

Taking Pride in PC's Students

1919

1994

The Cowl



Vol. LIX No. 11

Providence College - Providence, Rhode Island

November 1994

From the Editor

It is with great pride that The Cowl publishes the first Community Service issue of the Providence College student newspaper. More often than not, we print articles on events, athletics or concerns, and forget to praise those students who deserve public acknowledgment for their accomplishments. Unfortunately, these twelve pages do not even scratch the surface of all PC students' achievements. We stand by the old cliché: "All the news that fits, we print." Hopefully, in the future, The Cowl can publish another special issue and

highlight more student successes. This issue required tremendous input from the staff and many outside sources. I thank everyone who helped produce this special issue. To those students featured in the issue, congratulations on your accomplishments and good luck to you. We are honored to give praise where praise is deserved.

Sincerely,

Kristen M. Gariepy '95
Editor-in-Chief

Friars Club: It's all in black and white

by Mat Bunnell '95
Asst. Features Editor

As most visitors enter the friendly confines of Providence College for the very first time, their eyes are witness to the beauty and quaintness of our school. It is said that the first impression one gets of something is always the most important one and when a prospective student visits the campus for the first time, this again rings true. With this in mind, it can be argued that the student tour of the campus is the key to making this first impres-

sion the best possible. This special task lies in the hands of the men and women who make up the Friars Club, whose mission is to represent the college community through the Christian ideals of service.

Founded in 1928, the Friars Club serves as the official hosts of the college as well as committing itself to the promotion of any and all Providence College endeavors. Whether it be giving a campus tour, ushering at a hockey game, or helping out with activities such as

continued on page 4



The Friars Club Executive Board: Alex Masciarelli, Laura Serfilippi, Brother Kevin, Adetola Abiade, Lulu Alonso, and Mark Hoeing.

Something to build on

Habitat for Humanity builds community

by Melissa McCrosson '95
Features Writer

In our four years of college, we tend to take for granted all that we have. While living on campus, we might gripe about the fact that we do not have enough closet space in the dorms, or that our dishwashers do not work in the apartments. Off-campus is much the same, because it is cold in the winter and we don't even have a dishwasher. However, we are having the times of our lives living in sweet oblivion. Meanwhile, around the world, country, and our very own city of Providence, there are people who would be grateful for the same problems we have in our respective college residences. Forget about a dishwasher, they are lucky if they have a roof over their heads and working heat. Habitat for Humanity International, a nonprofit, ecumenical

Christian housing ministry, with an official chapter at Providence College, is working to eliminate such sub-standard housing.

Originating on campus five years ago, Habitat for Humanity has since become one of the most well known and popular organizations on campus to date. There are approximately 140 students signed up on paper as mem-

bers, and it is estimated that there are even more than that who actually participate. Sam Tombarelli '96 is Chairperson of Habitat, and is amazed at how much interest in this worthwhile organization is being expressed

by the student body: "It's really exploding on campus. It's like night and day from last year. There was always interest last year, and I think we are just building on that. The amount of students responding is crazy. I can't even keep up with it anymore."

Perhaps one reason for the incredible response that Habitat has been getting is

that the criteria for being a member is hardly demanding. All one needs to do is raise his or her hand and be willing to work and they are automatically involved. As for experience necessary, there is none. This may seem illogical considering that building



Members of Habitat

photo by Joe Raczynski

a house seems like a complicated job. Sam eases this concern by saying, "If you know how to use a nail and can hold a hammer, you'll do fine. On the site, you'll do anything from putting in

continued on page 2

From the Heart

by Bridget Hughes '96
News Editor

Swimming, boating, sports activities, arts and crafts, drama... The list goes on. These are just some of the activities that are offered for one week during the summer at Camp Heartland. But this camp is not just any ordinary camp. Camp Heartland is a camp that is for children, ages 5-16 who are either infected or affected by the AIDS virus.

Neil Willenson, the founder of Camp Heartland started the camp in 1993 in Hubertus, Wisconsin. The first year of the camp served 75 children during the one-week session. In 1994, the camp had two locations - one in Hubertus and the other in

Blairstown, New Jersey. These two camps served 250 children during four one-week sessions. Camp Heartland is open to children

...Not
just an
ordinary
camp...

throughout the United States. The camp pays for the cost of any child who attends the camp. This includes travel fees, as well as any other fee that the child might have.

