The magical world at Bryant University

By Sarahanne Kent
Staff Writer

You don’t have to journey from Platform 9 ¾ to find magic this semester, nor need you wait through a long, boring History of Magic class at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry to learn about it. Instead, you can find magical history right here in the Muggle world at Bryant University. Walk, run, or fly by Hippogriff to the library anytime before March and experience the magical world of Harry Potter, created by the marvellous J.K. Rowling, through the eyes of Muggle history.

To learn about the intricate history of magic at Bryant University, one has to look no further than the six panels, neatly set up alongside the floor displays of the library. The panels consist of various magical aspects of the Harry Potter series and how they connect with the Renaissance, science, and medicine in the Muggle world. The traveling display was brought to the university by the National Library of Medicine, through our very own research and instruction librarian, Allison Papini. Papini thought that this particular display would be great for the university because “Bryant students came of age when Harry Potter was published.” The panels, she believes, are also an important way of tying the literary world to real life.

The six panels consists of various different subjects, brought about at some point within the seven books of the Harry Potter series, that actually stem from real history. The first panel is mainly a synopsis, summarizing the connection between magic, “Renaissance traditions,” and “15th and 16th century thinkers.” The second panel talks of basilisks and dragons and their legendary origins from our very own history. Harry Potter had to fight both a basilisk and dragon during the series, however he couldn’t have done it without the knowledge that the old legends provided him with. The third panel focuses on Herbology, which was a class that Harry Potter had to take during his studies at Hogwarts, to learn about magical plants and their properties. This ties deeply into ancient medicines used throughout the history of humankind.

The fourth panel explores the connection between magic and science, caring for these amazing (and sometimes dangerous) creatures under the direction of Robert Hagrid, the friendly half-giant. The fifth panel gives us more insight into the world of fantastic beasts and their use in the ancient, real world. Harry Potter had to read a book entitled “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them” by Newt Scamander during his Hogwarts studies. J.K Rowling later published this book, giving the Muggle world some fascinating history about these creatures, some of which are detailed in these panels. The final panel discusses fate and many of the topics that the deep thinkers of the Renaissance were engrossed in. Harry Potter has to deal with many of these moral and ethical issues through the series, providing the reader something to think about, as well.

Not only are there six enlightening panels on display in the Bryant University Library, but there are also fascinating wizard cards that one can pick up for free at the library's front desk. In the Harry Potter series, wizard cards usually consisted of a picture of a famous witch or wizard and a description of his or her accomplishments. The wizard cards came with Chocolate Frogs, a wizard candy, and were tradeable amongst the students. 

See “Magical World”, page 3

Bryant’s good IDEA program

By Matt Gillen
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Bryant University’s third Annual IDEA program – the school’s revolutionary method to build and grow design-thinking skills in freshmen students’ minds – kicked off for the class of 2019 on January 19th. Design thinking is an extremely useful school for any future professional, business or otherwise. The method is known for its seamless combination of empathy, creativity, and rationality to solve real life problems.

Considered a form of solution-based thinking, the strategy focuses on beginning with a potential solution or goal in mind rather than beginning with a problem. Following this train of thought, the mentors guided students through the design thinking steps: Inspire, Ideate, and Implement. Once initial pre-training was completed and each student cohort was aware of their location, they began the Insipre step, defining their challenge and potential obstacles. This included visiting the areas, observing them, and interviewing people.

Next during the Ideate step back at Bryant, students processed and analyzed their observations, posed ‘how might we’ questions to fuel improvement, and then proceeded to brainstorm answers. Finally, in the Implement stage, individual teams created storyboards and prototypes to illustrate their solutions. They were required to present these to their cohorts and mentors each time to gain feedback and then return to improve projects for the final presentation.

Beginning three days before classes started the for spring 15’ semester, the event went until Wednesday January 22nd where three teams were announced as winners for their hard efforts. The first team to win covered the Emerald Square Mall Food Courts. The members from Team A in Cohort 32 were Jozef Jennings, Matthew Macleod, Christina Pane, Colleen Sheedy, and Bianca Williams. Their Cohort’s mentors were Allison Butler, Susanne Carter, RD for Hall 16, and Ashley Chabot (student). The team won with a new food court design concept that they coined, “The Sphere”. The Sphere would be a two floor food court specifically designed to be open and accessible to the many different segments of shoppers. The idea came into fruition after the group observed and interviewed the types of people at the food court and realized there were many diverse groups that frequented it. Their slogan for the structure, “We Revolve Around You”, encapsulated their concept perfectly in the literal sense of its design and figuratively in that the motivation for the different sections all centered on accommodating the variety of customers it saw. 

The next victorious team, made up of Mike Dalton, Shannon Hickey, Amanda Moss, Shrey Rua, and Yizi Wang, were the winners of the food court project. The fourth panel consists of a wizard card that one can pick up for free at the library's front desk. In the Harry Potter series, wizard cards usually consisted of a picture of a famous witch or wizard and a description of his or her accomplishments. The wizard cards came with Chocolate Frogs, a wizard candy, and were tradeable amongst the students.

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Sports: Super Bowl champs!

Opinion: What’s important to the NFL?

Variety: Top movies of 2015

Ted The Student Voice of Bryant University since 1946
www.bryantarchway.com

Black and Gold and Read all over

Volume 82, Issue 11
Smithfield, RI
February 5, 2015
As a reminder, residence halls can only be accessed by your Student ID Key Card due to heightened security measures. Keep your ID with you at all times to ensure access to your hall. Residents can key in to all residence halls between the hours of 6AM and 11PM. Following 11PM, residents' key cards will only give them access to their own building.

Those who violate the single copy rule may be subject to disciplinary action.

The Archway for free. If you are interested in purchasing multiple copies for a price of 50 cents each, please contact The Archway office. Please note that newspaper theft is a crime.

Members of the Bryant community are welcome to take one copy of each edition of The Archway on campus mail to box 7. Letters and articles can also be given to The Archway on disk. They can be left in The Archway drop box on the third floor of the Bryant Center or disks can be mailed through campus mail to box 7.

Letters and submissions must be submitted electronically from a Bryant email address. Bryant University community members can send submissions to: archway@bryant.edu. Submissions will be considered for publication. All submissions are printed at the discretion of the Archway staff. Letters to the Editor that are between 400 and 600 words will have the best chance of being published. Also, except in extraordinary circumstances, we will not print submissions exceeding 600 words. All submissions are printed in the discretion of the editor, so keep your submission under 600 words if you want it to be published.

Guidelines for Comment...

For all those Taco Fans

Apple lovers and Taco lovers joined forces to create a taco emoji. Rumor has it that will be the only difference between the iPhone 6 and iPhone 7.

New app, AirPNP, allows users to find an available restroom nearby. Users can list their toilets and their price for usability. The app was founded by two men who had trouble finding restrooms during Mardi Gras in New Orleans.

