

# THE ORATOR

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT NEWSPAPER

*Empowering the voice of the urban student.*

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FREE

## Celebrating St. Patrick's Day

MAYTEE HOLGUIN  
STAFF WRITER

Around this time of year, many are preparing to celebrate St. Patrick's day on March 17th. Surprisingly, the majority, and even those who don't celebrate the day, aren't quite sure why it is celebrated or what's behind the name itself. So, in the spirit of St. Paddy's Day, here is a recap of the reason behind the celebration and a couple of ways the day is celebrated.

St. Patrick's day began, officially, back in the 17th century and was more of a religious celebration consisting of a Christian feast day. This day commemorates the death of Ireland's patron saint of the same name, Saint Patrick, and his mission to convert what was then a Pagan Ireland to Christianity.

The holiday mainly celebrates the Irish culture and it does so in many ways. As time went on and many Irish immigrated to US, further celebrations came about in addition to feasting, which includes a traditional Irish recipe of Corned Beef and Cabbage.

Nowadays, many, celebrate St. Paddy's Day by wearing green apparel and going to a local bar/pub or a St. Patrick's themed party to drink a couple of beers that have been dyed green in honor of the holiday.

Another major way to celebrate the holiday is by attending parades held in honor of St. Patrick's Day and these can be seen in many cities across the US. NYC hosts the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade with over 150,000 participants.

In Chicago, the city dyes the Chicago River green in honor of the



holiday and hosts the South Side Parade. Boston, which has a large Irish-American population also has a parade to celebrate Irish heritage, this parade usually attracts not only locals but tourists as well.

So, if you are one that likes to join in on the fun and celebrate St. Patrick's Day, make sure you exercise due diligence to inform yourself on the cultural aspect of the holiday rather than just the celebratory aspect.

Photo Courtesy of ScottMLiebenson on Wikipedia

## Women's History Month Challenge

Join Orator Staff Writer Nevin Perkins as he continues the success of his #BHMC movement, the BlackHistoryChallenge, and transitions into #WomenHMC, in honor of Women's History Month.

This time around, the idea is to nominate inspirational women on the social media of your choice by using the hashtag, #WomenHMC. Also, feel free to participate and submit any opinion on women's issues such as gender equality and objectification. As always, awareness inspires change folks, so The Orator asks you to tune in and spread some light.

@nev\_perks #WomenHMC



Elizabeth Bessie Coleman  
Billie Holiday  
Nora Zeale Hurston  
Fannie Lou Hammer  
Harriet Tubman

Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Jeannette Rankin  
Madam Curie  
Susan B Anthony

Mahalia Jackson  
Amelia Earhart  
Mary McLeod Bethune  
Josephine Baker

Lucy Stone  
Gloria Steinem  
Florence Nightingale  
Dorothy Dandridge

Madam C J Walker  
Lorraine Hansberry  
Diane Humetewa  
Ida B Wells  
Sojourner Truth

Photo Courtesy of rpnfac.com

## Opinion: Being black and different

BRANDON CAULEY  
STAFF WRITER

My name is Brandon Cauley. I am an African American, and I am in my second year of college. It's safe to say I am beating the odds. That is what goes through the minds of people when it comes to people like me. Many people do not expect people like me to go to college, or even be in my second year. Every day I overcome the odds, but there is more to it than just overcoming the aforementioned stereotypes. I personally have overcome a certain type of stereotype.

I consider myself different from most African Americans. I listen to rock music, I watch hockey, I speak eloquently, and the crazy thing is, these are targets when I am being critiqued. This is something I have dealt with since adolescence, and I have had a legitimate gripe with it. Inexplicably, talking eloquently has a label on it. It is labeled as "talking white." Where does this label come from? Shockingly, it is mostly African Americans. It is something I have never understood. Why can't someone like myself speak like a sophisticated young man? Why do some of the people of my own race question this?

Given the long history of our country, and the way some people have treated us, we are in no position to judge. This is where we should be empowering one another, not critiquing. There are some people who think limitedly due to the environments that some of us have been surrounded by. Simply, they expect ignorance in places where ignorance lies in most of your surroundings. I do not believe in relegating yourself to wherever you are, cause that's just a poor excuse. There is no such thing as "talking white", and anyone who uses that term is in my opinion ignorant. Not only white people can speak eloquently, and they sure as hell did not invent it.

