

1919

1995

# The Cowl



Vol. LIX No. 22

OPEN HOUSE ISSUE

April 1995

## PC women celebrate 20 years

Judith Colonna '95

News Writer

Twenty years ago, 190 women sat among their male classmates, preparing for the same goal: graduation. It may not appear to be anything special, but in Providence College history, it marks a revolution. For the first time, PC was graduating a class of both men and women, establishing the end of an all-male academic institution.

Though 1975 was technically the first year PC graduated a class where women had completed a four-year academic program, it was not the first time women attended school. In fact, the first students to ever receive credit for PC courses were women.

Established for the purpose of education poor to middle-class, Catholic, male immigrants, Providence College was incorporated by RI Legislature as an education institution by February 14, 1917. At this point, PC consisted of 18 acres of land and one administrative building. Plans for the official opening day of the college were set for the fall of 1918. Unfortunately, however, World War I postponed the opening for a full year. Because of the setback, priests travelled to the local convents and taught the nuns who were interested in furthering their education, giving them a

status equivalent to those in the School of Continuing Education. By the fall of 1919, seventy-one males joined nine Dominican faculty members in commencing the "official" opening day of PC.

Many years passed, and though there would be an occasional female transfer student,

ration of a new college president, Fr. Thomas R. Peterson, and the acceptance of females into the freshman class.

Committed to making Providence College a complete success, Fr. Peterson served as the female liaison between the committee (alumni, faculty, and the students) and the female stu-

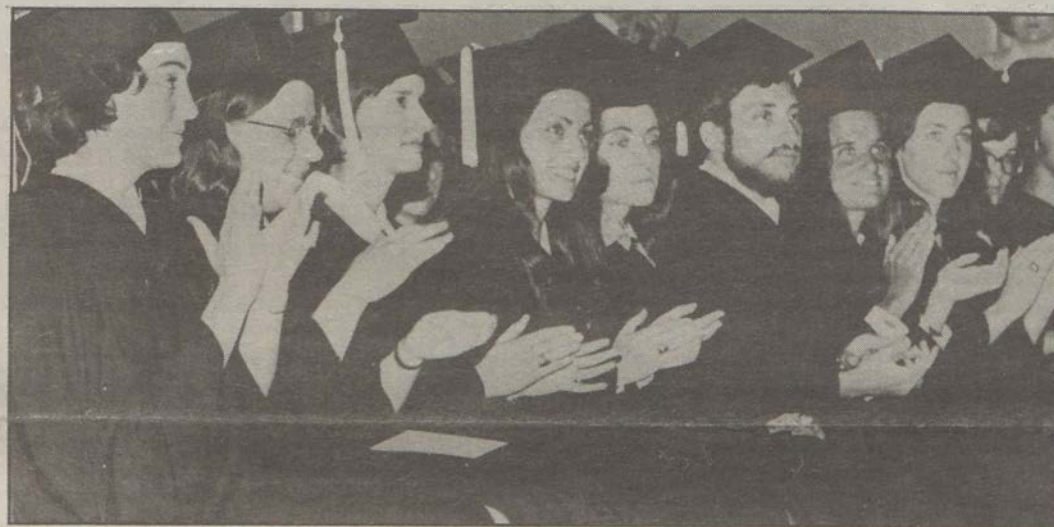
rial of women to the PC campus. Though some believed becoming co-ed was a necessity, not only for social needs, but also for economic ones, some thought it was an uncomfortable necessity - "If I went to an all-male institution, so can everyone else." Many people didn't even think the change would

of the 6 female RAs and a full-time graduate student, remembers, "The boys all showed up outside of Aquinas in suits and ties, willing to carry our luggage and anxious to introduce themselves." The men would even open doors and pull out chairs for their new schoolmates.

And though chivalry was not dead and the females appeared to "have it easy," PC enforced many strict rules on the new Lady Friars. For one, all shades in every dorm room had to be drawn by 6pm - no matter what time of the year. Secondly, if one intended on leaving the building after 6pm, it was mandatory to sign out first, and in upon returning to the dorm. And living as the only females on campus, one definitely, as Dean Ingram stated, "had no anonymity; you were constantly watched and looked at, and everyone knew who you were." And despite the "open-mindedness" of the existing community members, women were occasionally referred to as a pronoun (she/her), and Dr. McCaffrey recalls it taking 6 weeks before curtains were put up in the showers, terminating the "male-idea" of bathing.