Bursting the ‘Bryant Bubble’

Four stars have been identified for the new all-female cast of Ghostbusters. Melissa McCarthy (Think: Sookie from Gilmore Girls), Kristen Wiig (Annie), Leslie Jones, and Kate McKinnon (both Saturday Night Live).

Who Ya Gonna Call?

The Ultimate Bathroom Break

By Molly Funk

Editorial Assistant & News Editor

News

February 5, 2015

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Department of Public Safety Log

THEFT (STOLEN PROPERTY)
Jan 26, 2015-Monday at 13:01
Location: UNSTRUCTURE
Summary: A student reported a missing laptop that was left unattended in a classroom. The laptop was located and returned.

BURGLARY (RESIDENCE)
Jan 29, 2015-Thursday at 22:10
Location: RESIDENCE HALL
Summary: A student reported his University issued laptop was stolen from his room during winter break.

DRUG (POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA)
Jan 29, 2015-Thursday at 22:10
Location: RESIDENCE HALL
Summary: An RA reported that she found a vaporizer in a Student’s Book Bag.

FIRE (BUILDING)
Jan 30, 2015-Friday at 23:52
Location: RESIDENCE HALL
Summary: A fire alarm was caused by an expelled fire extinguisher.

EMT CALL / MEDICAL SERVICES RENDERED
Feb 01, 2015-Sunday at 00:09
Location: RESIDENCE HALL
Summary: A report of a female having seizure. EMS was activated.

Dino Update

Paleontologists, unfortunately, not Ross Geller, unearthed a 50-foot dinosaur in China. The skeleton was found by farmers in a fish pond in Qijiang city. The dinosaur belongs to the group mamenchisaurids, characterized for their long necks that could measure up to half their body length.

Want to get involved in The Archway?
Come to Bryant Center room C on Mondays at 5:30pm!
It’s that time of year again! Bryant’s annual Public Speaking Colloquium is scheduled for Monday evening, March 23rd at 7:00PM, with the preliminary competition planned throughout the day on Friday, March 20th. The PSC is sponsored by The Hanover Insurance Group along with the Department of Communication and the College of Arts and Science. It is organized, in part, by The Podium, Bryant’s premier public speaking club. The 2015 program will mark the sixth year for this highly successful event which has attracted everyone from potential employers to alumni and local celebrities. The PSC has been featured on Channel 12’s Rhode Show numerous times, and has been applauded by the academic community throughout the region.

Each year, over 30 students compete to become Bryant’s best speaker. Over $2,000 in cash prizes will be awarded to the top six competitors on the evening of the event, with the largest cash prizes awarded to our top three winners - $1,200 (first prize), $500 (second prize), and $250 (third prize). Applications are now being accepted with limited slots available, so do not delay! All undergraduates are welcome to compete.

The top criteria in determining job attainment and success are communication skills – writing, critical thinking, and speaking. Students who have participated in past years have found this to be a remarkable way to jumpstart their careers. Some have been hired by major companies, thanks in part to their PSC participation, others have found that during job interviews, prospective employers are particularly interested in their involvement in the Colloquium.

Because many employers struggle to find qualified graduates with outstanding interpersonal skills, this is a chance for participants to stand out among the many applicants who apply for the same jobs! Additionally, students have found it to be an influential factor on their graduate school applications as they attempt to stand out from other applicants.

The PSC has been called the “American Idol of public speaking.” Students who attend are stunned by the talents of their peers and also benefit from seeing exactly what it takes to be an excellent presenter. Attendees also have a chance to win great prizes in the program’s raffle. Last year, two lucky winners walked away with iPads.

You don’t need to be a polished public speaker to compete. You just need to have an interest in becoming a better presenter and in reappraising the rewards of participation. The process is simple. Once you fill out and submit your application, you will instantaneously receive a packet of information detailing the steps to take in order to compete. You will first prepare a short three minute speech for the preliminary round to be held on Friday, March 20th in the TV studio. The speech will be on an approved topic of your choosing.

Should you make the top six and advance to the main event on Monday, March 23rd you will spend the weekend in between (3/21 and 3/22) writing a five to six minute speech for the finals – again, on a topic which you choose. It’s that easy! Participants will be notified of scheduling in advance. For example, each student will be given a time slot for the preliminaries. Even if you have class on Friday, you can still compete because you would only be required to show up for your allotted 10-minute time slot. The judging process is very unintimidating; and whether students advance to the finals or not, each student walks away with a productive critique of their speech skills which will prove to be quite beneficial for class presentations, job interviews, and business speeches. The top six will be informed by email on the evening of the preliminaries.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of this amazing opportunity! You could win $1200 if chosen as Bryant’s best public speaker or other significant cash prizes for being in the top six. The deadline for applications is Friday, February 27, 2015.

More information about the PSC can be obtained by contacting Podium President, Breanne Lubinsky at blubinsky@bryant.edu, or by emailing the event’s Director, Communication professor Susan Baran at subaran@bryant.edu. For your convenience, the application process can be completed entirely through email.

By Susan Baran
Faculty Writer

February 5, 2015
Lindsey Lerner, senior here at Bryant, wants you to Do YOUR Dance. Lerner joined this movement after studying abroad in Chile where she met Phil Terry, a hip hop performer under the pseudonym “Phantom”. Do Your Dance (D.Y.D.) was started by Phil in high school, but it was not until he met with Lindsey that the educational and motivational aspect of the movement was established.

D.Y.D. is about people finding and embracing their passion. All too often students and adults fall into the trap of talking about group projects, work, and their daily responsibilities. The purpose of Lerner’s program is to get people talking about the activities they are passionate about, whether it be photography (Lindsey’s D.Y.D.), running marathons, or sketching.

Phil’s music reiterates the message of D.Y.D through positive statements about effective change and achievable dreams. While in Chile, Lerner, with no prior promotional experience, booked a show for Phantom to perform at a local club. Lindsey could not connect with those around her through language but was able to break the barrier and connect through music.

On the educational side of D.Y.D. Lerner hopes to help adolescents cultivate a positive attitude and environment through music. Terry’s songs are all connected to the themes of D.Y.D such as motivation, passion, determination, and focus. During our interview, Lindsey commented she finds it unfortunate when parents have to filter the radio when their children are in the car to avoid negative messages. Her hope is that the messages Terry asserts in his music will counteract such negativity.

In particular with Bryant, Lerner sees D.Y.D as a program that would support the bridge between our Business College and the College of Arts and Science. Originally she attended an art school in Delaware, and she can attest to the fact that one needs both a business and arts foundation to be successful in their career path. Bryant often urges us to network, through the Amica Center and through ourselves. D.Y.D. focuses on networking through our passions by linking up with people who have the same interests and ambitions.