SEE BEING BLACK ||CON. ON PG. 3

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# THE ORATOR

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Orator is proud to release our second issue of the spring semester 2017. March is Women's History Month. As a son, a grandson, a brother, an uncle and a boyfriend I am proud to say that I would not be the man I am today without the women in my life.

The month of March also brings to us St. Patrick's Day, March Madness, Mid-term exams and Spring Break! So, have some fun but upon returning to campus let's finish the semester strong and make HCCC proud!

*Christopher G. Rodgers*

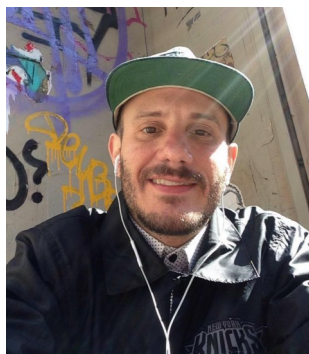


Image courtesy of Jim Henderson via Wikipedia

## Meet The Orator 2017

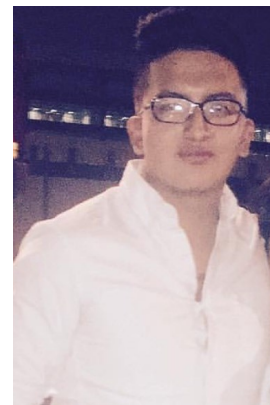
### Staff

#### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Hello, my name is Christopher Rodgers. I am a second year student here at HCCC. I've always had a passion for sports and recently decided to pursue a career in sports journalism. I also enjoy writing about Politics, Music, and Film. Catch me on Twitter @CGRsports

#### PRODUCTION EDITOR



Greetings! My name is Jonnathan Riera Puma. I am a Computer Science major. I enjoy learning about business and technology. My goal is to one day become a successful investor, entrepreneur, author, and an inspiration to others. Follow my ventures @ repairbutlers.com

#### BRANDON CAULEY



What's up, my name is Brandon Cauley. I am a liberal arts English major, and a huge sports fan. Being apart of The Orator gives me a big platform to speak on sports and sometimes, social issues. My goal is to be a sports commentator. Follow me on Twitter @MisterBran\_

#### NEVIN PERKINS



What's up people? I'm Nevin Perkins, a first year liberal arts major here at Hudson County Community College. I enjoy reading and listening to great music. I will do my best to bring you updated news on social justice. Peace. @nev\_perks

#### OMAR DWIDAR



Hi, my name is Omar Dwidar, a creative news writer who studies liberal arts. I'm looking forward to transferring and continuing to study journalism. Post graduation, I would like to pursue a career as a freelance journalist. I've been running my own tech. website for three years, [techphilosophynetwork.com](http://techphilosophynetwork.com), check it out!

#### MAYTEE HOLGUIN



Hi, my name is Maytee Holguin (My-tay). I am an English Major here at Hudson County Community College and I am excited to be a part of The Orator. If you don't find me reading a book, you will find me daydreaming while listening to music.

#### ONISTI PAYTON



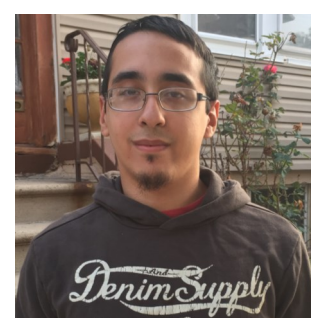
Hello, my name is Onisti, and I am a graphic arts major here at HCCC. I'm a interested in photography and I am happy to be part of the Orator as a photographer. I look forward to taking photos for The Orator.

#### MARTINA NEVADO



Hi, my name is Martina Nevado, I am a Studio Arts Major. I love teaching and helping others. I support the children of my community with fashion and cooking classes. Also, I like to write poetry and about motivational topics to inspire young people to reach their life goals. [fb.com/tinakidscreations](http://fb.com/tinakidscreations)

#### MICHAEL PARDAL



Hi, my name is Michael Pardal and I am an English major. I joined The Orator because I enjoy writing about sports and talking about my ideas. I have loved watching and playing sports for most of my life so The Orator helps me express my feelings especially towards national sports.



