

THE PIONEER

Class of 2017

PRAIRIE STATE COLLEGE

MAY 15TH, 2017

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Graduation!

AVERY MANUEL
STAFF REPORTER

Roses are red,
school colors aren't blue.
If you're graduating
this summer I say
Congratulations to you!
I want to say you did
it. Your race is over, or
your lap is complete to
whatever you're doing.
Don't give up in defeat.
I love the fact that your
day is coming, when
you can look back and
say it was worth it. The
late nights of being up
till 3 in the morning.
Worst case, going to your
8am with no sleep at all
because you're pushing
yourself. Congratulations
to you for forming that
small study group with
your classmates to pass
the class together with
a C or higher. I can say
it for those who wish
they could tell each and
everyone of you, that
you really do deserve
this moment. When you
were banging your head
against the wall thinking
you wouldn't make
this moment you did.
Now, play your favorite
graduation song, what
ever song makes you
happy and positive vibes
only and keep it moving.
May life be better and get
well for you, and push
you one step closer to
your ultimate goal in life.
Congratulations class of
2017!! You truly did do
it.

Bears Draft?

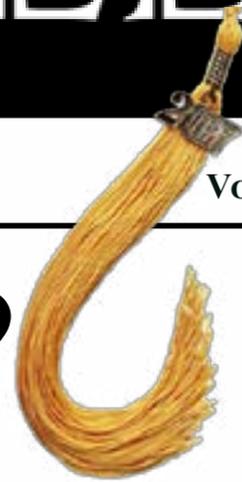


Photo Courtesy of Sports Mockery

RAMON MORGAN
STAFF REPORTER

The 2017 National Football League (NFL) draft took place between April 27th and 29th this year.

The draft took place in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, or to some, the place where "Rocky" was filmed.

The two drafts prior were held in Chicago, Illinois at the Auditorium Theatre. The Chicago Bears had the number 3 overall pick going into the draft, after a 3 win- 13 loss season, the worse record for the team since the NFL moved to 16 games in 1978. The Chicago Bears shocked the sports world by trading two 3rd round picks and a 4th round pick, as well as their 3rd overall pick to move up one spot. The Bears selected North Carolina quarterback Mitch Trubisky, which, in my opinion was a bad pick. The team moved up only one spot to select a player with unproven talent and traded away too many future draft picks. Trubisky only started in 13 college football games which is only equal to 1 season. He also never won any major college football award or a national title. Ideally, the Chicago

Bears should have selected Deshaun Watson from Clemson University, a winner of this year's College Football National Championship, and a former Heisman trophy winner.

If I were drafting for future success, the obvious pick for me would be Watson. His accolades are outstanding, while Trubisky's only accomplishment is Third Team All Atlantic Coast.

Sports columnist Skip Bayless, a former Chicago Tribune writer, said the pick was "indefensibly idiotic." He gave the pick a "D-" grade on his national TV show, Skip and Shannon Undisputed, and stated that he could see Trubisky as a fifth round pick. To make the situation worse, the Bears already overpaid another Quarterback in the offseason. Mike Glennon was given a 3 year, 45 million dollar contract, a hefty price for a quarterback who hasn't started a season opener since 2014. The Chicago Tribune writer Dan Wiederer wrote, "Call it a bold move. Call it insanity" about the Bears pick. The Chicago Bears other picks included Round 2, No. 45: Adam Shaheen, TE, from Ashland, Round 4, No. 112: Eddie Jackson, S, from Alabama, Round

4, No. 119: Tarik Cohen, RB, from North Carolina A&T, and Round 5, No. 147: Jordan Morgan, OL, from Kutztown. The Bears other picks were risky as well in my opinion. Only 2 players chosen in the Chicago Bears 2017 draft were from division 1 college football programs, the majority of the Bears picks were from division 2 colleges. The Bears 2nd overall pick was booed at the United Center when a photo was shown from the NFL draft at the Chicago Bulls playoff game April 26th. The culture in Chicago needs to change. The Bears General Manager Ryan Pace, who selected Trubisky, has 9 wins and 23 losses over the past two seasons. This has left thousands of seats empty at Soldier Field during home games. I am happy the bears released Jay Cutler, however, The Bears need to clean house.

The Bears GM who selected him is 9-23 over the past season

A Time for Change, A Time for a New Generation

ANTHONY MILLER
STAFF REPORTER

Americans across the country have been in awe at some of the political decisions being made with the new administration. This feeling that something is wrong with the current polices is something that is felt across party lines. We have bore witness to drastic cuts in federal funding for education and science. We have seen the budget for the EPA, and the national conservation efforts slashed.