Lerner encourages all Bryant students, faculty, and staff to visit the Do Your Dance Facebook page and share what they are passionate about. Here people can connect with others that have similar passions or even gain a new interest. Terry and Lerner are striving to be mentors to those who want to take their passion to the next level.

If you have an interest you are looking to expand with, be it performing your music at a local event, or reserving space for a group of students to write poetry together, Lindsey wants to be able to help those dreams and passions come true.

Phantom will be performing April 18th at Olive’s in Providence for a D.Y.D. concert series. Terry will also be making an appearance on RED Day for a presentation on the importance of D.Y.D. which will be broadcasted by PBS.

There are three steps to Do Your Dance: 1) Find your passion, 2) Follow it through, and 3) Talk about it—no matter if you were successful or not, just share your passion.

According to the message of D.Y.D. getting students together to talk about their music, their art, their interest in computer programming is when “all the magic happens.”
By Brian Minghella
Contributing Writer

Recently, the newly Republican majority Senate passed legislation approving the Keystone XL pipeline. The controversial bill passed by a vote of 62-36 but will most likely be vetoed by President Obama. The Senate would need 67 votes to override a presidential veto. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said, “Constructing Keystone XL would pump billions into our economy,” right before the voting on the bill.

The XL pipeline is designed to carry up to 830,000 barrels of crude oil a day from oil fields in Alberta, Canada all the way down through the United States to the gulf coast. The construction would start in Hardisty, Alberta and run through Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Texas to Steele City, Illinois, where it would then connect to existing pipelines in the U.S. The pipeline was proposed by TransCanada, a Canadian energy company that operates in North America. The proposed 1,179-mile pipeline would ship diluted bitumen and synthetic crude from oil refineries in Texas and Illinois.

The pipeline has caused political gridlock with the majority of Democrats opposing it and Republicans approving of the bill. Republicans have been heavily pushing for the passing of the bill due to the amount of jobs that would be created. Democrats primarily oppose the bill due to the environmental effects that the pipeline will cause and its impact on climate change.

The number of temporary and permanent jobs that the pipeline would create has been constantly argued by Congress. Comedian Jon Stewart recently joked on his show, saying that the pipeline would create “somewhere between millions of jobs and 35.” The State Department has estimated that the Keystone XL pipeline would create about 42,000 direct and indirect jobs over a two-year period. That number has been contested by many media outlets as well as many political figures.

A 2012 number is not totally inaccurate, but there’s a lot more to it. It’s not the jobs that most people would think and a small portion of that number would be actual temporary construction jobs. The number of construction jobs to build the pipeline would be around 3,800 on an annual basis. The XL pipeline would be expected to take two years to build but there is no certainty to that. About 12,000 jobs from the 42,000 number would come from direct spending. For instance, that would be for manufacturing high-strength line pipe that would be used if constructed.

However, some of the jobs for making the pipe have already been completed. Workers in Arkansas have already built half of the high-strength line pipe which accounts for 333,000 tons. Other manufacturing jobs for constructing the pipeline will occur in other countries such as Canada and India. The other 26,000 temporary jobs are even more confusing and fuzzy. These jobs were termed as “indirect and induced spending.” These jobs could be goods and services purchased by contractors or spent money by employees that would be working for a supplier of goods and services. The State Department Review also concluded that 634 jobs would be in the “arts, entertainment and recreation services” as a result of the building of the pipeline.

One number that has not been contested would be the amount of permanent jobs the Keystone XL pipeline will create. The number is about 35 permanent jobs which would be for inspections, maintenance, and repairing of the pipeline. One thing certain is that the Keystone XL pipeline will create jobs in the U.S. but the biggest question is it is worth it or should we try alternative federal jobs solutions, such as rebuilding the infrastructure of the United States?

LOS ANGELES - Apple has rolled out its latest iOS update, aimed at fixing bugs and improving performance. The update, iOS 8.1.3, was made available Tuesday. It is an issue that prevented some users from entering their Apple ID passwords for Messages and FaceTime, addresses a problem that caused Spotlight to stop displaying app results, fixes a bug that prevented multithreading from working on iPads and adds new configuration options for educational standardized testing.

For users without a free space on their mobile devices, iOS 8.1.3 reduces the amount of storage required to perform a software update, although Apple didn’t specify by how much.

Notably, the update doesn’t appear to address many of the complaints owners of older-model iPhones and iPads had about iOS 8, such as rapid battery drain and sluggish performance. As a result, adoption of iOS 8 has been slow.

It’s a safe bet Apple isn’t too bent out of shape about that, particularly after its blockbuster quarterly earnings release. Tuesday sent the Cupertino, Calif., company’s shares up as much as 8.2 percent Wednesday morning.

Apple iOS 8.1.3 aims to fix bugs
Will our smart gadgets become trusted or oppressive companions?

By Steve Johnson
MCT Campus

SAN JOSE, Calif. - Like legions of industrious butlers, many of the brainy gadgets being developed for the Internet of Things will anticipate our needs and make choices for us -- without being told what to do -- marking a momentous transformation in our relationship with machines.

As we turn more of our decision-making over to the devices, they will evolve into our personal confidants and counselors, determining everything from the time we wake up and clothes we wear to the music we listen to and route we take to work. In the process, experts say, our reliance on these interconnected tools will far surpass today's dependence on smartphones.

These autonomous assistants are widely expected to help us stay healthier, take better care of our loved ones, live more environmentally responsible, and boost our productivity by freeing us from an endless array of mundane, everyday tasks so we can concentrate on the most important ones.

But social scientists and others worry these computerized devices might make decisions that are seriously flawed or that we otherwise dislike, leaving us feeling less in control of our lives. More troublingly, their ceaseless omnipresent monitoring, he says, will feel less in control of our lives.

"When we're not being tracked, we're more free to experiment, to be our authentic selves, to read new things, to be different kinds of people," said Neil Richards, a law professor and privacy specialist at Washington University in St. Louis. But such omnipresent monitoring, he believes, "menaces our society's foundational commitments to intellectual diversity and eccentric individuality.*

Stanford University researchers believe society may be profoundly impacted by Internet-of-Things machines endowed with "artificial intelligence," generally defined as humanlike capabilities.

So in December they began a century-long study of the technology with findings to be published every five years in part to assess the implications of "systems that can make inferences about the goals, intentions, identity, location, health, beliefs, preferences, habits, weaknesses, and future actions and activities of people."

Understanding such effects is crucial, experts say, because the technology is rapidly being adopted. About 13 percent of consumers already have outfitted their homes with a smart thermostat, security camera or other device, according to an Internet-of-Things study in August by consulting firm Accenture. Within five years, it added, that figure will likely hit 69 percent.

Instead of just doing what we command, many of the devices are being empowered with sophisticated software and microelectronics to act on their own initiative as our personal advisers.

