

# THE PIONEER

PRAIRIE STATE COLLEGE

MAY 14, 2018

VOLUME 65, ISSUE 7

## HIDE, RUN, FIGHT BACK

by Kacey Culbreth

After the mass shooting in Parkland, Florida on February 14, students all over the country have expressed their concerns regarding what to do in the event of an active shooter on their school campus.

Recently, at two different meetings, Student Government Association members watched two videos about what to do in the event of an active shooter on Prairie State College's campus. One video was a short film that simply showed the SGA members what it would be like if there were to be an active shooter on campus. The second video was more informative, telling SGA members what they should do in the event of an active shooter. All students should know all exits in the school and for what classroom they are in. They should also be alert to all surroundings at all times.

In the event of an active shooter, there are three things someone can do: hide, run, or fight back. Hide under tables, chairs, and in closets. Make sure doors are locked and barricade doors with heavy objects in the room. The second option if you have nowhere to hide is to run. Run to your car and go home; run away from campus or the "infected" area. If you have no other options, fight back. It is harder to shoot a moving target than a still one.

Two SGA members were asked if they feel more prepared after watching the video(s) if there were ever to be an active shooter at PSC. Avery Manuel, Black Student Union President, responded, "Yes, because I didn't really think about what is the 'protocol,' if you will say, if there was [an active shooter], like, finding a room and locking the door, or hiding, or going home if I'm outside."

Aaron Horta, 2cGED President, also responded, "Yes, I am definitely more prepared. Just based on analyzing my surroundings and determining which route to take. As far as having to defend myself against a shooter, no. It would be great if we had some basic training where we could disarm someone; that would be great."

However, Rita Telle, a typical student who has not seen the videos was asked if she would know what to do if there were an active shooter in

the school. "Well, to be honest, I wouldn't really know. I have no clue if I'd be scared out of my mind and just be frozen or if I would stay calm and do my best to take control of the situation. We've always been taught to just hide in the classroom and be as silent as possible and hope that the shooter doesn't find us, but I think I'd rather do my best to sneak out the building and hope the shooter doesn't find me if I'm alone. I would never put my classmates at risk by doing that. If I'm with other people I'd just stay with them and be as silent as possible. I guess if I was on the first or second floor though, I'd jump or climb out a window."

The Prairie State Police Force is now taking active steps to improve awareness regarding active shooter protocol. The police run a drill on campus every year, held March 8 this year, which involves faculty and staff. And while there are already steps regarding emergency communication to faculty, staff, and students, PSC Chief of Police George Pfothenauer believes all students should be shown the videos mentioned above. In fact, in the future, one video will be shown to all incoming freshman who attend the First Year Experience Orientation. Unfortunately, not all students attend the orientation.



Photo by Kacey Culbreth

# Our School's Sure Got Talent

A student review of "PSC's Got Talent"

by Ida Alessandrini

Feb. 22, 2018, marked "PSC's Got Talent" 14th anniversary, an event put on by the Black Student Union. Avery Manuel, who is a part of the Black Student Union, hosted the talent show for the third year in a row, joined by his co-host Destiny Webster, who made her debut. Leon Triplett, a judge who was asked for first remarks said, "Talent is God-given." It was a night full of talent; that's for sure.

The first act by the "Rhyders" got the crowd involved by coming into the audience and having them turn on their phone flashlights, high-fiving a teenage girl who voluntarily put her hand out. The judges noticed the energy and crowd involvement but wanted the "Rhyders" to work together more.

The next act, a man named Ricky, got the crowd clapping as he danced and sang "Save the Last Dance for me" and seemed to enjoy himself on stage. He openly admitted he was nervous but also admitted to singing in the shower. Diamond, one of the next acts, sang the popular Christmas song "Mary Did You Know?" that left the audience mesmerized. The next act was a dancer named Akram who provoked a strong, positive reaction

from the crowd, clapping and cheering along. Mr. Lee, another judge, gave him a standing ovation while two little kids screamed "I love you!" He gladly accepted high-fives from two young teenagers and said "Thank you!"