President Trump declared recently that he would hold up federal funding for Obama care unless the wall is financed. Our country is officially being held hostage, and our captor is our very own democratically elected president Mr. Trump. It has been made very clear that our interests are no longer in mind as we deliberately take education and nature away from our children, and are trying to build a wall to keep the outside world from seeping into America. Or could it be

that the wall is meant to keep us in? As more and more presidential orders are signed with the interest of the pocket book rather than the American citizen, it would not be hard to see our country slowly be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

Perhaps Trump will start another great war, sending so many men (and now women) to fight a meaningless war to silence a generation that has happened before with the Vietnam war. What better way to get rid of the more peaceful, democratic, and reasonable voters than to send them off to die so American homes can have your perverted vision of "Freedom." This country is in trouble, and there is coming a time for change. That change may happen in the streets as we demand that our political leaders step down for the betterment of America, or it may happen in the form of marshal law because we are too scared to stand up to our leaders.

If you look around the world, these changes,

both good and bad, can happen to anyone. As Americans, we think that we are immune to a political revolution, we think that things are just the way they are and nothing can change that. That is why people do not go out to vote, that is why people stay home to watch the rallies and protests instead of going there themselves. Americans do not believe that we have the power anymore. We feel that whether it all fails or not that is just the way it is going to be. We cannot stand for this anymore, we need to be there for each other, we need to love again instead of allowing all this hate to take over.

It is so easy to hate, stand against it. We need to change ourselves, and then we need to change the world. We, as in the younger generations, I am speaking to us now: This world doesn't seem fair right? Seems like we were born into a failing system and because of that all of this just seems like business as usual right? It doesn't have

to be, do not depend on the older generations, they have failed and we need to step up to take their place as soon as we can. Strive to be the youngest in your field, make accomplishments and achievements that people will write about. There is literally no reason you cannot change the world. It is true that we are all not rocket scientists, or writers, or musicians, but we all can do something, even if that thing is as small as doing the right thing regardless of what those week minded people tell you is acceptable.

We are the world, we are the future, and we are the present. Stand up for yourself and your brothers and sisters. I guarantee no one else will. And as the older generations are leaving their positions of power, we need to step in all together and bring a wave of change ourselves. We can elect ourselves, we can create the world the way we want it to be, we do not need the approval of the older generations, we do not

need them to sign off on the policies and laws we hope to someday change. We have been let down, we have been forgotten, and we have been betrayed by the people we thought were looking out for us. We cannot allow this to stand anymore.

Most importantly, however, we need to love each other, all races, all genders, all walks of life. We need to come together. If we become weak and fall back on our hate as our safe zone, we will doom our cause from the beginning. The very reason that the younger generations are not taken more seriously is because we do not focus on what we must, we are distracted and we allow ourselves to believe what ever we are told. Do not do this, love each other, be there for one another, stand for someone's rights even if you do not believe in their lifestyle. America was supposed to be about freedom, and the pursuit of happiness. How about we get back to it and take our country back?

Fast and Furious 8: As Fast and Furious as Ever

KYLE BRODNICK
GUEST WRITER

The 8th installment of the Fast and Furious Franchise tops the charts for the 4th weekend in a row, grossing more than 1 Billion dollars worldwide! All too often, the

3rd movie in a franchise is pretty questionable, and thankfully goes no further. We can even look back at how comedic the Halloween franchise became. However, with 8 movies in and another on the way in 2019, Vin Diesel and company kept

me at the edge of my seat with riveting action, the coolest cars, and some pretty intense story lines. I can never get enough of Fast and Furious' obsession with the late 60's to early 70's American muscle cars, which just so happen to be the greatest automobiles

to ever grace the streets. It doesn't get any better than the addicting whine of Dominic Torretto's supercharged '70 Charger RT, or the deep growl of the new 5000 horsepower '72 Plymouth GTX sported in F8, which just so happened to steal my

heart- for eternity. Wanna get in on some hardcore double-clutch racing, metal twisting torque mixed with burning rubber? Safely race in to see Fate of the Furious! Thursdays are 5\$ student night, and comes with free popcorn with a valid student ID!