#### CORRECTIONS:

Notice an error? Please submit all corrections to The Orator Editors at [orator@live.hccc.edu](mailto:orator@live.hccc.edu)



# Flying cars are just around the corner

OMAR DWIDAR  
STAFF WRITER

## What is a Flying Car?

A simple explanation is to say that these are vehicles that take the best of both worlds--Cars and Aircrafts--into hybrid, strange-looking creatures called "Flying Cars." So that means that these types of vehicles could use two types of engines: One for flying as an aircraft and the other for driving like a Regular car. But who knows? Aviation and Car Manufacturers could be working on a special type of engine that combines both aeroplane and car engines into one unified engine that uses one type of fuel and can shift between both modes easily.

Logically, this will reduce the cost of the production process and those flying cars will become more appealing to consumers as being affordable, but there is no worries about fossil fuel prices because the whole industry are going through a transition of the use of clean energy "Electric energy, Solar energy, and hydrogen fuel," which they are much cheaper than the regular fuel costs.

Google started this secret "flying cars" project as part of their secret lab "Google X" back in June, before Uber even thought of this segment. According to Bloomberg News, Larry Page CEO, and Co-founder of Alphabet formerly called Google invested some 100 million dollars in two startup companies called Zee.Aero, and Kitty Hawk. Actually, both machineries architecture looks like an aircraft that is trying to be a car too, but the fully electric "Zee.Aero" looks more like a drone accompanied with a vehicle functionality.

I believe that Larry Page had a fantasy of a flying car filling our blue skies in the future as his inner child from past memories of watching

"The Jetsons" cartoon and "Back To Future" movie

Uber is taking a shot in this transition to become part of it. As reported by Wikipedia, the Californian startup that started from 10 years ago by two young men as online limo service, but now they are trying to make a big fortune from this type of product. Uber hired a former NASA engineer Mark Moore to make flying cars a reality. They might hit the jackpot by benefiting from 30 years of engineering expertise in America's space agency, but the good news that this man is positioned as a director of engineer to lead the project "Uber Elevate." In 2010 at NASA, according to Bloomberg, he revealed some kind of blueprint "Whitepaper" of a fully electric aircraft that acts like a helicopter while taking off or even landing vertically, so Uber takes this ambition and adds up some wheels to this optimistic project to become something we all know as "Flying Car."

According to Bloomberg, Moore said that it is possible to have "fully functional and well produced Flying Cars within one to three years."

Other companies cited by Bloomberg with work in progress include:

Terrafugia: The TF-X, is the first flying car manufactured by "Terrafugia Corp." The Prototype currently exists, but the final consumer version will launch somewhere in 2026, and pricing is a little bit steep "\$120,000," which will be considered expensive for many people. This vehicle could carry up to four passengers.

AeroMobil: AeroMobil released two concept versions of their vehicle in the last few years code name "AeroMobil 1.0 and recent the iteration 2.0." The final volume production will be available sometime in 2018/2019, but this one really breaks the bank of a total price of "\$400,000" for just four seats too. This craft



could travel from "New York" to "Toronto" as the company claims in their final version "3.0."

There is much bigger problem that Google, Uber, and other corporations should think about the risks of opening a new market category that will make them face lots of challenges from the government standpoint, and both the automotive and aviation industries. This new market sector might be a great profitable and successful idea, but so risky at the same time. The question is: is it worth the try?

## HCCC participates in the National Harvard model U.N. conference



MODEL U.N. CLUB  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On February 16-19, 2017 four Hudson County Community College students who are members of the Hudson County Community College Model UN Club, and their advisor attended the 2017 National Harvard Model UN Conference. Pictured left to right: Brandon Wang, Sheryl Romua, Joseph Lombardi, Genesis Santos, and Joseph Caniglia.

The National Harvard Model UN was established in 1955. The National Harvard Model UN is the largest, oldest, and most prominent conference of its kind. The conference brings 3000 students and faculty together from colleges and universities from around the world to simulate the activities of the United Nations.

The National Harvard Model UN conference also gives all participants the opportunity to experience the challenges of the United Nations. Hudson County Community College students did an outstanding job in actively participating in the resolution of important global issues. They actively participated in working with thousands of other motivated college students with the common goals of furthering international awareness.

## BEING BLACK ||CONT. FROM PG. 1

However, I cannot blast rock music in public, as opposed to blasting rap music. People label rock music as "white people music", and I find that to be unfair. For me personally, I listen to rap and rock religiously, but for the most part, I listen to anything I find appealing. No one should limit themselves when it comes to music. It is one of the great luxuries we have in this world, and I will not be a prisoner of my culture or the moment. I believe that music is made for everyone.