During the camp sessions, children participate in nor-

mal summer camp activities such as swimming, archery, horseback riding, nature studies, and more. It is a time for the children to get away from their everyday lives and have the opportunity to have fun, make friends and increase their self esteem.

Michael James, a sophomore at PC is very involved in Camp Heartland. He was part of the original camp when it started in 1993. His goal is to try to get as many people as possible to get involved with the Camp Heartland program here at PC.

Michael has two main goals that he would like to accomplish by bringing the program to PC. One of those goals is to increase awareness

continued on page 2

South of the border

by Jamie Lantinen '97
Editorial Writer

In July 1993, eight Providence College students and one Dominican Friar witnessed the face of Christ. Under the guidance of the Saint James Society, the group lived for ten days among the poor of Ecuador. This year, a new group hopes to do the same, and see Christ for themselves in the faces of some of the poorest people in the world.

The program that brought the group to this remote region is called "Rostro de Cristo," or the "Face of Christ." It is run by the Saint James Society of Boston, and was originally created for the purpose of missionary activity of diocesan priests. The Jesuit colleges Holy Cross, Boston College and Fairfield have been involved for years, but the 1993 trip was the first time a group from Providence had taken part. Now the members of the 1993 group, who gained so much from their experiences in Ecuador, wishes to see the program continue annually.

Providence College senior Maggie Murphy is responsible for the origination of the program at PC. Murphy was influenced by a similar program at her high school, and pushed to start one here. She was the one who convinced a reluctant Fr. Langlois to go with the group of students.

Fr. John Langlois was the Dominican who accompanied the students to South America in 1993. De-

spite his misgivings about the trip, and some of the problems he faced while there, it is an experience he will cherish. The most moving aspect of the experience is the day to day living with the people, according to Langlois. "There is a lot more to life than having everything you need," he said. "We came to see in people who have literally nothing, that they are truly happy. And their faith is at the root of their happiness."

There's a lot more to life than having everything you need

The trip to Ecuador gave Langlois and the students a completely different perspective on life. While they were there, they lived, played and worked with the people. If a house needed to be built, they aided in the construction. If a job needed to be accomplished they were part of the solution. This group from Providence, strangers to the people in Ecuador, were readily accepted as part of the community. Although service is a part of the program, the knowledge gained from this experience far outweighs any other type of community service.

The large number of students at the informational meeting is an indication to the interest in the 1995 program. Last week, 33 interviews of prospective participants were conducted by organizers of this year's trip. The program is highly selective, however, with only 15 available spaces. The level of interest is such that the new program has the potential to be even more successful than the last. However, there are problems that must be faced.

The biggest obstacle between Providence and Ecuador is the money to get there. Substantial funding for the flight as well as other expenses are needed and will be the main focus of the group this year. Participants in the first Ecuador trip earned money through bake sales and other fund raisers. However, the bulk of all their funds came from contributions from their parishes at home. All of the money earned was pooled into one fund so that everyone benefited from the fund raisers. A lot more money will be needed this year, however, because twice as many people will be attending.

The organizers of this year's event realize the work and planning it will take to make this trip a successful one. Judging from the experiences of the first group, though, all of the work will be worth while. "It's not something I'd have chosen to do," said Fr. Langlois. "But now that I've been, it's one of the greatest experiences of my life."

Saying "thank you"

by Cory McGann '98
Sports Writer

Thanksgiving is a time for thanks. Redundant yes, but important to remember, nonetheless. An interesting thing happens at Thanksgiving, however. The more people give thanks for what they have, the more they think about people who are

to contribute. Between this and collecting at Mural Lounge, they collected close to \$200 in four days. Says Kristen Gallagher '95, Student Congress President, "It was nice because the kids who contributed didn't receive any benefits for what they did. They did it out of the goodness of their hearts."

The money, originally to make sure poor

They did it out of the goodness of their hearts.

less fortunate. Providence College students are no different.

Last year the class of '95 and Student Congress ran the '95 Smith Hill Fundraiser. It was a benefit for the Smith Hill Center, a community center in Providence that helps less fortunate families in the area. They run programs such as English as a Second Language, daycare, and all the government aid programs.