Dr. Jane Perel, who also joined the PC community in '71 as the second female to enter the English Department, can remember when her male, faculty peers would continually ask her

continued on page 2



PC graduated their first females in 1975.

PC remained an all-male institution. With society changing and other single-sexed colleges becoming co-ed, however, the college was experiencing a decline in its enrollment numbers. Thus, in 1971, PC underwent structural changes. The year marked the beginning of the Western Civilization program, the resurrection of the library and Slavin Center, the inaugu-

rents, representing any problems that may occur. Interestingly enough, there was an escalation in the quality of life at PC and of the attending students. As one male alumnus stated, "I can recall how the campus felt 'more humane' when the women arrived."

The warm feeling, however, was not felt by all; many alumni and lay faculty opposed the ar-

last. As Dean Wanda Inrgam, a member of the Class of '75 recalls, "If someone didn't like you or want to accept you, believe me, they'd let you know!"

Overall, however, the change was welcomed by the majority of returning students that year. Dr. Donna McCaffrey, who also arrived at the PC campus in '71 as one

## Alternative Action

### Habitat for Humanity builds more than just houses

Kristen Garipey '95

Editor-in-Chief

If you're ever looking for a heated debate, try the hallway outside *The Cowl* office on Monday nights. Every week, our editorial staff meets and discusses their articles - most of which focus on national topics such as politics and social issues. As editor, I am supposed to offer my input during these meetings, but several months ago I made the decision to abstain from discussing article ideas with the writers.

I based my decision on the fact that I don't believe I am a very opinionated person. Sure, I enjoy listening to two writers battle for or against the need for welfare reform, but I do not choose a side. Don't get me wrong, just because I avoid a concrete stance doesn't label me unintelligent. I consider my intelligence the fact that I listen to all sides of

an issue and attempt to broaden my knowledge, but refrain from consistently arguing against another's opinions.

My whole attitude on personal opinions changed over Spring Break. In early November, I was accepted to participate in the Habitat for Humanity Alternative Spring Break trip to Homestead, Florida. (There were also three other trips - to Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and West Virginia.) I had no clue what to expect during the trip and I was hardly one to lend a "helping hand" prior to my acceptance. All I knew was that I was going to Florida to rebuild after the destruction of Hurricane Andrew two years ago - a storm that hit southern Florida while I was vacationing there during the summer of 1992.

In order for these trips to take place, the 52 participants had to raise \$16,000. Luckily, we were successful (and then

continued on page 2



Members of Habitat for Humanity rebuild a termite-eaten floor.



# Alternative Action

continued from page 1

some). The fifteen of us in Florida stayed at an ICARE (Interfaith Coalition for Andrew Recovery Effort) site for the entire week. We slept on cots in cabins and woke every morning at 6:30 am to prepare for a day of work - tasks which ranged from painting to plumbing to electrical work to rebuilding floors and walls.

There were about 250 other volunteers, including students from the University of Illinois and senior citizen couples who devoted their winter months to reconstructing Andrew's devastating destruction. On our first night, the director of the compound explained how Andrew destroyed over 58,000 homes. In other words, envision approximately the entire city of Providence suddenly being left homeless.

A home I worked on for four of the five days was owned by a disabled woman named Maryon, who had no home insurance at the time of the storm. Her walls were destroyed by water damage and her floors were collapsing due to termites. We began working on her house on Monday by ripping out all of her kitchen and bathroom (walls, counters, sinks, toilets - everything). Tuesday through Thursday found us taking out all the rug, replastering and painting walls, and repainting the entire outside of the house. By Friday, she had a brand-new kitchen, bathroom, and floors in three of the rooms. The contractors we worked with are still helping other college volunteers finish the work we started.

Another home we worked on was in its final stages. The owner, Patty, and her three children, had been living out of a camper in her front yard since Andrew destroyed her roof and walls. We arrived in time to see the outside of the house painted, new rug placed, and her smiling face the day she moved in.

A week after returning from Homestead, I am still surprised at how much the trip changed me. Before I left, I was skeptical about helping the homeless and the poor. I was unsure of my stance on welfare and whether it was effective in the struggle to end poverty. Now I return with my first solid opinion ever: Americans need to help Americans - however they can. Sure, we need to develop stronger family values and focus on fair education for all, but more importantly, we need to lend a hand.