Yes, I do understand that certain genres of music embrace certain types of culture, but what is wrong with embracing different cultures? It seems to be okay, only if you are embracing hip hop. Hip hop is universally loved, despite it being embedded in African American culture. In spite of that, I will not call someone who's white a "black boy/girl" for their music of choice, and neither should someone else. It is called culture appreciation, and it basically speaks for itself. It is controversial to say it is culture appreciation, but if people outside of African American culture are embracing hip hop, we must be doing something right, right?

For those who have called me a "white boy" in the past, I have a message for every single one of you. If you call me a "white boy", I laugh, but what you don't know is that I am laughing at your ignorance. If you call me a "white

boy", when there comes a time where one of us are killed due to negligence, do not speak on it. You said I talk white, so you obviously see the rest of my race in the same light, and that is being unable to see us being eloquent speakers. If you called me a "white boy", save those "shout me out on ESPN" requests, I will get that job for a reason, and it will be because I spoke like an educated black man, you know, what you would call "talking white". Also, if you ever called me a "white boy", if you ever get into different genres of music, apologize and thank me, I put you on.

For my fellow brothers that have been discriminated against by your peers, you are not alone. Never apologize for being educated and different. Being different makes the world go around, and you expose the ignorance of others. You are good company to keep around due to your open-mindedness, and those who judge you do not understand you. That is completely fine, never keep around anyone who questions your devotion due to your culture because you are simply different. In closing, I am a proud, pro-black man, who's different from the most, but make no mistake about it, I love being this way, and I for sure would not have it any other way.



## 'Moonlight' wins after 'Lala Land' blunder

OMAR DWIDAR  
STAFF WRITER

This great ceremony began when Justin Timberlake fired up the stage with his song "Can't Stop the Feeling" from *The Trolls Movie*. Then, Jimmy Kimmel took the stage with some jokes, and started teasing his friend Matt Damon so badly throughout the whole show.

He also showcased an Oscar Edition of his "Mean Tweets" section from his show *Jimmy Kimmel Live* for celebrities like: Ryan Gosling, Robert De Niro, Emma Stone, Samuel L. Jackson, Jeff Bridges, Tilda Swinton, and Casey Affleck.

The team behind organizing the Dolby Theater were able to make certain modifications to the ceiling by making it rains bag's of Junior Mint candy, and some popcorn and donuts during the 89th Anniversary of this year's Oscars.

There was lots of predictions, and assumptions from the movie nominations that Amazon Studios could win its first film award as they had produced their very first movie "Manchester By The Sea." Actually, they did win two awards: Best Original Screenplay, and Best Actor-Casey Affleck.

LA LA Land has broken the record -- as by now this movie is considered to be one of the best musical movies ever created for the silver screen that has gathered 14 nominations and won 5 awards: Best Production Design, Original Score, Original Song, Cinematography, and Best Director.

Pricewaterhousecoopers was responsible for a huge mistake by giving LA LA Land the award for best picture instead of Moonlight,



which actually embarrassed both LA LA Land and Moonlight film teams in front of the whole Hollywood universe and the entire world. The incident occurred when Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway announced the wrong winner, which was also an embarrassing and humiliating moment for them too, but the company has admitted the mistake and apologized for the misunderstanding that wasn't a great image for the history of the Oscars. The hall of famer Sting performed an unplugged song with his acoustic guitar, and John Legend sang "City of Stars" from the LA LA

Land soundtrack.

Kimmel tried something new, a joke, by bringing random people from a tour bus in Hollywood in the middle of the show as a surprise, which they had no idea where they were going, but what came in mind is that they felt it was part of the tour not actually visiting the Dolby Theater during a main event like the "The Oscars."

Seth Rogen and Michael J. Fox came out on stage with a DeLorean from the "Back To The Future Movie," besides that Rogen was wearing Nike's new Air MAG Self-Lacing sneakers, which were inspired from the movie, and now it exists for sale on the market with a hefty price of about \$81,000 just for a pair of sneakers -- but if you need a cheaper option they also offer one with a shorter neck as a regular sneaker Nike Hyperadapt 1.0 that costs \$720.

Katherine Johnson came to the Oscars as an honor for her past achievements in NASA as a physicist and mathematician, and one of the five inspired characters in the movie *Hidden Figures* that was based on true events of the first five African-American women who worked as engineers for NASA.