Mariah started singing her song "I Will Always Love You" a capella and received much applause during the song and a standing ovation from multiple people in the audience. "VP and Icy" did a duet/ dance to a song they wrote and recorded themselves. At the end, they made it quite clear they were dating, which made the crowd laugh. There were other diverse performances from an Italian opera singer to a harmonica player.

When it came time for the judging, the cast entertained the crowd and enjoyed themselves on stage. Akram, the dancer, broke out in a short breakdance as fellow contestants finished an impromptu a capella and got the crowd dancing. In the end, it took the judges longer than expected to decide the winner because of the many talented people who performed. The fan vote was a 5-way tie with "VP and Icy" eventually coming out on top. Third place went to Diamond, and Second place, Mariah. Our 2018 PSC's Got Talent winner is Akram. Thank you to the judges, contestants and supporters. It was a great night filled with talent.

## TIPS FOR FINALS

by Kacey Culbreth & Ida Alessandrini

### TIP #1

**DON'T FORGET TO EAT  
A WELL BALANCED MEAL**

### TIP #2

**SHOW UP ON TIME!**

### TIP #3

**GET A GOOD NIGHT'S REST**

### TIP #4

**WHEN STUDYING TEST  
YOURSELF TO SEE WHAT  
YOU KNOW**

### TIP #6

**TAKE NOTES IN A WAY  
THAT YOU CAN REMEMBER  
THE INFORMATION EASIER**

### TIP #7

**DON'T CRAM THE NIGHT  
BEFORE**

### TIP #8

**TAKE 15 MINUTE BREAKS  
FOR EVERY HOUR OF  
STUDYING**



Photo by Kacey Culbreth

## Flag Retirement Ceremony

by Ida Alessandrini

May 1 was a beautiful day to stand outside and watch a flag retirement ceremony at Prairie State College. This ceremony sponsored by the Navy was a very special event. A few members of the Chicago Heights Fire Department and other first responders were in attendance, as well as members of the Bloom High School NJROTC and representatives of the armed forces at the school. After the Pledge of Allegiance, a select group took worn flags and used scissors to cut and separate the white stripes (signifying purity and innocence), the red stripes (hardiness and valor) and the broad band above the stripes (blue signifying vigilance, perseverance and justice). After separating the stripes and the band, they were dropped by the Navy into a burning fire. The U.S. flag code states that "the flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning."



Photo by Kacey Culbreth

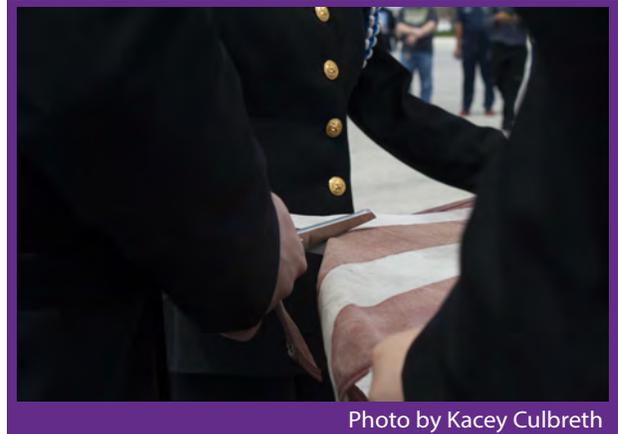


Photo by Kacey Culbreth

## Prairie State College Honors Military and Veterans

by Ida Alessandrini

During special veterans' ceremonies and events here at Prairie State College, a display is set up, titled "The Missing Man Table." On Thursday, May 10, Prairie State College celebrated a veteran's stole ceremony honoring its graduating veterans of 2018. The Missing Man Table appeared at this event. This small table is set for one, urging students, faculty and staff "... to never forget that while we enjoy our daily pleasures, there are others who have endured and may still be enduring the agonies of pain, deprivation and internment" - Marine MIA Table Ceremony.