I still love to hear members of my staff debate, but I have developed a new attitude. Talking is the best way to develop intellectual and strong opinions, but we can write 1000 articles stressing our opinions. It is only when you put your words into action that they actually mean something - to you and others.

# PC women celebrate 20 years

continued from page 1

to be the secretary for their meetings and take down the minutes. "I guess I was so fed up with them asking me," she recalls, "that when I refused to do it one day, they saw how upset I was and didn't ask me for about three years."

The women of the class of '75, however, must be acknowledged for more than just the first to go through 4 years at PC. Today, among the women are lawyers, doctors, artists, and judges. They were "pioneers, part of a close fellowship of females and a wonderfully unique group," comments Dean Ingram. "The first class of women," stated Dr. Perel, "was a strong, eager, bright group of students, and I'm proud of their accomplishments and contributions they have given to this campus."

From those 190 women, PC today consists of 3600 students,

53% of which are women. In the Freshmen class, alone, 2100 males applied and 352 enrolled. These numbers are compared to the 2710 females who applied, and the 511 that enrolled. With this information, and the past 20 years of history in mind, it's clear to see the change did last and is felt stronger in recent years than ever.

So, as May 1995 comes around, congratulate the approximately 845 students graduating from PC. But to honor the 20th anniversary of the first graduating class of women, give an extra "congratulations" to the approximately 480 women who will be walking across the stage at the Civic Center, representing the 20 years of PC's true excellence as a well-rounded academic institution. And remember, "We are women, hear us ROAR!"

# Blackfriars theater presents Little Women

Mark Cybulski '95

A&E Editor

Adapting one of the most famous novels in American literature to the stage is both an arduous and difficult task. The Blackfriars Theatre has met this challenge with their current production of *Little Women*, their final show of the 1994-95 academic year. While inconsistent in some places, the show featured the usual strong performances by the Blackfriars' cast members along with some ambitious directing by Mary Farrell of the Theater Arts Department.

Set in the heart of New England during the Civil War, *Little Women* is centered around the lives of four sisters as they each come of age in the patriarchal Victorian society. Jo (Jeanine L. Cappello) is tomboyish and has the potential to be a great writer, but puts the needs of her family in front of her own. Meg (Megan Gibbons) is the oldest and is preoccupied with typical teen adolescent activities. Beth (Elizabeth A. Brady) is very shy and sickly, and Amy (Mary Jo Bennett) is the young naive one who is the butt of every joke. The family bond is wearily held together by their mother, Marmee (Jennifer O'Donnell), whose main concern is the status of her husband who is off fighting in the Civil War. Louisa May Alcott (Beth Ford) serves as the omnipresent narrator throughout the play. Ford also plays other minor characters as they periodically appear in the play.

*Little Women* follows the development of the March girls as they grow into adulthood. Jo develops a relationship with Laurie (F. Michael Scafati), that eventually grows into his unrequited love for her. Jo finally goes to New York to develop her writing abilities and meets and falls in love with Professor Bhaer (Heath A. Tiberio). Meg marries Laurie's teacher, John Brooke (Stephen B. Radochia) and Amy eventually ends up with Laurie. Beth dies from complications of scarlet fever.

The highlight of *Little Women* came from the performances of the players. Beth Ford was outstanding in the role of Louisa May Alcott. Her character held the play together and made the show easier to follow. She was also terrific in the other roles she played, particularly as the girls' wretched old aunt. Jeanine L. Cappello was also good in the role of Jo as she exhibited her characters' strengths and vulnerabilities very well. Elizabeth A. Brady gave a particularly strong performance as Beth. She did an excellent job of showing her character's introverted personality. Megan Gibbons and Mary



*Little Women* is playing at PC March 30, April 1, 2 and 7, 8, 9.

Jo Bennett respectively portrayed the characters of Meg and Amy very nicely. Despite her character being downplayed in this adaptation, Jennifer O'Donnell did a fine job as Marmee. F. Michael Scafati brought a lot of spirit and energy to the role of Laurie and brought his acting abilities to a new level. Heath A. Tiberio, Eric Cutler, Rodrick Stuart Cappiello, Nicholas J. Shabrack and Amanda Blake Davis all deserve recognition for their strong performances in supporting roles. The beautiful singing of Stephanie Kraus and the eloquent piano and guitar playing by Jennifer Osean and Richard A. Brewer were also nice touches to the performance.