Seattle's Pith makes a smart furniture fabric called BackTracker, which the company says "nags" people to correct the way they sit if their poor posture might cause them back pain. A computerized fork from Kapilabs in Hong Kong admonishes users with lights and vibrations when they eat too fast. And Atlanta-based Monseur claims its "intelligent bartender" not only remembers which alcoholic drinks its owner prefers, but "knows when you've had a long day at work and offers a double instead of a single."

That's just for starters, according to this prediction from Santa Clara chipmaker Intel about the technology that's coming:

"Your bed knows when you wake up. It tells the radio to switch on so you can listen to the traffic and weather report or music it knows you enjoy. It tells the coffee machine to make a fresh pot. When you prepare for the day, your toothbrush notifies you that it's time to see the dentist and it schedules an appointment based on your availability. Your shower adjusts its temperature based on your preference and when you go to the bathroom mirror, it reminds you to take your vitamins. As you get dressed, your closet mirror helps you choose an outfit based on the weather and what activities you have planned. As you leave the house, a display on the way lets you know you forgot your wallet."

Mary Czerwinski, a Microsoft research manager and cognitive scientist, said it's conceivable some machines might function as their owners as a kind of psychotherapist, noting that people will get so close to their devices, they'll think, "What would I ever do without this?" not unlike the relationship depicted in the movie "Her."

LOS ANGELES - Entertainment mogul Jay Z has bid $56 million in cash to take over the developer of two music streaming apps that have sought to distinguish themselves by providing high-quality audio.

Project Panther Bidco Ltd., which Jay Z's company created to handle the purchase, announced the pending deal for Oslo, Norway-based Asprio AB on Friday.

YouTube, Spotify, Deezer, Rdio and other streaming services have surged in popularity in recent years. Subscribers to these apps don't own the millions of songs that these have access to, but they typically can play any of them on demand and without advertisements.

Jay Z is seeking to control two apps: WiMP, available throughout Europe, and Tidal, which launched in the U.S. and United Kingdom in October. Tidal costs about $20 a month, more than double some competitors. But it produces superior audio quality, offers music videos and includes access to music industry news.

Figures on Tidal's early adoption are expected Feb. 5. As of September, WiMP had 312,000 subscribers, including 20,000 who paid double for high-quality streams. Asprio's revenue from its music business was up 25 percent last summer compared to the summer before, but did not report a profit.

Music streaming "offers great potential for increased entertainment consumption and an opportunity for artists to further promote their music," a spokesperson for Jay Z's S. Carter Enterprises said in a statement.

Jay Z, whose real name is Shawn Carter, also oversees an entertainment company that represents athletes and musicians.

Panther's bid represents a 59 percent premium for Asprio shares compared to their closing price Thursday on the Swedish stock market. Shares skyrocketed 59 percent on Friday.

"Almost 76 percent of Asprio shareholders have agreed to the deal. Panther has until March 11 to reach the 90 percent threshold needed to finalize the deal," Fredrik Bjurland, who headed a committee that is recommending Asprio shareholders to take the offer, said in an email the price was "seen as attractive for all shareholders" and that Panther "is seen as a good owner ... to continue its successful international expansion."

The Biz Update

By Shayan Ushani
Staff Writer

Investments to Look Out For:

1. Preferred Stock -- Interest rates are not high, and preferred stock offers high dividends with a lower risk than common stock.

2. Ruble -- Russian banks dropped the federal rate in efforts to curb inflation; the currency could see a turnaround.

3. 2015 IPOs -- 2015 is one of the busiest years for IPOs since the dot-com bubble with companies like Dropbox, and Uber going public.

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February 5, 2015 page 7

Super Bowl champs!

By Pat Curran
Staff Writer

The New England Patriots are back on top. All is right in the football world again. Tom Brady and Bill Belichick won their fourth Super Bowl together by the score of 28-24 against the Seattle Seahawks. All three true Seahawk fans must be devastated.

Tom Brady was a maestro on Sunday night, torching up the ‘mighty’ Legion of Boom to the tune of 328 yards and four touchdowns to four different receivers. Brady’s performance Sunday night was a true throwback to the Brady of old, the one who would throw to the open receiver, not his favorite one. ‘Touchdown Tommy’ had a fourth quarter QBR of 94, something that is unheard of. Brady had to win this game by himself, as his running game once again abandoned him. He made every receiver around him play to their full potential. Brady wasn’t perfect, as he threw two interceptions, including a very costly one in the red zone, but he was pretty damn close.

My properly inflated game balls for the offense go to Brady, Julian Edelman, and Shane Vereen. Edelman proved once again that he is a top three receiver in the NFL. He is the toughest player in the league. He is underpaid, not for one god damn bit, but when the lights shine the brightest, he brings his ‘A’ game. Edelman had 109 yards on nine receptions. He even injured Seahawks cornerback Jeremy Lane on a bone crushing hit. Patriot fans were furious when they let former star slot receiver Wes Welker walk away two years ago in favor of Shane Vereen. I think he proved last night that he is a much tougher and way more clutch player. Lastly, Shane Vereen played the best game of his career Sunday night. Vereen often gets overlooked for his lack of toughness. One way to silence all those critics is to haul in 11 passes and shrug off a few tremendous hits. The Patriots executed a nearly perfect game plan in which they were able to keep the Seattle defense off the field. It was the death by a million paper cuts offense that the Patriots love to execute.

The Patriots defense looked like the 85 Bears in the first quarter of Sunday’s Super Bowl. Recent draft picks Jamie Collins, Dont’a Hightower, and Chandler Jones were flying all over the field. But once the second quarter hit, they reverted back to their conservative and not nearly as good defense. By subbing in bigger cornerback Malcolm Butler, who delivered New England their fourth Super Bowl by intercepting Russell Wilson with 20 seconds to go in the fourth quarter at the Patriots ONE yard line. Butler will go down in Patriots lore, as his play is the most clutch play in the history of Boston sports. What a decision by Belichick and defensive coordinator Matt Patricia.

This superbowl marked the fourth time Brady and Belichick have made it all the way to the end together (TBCLoud)

The Seahawks are one of the most classless organizations in all of sports. They showed their true colors last night by starting a brawl after the Butler interception. Richard Sherman went right up to TV cameras to taunt Patriots star cornerback Darrelle Revis after the Seahawks went up by ten points in the third quarter. Star running back Marshawn Lynch refused to speak to the media after the game. Commissioner Roger Goodell should publicly thank the Patriots for taking out the trash in Super Bowl 49.

This Lombardi trophy is the first for the Patriots since the infamous Spygate incident. This title puts to rest all of the “Belichick and Brady can only win when they cheat” nonsense. To close out this amazing roller coaster of a season I will end with how I started this article. The New England Patriots are back on top.
Deflate-gate: The other reason everyone is looking at the Patriots

By Kaitlyn Graham

Sports Editor

Deflate-gate. A word that most New Englanders roll their eyes and sigh at the mention of. As we approached the Super Bowl, the excitement of Patriots fans across the nation was put aside while the drama quickly unfolded, capturing the attention of both football fans and those who don’t usually pay attention to the game.