There are many symbolic parts to this display. As the POW/MIA script states, "This table, set for one, is small, symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner, alone against his or her suppressors. The tablecloth is white, symbolic of the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms. The single red rose in the vase, signifies the blood they many have shed in sacrifice to ensure the freedom of our beloved United States of America. This rose also reminds us of the family and friends of our missing comrades who keep the faith, while awaiting their return. The yellow ribbon on the vase represents the yellow ribbons worn on the lapels of the thousands who demand with unyielding determination a proper accounting of our comrades who are not among us tonight. A slice of lemon on the plate reminds us of their bitter fate. The salt sprinkled on the plate reminds us of the countless fallen tears of families as they wait. The glass is inverted - they cannot toast with us this night. The chair is empty - they are not here. The candle is reminiscent of the light of hope which lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home, away from their captors, to the open arms of a grateful nation." The table is typically set up during military programs or events where dining is involved, either formal or ceremonial. The tradition began during the Vietnam War era.

Here at Prairie State, we hope we are not the only school that displays this table as everyone should remember our military, veterans, Prisoners of War, those Missing in Action, and those who have died defending our country.

## Simmons and Mitchell: Historically Great Rookies

by Kyle Turner

The two biggest stars in the 2017 NBA Rookie Class are Donovan Mitchell of the Utah Jazz and Ben Simmons of the Philadelphia 76ers. Both men have a legitimate claim to the title “Rookie of the Year”, not only for how they’ve impacted their teams this past season but also because of the history both men have made in the season and post-season. They’ve both put up historically great numbers.

Standing at near 7’0”, Ben Simmons’ ball handling, court vision, and athletic ability mirror a young Magic Johnson. When Philadelphia drafted him number one overall in 2016, the 76ers saw him as one of their two franchise cornerstones along with center Joel Embiid. Philadelphia now had a two-headed monster at the two most important positions in basketball. However, before that season began, Simmons broke his foot and was forced to miss the entire season.

NBA rules state that if a player misses every second of what was to be his rookie year, he will still technically be a rookie when he does play, so in Simmons’ official rookie year, he showed the NBA why he is possibly a transcendent talent. He is the second rookie in NBA history with over 1,200 points, 600 assists, and 600 rebounds, as well as second all-time for triple-doubles by a rookie (number one in both cases were Oscar Robertson). His playoff performance has been spectacular as well. He has nearly averaged a triple-double in his 9 games so far, at about 16 points, 8 assists, and 8 rebounds per game. Simmons’ only weakness is shooting the ball, which ironically is what Donovan Mitchell does the best.

Mitchell wasn’t expected to be the leading scorer of the Utah Jazz. He wasn’t expected to relieve the blow that Jazz fans took when their former star, Gordon Hayward, left to join the Boston Celtics. Mitchell wasn’t expected to lead the Jazz to the furthest they’ve been since the 2010 playoffs and their first second-round win since 2008. He has accomplished all of that while scoring at a very high rate.

The 47th rookie in history to average 20+ points in a season, he’s also the only rookie to score 40 points in a single game this season. Mitchell has made the most 3-point field goals by a rookie in NBA history with 186. His playoff performance has been fantastic as well, as in the first round he led his team over the Oklahoma City Thunder, led by former MVP Russell Westbrook, Paul George, and Carmelo Anthony. In the second round, he raised his points per game average from 20.5 to 24.4, while picking up more of a point guard role as

well due to the injury of Jazz point guard, Ricky Rubio.

The Jazz and the 76ers lost their second-round matchups to the Houston Rockets and Boston Celtics respectively. Despite the outcomes of both series, both players continued their brilliant rookie seasons deep into the playoffs. They’ve shown what they’re bringing to the league: Simmons being a gifted all-around talent, and Mitchell being one of the best scorers in the league already. In most other years, either man would have probably walked away with the rookie of the year easily. No matter who winds up holding that trophy in June, both men are deserving of that award, as well as their place in NBA history.

## Should the Celtics and 76ers be Concerned of a Future Rivalry?

by Kyle Turner

LeBron James can’t run over the Eastern Conference forever. Father time eventually catches up to everyone, no matter if LeBron is putting up a fight. While LeBron just punched his ticket to his 8th consecutive Eastern Conference Finals and is aiming for his 8th straight trip to the NBA Finals, two other teams were fighting for the right to try and end that streak.