Officers from the class of '95 each donated an hour a day of their time to sit at a booth in lower Slavin and collect money from generous students who wished

families had a decent meal on Thanksgiving, was actually saved for Christmas because Thanksgiving goals were already met.

Ms. Gallagher also said there will be a walk-a-thon on Saturday, November 19 for the Camden Avenue School so that they can buy new school books. "We send a lot of student teachers there, so it will be a nice thing for the Providence College community to do." If anyone is interested in getting involved, call the Student Congress office. LET'S GO FRIARS.

Camp Heartland

continued from page 1

ness of AIDS at PC. This can be done by volunteering, or becoming a big brother/big sister for someone who has AIDS. Michael thinks that it is important to lose your fears about the virus, and the only way this can be done is by personal experience.

His second goal is to raise money so that more children can attend Camp Heartland in years to come. This goal is very important because, on the average, it costs \$500 for each child to go to Camp Heartland.

Camp Heartland is the nation's largest summer camping program that is devoted to the needs of the children impacted by the AIDS Virus. The camp is most important for the way in which it helps fight the isolation which often accompanies the disease. The benefits extend well beyond the week that the children are at the camp. Each child is given a chance to normalize their life and to obtain a lifetime of advocacy.

Willenson says, "If we can provide these kids with one more memory, one more childhood experience, then we have accomplished something."

floor tiles, to shingles, to siding, to electrical work." He also equates building a house to putting a Lego house together. In this light, the work does not seem half as threatening.

While some students like to jet off to exotic locales for their Spring Break, there is a significant minority who would rather cram into a car to West Virginia or Ohio to spend their much needed vacation building a house for the under privileged. For example, this Spring Break, there are already four trips with openings for fifty-one students planned: twelve will go to North Carolina, twelve to Pennsylvania, twelve to West Virginia, and finally, fifteen students will be flown down to Florida. Also, on the weekend of November 18th, seventeen students will take off for New Jersey.

While traveling around the country is one of the best parts of the Habitat experience, it is often the work done closer to home that can

be the most gratifying. In addition to a triplex house that was built on Portland Street, PC's Habitat chapter has now adopted a house on Sayles Street. This summer, the Providence College organization, Urban Action, built the trench for the foundation

been filled.

If an interested student wants to partake in Habitat, but cannot be part of the Spring Break trips, or any of the Saturdays at the Sayles Street worksights, he or she should not overlook the opportunity to be involved in

Know how to use a hammer and nail? You'll do fine.

of the house. This is where Habitat for Humanity steps in. A few weeks ago, they laid the foundation: "We are working from the ground up, and we are also funding the operation." Saturday mornings are the designated times to work at the sights. Anyone who is interested in working at the sight can look for the sign-up table in Slavin on Thursdays, provided that the twenty student capacity has not already

Shack City for the night. This is an upcoming function which Habitat is extremely excited about. It is a sleepout on Slavin Lawn on November 10 which is designed to raise awareness about the housing conditions in Providence, and also to get people to experience not having a roof over their head for one night. Like all of the other Habitat for Humanity programs, it is open to all students.

Shack City will also pro-

vide Habitat with a much needed opportunity to raise the \$16,000 required for the Spring Break trips alone. Everyone who participates in Shack City will be required to get friends to sponsor them two dollars for the night they spend sleeping under the stars. Hopefully, in addition to other fundraisers, Shack City will lessen the burden of the costs that Habitat is acquiring. Now that they volunteers and materials to work with, what Habitat for Humanity really needs is financial help.

If you want to show your support for Habitat for Humanity in any aspect, as stated before, just raise your hand. Everybody is invited to get involved. Habitat for Humanity is an organization that does not just build houses, it builds community. Become part of the community as soon as possible. You can begin by bringing your sleeping bag and sponsor sheet for Shack City on November 10th and seeing what this dedicated organization is all about.

Preparing for public service

by Bridget Hughes '96
News Editor

Over the summer, Providence College started a new program that involved eighteen students participating in a six week program. The Feinstein Pilot Program introduced the 18 students to public service classes as well as a chance to interact with the community.

The students lived in the on-campus apartments and received academic credit for two introductory classes on interacting in the community. In addition, each student took a public service class that involved a practicum at a local volunteer site. Such sites included: the Smith Hill Center and the Wiley Center. Since then, the Feinstein Program has grown and will continue to grow as time passes.