The day after the Patriots’ win against the Indianapolis Colts, a report was released accusing the New England Patriots of intentionally deflating the twelve footballs that were used during the game as the factor that deflated the game balls, his explanation was met with mixed opinions. Good Morning America proceeded to interview Bill Nye “the Science Guy” the next morning, broadcasting Nye’s opinion that the environment was in no way responsible for the lack of air. This sparked a slightly comedic national headline asking “Which Bill do you believe?” This just continued to send the rumors and reports flying just a week before the biggest game of the season.

Conversation took another turn when a surveillance camera at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro showed an attendant carrying the balls into a separate bathroom before leaving and delivering the balls to their appropriate sidelines a few minutes later.

The initial report that came out right after the AFC championship game reported that the game balls were two pounds under the 12.5 PSI minimum weight in the NFL, but recently the media company that reports the NFL’s official updates revealed that, except for one, the balls were only “a few ticks” under the minimum requirement.

While this whole mess has taken place, late night talk shows have been taking advantage of the drama as expected, both SNL and Jimmy Kimmel including bits about Deflate-gate in their programs.

No matter how much evidence the NFL finds to show that the Patriot’s organization, mainly Brady and Belichick, did not have a part in the whole ordeal, there will still be those who contribute to the Deflate-gate mystery is long gone in the heads of Patriot’s players and fans.

South Korean official wants to share 2018 Olympics with North Korea

By David Wharton

MCT Campus

Despite widespread opposition to the idea, a South Korean politician is continuing to advocate sharing the 2018 Pyeongchang Olympics with North Korea.

Choi Moon-soon, governor of Gangwon province, believes the Winter Games could ease tensions between the neighboring countries.

“We can consider symbolically sharing one or two snowboarding events with the North,” he said in a column in a local newspaper. “The venues don’t take much money or time to build.”

The International Olympic Committee recently enacted reforms that, among other things, allow for splitting the Games between adjacent cities or nations.

The governor, whose province sits on the border with North Korea, said that “we can consider sharing some events like freestyle snowboarding and giant slalom events.”

Some civic groups have backed such a move but many South Korean leaders have argued against it.
Bryant Snowed In
Alcohol treatment programs see bump at start of new year

By Tracy Swartz
MCT Campus

Gyms aren’t the only places that see a membership spike after the holidays. Alexian Brothers Health System, which offers addiction treatment programs in the Chicago area, saw 20 percent more calls about service options in December compared to November, said Carol Hartmann, business development director for Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health. Hartmann attributed the increase to health insurance benefits kicking in Jan. 1 for some people.

On the West Coast, the number of people enrolled in the program geared toward professionals at Promises Treatment Centers in Santa Monica has nearly doubled from 10 people enrolled in the program before the holidays to 19 people total, as of the first week of January, said Dr. Gregory Skipper, Promises’ director of professional health services.

“We’re having a boom in our place census-wise,” Skipper said. “I believe the first of the year seems to be resolution time ... People sort of re-examine” their habits. “I believe the first of the year seems to be resolution time... People sort of re-examine” their habits, Skipper said. “That’s a problem: Having people decide for themselves. However, I do not think that the NFL needs to prevent its own players from inflicting domestic violence. The NFL has done amazing things for breast cancer awareness and is beginning to become a helpful platform in the case of domestic violence. However, the NFL needs to carefully decide which issues are most important. I think that the safety of women and the way that the employed players of the NFL treat women is more important than the amount of air in balls.

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What’s important to the NFL?

By Allie Miller
Staff Writer

Fresh off of their AFC championship, instead of celebrating, the New England Patriots found themselves in the middle of what has been dubbed Deflategate. Some-how, apparently comparable to the Watergate scandal of the Nixon Administration, the Deflategate scandal deals with the supposed under-inflation of the footballs used during the Patriots’ 45-7 victory over the Indianapolis Colts.

Immediately Deflategate became a top news story and the NFL opened an investigation into the incident. The investigation by the NFL included conversations with Patriots team members like Bill Belichick and Tom Brady, video surveillance taken on the day of the game, and of course, the examination of the game day footballs.

The seriousness of the Deflategate investigation shocked me, as I have found the NFL’s investigatory abilities seriously lacking in relation to major issues. Because I have been unimpressed by the detective work of the NFL, I conducted some of my own research on issues that I think are more important than the amount of air in balls.

According to the USA Today database for NFL arrests, since 2000 there have been 777 arrests of NFL players, 91 related to domestic violence and only 3 that led to actual charges.

“According to the USA Today database for NFL arrests, since 2000 there have been 777 arrests of NFL players. Of those arrests, 91 (about 12 percent) were related to domestic violence and only three incidents led to actual charges. It is no secret that the NFL has a tremendous problem with domestic violence. It has been found that the NFL’s average for domestic violence incidents overshadows the national average. Recently, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell enacted changes resulting in stricter punishments for cases of domestic violence following the Ray Rice scandal. The NFL has tried to make amends with the football community for its mistreatment of domestic violence cases. In addition to changes in punishment for such incidents, the NFL has showcased and participated in various campaigns against domestic violence. Powerful advertisements aimed at opening a conversation about domestic violence like “No More” have been featured during games and have even featured NFL players. The ads are powerful and effectively deliver the message that there needs to be an open dialogue about domestic violence. However, I do not think that the NFL has responsibly handled this issue. The conversation about domestic violence is unarguably an important one. It is nice that the NFL has tried to become a platform to stop the problem, but unfortunately the NFL is a part of the problem. More work needs to be done internally to prevent players from inflicting domestic violence. The NFL has found to have more incidents with players involved in domestic violence than the national average. The NFL needs to prevent its own players from contributing to the problem. Domestic violence in the NFL is clearly unrelated to the Deflategate scandal. However, they provide an interesting comparison. Immediate action was taken to solve the Deflategate incident. The NFL quickly opened a serious investigation and has been in constant contact with the media regarding its findings. On the other hand, in the case of domestic violence, the NFL was silent for almost 15 years, allowing almost 100 arrests of domestic violence before taking any serious action in punishment. It wasn’t until the very public incident with Ray Rice that the NFL took responsibility and acknowledged the need for stricter regulations. The recent support by the NFL for stop-ping domestic violence seems to have only mattered in the time that female fans have mattered to the NFL. In the past decade, the number of female football fans has increased greatly; women now accounting for 45 percent of football fans. The NFL has acknowledged women and issues involving women as it has become convenient for them. In 2012 the NFL launched their campaign “A Crucial Catch” in conjunction with the American Cancer Society in order to help raise awareness for breast cancer. I mean in no way to discredit the incredible work that the NFL has done in raising money for breast cancer research. I only wish to point out that the NFL has really only worked to benefit women and women’s issues since their fan base has increased tremendously.