Mary Farrell's direction and adaptation of *Little Women* offered both high points and low points. Her inclusion of Louisa May Alcott as the narrator added much in terms of helping the audience follow the story and also enabled us to draw clearer parallels between Alcott and Jo. Farrell also chose to work with a bare stage and added different settings and props as they were needed. This also worked well as it gave the show a great deal of freedom without being restricted to one primary setting. Brian Jones' lighting and scenery were superb and David Costa-Cabral's costumes were as they truly seemed to fit each character's personality. The show's casting also could not have been better. Everybody seemed to be perfectly fit to play their respective parts, particularly in the cases of Elizabeth A. Brady as Beth and Mary Jo Bennett as Amy.

Although *Little Women* had several positive aspects about it, there were some inconsistencies

in the adaptation of Alcott's novel. One part of the play that suffered was the lack of a build up to the tension of Laurie and Jo's relationship. It would have been much more interesting to see more time devoted to this facet of the story. The interesting bond between Jo and Laurie seemed to take a back seat to the sappy camaraderie between the March sisters. Farrell seemed to love the sentimentality of the story so much that the show bordered on being melodramatic.

The lack of the impact of male characters on the female characters was also rather confusing. The exclusion of the sisters' father was also a glaring absence. Everybody cries in rejoice as they look offstage and greet him when he returns, but we don't even see or hear about him during the rest of the production. Jo's reaction to her seemingly hopeless romantic situation with Professor Bhaer was also questionable. She spends far too much time lamenting over what it would be like to live alone as an old maid. For a story that is supposed to portray women as being strong and independent, it seems rather ironic that they are at their happiest when they have each found a husband.

Although the Blackfriars' production of *Little Women* is somewhat inconsistent, the show's strong performances cannot be overlooked. If you are looking to see the culmination of talent and hard work by your fellow PC students and the Theater Arts Department, you may want to check out *Little Women*. If you are looking to appreciate Louisa May Alcott's original classic, you may want to check out your local library.



# PC senior researches cure for cancer

Michael Quinn '95

*Asst. A&E Editor*

Earlier this semester, I interviewed Ken Milligan for his achievements with WDOM. While his work with the station has been a great contribution to the school, his future plans involve large contributions to the wellness of people with cancer. Ken has done research several times during college, most recently in Houston over the summer. The following is a discussion of Ken's aspirations and achievements in the field of medicine.

**MQ:** How did you manage to find the job in Houston?

**Ken:** I called a friend in Houston and asked him to look around for opportunities, and he came up with this one. On the application, they wanted to know what other experiences I have had, and the work with the radio station helped immensely. That along with the research I had done during college got me the job.

**MQ:** And I assume you had to write some kind of paper about the internship.

**Ken:** Yes, I did a full paper and a presentation. The paper will be published in a symposium of student research. I worked long hours during the week and came in on Saturdays as well.

**MQ:** Tell me about some specifics — what did you focus on this summer?

**Ken:** I dealt with neuroblastoma. It's the second leading cause of pediatric cancer, and it is the most prominent in

the first year of life. Basically, there is a protein on the surface of a neuroblastoma cell, and I was testing for the binding of monoclonal antibody 5G3 to that protein. My advisor, Dr. Kalpana Mujoo, created and cultivated the 5G3 antibody. We tested it on growing neuroblastoma cells. It was very interesting — we were able to manipulate the binding over the course of the summer.

**MQ:** Did you make any significant progress?

**Ken:** I think that for a student, I did pretty well. I put a lot of time and effort into it, and I guess the other people in the lab were pretty happy with what I did. What I have is a good basis for future research. It's not really substantial on its own, but Dr. Mujoo will be taking up the rest of the research.

**MQ:** Did you work with patients at all?

**Ken:** Our research is a long way from reaching the clinical stage, so I never did anything with that. I worked on the pediatric floor.

**MQ:** You've done previous research up here. Do you notice a difference between the two that may have resulted from the difference in culture or society?

**Ken:** Well, I've only done student research up here: a different setting, different funding, and different motivations. You really can't compare the two.

**MQ:** What have you researched at school?

**Ken:** I've researched medical ethics — specifically, the eugenics movement and

the cloning of human embryos. I had two papers published and gave two presentations on the subjects. Other than that, I've done research on a gastrointestinal illness called Celiac disease. I have a friend who has the disease, so I became interested in how I could make their lives easier back in high school.