Image Courtesy of Pixabay.com



Public image courtesy of National Museum of American History

## As strong as a woman

MARTINA NEVADO  
STAFF WRITER

Prince Charming does not exist. Getting married with the prince of their dreams and having many children and living happily ever after, was the greatest aspirations of our grandmothers. Today's women want to succeed as men do, and have a husband that supports them in achieving their goals. While there is much to fight yet, the world is changing and there are men that understand the importance of respecting woman's dreams and ideals. There are men that support their wives to fulfill their goals and share the housework with them, too. But Women today are still struggling to achieve equal rights.

Although, women have been suffering ongoing abuse since ancient times and have been used and harassed women have always risen up. In the past, Feminist Movements gained the right to suffrage. One of the famous feminists, Elizabeth Cady Stanton attended the first Women's Rights Conference in Seneca Falls, N.Y. In 1848, denouncing with her "Declaration of Sentiments" the injustices to which women were subjected in society and mistreated by their own husbands. Also Catherine D. DeAngelis reported in "Women's Contribution to the Health of the American Population", that even though women have made a great contribution to health in the American country, their salaries are not equal the ones men receive. Judy Brady states, in her article "I want a wife", that men still want wives at home to serve them.

Why does society continue on preventing women from arising and obtaining what she deserves? It is really humiliating that today women still have to fight for their rights, when every person who has come to this world is born from a woman. The woman is not an accessory that is used and then is thrown away. The woman must understand that she is worth as much as the man and that her value is not in its physical beauty but in the dedication that she puts to be a better version of herself working to achieve her personal and professional goals.

Both, women and men deserves the same respect. The woman is not a minority, the woman is in this world to love, protect and nurture the man since he is born and she deserves to be treated with respect like a human being as the man is. So many times the woman made her voice heard through positive changes that they made for love of humanity. These great women were Mother Teresa, Hellen Keller, Marie Curie, Maya Angelou, Malala, among other anonymous heroes. And more voices will be heard, because the woman that respect herself keep moving forward despite all the barriers and the lack of support in her way to achieve her goals.



# Book Review

JONNATHAN RIERA  
PRODUCTION EDITOR



Image courtesy of emyth.com

**MICHAEL E. GERBER**  
The World's #1 Small Business Guru

The author of *The E Myth Revisited*, Michael Gerber, starts off by stating that 80% of businesses fail within the first 5 years of its existence. Throughout the book the author explains why most businesses do not work and what could be done about it.

The Entrepreneur myth is that most businesses are started by someone with great technical skills, but someone who also lacks business skills. Most new business owners assume that just because they know how to do the technical work that they also know how the business aspect works.

Michael Gerber emphasizes that a solution to this problem is that a new business owner plays 3 important roles -- entrepreneur, manager, and technician. The entrepreneur is the one that innovates that thinks ahead and plans the future of the business. The manager establishes order. The technician does the technical work required for the service or the product being sold.

For example, if Mark the Plumber wants to start his own plumbing business, he has to understand that besides plumbing, he also has to do marketing, finance, managing, innovating, and customer support. All those business owner tasks must be done, either by Mark or by someone helping him. A business can never grow if the business owner is only doing the technical work.

The author suggests that the business owner needs to set-up their business in a way that the business keeps running if the business owner is not present. The book describes this as "Franchise Prototype". Most businesses that do succeed are franchises, because those businesses already have a manual with details on how everything should run. If you visit a Subway in Texas and then you visit a Subway in Mexico, you will have the same experience. In conclusion, the book suggests that every entrepreneur should setup their business like if it were going to be a franchise, and that current and future business owners should understand that a business can't grow if the business owner is only doing the technical work.

## Snap Inc. goes public—controversy strikes

JONNATHAN RIERA  
PRODUCTION EDITOR

On March 2, 2017, the parent company of Snapchat, Snap Inc. went public, and now has shares available in the stock market. According to [investing.com](http://investing.com), Snap's IPO is a very big deal, it is the first major social media IPO since Twitter.

It is also a very controversial IPO. Many analyst and stakeholders are either in-favor or skeptical about Snapchat. Something that we have all learned from the past is that social media networks can be hot one day and can be gone the next day.

Look at Myspace, Meerkat, and Vine for example. At one point all of these social media platforms were extremely popular and valuable, but they all disappeared either because of competition or lack of innovation.