The NFL needs to sincerely acknowledge the importance of women’s issues. The NFL has done amazing things for breast cancer awareness and is beginning to become a helpful platform in the case of domestic violence. However, the NFL needs to carefully decide which issues are most important. I think that the safety of women and the way that the employed players of the NFL treat women is more important than the amount of air in balls.

The society, which represents more than 3,000 physi-cians dedicated to improving addiction treatment, defines addiction as a chronic disease characterized by the inability to limit drinking, impairment in control, cravings and a lack of realization that the drinking is causing significant personal problems.

According to the American Society of Addiction Medicine, which is similar to King’s definition. A to person B but if you have two of these three (criteria), it’s much more likely that you do have an alcohol prob-lem,” said King, who has studied the effects of alcohol in young binge drinkers. At Promises, Skipper said he generally follows the ad- diction definition from the American Society of Addiction Medicine, which is similar to King’s definitions. The society, which represents more than 3,000 physi-cians dedicated to improving addiction treatment, defines addiction as a chronic disease characterized by the inability to limit drinking, impairment in control, cravings and a lack of realization that drinking is causing significant personal problems. Skipper said because there is no set amount of alcohol that defines alcohol dependence, it’s difficult for some people to realize they have a drinking problem. “People get into the bigger problem. Somewhere in there they know it is getting out of control,” Skipper said. “That’s a problem. Having people decide for themselves” what is too much, I mean in no way to discredit the incredible work that the NFL has done in raising money for breast cancer research. I only wish to point out that the NFL has really only worked to benefit women and women’s issues since their fan base has increased tremendously.

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What’s important to the NFL?

This past Sunday, commercials focused on domestic violence and delivered the message that there needs to be an open dialogue about this issue, USA Today (Sports)

The Opinion pages of The Archway feature the opinions of the identified columnists and writers, which are not necessarily those of the newspaper or Bryant University.
Is that all there is?

NBC’s Super Bowl game broadcast covered a lot of ground — and some of it was actually football. Let’s break it down.

Commercials 31%

Halftime show (Katy Perry and the football experts) 9%

Replays 5%

Miscellaneous (including shots of Grand Canyon, Al Michaels) 10%

Players milling about, huddling, waiting, conferring 37%

Blizzard reports 0%

Actual game action* 6%

Shots of Belichick, Carroll and other coaches 2%

*From snap to whistle ending play.

Note: Measured from kickoff to final whistle. Measurements are approximate. And the football, while not actual size, is fully inflated.
What it’s really like to be in a sorority at Bryant

The Panhellenic life on campus

By Allie Miller
Staff Writer

I joined Alpha Omicron Pi at Bryant this past Fall during the very beginning of my sophomore year. Going into college, I never considered joining Greek Life after too many SVU episodes and bad movies clouded my judgment. This past fall though, after going through a rough breakup and missing how close I was to friends from home, I decided to go through informal recruitment. It was a fast decision, a surprising decision, but definitely the best decision I have ever made.

Recently, during formal recruitment after a few months of being a sister of AOII, I had to thoughtfully understand and describe what being in a sorority means to me. Formal recruitment was one of the best weekends of my college experience, because in addition to finding amazing new women to continue the growth and development of AOII and the entire Bryant Panhellenic community, I truly realized how important my sorority is to me.

Popular depictions of Greek Life are not flattering. Even movies like Animal House, to overwhelmingly popular social media accounts like Total Sorority Move, Greek Life has been given a bad reputation. Tweets generated by Total Sorority Move depict sorority girls as materialistic, crafting, Starbucks obsessed, party animals. But, I can assure you that this is okay.

In the process of finding these sisters, you meet girls who are so much stronger than you could have ever imagined.

In my experience, I have noticed that sororities tend to have the perfect combination of sisters. You adore the sister who you can call to make sure that everything is okay. You find the sister who will jam out to Taylor Swift with you without judging your inability to dance. You find the sister who will spend the night in eating ice cream with you while watching lame romantic comedies. You grow close to the sister who teaches you to say “I love you” again, however often you feel like saying it. You find the sister who will answer a vague text with an immediate phone call to make sure that everything is okay.

In the process of finding these sisters, you meet girls who are so much stronger than you could have ever imagined. Girls who have unfortunately gone through unimaginable circumstances. And by growing close with one another and sharing secrets and advice, you realize how strong you are.

It was during the weekend of formal recruitment that I realized how much all of this means to me. As we went around the room describing what type of sister we are, I started to cry. Not like a stoic single tear, but borderline sobbing. And for the first time in a really long time, I had nothing to do with stress or a boy or being upset. I was crying out of overwhelming happiness to be a part of something so incredible and special. And at that moment, all of my sisters shared the same strength in their ability to dry tears and give warm hugs.

Sisterhood has taught me how to love unconditionally, in a way that I thought was reserved for family. It has taught me how to trust others and believe in lifelong commitments. It has taught me how to be a better person by putting others before myself through both philanthropy and sisterhood.

Being in a sorority has transformed me into a stronger and more confident version of myself. I have learned so much from all of my sisters and all of the unique and powerful strengths that they bring to the group. I cannot believe how lucky I am when I see the girls that I get to call my sisters. I am so amazed that this Fall, in one of the weakest periods of my life, they were able to see traits in me that represent the century-old founding characteristics of my sorority. I am so grateful for how warmly I was accepted into my sisterhood and I am so excited for all of the new members to experience the joy of sisterhood.

My advice to anyone who has considered joining Greek Life but is hesitant due to preconceived notions is to reconsider. Joining could turn out to be one of the best decisions of your life.

―

Bryant Said What?!

“Gonna rewatch the half time show and cry myself to sleep.”

“This game was a lose lose for me... the Pats won and my suitemates rub it in. Had they lost, I think they would have actually killed me.”

“This Super Bowl win/turning 22 was cool until we ran out of mini hot dogs.”

“Just put me in front of chicken wings and dip.”

“I just found a 12 pack of Pumpkinhead in the middle of January. I now know how Nicholas Cage’s character felt in National Treasure 1 and 2.”

Profit and Loss

Welcome back to our “spring” semester...

At least we’ve had 3 snow days!

Except none of us know what’s going on in our classes...