The Boston Celtics and Philadelphia 76ers are two very young teams that have the most potential of any other team in the East. Philly has a potential superstar duo of Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons, as well as 2017 number one overall pick Markelle Fultz. Boston’s young duo of Jayson Tatum, 20, and Jalen Brown, 22, are leading the Celtics in the playoffs, even without All-Stars Kyrie Irving and Gordon Hayward. In this year’s playoffs, the Celtics edged out the 76ers in a five-game series that was much closer than the number of games would lead you to believe. After the final game, according to Embiid, Simmons showed him his hands and said, “There’s going to be a lot of rings on these.” In order to get those rings, they’ll seemingly have to go through Boston. This is a rivalry that could span the next decade in the Eastern Conference.

However, in Chicago, the Bulls are building something to potentially crash the parties of the 76ers and Celtics. When the Bulls traded All-NBA player Jimmy Butler to the Minnesota Timberwolves to begin their rebuild, the prevailing belief was that the Bulls were fleeced. In return for a multiple time All-Star, the Bulls got back Kris Dunn, Zach LaVine, and Lauri Markkanen. Markkanen was largely an unknown. Dunn had just experienced a horrendous rookie season in Minnesota. LaVine was a gifted scorer; however, he was coming off an ACL injury that would keep him out for months into the season.

This past season, the “Jimmy Butler trade” doesn’t look too bad for them now. Dunn, 24, flipped the “bust” label he was given and made the NBA’s U.S. Rising Star roster at the All-Star Weekend, along with

## Should the Celtics and 76ers be Concerned of a Future Rivalry? (cont.)

by Kyle Turner

Tatum and Brown from the Celtics. LaVine, 23, played only 24 games, but in those, he proved that he hadn't lost his athleticism, and still has a lot of room to grow. Lauri Markkanen, 20, showed his potential to be one of the top power forwards of the future, being 7'0", agile, athletic and already one of the best shooters in the league. Lauri too made the Rising Stars roster on the International side, along with Embiid and Simmons of the 76ers.

With the Bulls missing the playoffs this year, they are in the NBA Draft lottery slotted at the sixth spot. The 2018 NBA Draft looks to have several potential stars in it. Arizona's DeAndre Ayton is a big man from the mold of David Robinson and Karl Malone. Duke's Marvin Bagley is a very polished offensive talent. Missouri's Michael Porter Jr is a gifted scorer with the body to shoot over defenders. Mohamed Bamba's length and shot blocking ability could lead him to be a dominant defender. There are several talents where the Bulls are slotted to pick that would fit what they have already in place with Dunn, LaVine, and Markkanen.

Entering the 2018-19 season, the Bulls' future is bright. But in order for them to be successful in the next few years, they will have to make it even brighter than that of the Celtics and 76ers. For that to happen, at least one of those three, or the new draft pick, will have to become a superstar talent. Hopefully, Bulls players were home watching these other two young teams battle it out and took notes if they hope to be in their position eventually.

## How Prairie State Could Help You!

Quotes from PSC Alumnus

by Kacey Culbreth



Photo by Kacey Culbreth

"PSC helped me make the transition from high school to college life. I got my first experience of being a college student without having to move far from home or commute. There is also a misconception that the curriculum at junior colleges aren't as vigorous at other colleges. On the contrary, everything I learned while attending classes at PSC help me in my classes at DePaul. I was able to seamlessly transition between the two classroom environments."

-Joshua Bradford, 2017 graduate, Associates in Business

Bradford is currently furthering his education with intentions to earn his Bachelors degree at DePaul University in Chicago.



Photo by Kacey Culbreth

"I mean, college helped me get advanced in the navy pay grade, and gave me insight on certain aspects that I will be learning so I begin my career ahead of the curve."

-Joshua Witt, 2017 graduate, Associates in Automotive Technology

Witt is currently in the Navy studying to become a Nuclear Machinists Mate, one of the hardest jobs in the Navy. Having his Associates before joining the Navy bumped him up TWO paygrades, which means he entered the Navy making more money than the typical recruit. He went to college first to have a backup plan in case the Navy did not work out.

**DON'T forget to register  
for FALL 2018 classes  
by JULY 17TH to avoid late fees**

**CONGRATS to ALL 2018 GRADUATES**

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Thank you,  
The Pioneer Staff