**MQ:** Is this how you got interested in science?

**Ken:** My sister was very sick when she was born, and that was probably the first thing, but my friend's sickness also had an influence. I also want to become a doctor because I feel helpless. Right now, I can make a sick child

smile, but I want to help in a more substantial way. I feel I'm on my way, particularly with the help of certain people.

Dr. O'Leary is the first person who believed in me scientifically. He and Father Cassidy have given me help and resources, and I really appreciate them.

**MQ:** What do you think about a cure for cancer?

**Ken:** If people don't get corrupted and focus on their work, and if they don't become pawns for other people's interests, they will find a cure. I was in the



Ken Milligan '95

lab one day and there was a wonderful, older, Southern lady there who used to be a lab tech in the hospital. While she was walking through the room, someone was going on and on about how rich people can get when they make breakthroughs. She just leaned towards the guy and said, "That's why they'll never find a cure." Luckily, there are a lot of good people in the field today.

As far as how far away it is, I don't know. I heard all the latest theories in Houston, along with all the new ideas for treatment. We'll just have to see.

## The Terrible Tryout

Justin Macione '95

*Sports Editor*

Columbus Day weekend is a time when we honor a man who sailed into uncharted waters. Many students also go home to spend time with their families. Coming from an athletic one myself, Saturday morning featured the event which causes my father to value my presence the most, two on two basketball games with us, Uncle Bill, and a friend named Clarc. After draining continuous set shots to retain the father-son dominance, my dad suggested that I test some uncharted waters: try out for the PC Friar basketball team.

My first thought was that if they thought Columbus was stupid in 1492, friends and faces at PC will think that I received a lobotomy last weekend when I voice my idea. However, my three friends tried to convince me, while furthering their personal objectives. My father would have an excuse to shuttle around the east coast to watch Big East basketball games; Uncle Bill, age 34, would be able to relive the college scene after Civic Center Saturday nights; Clarc would assume that a bevy of PC females will be attracted to a benchwarmer who doesn't even need to shower after games, and that he can crash the party. Yet, it occurred to none of them that I was cut

from the Austin Prep high school basketball team every year, including senior year when they finished 0-20.

Once these three figures pushed the impossible dream down my throat, I needed to form a practice plan. Joining the high school legend, Peterson gym rat scene would kill my confidence. Instead, I coerced friends who will play down to my level to accom-

of shots. We're looking for people who will make the commitment, play hard at practice, and maybe get a few shots," he said. Such pep talks gave me realistic hope, since I probably won't get many shots off against this level of competition, never mind taking the ball away from the regulars at practice.

The one hour session's first drill involved strong hand lay-ups, based on the assumption

would figuratively be a man short, every time on the court. Much like Big East opponents would always let Abdul Abdullah take open shots for two years, it seemed as if the opposition didn't care to cover me. One open clanger proved them right.

Some in my situation might have either suffered from manic depression or received an "accidental" trip by an irate

defensive rebound and proceeded to court surf over an opponent's back, onto the rubber floor. This move finally grabbed coach Gillen's eye; "Cut out the fouls." Damn, if only he asked me to identify my last name for the prospect sheet.

Following the scrimmages, coach Gillen thanked all participants and bid us adieu. 3 or 4 chosen ones will receive a reward for their play when they're awarded an all work-no play permit for the season, at the end of the week. The final step in the withdrawal process arrived when trainer "Fast Eddie" Jamiel asked us to return the practice shirts.

Since I haven't received a return call from the Friar coaching staff yet, it looks as if I'll have to accept the disappointment of never having suited up for my high school or college basketball squads. However, the state of denial hasn't left my mind, so I believe that failure is necessary at a final level: the National Basketball Association. Thus, instead of writing resumes and attending job interviews during my senior year of college, my personal voyage forces me to remind Boston Celtics general manager M.L. Carr how he compared me to Robert Parish when I attended his basketball camp ten years ago.

## The Cowl Sports Editor takes the Friar Basketball Challenge

pany my pursuit at local public courts (Those which don't have L.L. Cool J. or disco raging from a boombox). Compensating for my lack of a good jump shots, with a few cheap shots, I came out of these workouts feeling like Charles Barkley in his barroom brawl stage.