There is nowhere to park

Meet The Archwayway Staff: Autumn Harrington

Name: Autumn Harrington
Position: Opinion Editor
Class: 2016
Hometown: Cape Cod, MA
Major: Marketing and Management

Fun Facts:
• Coffee keeps me running
• The way to my heart: food
• I’ve traveled to Costa Rica

February 5, 2015
AJ’s top ten movies of 2014, cue drumroll

By AJ Beltis
Staff Writer

Yes, I’m aware we’re almost a month into the new year. Blame movie companies for distributing movies via platform rollout techniques and delaying wide release until January. Anyway, I slacked a bit at my theater attendance last year but still managed to see some phenomenal pieces of cinema. There were highly original films like Boyhood and Birdman, some entertaining sci-fi and fantasy features like Mockingjay, X-Men, and Planet of the Apes, and some very moving biopics like The Theory of Everything and Selma. Speaking bluntly, this was probably one of my least favorite years for movies in a long time. Nonetheless, these ten movies were achievements in various aspects of filmmaking, and in my opinion, were the best movies of 2014.

Honorable mention: Earth to Echo

When wielding wisely, nostalgia can be quite a powerful tool in moviemaking, and Earth to Echo’s atmosphere made me feel a sense of reminiscence towards a time that I’m still living in. Earth to Echo is one of the most enjoyable family-friendly movies I have ever seen. Its approach had me excited, laughing, and hooked from the very beginning.

#1: Boyhood

It’s a portrait of existence, a window to the past, and a reflection on the frequency and subtlety of our ever-changing lives. Boyhood was a labor of love - a love of childhood, a love of innocence, a love of filmmaking, a love of life.

#2: Into the Woods

It’s so great to see young filmmakers being recognized for their work. I’ll admit it - it hadn’t not been for the Academy Award nominations I may never have seen this film. But even with its indie production values, Whiplash has the feel of a mainstream thriller. It’s an extremely exciting film that, like its star-making performances from J.K. Simmons and Miles Teller, came out of nowhere to become one of 2014’s greatest achievements.

#3: The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies

I’m not sure how else to say this, so I’ll say it again - The Hobbit is one of the most technically impressive films ever made. As we say goodbye to Middle Earth one last time (supposedly!), the production crew spared no expense in delivering an exhilarating final chapter to this trilogy. The Battle of the Five Armies is utterly breathtaking, and made the whole journey worthwhile.

#4: Selma

I was waiting to publish my Top 10 until I saw this, and boy did I make the right choice. Magnificently directed and fiercely powerful, Selma is an unbelievably moving portrayal of a flawed and brave man following his dreams to better the world. Frankly, I don’t care about any political or controversial concerns surrounding the approach to this movie - it is a crowning success of filmmaking.

#5: Whiplash

Someone I met last year told me that liking a movie like The Fault in Our Stars goes against my manhood, but it also has a signature of 21st century filmmaking. Noah deserves to be remembered.

#6: The Theory of Everything

It’s official - I’m an Eddie Redmayne fan. His ability to portray Stephen Hawking from his fullest to his lowest, and all the gradual dilapidation in between, was impeccable. But don’t just see it for the performances - see it for its ability to bring this amazing man’s life so beautifully to the big screen.

#7: Noah

It’s a shame that Noah fell off the radar as awards season progressed. Its all-star cast, visuals, and daringly post-modern approach were its keys to financial and critical success, and it has cemented its place among the best Biblical adaptations in film history. Not only does it home in on the story of the Great Flood, but it also has a signature of 21st century filmmaking. Noah deserves to be remembered.

#8: Birdman

Who would’ve guessed following around a washed-up actor trying to make his comeback could be one of the year’s best films? Well, thanks to shining performances from Michael Keaton and Edward Norton, the writing and directing by Iñárritu, and a bit of groundbreaking cinematography and film editing (what an Oscar snub that was!), Birdman soared.

#9: The Fault In Our Stars

It’s quite great to see young filmmakers being recognized for their work. I’ll admit it - it hadn’t not been for the Academy Award nominations I may never have seen this film. But even with its indie production values, Whiplash has the feel of a mainstream thriller. It’s an extremely exciting film that, like its star-making performances from J.K. Simmons and Miles Teller, came out of nowhere to become one of 2014’s greatest achievements.

#10: Gone Girl

Functioning as both a captivating mystery and a brilliantly twisted psychological thriller, Gone Girl is an absorbing motion picture, featuring Ben Affleck at his best, equally matched by the performances of Neil Patrick Harris and Rosamund Pike, as the trio bring the characters from Gillian Flynn’s novel to life.
As usual, The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences dropped a few jaws in the unveiling of their annual nominations for film excellence. Here are a few films that surprised me with nominations, along with a few films that I feel were snubbed.

**Snub: Into the Woods.** Despite being the most magical and musical movie of the year, Into the Woods is left with nothing but a few worthy design nods and one for Meryl Streep's witch. The rest of its talented cast (especially Emily Blunt and Lilla Crawford), its director, the screenplay, and the film itself have been wrongly ignored.

**Surprise: The Lego Movie.** No, this is not a snub. This is good news! A bit of honesty - I haven't seen any of the other animated nominees (Dragon 2 is on my queue), though after watching The Lego Movie, I (along with my 9 & 12 year old cousins) was majorly unmoved, and I failed to see how the film was getting so much critical and popular success. Looks like the Academy may have agreed with me on this one!

**Snub: Gone Girl.** Despite shocking and captivating audiences, Gone Girl has been nominated only for Best Actress. I was harboring hope for both Ben Affleck and Neil Patrick Harris to be nominated, though neither were truly in the running. More likely were its nominations for Best Director or Best Picture, while its place on the Best Adapted Screenplay list was seemingly guaranteed. All three were unrealized, so instead of four or five nominations, Gone Girl only got one.

**Snub: The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies.** The Hobbit had some of the most impressive technical features ever put on film. Aside from a sound nomination, the rest of its construction, from its visual effects, score, film editing, cinematography, and art design, was criminally overlooked.

**Surprise: The Grand Budapest Hotel.** After its Golden Globe win for Best Picture, nominations for Picture and Screenplay seemed like safe bets. But Grand Budapest secured nine nominations - that's a tie with Birdman for the most. The Grand Budapest Hotel was a good film - but fantastic enough to warrant nine Academy Award nominations?

**Snub: Snowpiercer's Tilda Swinton.** Okay - hear me out here. The Equalizer's Marton Csokas, its director, the screenplay, and the film itself have been wrongly ignored. Even though the BFCAs found a spot for her name on their supporting actress shortlist, the Academy failed to reward Swinton's most engrossing, gut-wrenching, and transformative experience to date.

**Surprise: American Sniper.** Most awards circuits didn't recognize Sniper with nominations of any sort. Sniper garnered six nominations, including Best Screenplay, Actor, and Picture. Don't count this war drama out of the running just yet.

**Snub: Noah.** With its all-star cast and breathtaking visuals, Noah was lauded by critics. Its chances for Best Picture were slim, but the score and technical construction should have been given more consideration.

