."

He feels that high schoolers tend to think two things: "People past high school have it all together," and "the problems that you have will never change, that they're insurmountable, that you'll always be stuck in the same bad cycles that you are in during high school." Though they clearly contradict each other, many desperate teens seem to think this way. "When you leave [high school], you realize that there are no rules and you have to make it up as you go along," he adds. "And I think that [high school struggles] are important because they do impact what struggles you'll face going forward, but they're not determinative."

Both Milligan and McGuire admitted that their high school aesthetic was pretty close to "weird homeschooler," but both donned all black apparel and black eyeliner for the dance. "If there's a stereotype I would love to call my aesthetic, but was way too cautious to actually do, that would be it," McGuire said. "There was definitely a four-yearlong Green Day phase."

While Milligan didn't share his friend's notion, he was happy to "channel his inner angst" for a night.

"I feel like I'm past the point where I feel insecure about how I look. That's pretty much everyone's problem in adolescence, so [at Sadie's] you could go for it without ramifications."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ESTHER KATZ





A Great Awakening?

Students lead worship and prayer nights as well as Bible studies hoping to spark revival

By Leah Greenwood Staff Writer

The Chick-fil-A across the road plays host to hungry PHCers almost every day. But last Tuesday, several students had much more on their minds than chicken sandwiches and sweet tea. Chick-fil-A and Pray, the brainchild of senior Harvest Prude and juniors Meredith Monroe, Victoria Cook, Olivia Bowers, and Kara Brown, provided an opportunity for the students to pray both in the restaurant and while walking around campus. This event was just one of many that have recently been organized on campus. Prayer and worship nights, new Bible studies, and other, smaller groups of people meeting to pray have all sprung up this semester.

"I think there is a revitalization of prayer, worship, and concern over spiritual things on this campus that is unlike anything I've seen in my last four years here," Prude said.

Juniors Mike Patton and Mikael Good, along with Bowers and Brown, have been influential in getting these new prayer groups started. Over Christmas break, Patton felt that God was calling him to start praying more, as well as to pray for the school specifically. He felt that he was to continue this purposeful prayer into the spring semester, but he knew that it would take time and devotion. "I [asked the Lord to] bring prayer partners that I could actually pray with so that I have stamina," Patton said.

This is where Good, Bowers, and Brown come in. A week before the semester started, these three decided to fast and pray together. "This helped us to learn how to pray more, be more disciplined in prayer now, and it also helped us see the power of prayer," Good said. "We felt this spiritual warfare going on when we were praying." They knew that they wanted to build prayer into their lives at school, so after talking to Patton, they started up worship and prayer nights.

"Our prayer meetings focus on spiritual awakening and revival for this school," Patton said. He hopes that instead of merely knowing a lot about Jesus, people will truly connect with Jesus in a relationship. He also wants

others to be able to experience the transforming power of prayer. In his own life, Patton has seen a shift in his desires where he now goes to worship, pray, or read the Bible to relax instead of scrolling through Facebook or going to something less fulfilling. "When people catch who they're meant to be in Christ—when they catch the significance of what God has done for them and operate as confident sons and daughters—it's meant to change everything in their lives; it's meant to transform the way that they see the world," Patton said.

Prude has appreciated the new opportunities for group prayer on campus and has found it helpful to know that there are people who are willing to pray for her whenever she needs it. "When we pray with others, we realize that so many people are going through things and need support," Prude said. "The more we do that together, the more the culture of prayer and of seeking the Lord, and of supporting each other, will grow on campus." •

Are You a Disciple?

By Dr. Steve Hake Professor of Literature

How passionate are you about Christ? How crazy? Would you pour out something worth sixty thousand dollars, something that would pay off all your school loans, on His feet and wipe them with your hair? If He had a whim for a drink of water from a well behind enemy lines, would you attack the camp single-handedly to bring Him a canteen full? Would you walk away from everything, EVERY-THING, in your life to gain Him and think yourself infinitely rich? Does this extravagant language seem repellent to you? Absurd?

There are many reasons you may not have this kind of relationship with Him. Maybe your "Christian" parents were abusive, or hypocritical, or just dull plodders. Maybe your pastor growing up was a windbag, or your church legalistic and oppressive or just dull and unimaginative. Maybe your experience growing up was like that of Stephen Dedalus in A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man where all your "religious" associations were on the side of guilt, fear, and death. Or maybe you are like the people of Nazareth, who grew up around Jesus and thought they knew all about Him, but didn't have a clue who He really was. Somehow you have to get past all the people you've known that bore His name and yet dragged it in the mud, and seek Him directly. Evaluate Him on His own terms, apart from His "representatives," if these have been unworthy.

