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History Alive!

The Providence College History Club Newsletter
Vol. I No. 2

October 22, 1997

- **Welcome to the Providence College History Club!**

We will be having an exciting year of trips, lectures, and other special events and are anxious to include you and hear your input on activities. This year's officers are President Ted Hutchinson, '98; Vice-President Tom Lyman, '99; and Treasurer Matt Sylvia, '98. If you would like to help in the planning and organization of events, suggestion of ideas, or mention anything at all that may be of interest to you, please call **Ted** at x3499 for lectures/organization, **Tom** at x3036 for events/outside trips, or **Matt** at x3775 for fundraising/finances. Our Moderator is **Dr. Grzebien** of the History Department, who can be reached at x2012.

- **Dr. James McPherson of Princeton U., Pulitzer Prize Winner, to speak on Oct. 27**

The biggest event in recent History Club years will take place on **OCTOBER 27, 1997**, at 7:30pm, in '64 Hall in Slavin Center. Dr. McPherson has drawn crowds numbering in the thousands with his stirring Civil War lectures. Many resources were pulled for this event to become reality. The title of his lecture is "Was Blood Thicker than Water? Civic and Ethnic Nationalism in the Civil War." There will be **no cost for those attending!** McPherson has been credited with helping to popularize Civil War history, in part with his Pulitzer Prize winning work, The Battle Cry of Freedom, seen on bestseller shelves everywhere.

We will need **all hands on deck** for this event! Mailbox stuffing, sign-hanging, and word-of-mouth promotion, and other tasks will need helpers. The Owl will be writing an article, and publishing a spot in Clubs and Orgs. With a national-class speaker such as McPherson, there is no excuse for not having a capacity audience.

- **\$Finances and Fundraising\$**

Our Student Congress allocation was \$200.00, which is twice what it was last year. In order to acquire higher amounts, we must prove that we spent all our previous allocation and would need more in the future. Any fundraising ideas are welcome. More money helps to defray the costs of trips or events we bring onto campus.

- **Trips and Activities**

On September 27, several of us joined Dr. Manchester and Dr. Grzebien at the John Brown House for a fantastic tour and presentation by the Rhode Island Historical Society. The mansion got rave reviews from all, and the tour guides ranked top-notch. Thank you to Dr. Manchester for organizing the event and getting it free of cost! (Over for more)

More on Possible Trips...

We are in the process of organizing future trips, but Dr. McPherson is currently taking precedence. Ideas we have are an Afternoon on Benefit St., here in Providence, to visit historical art and architectural sites such as the RISD Museum, Stephen Hopkins House, First Baptist Meeting House, and many others.

We are planning a trip to the **RI State House**, but currently major repairs are going on there, and Sen. Goodwin suggests we wait until late Nov./early Dec.

For fans of Victorian and Renaissance Revival periods, the **Gov. Henry Lippitt House Museum** would be of interest. They also offer many cultural/historical events such as "Suites for Sundays"--chamber music and historical theatrical shows.

For the industrialist, Pawtucket offers the **Slater Mill Historic Site**--THE first modern factory in the U.S., as well as a **Walking Tour of the Church Hill Industrial District**. Pawtucket also boasts some great architecture on **Quality Hill** in Victorian and Colonial Revival styles.

For those rural in mind, **Lincoln, RI** offers **Great Road**--a few miles of historic homes, a toll-house, a meeting house, and a blacksmith shop.

If you like the finer things, it is always easy to arrange a tour of any of the **Newport Mansions**--The Breakers is my favorite being part Italian, Marble House with all its gold and marble is quite the sight, and Rosecliff brings to mind scenes from "The Great Gatsby."

For the more urban, **Boston** is only an hour away. If transportation is not available for a large group, Bonanza Bus runs a convenient express to Boston on the half hour from Kennedy Plaza for only \$12.75 round trip. If we go on a weekday afternoon, I (Tom) can take the group on a **VIP tour of the Massachusetts State House**, where I have been on the Tours staff for several years. I am also qualified to give tours of the historic **Beacon Hill** neighborhood adjacent to the State House, with Federal and Greek Revival styles, homes of today's rich and famous, the firehouse site of MTV's "Real World" taping, homes of prominent women in Boston's past, the African Meeting House, and Vilna Shul, the last remaining historic ethnic synagogue in Downtown Boston. I have also given tours of **all of Boston Proper**, from Downtown, to the Back Bay, South End, North End, Waterfront--including history, incredible art and architecture, the newly opened Custom House tower observatory, churches, historic parks, sculpture, river views, eating places, , and a ride on the nation's oldest subway line. This would be a low cost trip to do.

• *It's your club--we'll do what you want to do!*

Any ideas and suggestions will be taken seriously--*please* let us know what you think of our ideas listed above. In place of having a meeting where there is not much to say, **CALL TOM LYMAN at x3036 TO LET US KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO DO AS SOON AS YOU GET "History Alive!"** ~~When you call me for a meeting, there is no History Club!~~ It is OK to leave a message--please do so if I'm away.

• *History Alive! A forum for historical discussion?*

We would like to expand our newsletter to include items of general historical interest for discussion, debate, and reflection. Call Tom at x 3036 with your ideas and suggestions. This could be a great new activity for those who love history!

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Edited by Tom Lyman, 99. Advising Editor--Dr. Grzhan.
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