**Snub: The Fault in our Stars.** Transcending the mopey chick flick genre, The Fault in Our Stars told an uplifting yet somber story about love, loss, and life. Ansel Elgort and Shailene Woodley gave two of the best performances of the year, yet their efforts were not acknowledged - a big mistake on the Academy's part if they wanted to bring in younger viewers. At the very least they could have thrown the filmmakers a bone with an Adapted Screenplay nomination.

**Surprise: The Lego Movie.** After its Golden Globe win for Best Animated Feature, the film was bolstered by a few worthy design nods, but the film itself had been wrongly ignored.

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Observing the Winter Circle

By David A. Huestis
Faculty Writer

I'm sure many of you can recognize a few of the major constellations in the night sky. Many of these star patterns have come down to us from the dawn of the earliest civilizations. Before light pollution began to diminish our view of the heavens, everyone could see these stellar pictograms.

Today we have a great understanding of that heavenly vault of stars. Though they look like they are just out of reach above our heads, these suns are many trillions of miles from our solar system.

While there are 88 officially recognized constellations that fill the skies surrounding the Earth, stargazers like to create their own stellar asterisms by combining stars from several star patterns.

I'm sure you've heard of the Summer Triangle. This shape is formed by connecting three bright stars—Deneb (in Cygnus), Vega (in Lyra), and Altair (in Aquila). This triangle of stars is high overhead during mid-summer.

Well, the winter sky has its own special asterism, and this one is huge and includes a total of eight bright stars. It's called the Winter Circle or Winter Hexagon. I'll explain why you can get both shapes from the stars.

Please examine the basic star map accompanying this article. This chart represents the sky in mid-February at 8:30 p.m., looking from a point directly overhead towards the southern horizon. A circle, or actually an ellipse, can be drawn through each of the labeled stars. However, you can also draw a straight line from one star to the next and create a hexagon. Betelgeuse, though inside another pattern, is still considered part of the asterism.

The winter sky contains many of the brightest stars we can see from the Earth. In fact, the Winter Circle contains seven of the 23 brightest. These stars are but a few members of the estimated four billion plus stars that comprise our Milky Way Galaxy. Before we examine each of the stars in the Winter Circle, let's review three important terms. First, the brightness of any celestial object is called its magnitude.

The basic idea is that the more negative the magnitude, the dimmer the object is. The Sun is -26.74, the Full Moon -12.92, Venus -4.89, Saturn approximately 0, well known Polaris (the North Star) is magnitude +2, and the naked-eye limit with no light pollution is magnitude +6. Pluto is about +13.65. (Usually the plus sign (+) is assumed and not used, but I do so in this column for clarity.)

Second, a star's distance is measured in light years. One light year is equal to just less than six trillion miles. Third, the spectral classification of a star is categorized using the following letters: O, B, A, F, G, K, M, and often followed by additional numbers and letters to further refine the classification. "O" stars are the hottest while "M" stars are the coolest.

Let's start our tour of the Winter Circle with the brightest star we can see in the sky (besides the Sun of course) — Sirius. Sirius is in Canis Major, the Big Dog. Sirius shines at magnitude -1.44 and it is 8.7 light years away. Do the math and this fairly close neighbor to our Sun is 52.2 trillion miles from us. For you Rhode Islanders that's much farther than Woonsocket or Westerly! Sirius is a hot, blue-white star (spectral class A0) about 1.7 times the diameter of our Sun. Next we move northward and clockwise in the sky to locate Procyon in Canis Minor, the Little Dog. Procyon is a white star (F5) shining at magnitude +0.40 and is 11 light years distant. It's about twice the diameter of our Sun. Moving farther northward we encounter the Gemini twins, Pollux and Castor. Pollux is 34 light years distant, while Castor is 18 light years farther away at 52. Pollux is a cool, orange giant (K0) ten times the Sun's diameter, while Castor is a hot, blue-white star (A1) only twice the diameter of the Sun. Pollux and Castor shine at +1.16 and +1.93 magnitude respectively.

Now we swing up and over to a constellation almost directly overhead — Auriga, where we find +1.93 magnitude Capella. While Capella (G6) is a class "G"-type yellow star like the Sun (G2), it has three times more mass and is just over seven times the Sun's diameter. Next we proceed south to encounter the orange giant (K5) Aldebaran in Taurus. Aldebaran represents the bull's eye in the star pattern known as the Hyades star cluster (shaped like a "V"). Aldebaran, 65 light years away, is a cool star which has expanded to be just over 44 times the diameter of the Sun with only 2.5 times our Sun's mass. Continue to swing southward in the sky until we arrive at the bottom right star representing Orion's left foot. (Please note: Orion is facing us.) This star is +1.08 magnitude Rigel, a blue supergiant (B8) 800 light years away — the most distant of the Winter Circle stars. Rigel is 62 times the diameter of our Sun and contains 77 times more mass. We now complete the tour of the Winter Circle by swinging back to Sirius.

But wait. No, I didn't forget about Betelgeuse. Betelgeuse is the red supergiant (M4) star that marks the top right shoulder of Orion. It shines at magnitude +0.45 and resides at a distance of 520 light years. Betelgeuse is also a very large star, measuring in at a conservative 950 solar diameters. If you replaced our Sun with Betelgeuse it would extend out to the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.

As you can see by this small sampling of stars that comprise the Winter Circle, stars are quite a lot like people. They are all different, but their differences make them unique and important.

The next time you have an opportunity to observe the Winter Circle, you will have a better understanding and appreciation of the scale and diversity of our stellar neighbors in this region of the Milky Way Galaxy. Keep your eyes to the skies.

P.S. Want to identify more constellations on your own? Visit Uncle Al's Sky Wheels on the Internet (http://www. lhs.berkeley.edu/StarClock/skywheel.html). From this website you can download templates to assemble your own planisphere/starwheel. Instructions for assembly and use are included. I suggest you print on card stock paper. Then go outdoors on a clear night and explore the heavens.
Bryant University and the President’s Cultural Series present the Sons of Serendip, finalists in season nine of “America’s Got Talent.”

Two complimentary tickets are available now to Bryant students, faculty, staff, and their guests at the Fisher Student Center Info Desk.

The four friends came together as a musical group through a series of serendipitous events while in graduate school at Boston University. They include: lead vocalist Micah Christian, a teacher from Randolph, MA; pianist and guitarist Cordaro Rodriguez, an attorney from Charlotte, NC; cellist and vocalist Kendall Ramseur, a music teacher, performer, and grocery clerk from Charlotte, NC; and harpist Mason Morton, a music teacher from Atlanta, GA.

Ticket Information

Two complimentary tickets are available now to Bryant students, faculty, staff, and their guests at the Fisher Student Center Info Desk.

Bryant Alumni: $10 if reserved in advance ($15 on concert night)
To reserve tickets, call (401) 531-6662 or register online at www.bryant.edu/alumnievents.