This semester, students are acting as liaisons between teachers and students and community agencies and the students. Courses allow each student to interact with students in the classroom along with the teachers. Students are also required to take an Ethics course and complete a six week internship. The purpose of the internship is to work with businesses that are socially responsible. An example of this would be Habitat for Humanity, United Way or the Rhode Island Donation Exchange Program which is a furniture, food and clothing bank. This gives the student a chance to learn about the business and the social aspect.

By taking public service courses, it is a good way for the student to learn about the

surrounding area. Each week you learn something different. It also creates a partnership with the college and the area businesses and schools. The area and PC can work together to educate the students and to accomplish something for the community.

Future plans for the program include a major and minor. This has to be approved by the Faculty Senate and the Dean's Office. Richard Battistoni, Director of Feinstein is hoping that it will be approved early next semester. Another plan is to bring in more students to the program. The program will be open to everybody; it is not an elite program. Battistoni stated, "We are looking to recruit more students to assume leadership in next year's program and in the years to come."



Students involved in the 1994-1995 Pilot Program.

Publications photo

Actions speak louder than words

by Theresa Edo '96
Asst. News Editor

The first time you meet Gloriluz Alonso, a senior at PC, you cannot help but notice the genuine smile she always seems to have on her face. She has this habit of making you feel as if you have known each other for years. Because of her modesty, you probably would not know about the many ways she has served the community in the time she has been at PC.

Lulu, as she tells everyone to call her, is a model of involvement. In the four years she has now been at PC she has reached out in the form of various organizations and clubs to serve not only the college, but the outside world as well. She does these things, not because she wants personal recognition, but because she has a strong belief in people.

"I think that everyone is equal," Lulu said. "In all of my work I try to focus on what it's like to be alive today. I believe that there are other people out there who feel the same way."

Often, through the school this Social Work major is able to aid the immediate community. She joined the Friars Club her Sophomore year because she was attracted to the dedication of the club to the school and to others.

"They really did it all. I didn't do anything," she humbly protested when asked about her leadership role in UA.

Another activity which she was excited about was being an Freshman Orientation leader. She enjoyed the fact that she was directly connected to these students first experience with college. Months of planning went into the process which she called "amazing," Lulu said, "I saw myself three years ago. I wanted to let them all know that this is their time to be themselves."

In addition to her regular classes, Lulu also has a sixteen hour per week internship at the Family AIDS Center for Treatment and Support. As a case manager for FACTS, she assists those who have AIDS with everyday and not so everyday tasks such as shopping or even looking for housing. She explained that it is hard for many to take advantage of centers such as this one because people just don't know how they work. Patients with AIDS, she said, do not only have their illness to deal with but also problems like discrimination, poverty, and concern over their families. Lulu hopes to work with the same type of center after graduation.

Lulu has also taught En-

Feeding the hungry

by Stacy Baker '96
Features Writer

Ours is a world filled with poverty and disease. Our country spends millions upon millions of dollars in aid to foreign countries. However, right here in the United States, we have problems that are very real and need to be addressed. We have unemployment, illiteracy, AIDS, gangs, and possibly the most frightening, homelessness.

No one can possibly solve all the problems of the world, and no one is expected to. We should, however, in our individual quests to be "good persons," take the time or spend the money to try to make a small dent in these larger-than-life sized problems. Here at Providence College, we try to do just that. In our own small way we attempt to help those that need help.

Amos House is a soup kitchen in South Providence that serves breakfast and lunch to people of low or no income. Run completely on a volunteer basis, they rely on donations of food and money to keep the place go-

They found volunteers in the PC community

ing. And they rely on people in the community to volunteer their time to serve the food. They have found these volunteers in the PC community.

For a number of years, the Friars Club has been sending its members to volunteer at

Amos House. And this year, the Pastoral Service Organization has also begun sending volunteers. The number of people who have responded to this need for help has been outstanding. Every year hundreds of students through clubs and organizations, or as a floor program with their R.A., help to feed people who otherwise might not eat at all.