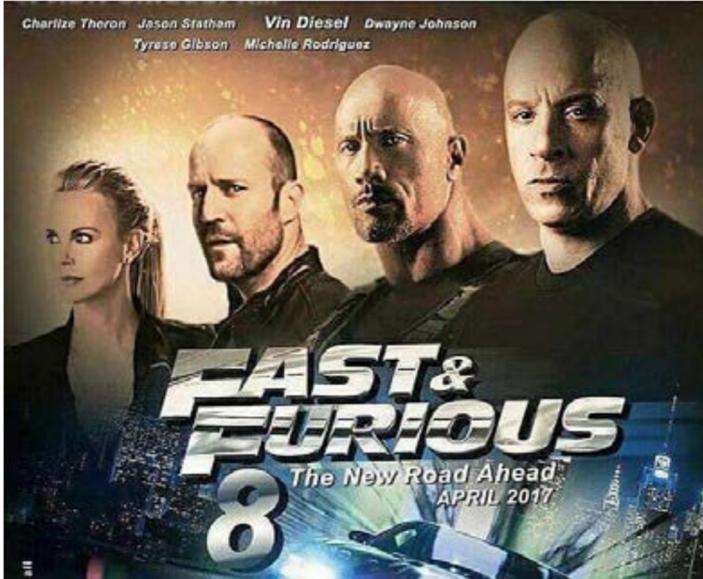


Photo Courtesy of Movie News Guide

THE PIONEER

Reporters Wanted!

Like talking about current events? How about attending activities on the community? Are you looking for a fun activity that could potentially turn into a lucrative career? Like being in on what's happening on campus?

If this sounds like you, how about putting those thoughts to good use?

Email us at thepioneer@prairiestate.edu if you are interested in becoming one of the reporters for The Pioneer!

Leadership @ PSC: A Year in Review



Graduates Reflect: The End of the Journey at PSC



ANNALIESE AVERY
LAYOUT EDITOR

PSC: A Stepping Stone to My Next Chapter

I have been at Prairie State College for 3 years now. I have been on the newspaper for all of that time. I went from being Copy editor, to Editor in Chief, to Layout Editor. I have learned a lot from working on this team for so long. I've really enjoyed getting to work on the paper. My focus has shifted from words to graphics throughout this time.

When I started at Prairie State, I originally planned to major in English. I took many literature classes and did the editing for the paper. But as time went on, I realized that English wasn't my main goal in life. When I became editor in chief, I still did a lot of copy editing, but when my layout editor graduated, I took over layout. I had already had experience with layout in high school because I worked on the year book staff for a few years. I really feel like I excel most as someone who works with graphics. Now I have been layout editor for a year and a half; it's great. I hope to better my skills with graphics as I go on to my next school.

The next school I'm going to is Trinity Christian College. I have been accepted and I plan to move in and attend in the fall of this year. I still have 2 classes to finish up at Prairie State, but I intend to finish them and move on. It just seems like it's time to move on to another place. I will be majoring in graphic design and hope to find my place there.

I will miss Prairie State and all it has to offer, but I'm excited to be starting a new chapter of my life. I can't wait to meet new people and experience new things. Prairie State will always have a special place in my heart as well as the people who made it so special. I want to specifically thank Helen Manley for always believing in me, Thomas Nicholas for pushing me to be better, and my friends for making all of this bearable.

Goodbye Prairie State, and thank you for everything.

PSC: An Aspiring Journalist's Journey



NICHOLAS ULANOWSKI
STAFF REPORTER

I've been writing for the Prairie State College newspaper for 3 years.

I started as a staff writer for The Student Review, the volunteer based student news club, and I have written for the past two semesters under The Pioneer, the professionally and independently run student news outlet.

As I've written for the college, I've watched the paper change hands between three different, but talented editors; Annaliese Avery, Joseph Dorsey, both of The Student Review, and lastly The Pioneer, Editor in Chief, Ebony Hampton.

After the change from *The Student Review* to The Pioneer, I appreciated the paychecks and being able to call being a staff writer a real job now. The new changes to the paper came with new responsibilities for us all, and it made us a lot more independent, goal oriented, and focused writers. However, I missed the weekly meetings that we used to have when the school newspaper was *The Student Review* and considered a school club, as it was sometimes like a mini party.