Business Insider states that many experienced investors are skeptical about Snap's IPO because it is unprofitable, and actually losing money. Snap reported that in 2016 the company had a net loss of \$513.6 million, over 100 million more than in 2015. CEO Evan Spiegel also stated that Snap may not see any profits soon, as it continues to reinvest into the company. Spiegel also stated that Snap is not a social media company but it is a 'camera company'.

The elephant in the room that many people are disregarding is tech giant Facebook. Besides having their own social media platform, Facebook also owns two other big players, WhatsApp and Instagram.

When all combined, there are over 2 billion monthly active users on its platforms. Facebook recently updated Messenger, Whatsapp, and Instagram with "disappearing stories". A feature that was once unique and made Snapchat one of a kind,

Although there are many reasons to be concerned about the future of Snap, we have to look at the bright side, it is a young company with a lot of potential and great talent. It is the digital age, and that seems to mean that anything goes.

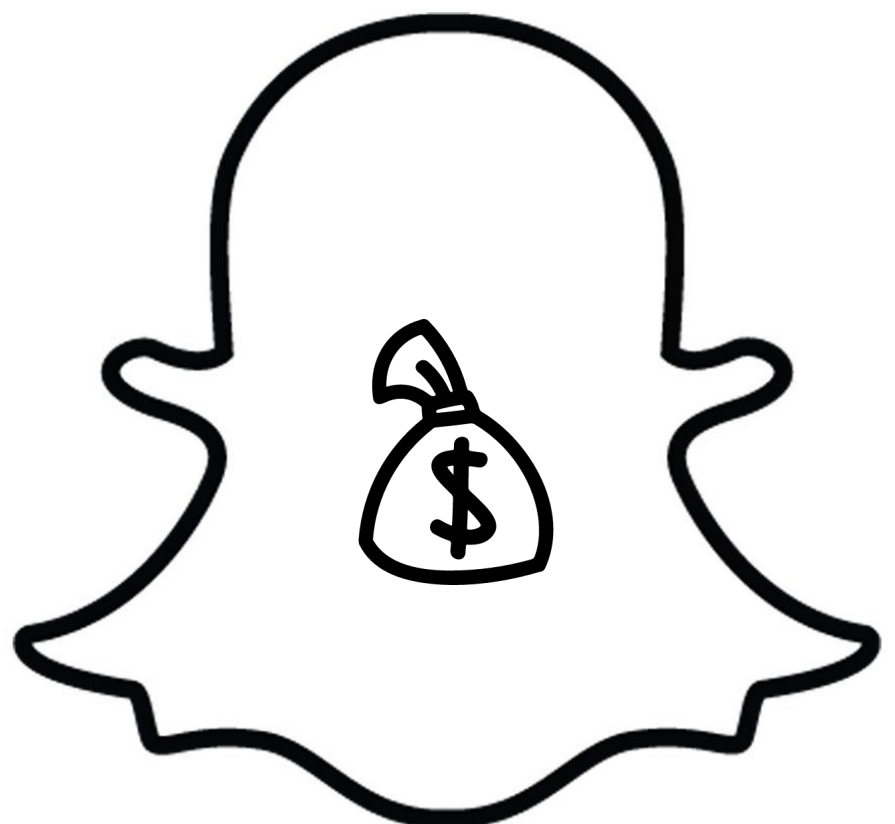


Image Courtesy of Snap.com





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## HCCC Office of Student Activities hosts Transfer Fair



Images courtesy of Christopher Rodgers

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## Pre-Season Major League Baseball Predictions

BRANDON CAULEY  
STAFF WRITER

Oh, it is the most wonderful time of the year. With Spring Training on the horizon, it is safe to say baseball has returned. There are a couple of glaring storylines coming into the 2017 campaign. The most obvious, and it pains me as a Cardinals fan to say, but how will the Chicago Cubs perform in the defense of their World Series championship. Are we in the making of a dynasty? I wouldn't doubt it.

The Dodgers have been a team that has never been afraid to spend money, but they have not been able to even reach the World Series. Is their championship window closing? The Boston Red Sox have a rotation featuring last year's CY Young winner Rick Porcello, along with David Price, and newly acquired Chris Sale. Can the Sox ride their star-studded rotation to the World Series?

And finally, where do the marquee franchises stand this season? The NY Yankees, St.