Upon arriving at Peterson on Monday night at 7 p.m., these dreams would quickly shatter. After collecting #52 from the pile of practice shirts, coach Gillen provided focus for the evening: "We're not looking for guys who think they'll play a lot and take a lot

that everybody is right handed. This worked to my lefty advantage when coach Gillen told the 40 hopefuls to switch to their weak hand. While others became mortified over the prospect of using their off hand, I viewed this as a form of revenge on our righty-dominated world. Of course this basketball high ended when one of my shots missed the rim in a jumper drill.

Unfortunately, the #52 party would run out of beer at the final event; scrimmage sessions. I could notice the downturn in spirits once my assigned teammates realized that they

teammate following that futile first effort. Rather than become stressed out or face severe injury, I recalled two famous coaching tips Uncle Bill told me as a clumsy lad. He said "A pair of errant elbows, not a dog, is man's best friend, and when the opponent can beat you out, hack him like a lout."

This method proved to be a smashing success for the final two scrimmages. All of a sudden, Monday Night Football was occurring in beautiful Providence, Rhode Island. Feeling slighted by the coaching staff, I jumped high for a



# Four in a Row!!!

## Lady Friars crowned national hockey champions... AGAIN

Derek Stout '95

*Sports Writer*

The Lady Friars hockey team have captured their fourth consecutive ECAC championship. As a result of a 2-1 sudden-death overtime victory over New Hampshire Sunday, seniors Melissa Mills, Stephanie O'Sullivan and Kathleen Brophy will graduate having won each of their four years at Providence College. The title has also set a standard for first year head coach Jackie Barto and assistant Chris Bailey for years to come.

The sudden-death overtime period was indicative of the entire game. Both teams carried the puck back and forth firing shots on net. PC had two quality opportunities led by O'Sullivan at 18:21 when she took a slapshot which was stopped. At 15:42 O'Sullivan and Jenn Wagner had a two on one opportunity halted by the Wildcats. Alison Wheeler finally broke free at the 8:21 mark on a breakaway. Wheeler took the puck from PC's blue-line, skated in front of the net, deceived the goalie with her stick-work and shot the puck waist high into the net to assure the Lady Friars of their fourth consecutive ECAC title.

The 15:10 mark of the third period proved to be a turning point for PC. In a spectacular sequence Melissa Mills found a loose puck and took it from the red-line and shot a chest-high shot which tied the game at one. The goal was short-handed for the Lady Friars as Brophy was questionably placed in the box, receiving two minutes for hitting from behind. "We had so many close calls in that game when we should have scored," commented O'Sullivan. "The game was very back and forth through those first two periods. Natasha (Fine) kept us in it with so many great saves. After Melissa's goal our confidence was

really high going into overtime." Mills also was a nuisance on defense, consistently poach-checking the puck away from the UNH offense.

Of the four ECAC titles, the '94-95 title was the most difficult for PC. The Lady Friars were not predicted to repeat this season and did not even have a full roster the entire season. Barto had to utilize a squad which consisted of only two lines, which made her job that more difficult. Consequently Sunday's victory was more satisfying than in previous years. "This was definitely the best one because we were short in players," said junior Amy Carlson. "Everyone had to work together which made it that much better." Stephanie O'Sullivan agreed with this assessment, "This is probably the sweetest of the four, mostly because I am a senior. But also because of the circumstances this year where nothing was expected of us."

UNH first took the lead at the 8:31 mark of the second period. A UNH forward modestly skated from behind the net and fired a shoulder-high shot from a difficult angle which surprised Fine. PC almost countered twenty seconds later from two feet in front of the net, but the UNH goaltender fell on the puck. PC had many more quality offensive chances including a power play stopped in the second period. At the same time Natasha Fine was stabilizing the UNH attack on the defensive end. Kathleen Brophy was also making key checks on UNH players to prevent any further harm.

The second period began to get frustrating for PC fans, but the Lady Friars never lost confidence in themselves behind one goal. "After the second we were very fired up," commented Mills. "We knew we had them. Stephanie (O'Sullivan) went end to end so many times, it was just a matter of time before



Senior captain Stephanie O'Sullivan

we scored. We were definitely sure we would tie it up." Carlson agreed, "We were a little down going into the third, but not nervous behind 1-0. Our confidence was high that we would find some way to tie it up."