Certainly, if you are not a member of PSO or the Friars Club, you are not excluded from taking part. Last week, I too, had my first experience there. I admit, I wasn't thrilled at having to get up at 6:00 am on a day I had five classes, but that feeling quickly passed. The people there were of all ages, races, and nationalities, and they all seemed grateful for having somewhere to go for a nice, hot meal. The fact that they could smile and say

continued on page 6



Lulu Alonso '95

photo by Joe Raczynski

Besides giving the well known tours, she has made trips to soup kitchens and to the Dominican retirement house as a representative of the Friars.

Since Freshman year she has had the chance to work with the Urban Action organization. As a participant, a leader, and finally as a planner she has watched PC students come together for the improvement of the neighborhood. This year, she explained, the program accepted more people and was able to complete more projects, extending beyond the usual painting and waste clean up that UA has become known for.

glish as a second language and been an Admissions Ambassador. This list goes on, but she likes to keep many of her good works quiet. She does not like be associated with certain groups solely for the name. She selflessly gives her time because there is a need. She says that she can not tell people that she only works for a club for so many hours and her internship for so many hours. Much of her work is on an unofficial timeclock.

She insists that she is no one special. This seems to be a case where actions speak louder than words.

Freedom through music

by Rand Refrigeri '97
A&E Writer

Last spring, over 300 fun-seeking individuals jammed into the Living Room for a great time and a noble cause. People came from all over the Providence community to witness this event. It was something which, for once, attempted to dispose of our selfish, nationalistic views, and thereby providing an already strong community with a sense of international openness-mindedness and respect. This truly good deed was the 1994 Amnesty International concert, sponsored by Providence College's very own radio station, WDOM.

The show was an all day event, featuring several booths and tables in support of various countries around the world. Those in attendance got the opportunity to learn about an appropriate international worldview, as well as listen to some great music.

"A lot of people had the opportunity to see a lot of great bands for a great cause," said one of WDOM's leading D.J.'s, junior Kate Kenny. Because of Kate's

strong affiliation with WDOM, it was her job, along with others who put in an extreme amount of hard work, such as Eric Smidt and Skip Wilson, to find talented local bands to play at the show. These D.J.'s did a great job in finding the show's music, as local bands such as "Blair's Carriage," "Lung Mustard," "Rhino," and "The Murmers," who have picked up some recent popularity. All took the

stage to provide some very good, very interesting music for the fans present in the Living Room. Because of this quality entertainment along with the hard work of

WDOM, a generous amount of money was raised for this good cause.

In the end, with the promising talent involved in this event, along with the great turnout in support of it, people from all over the area ended up having a great time. I think that Lisa Macri, affiliated with WDOM and Amnesty International, put it best when she said, "It was a great success. It was a really good time and we got something really important accomplished."

Amnesty International concert a success

Teach the children well

by Erin Piorek '96
News Writer

Every week, a group of about twenty-five Providence College students go out into the community to help out in Providence schools. They volunteer their time because they know they can make a difference. The efforts of these students have strengthened PC's bond with the community, and will continue to do so.

Ellen Cressy, a junior at PC, has been a member of various Pastoral Service committees since her freshmen year. Last Spring, the executive board appointed her co-chairperson of Volunteer in Providence Schools. She shares this position with Kristen O'Neil, who is also a junior. In her interview, Ellen told the board that she wanted the position because she is an Education major and wants to be a teacher after she graduates. She also told the board that she realized that there was a need for tutors in Providence schools and that she would like to be a part of helping out the community.

Volunteers in Providence Schools is a non-profit, city-run organization that started out in one area of Providence and spread to various parts of the city. The Providence

College Chapter originated because the college is a big source for tutors, and it was more convenient to have an organization on campus than for students to have to go through the city-run program.

The Providence College Chapter works mostly with the Camden Avenue Elementary School. According to Ellen Cressy, the school is very small and classes consist of close to thirty students. Due to lack of funding, teachers cannot hire aides, so they are very grateful for volunteer tutors.

Volunteers in Providence Schools is part of the Pastoral Service Organization at Providence College. Currently it consists of about twenty-five students who go into the community each week to help out in the schools. For one or two hours a week, they work with individual students or small groups in grades Kindergarten through six.