Louis Cardinals, Washington Nationals, San Francisco Giants, and the Detroit Tigers are all teams that have had their share of success in the past couple of years, but how will these teams bounce back and remain in contention? So many questions, I can go on for days, but I will make some predictions for both National League and American League, awards, and of course, the World Series. **NL Predictions**

NLCS: St. Louis Cardinals vs Chicago Cubs  
Pennant: Chicago Cubs  
MVP: Kris Bryant  
Cy Young: Clayton Kershaw  
Rookie of the Year: Dansby Swanson  
Manager of the Year: Don Mattingly  
Bold Predictions (2): The Atlanta Braves break in the new stadium by finishing over .500.

Trevor Story (if healthy) will hit 50 home runs.

### AL Predictions

ALCS: New York Yankees vs Cleveland Indians  
Pennant: Cleveland Indians  
MVP: Mike Trout  
Cy Young: Chris Sale

Rookie of the Year: Andrew Benintendi  
Manager of the Year: Scott Servais  
Bold Predictions (2): Miguel Cabrera will headline trade talks in July.  
Tampa Bay Rays will have the worst record in the league.

My World Series prediction? The Indians get their revenge. I think a rematch between the two is inevitable. Although I do have the Yankees in the ALCS, the Indians do have competition in form the Red Sox and Rangers. However, the Indians are the best team in the American League, and the sky the limit, IF healthy. The Cubs seem to be on a collision course to the World Series in the National League. The Dodgers and Nationals will probably win their respective divisions, but I do not trust them to reach that brass ring again. With the winning pedigree of the Cardinals and SF Giants, you would have to think they are the biggest threats to dethrone the Cubs. 2017 is a year that will be built with surprises, and I cannot wait to see how it unfolds.

Image Courtesy of mlb.com

## March Madness, opening rounds— best weekend in sports

CHRISTOPHER RODGERS  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament Championship – also known as “March Madness” – is about ready to tip off its nearly month-long extravaganza of highlight reel plays, upset wins and buzzer-beating shots to crown the best collegiate “hoops” team in the land.

The first two rounds of this annual tournament -- which takes place this year, Thursday March 16 through Sunday March 19 – is absolutely the most exciting and satisfying weekend of the entire calendar year for sports fans.

The games begin on Thursday and Friday at 12 noon and last all day with the last slate of games scheduled to begin at 9:50 p.m. After the eventual field of 64 teams is narrowed down to 32 they will play the second round on Saturday and Sunday. That's a mind-blowing 48 games on the docket for basketball fans to watch and enjoy over the course of the weekend.

This makes for an incredible 4 days of non-stop action and if you're a fan of college basketball or sports in general there is no better stretch to post up on the couch and score a long weekend full of fun.

Think about it. The Super Bowl is one day long. The College Football Championship is decided in 3 games on 2 days. The World Series takes place over the course of a few weeks, and same is the case with the NBA Finals and NHL. So, if the question is what is the best weekend in sports, then the answer remains the opening rounds of the NCAA basketball tournament.

CBS knows this to be true. In 2016, they inked a deal to keep the rights to broadcast the NCAA basketball tournament through the 2032 season at a staggering price of 1.1 billion per year. The deal also includes the rights to digital broad-



casts and yet to be invented technology as well as partners with TBS, TNT and TruTV.

So, sports fans, break out your brackets, download your apps and enter your office pools. March Madness is here and the greatness of its opening weekend is upon us. Enjoy!

Writer's Final Four Picks: Duke, Arizona, Kentucky, Kansas

Photo courtesy of ncaa.com



# Four teams that could win the NCAA tournament



MICHAEL PARDAL  
STAFF WRITER



March Madness is finally here and it is that time of year for many fans to fill out plenty of brackets before it actually starts on March 14. It is still very early to determine which school will win the tournament since they have not been officially selected yet. Instead of sharing my predictions, I will share my favorites to make a serious run in the tournament.

## UCLA

UCLA will be one of the schools headlining the Midwest region of the tournament. They are led by their star All-American point guard and possible #1 overall pick in the 2017 NBA Draft, Lonzo Ball. The Bruins are ranked 3rd in the NCAA Men's Basketball AP Top 25 while they are also projected to be the 3rd seed in the Midwest going up against the 14th seed. Fans should expect the Bruins high scoring offense to advance to the Elite 8 while Ball will be dominating. Teams that can contain him can potentially knock them off early.