Despite all the Lady Friars' handicaps this season PC finished the season victorious in ten of their last eleven games. Much of the credit is due to Natasha Fine's consistent play in goal, as she was given the starting position to conclude the season. More importantly was the confidence exhibited in this young team by Coach Barto and Bailey. "Jackie and Chris did a great job this year. They made us play with a lot of heart. This was shown in the UNH game when UNH came out overconfident. Our coaching staff recognized this and helped us to capitalize on it," answered O'Sullivan.

PC was guaranteed a defense of their

title due to an overtime victory over Princeton on Saturday. This was another difficult game for the Lady Friars who were ahead 2-1 compliments of Sheila Killion and Kathleen Brophy's goals. Princeton tied the game with seventeen seconds remaining in the third period. PC wasted no time in the overtime period as Alana Blahoski scored at the 17:07 mark to put the Lady Friars into the finals.

**SLAPSHOTS...**The 1995 all-tournament team included Alana Blahoski, Melissa Mills, and Alison Wheeler (MVP)...O'Sullivan finished the season with forty goals, followed by Wheeler's twenty goals...Fine finished the season with a 2.23 goals against average. Fine also had 51 saves in the tournament which should have earned her a spot on the all-tournament team...O'Sullivan plans to try-out for the '98 Olympic team.

## Memoirs of a Non-athlete

Melissa McCrosson '95

*Features Writer*

I vividly remember that first instant when I realized how completely unathletically inclined I am. I was about seven years old and playing on a girls' Little League team, happy with my cute little uniform and my cute little self. The sun was shining, my parents were beaming with pride, and my team was winning. Life was good. We won the game that day, defeating an opponent whose name escapes me, and as my teammates and I rushed the field in total exuberance, one girl turned to me and said, "What are you so happy about? It's not like you ever try to hit anything!" Ouch. But I guess she was right; in two years of little league, I had never swung the bat once. Well, why should I have? If the pitcher threw four balls, I could just walk to base, and if the pitcher threw three strikes, I could go back and sit with my friends in the dirt. I thought my system was perfect! Wasn't fun what the game was all about? Appar-

ently not to some people. I was forever scarred.

When I was ten, I wanted to be a gymnast. More specifically, I wanted to be the next Mary Lou Retton. My friend and I turned a plank of wood into a balance beam/vault, and the bars on my canopy bed became parallel bars. For the whole summer of '84 I trained in my room and in the lot across the street. Then I heard somewhere that many Olympic gymnasts began training at birth and had to live away from home. Too much of a commitment for me.

In middle school, my athletic life became really bad. Elementary School gym games were fun. We played scooter-soccer, parachute games, and TV tag. Gym went from fun to competitive and hellish. They made us change clothes in a locker room - a fate worse than death for any under-developed pubescent child. And they wanted us to play volleyball, soccer, softball and basketball; basically, they wanted us to play sports. All of a sudden games were played to win. Whoever came up with the

concept of picking teams deserved to be sentenced to pass their after-life in hell, spending eternity being the last one picked for a team.

The summer before I entered high school, I received a phone call asking me to join the JV cheerleading team. For a fleeting moment I thought that perhaps someone must see some sort of untapped potential in me, but then I realized that they were just hard up. Being the naive freshman I was, I decided to give it a try anyway. Perhaps this was exactly the kind of athletic activity I could excel at. Perhaps not: it was entirely too cold at the games, I didn't know when to use what cheers, and I couldn't stand the way the boys smelled after a game. That was the end of that. I spent my four years of high school gym class trying to avoid everything that was thrown, kicked, passed or hit to me. In volleyball, I didn't know where to rotate and when, and when the ball came hurtling at me I would run the other way (much to the annoyance of my teammates). Soccer found me

slowly pacing up and down the gym floor hoping that I could go an entire game without touching the ball. In four years, the only time I broke a sweat was out of nervous anxiety that I would again be the last one picked for a team. Thanks for the self-esteem booster, Mr. Gym Teacher.

One reason I chose to come to Providence College was that fact that there is absolutely no

Gym requirement (although I would sometimes rather take that than Philosophy). I tried going to aerobic once or twice, but my friends asked me not to come back because I made them laugh too hard. I get all the exercise I need walking up to fourth floor Harkins or the steep back stairs of my apartment and I don't think I am any less of a person for that.

### Class of 1999...

Be sure to check out the  
Intramural Athletic Board  
in September  
(regardless of your ability).

It's a great way to get involved  
with sports at PC!!