Here's a good test of where you are with Him: spend a whole day in some quiet place, just you and Him. No iPhones, no computers, not even any books (except maybe a Bible and a hymnal). Have you ever done this?

Does the prospect excite you? Appall you? Can you imagine spending eternity with this Stranger?

Why does this matter?

I am praying that Christ will blow this place up, that He will completely shatter our complacency and make us desperate for Him, that we will know the gospel as the dynamite of God (Rom. 1:16, Greek text). I am afraid that unless you know Him as a Consuming Fire, as Someone wild and even fearsome, you will miss Him altogether; you will sleep through your life. Or perhaps you need to know Him as Someone unimaginably tender and kind, and are in danger of missing Him that way. How move us from indifference? How light this fire? Will these dry bones live?

Please pray with me! Where two or three ◆

A Primer: Has Big Tech Become Big Brother?

By Daniel Cochrane Contributing Writer

For most of us, messaging a friend on Facebook, purchasing a mug from Amazon, or completing Spanish homework with the help of Google Translate likely doesn't conjure up images of an Orwellian technocracy dominated by behemoth tech companies with almost total control over our private and public lives.

On the contrary, our society generally tends to be unsuspicious of the tech sector, appreciating the vast assortment of efficiencies and conveniences that large technology companies afford us. These abundant conveniences, according to Adam Thierer, Senior Research Fellow at the Mercatus Center, are possible because Silicon Valley has been largely left free to engage in "permissionless innovation" with little interference from government regulators.

If governments were to take a more active role however, Thierer argues that there would be "fewer services, lower-quality goods, higher prices, diminished economic growth, and a decline in the overall standard of living." While the benefits of this laissez-faire approach are clearly visible, there is a real question as to its hidden costs. National correspondent for The Atlantic, Franklin Foer, claims that this hands-off attitude toward the tech sector is dangerous because it ignores the "existential threat" posed by Big Tech to longstanding liberal values such as privacy, individuality, and pluralism. In Foer's terms, "they're monopolists who want access to every facet of our identities and influence over every corner of our decision-making."

Who's right? Are Big Tech firms simply the procurers of innovation, innocent of using their power to monopolize markets, spread misinformation and invade personal privacy? Or has Big Tech Become Big Brother? Decide for yourself on Monday, March 19th, as Adam Thierer and Franklin Foer debate these pivotal questions in the Hodel Center lobby at 7:00 p.m. ◆





FOE

To Rex: My Dearest, Uncertain Love

The night rests on the earth,
Floating through the wakened stars,
Caressing fallen leaves
Among her shadows, daughters.

Waiting for the beams to rise, Ending every secret dance, The night grows wild, weary, Of the sunbeam's arrogance.

For the night is also cold,
Grasping every essence,
Waiting for the warmth she had,
Sunbeam luminescence.

Treading through earth's slumbering,
Downcast eyes stare wistfully.
In the woods, the flowers glow,
Night escaping bitter snow.

She creeps among the creepers,
Perambulates the haunt,
Grasping at the dancing heat,
The dance no more a taunt.

Though gossamer her gown, Reduced to shadow mist, She waits for sun's approach, His presence, now unwist.

~ Gabriella



Washington D.C. will start to celebrate the annual National Cherry Blossom Festival on March 20.
The festival memorializes March 27, 1912, when the mayor of Tokyo, Yukio Ozaki, gifted Japanese cherry trees to grow the relationship between the US and Japan.

Original artwork by PHC senior Andrew Shepherd.



things you should know



Students walk out nationwide to protest inaction on gun violence.

Brazillian activists promise fight after assassination.





At least four people killed in Florida foot bridge collapse.

Scan this QR code on your phone to watch a video on Black Panther!

(or check out Herald Media on Facebook)



WHO SAID WHAT quotes from campus

[Professor Lee]
"Salt is a non-GMO. It is not an O, so it does not have any G's to M!"

[Morgan Conliffe]
"I can't just give the squid to a stranger."

[Vienna Jacobson]
"Do you ever wish hot boys went to our school?"

[Dr. Favelo]
"If you do not know what a bong is, ask your neighbor."

"

Have a quote to submit? Have an event you would like to see featured?

Contact our backpage editor, Carrie Durning at CMDurning440@students.phc.edu







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