## Duke

Duke University is considered in the mix of being favorites every year even though they are the lowest nationally ranked team out of my favorites sitting at 14. Duke have arguably the greatest men's college basketball coach of all time in Mike Krzyzewski so expect them to also make it deep into the tournament like they do most years while sophomore guard Luke Kennard will be leading the team on the court. Kennard was the 31st Duke player receive All-American honors under coach Krzyzewski. The underdeveloped frontcourt must be able to guard in the post if they want to get far and beat teams that have strong frontcourt players like North Carolina. Health of the players will determine where they will end up in the tournament.

## Villanova

When fans fill out their brackets, they should always be cautious of picking the one seed to win it all. Since Villanova are reigning champions, they are automatically favorites

even though a school has not won back to back championships since Florida did it in 2006 and 2007. They currently sit at #2 in the AP Top 25 just behind Kansas. Villanova is led by Big East first team guards Josh Hart and Jalen Brunson. Hart is also an All-American. Villanova can certainly make history this year if teams do not be careful.

## North Carolina

The North Carolina Tar Heels have arguably one of the best frontcourts in the NCAA. The frontcourt's dominate overall rebounding can be a nightmare for other teams in the tournament. They are led by ACC Player of the Year forward Justin Jackson who is also a potential #1 overall draft pick. North Carolina is well-balanced team on both sides of the ball leaving them with very few weaknesses. For fans filling out brackets, this could possibly be North Carolina's year.

Image courtesy of UCLA, Duke, Villanova, and North Carolina University

# Why James Harden will win NBA MVP

CHRISTOPHER RODGERS  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Roughly 65 games into the NBA season, most of the conversation surrounding the race for league MVP revolves around Russell Westbrook of the Oklahoma City Thunder, and rightfully so.

Westbrook, who is on pace to be the first player to average a triple double for an entire NBA season since Oscar Robertson of the then Cincinnati Royals did in 1962, is performing on a once in a generation type statistical level that may in fact never be equaled. According to ESPN.com he is currently averaging 32.1 points, 10.5 rebounds and 10 assists per game.

But, is history against Westbrook? No MVP winner has played on a sub 50-win team since Moses Malone (76ers) in 1982. And with the Thunder on pace to finish victorious less than 50 times ... Enter "The Beard."

James Harden, of the Houston Rockets, is quietly having possibly the most impressive season since Robertson as well. It just so happens that his 2017 NBA MVP campaign is coinciding with his former teammate Westbrook's monster year. According to ESPN.com Harden is averaging a hefty 29.1 points, 7.9 rebounds and a league leading 11.2 assists per game.

The catch here is that Harden and the Rockets are on pace for 55+ wins and are shaping up to be formidable contenders in the ever-stacked western conference which al-

ready contains -- with all due respect to the defending champion Cleveland Cavaliers -- the NBA's two best teams, the Golden State Warriors and the San Antonio Spurs.

Harden is enjoying a rebirth of sorts on the hardwood as well. His surprising move from shooting guard to point guard, pre-season -- which was designed by first year coach Mike D'Antoni of spread pick-and-roll fame -- has been a wildly successful one. Playing Harden at point puts the ball in the hands of one of the NBA's most dominant scorers more often and allows "The Beard," who has an incredibly high basketball I.Q. to begin with, to control the flow of the game on a full-time basis.

The "triple-double" statistic has been a good way to measure players this season. According to SBnation.com, The NBA as a whole has 79 triple-doubles so far this year. This breaks the record of 78 which was set in 1988 and keep in mind that it is only March.

Westbrook has a staggering 30 triple-doubles compared to 15 -- which just might lead the league in any other year -- for Harden. But Harden, has by far the most impressive one.

On Jan 31, Harden notched a triple double against the New York Knicks where he was responsible for an unbelievable 95 points. According to CBSsports.com Harden scored 53 points, grabbed 16 rebounds and dished out 17 assists -- 8 of which were delivered to players who knocked down three-pointers. This makes Harden's New Year's Eve performance the closest thing to Wilt Chamberlain's 100 points scored on March 2, 1962. Chamberlain, an NBA legend, and one of its 50 greatest players of all time was a 4

time league MVP and any comparisons to him must translate into consideration for this year's award for Harden.

It is hard to argue that any player in the NBA is more valuable to their team than James Harden and the award most often goes to a player from a championship contender. As every day passes the Houston Rockets look more and more like one of the NBA's best teams. The same cannot be said about the Oklahoma City Thunder and this is exactly why "The Beard" will end up stealing the hardware from Russ come June.



Image Courtesy Of Houston Style Magazine