After 4 years of being a student at Prairie State, I will be graduating this semester. I'm very thankful for professors De La Fuente, Hammond and Greene. I've taken all three of Professor De La Fuente's Sociology classes – Sociology 101, Sex, Gender, and Power, and Marriage and Family. I highly recommend them for anyone that needs additional college credits. Professor Da Le Fuente has a passion for sociology, and she has helped me discover my own passion for sociology. Professor Green did an amazing job of creating a community within his Communications 101 class – and this made it less nervous for us to give speeches to the class. He made us all better public speakers. While here at PSC, I also took Professor Hammond's Ethics class, and his Reason, Myth, and God class. He's a tough but fair teacher. Professor Hammond's classes opens doors to free thought and in my opinion, that's what higher education is all about. My time at Prairie State was relatively short but significant. I'll be sad to leave and say goodbye to everyone. Nonetheless, I look forward to a future of possibility and I'll be transferring to Governors State University in the fall.

PSC: Finding a Leader Within Me



EDUARDO LOPEZ-NAVARRO
STAFF REPORTER

"The season of failure is best time for sowing the seeds of success," Paramahansa Yoganandu once said. She was a brilliant philosopher that taught meditation and Kriya Yoga. Her words are exactly the way I feel about Prairie State College. I came to PSC not knowing anyone, I was socially awkward, and had little to no confidence. As I reflect my time at PSC, I have matured so much that it's still unbelievable to me. I've always hated the way I wrote papers, and that was embarrassing to me. This all changed as I was lucky enough to have been in Professor A. Dolph's English 101 and 102 classes. She went far beyond with helping me actually improve in my writing. I would have never guessed in a million years that I would be proof reading my friends' papers and helping them to improve their skills.

Not only has Prairie State College helped me with my education, but they are the reason why I am alive today. When I was in the darkest pit of my depression, I was able to talk to my professor in confidence. Professor Noriega was my psychology professor for psychology 101 and 102 and when I finally accepted I needed help, I was able to tell her. She then introduced me to Shannon Word who told me everything that was going to happen to me and it ended in me being who I am today: A Successful Student Leader.

In fact, one of the accomplishments I am most proud of is being one of the STEM Club founders. It has helped tremendously in my success at being a leader because it taught me to balance the club, school, and work. We were lucky to have great advisors Dr. Natalie McGathey and Dr. Angela Hung, as well, who were guiding me throughout the process. I have learned so much from them and there is no way I can ever thank them enough for everything they have taught me. I seriously can say that without them I would not be who I am today.

My journey at PSC wasn't complete without joining another activity, the student newspaper. How did I become so lucky to have seen the evolution of the student paper from just a club where people volunteered to write, to a professional and independently ran student organization where reporters are compensated? I seriously would have never thought I would have been a reporter. I enjoyed every second of it. To my biggest surprise, I was named reporter of the year at this year's Leadership Awards. I really thought I didn't deserve it, but I guess I did, as the Editor in Chief reminded me of how far I had come. I really have learned so much as a reporter for the paper, and that has helped my writing improve tremendously. All of these accomplishments couldn't have happened without my friend and Editor-in-Chief, Ebony. While writing for the paper I had the freedom to express so many different styles of writing from personal experiences to writing about events happening in the United states. I also want to acknowledge a friend who I can be silly with, have serious talks, and always keeps it real with me her name is Annaliese, or as I call her Anna, the paper's Layout Editor. I am going to miss Ebony and Anna with their dynamic duo.

From Engineering to Poly-Sci; Discovering Myself at PSC



KYLE BRODNICK
GUEST WRITER

Prairie State College has changed my life in so many ways.

I never imagined college to be the place where I'd grow so much. I imagined that change within in a person would take decades, not 2 years. I came into PSC a rigid, unsure mechanical engineering major. Being a family tradition, of course that's what I chose to major in, especially since I love science and figuring out how everything works at its core. My entire family works with their hands, or works in a lab. However, I would soon realize that science was not my calling, which was a bittersweet realization thanks to Professor Andy Schott. I owe much of who I've become over the past few years to his persistence with becoming involved with Model Illinois Government or MIG for short. I was extremely hesitant, but the Professor knew somehow that eventually, I would break, and you can bet I'm overjoyed that I did.

The Model Illinois Government organization literally changed my life. It's one of those things where after just a taste of it, you realize that this is where you belong; this is your true love, and this is what you're meant to do. Now politics is the foundation, and pinnacle of every aspect of life, and at a certain point in everyone's life it's a realization that politics is involved in everything we do in life. This can be a great thing, and unfortunately, it can be corrupted. I realized that it doesn't have to get so nasty, and with the guidance of the PSC faculty and the diversity of my peers, starting near here will take me so far indeed.

I had the honor of becoming student trustee in order to help my peers in as many ways and as much as possible, and I was ecstatic to be appointed as the parliamentarian of the student government association. I'm able to be myself, and am a much happier person because I found my purpose at PSC, and am able to do what I love thanks to the outstanding support of the PSC Foundation and administration. I'm going to shed tears of bittersweet joy when I leave here.

A Letter from the Editor in Chief:



To My Staff:

It has been a pleasure working with you all this year. I can't believe how fast the time has gone! I appreciate all of your hard work and dedication to The Pioneer. This year has been challenging for us as we ushered in a new era for the school paper. You've held on with me as we made the change from a hardcopy newspaper under our former name, The Student Review, to us being completely online and having new roles. I appreciate every single last one of you, and those that have come and gone. I couldn't have done this without you: my reporters, and my friends. Thank you for the memories, the laughs, the struggles and the discoveries. We did it! I am ready to keep this ball rolling in the fall and finish what we started: giving Prairie State College a professional news outlet that adheres to its values and standards, all while using our own voices to advocate for things that matter to the students and the surrounding communities. I hope you are ready to initiate the next phase in our journey here at PSC.

To My Graduates:

I am going to miss you guys! It has been wonderful getting to know you all and being not only your Editor in Chief, but your friend. This road has been rocky, and I know some of you do not wish to leave the legacy you helped to create, but rest assured, you will always find a home here. Your stories will go on in your absence, and others will learn from the examples you have set. You may be graduating, but a piece of you will always remain here. Annaliese, Eduardo, Nicholas, and Kyle: You all have done excellent work here at PSC; and although I hate to see you leave, I know you are moving on to spread your knowledge, kindness, cheer, and leadership skills in other places. The world needs more people like you all, and by moving forward, you will take your talents with you everywhere you go. Thank you for choosing to work with us here at The Pioneer. You will truly be missed. Congratulations and take care.

From the Editor's Desk:

Greetings Readers!

This new academic semester brought about So many new changes!

We have completed our first part of changes with our news publication *The Pioneer*, but we still have a bit more we will be unveiling in the upcoming semesters. Thank you for your time and patience, but most of all, thank you for supporting us during this time. I look forward to coming back and bringing you all the news in Fall 2017!

I have been honored to be your Editor in Chief and can't wait to bring you all more surprises, this may be the end of the academic year, but *The Pioneer* is just getting started! Have a safe and wonderful summer. You'll be seeing us again real soon.

If you want to join us as a reporter in the fall send us an email with your name, student I.D number, and a brief discription on what interests you about journalism.

During the break, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns please email us at thepioneer@prairiestate.edu!

Thanks for sticking with us!

Ebony Hampton
Editor in Chief



Staff From Left to Right: Ebony Hampton (EIC), Eduardo Lopez, (top), Avery Manuel (bottom), Annaliese Avery, Ramon Morgan, Nicholas Ulanowski
(not pictured: Tamar Clark, Anthony Miller, Kyle Brodnick)



Staff From Left to Right: Ramon Morgan, Nicholas Ulanowski, Annaliese Avery, Avery Manuel, Ebony Hampton, Kyle Brodnick, Eduardo Lopez
(not pictured: Tamar Clark, Anthony Miller)



Ebony Hampton, Editor in Chief
Annaliese Avery, Layout Editor

STAFF:

Editor-In-Chief:
Ebony Hampton

Layout Editor:
Annaliese Avery

Staff Reporters:
Eduardo Lopez
Avery Manuel
Anthony Miller
Ramon Morgan
Nick Ulanowski

Guest Writers:
Kyle Brodnick
Staff Photographer:
Tamar Clark

Vision Statement

To be recognized as Prairie State College's leading and most trusted media network, reaching not only our home campus, but through our neighboring communities as well.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Prairie State College *Pioneer* is to be the most precise, most wide-ranging and most thought-provoking source of news, sports, and entertainment for the PSC campus community. The core values that the Editorial Staff and the Reporters of the *Pioneer* should operate on are:

- To react quickly to any newsworthy events, whether on campus, around the community, in the state, or in another part of the world if we believe that the news would impact our readers.
- To actively seek content that will interest and inspire readers, provide quality entertainment, provoke thoughtful discussion, and advance the reader's knowledge.
- To create a platform that is a direct reflection of the diversity and uniqueness of the backgrounds, goals, needs, and interests of the readers.
- To consistently hold the ethical guidelines of *The Pioneer* and Prairie State College in high regard and to cultivate the most professional atmosphere at times, whether in office or on location.
- To develop professional and successful student journalists that will be able to use the skills gained working on *The Pioneer* and studying at Prairie State College in every aspect of life.