Laura Earlis, a junior who was involved in the program last year, worked with a class of pre-first graders. These were students who were promoted from Kindergarten, but were not ready for first grade. Earlis said her tutoring experience was wonderful and that "it's a great thing for an Education major to do." She also added that it's worth doing just because it

makes you feel good to know you're helping other people. The teacher she worked with had no books or curriculum guide to go by, so Earlis felt as though she was a necessary part of the students' education.

According to Ellen Cressy, at least half of the members of the organization are Education majors. "It's good practice experience with teaching, especially for the freshmen who aren't sure what they want to do." Cressy stressed, however, that the program isn't just for Education majors. Anyone who is interested in tutoring in Providence schools is welcome to. Also, there are new "drop-off places" in Providence where parents can leave their children from 3:30pm to 5pm to be tutored. Volunteer in Providence Schools hopes to be involved in this in the near future as well.

This small group of students works to help improve the education of students in Providence schools, and their efforts should be applauded. For them, the col-

Capturing the Halloween spirit

by Robert Mendes '95
Editorial Writer

The kids from Smith Hill Center were invited to a Halloween party on Thursday that was organized by PC students from the Special Events and Social Justice committees of Pastoral Service. Their party was held after school in Sidelines in Slavin Center.

Martha Casey '96, the chairperson of the Special Events committee, greeted the kids as they scrambled into Sidelines, which was already decorated with black and orange streamers and balloons, as well as pumpkins, witches, ghouls and goblins. The kids were definitely ready for a party.

The students on the two committees made sure that there was plenty for the kids to do. The two most popular events were face painting and pin the stem on the pumpkin or pin the nose on the witch. Other kids spent

the time making their own Halloween decorations. The kids were encouraged to bring their creations home to decorate their houses for Halloween. Most of the kids made scary pumpkins.

Jen Fusaro '96 was one of the students who was painting faces. She said that she enjoys spending some of her free time with the local

school children.

"Things like the Halloween party are a great chance to spend my time with kids and have fun too," she said in between painting pumpkins and ghosts on the kids' faces.

Meanwhile, on the other side of Sidelines, most of the kids had trouble pinning the stems on the pumpkins or

the noses on the witches, but they all tried their best.

Once all these events were finished, it was time to tell scary stories. No Halloween party would be complete without them.

Finally, it was time for the tricks or the treats. The kids must have all been very good because none of them got tricks. Instead, they all got juice and cookies. On the way out, they were given bags of candy to bring home with them.

Martha Casey was happy to see that the party turned out to be so successful after so much planning went into it. She added that the party is now going to be an annual event sponsored by Pastoral Services. She said that she was disappointed to learn that there was no party last year and that she intends to make sure it does not get overlooked next year.

The kids were just happy to get into the Halloween spirit a little early.



Face Painting at the Halloween party

photo by Kim Frasca

Friars Club

continued from page 1

Blackfriars Theatre, Commencement Exercises, and Alumni Weekends, the Club is ready and willing to help out the school in any way.

Besides helping out the school, the Friars are also very involved in helping out the neighboring community. Every Tuesday and Thursday, members of the club get up at sunrise and travel to Amos House, a local soup kitchen. Once there, the Friars assist in preparing and serving breakfast as well as cleaning up afterwards. Jeff Holbrook, a hardworking and committed Friar, had this to say, "Amos House is an example how we can make a difference in a simple manner. It's amazing how something as simple as saying a friendly 'hello' or 'good morning' can make such a difference to a person." On top of this, they are involved with the Ronald McDonald House, an intermediary center for sick children and their families. Every Thursday afternoon, some members travel to the House and help out in various chores and activities throughout the facility. Through service-oriented activities such as these, the Friars Club represents the ideals and values that the college stands for.

So, if you happen to see a member of the club around campus, smile, say hello, give them a hug...You'll come to see that a little can go a long way.

Rebecca Kupka: Dreams of drama

by Mark Cybulski '95
A&E Editor

When considering the individual achievements of students, one cannot overlook the artistic accomplishments of Rebecca Kupka. As both a familiar face in several of our Blackfriars Theater productions and an active figure in children's theater around the PC community, Rebecca has devoted much of her time to performing arts and community service at PC.

Originally from Huntington, Long Island, Rebecca was first introduced to the theater when her mother was an actress in community and regional theaters in the New York area. When she was very young, Rebecca used to accompany her mother to her rehearsals and performances. She went on to perform in many grammar school plays and when she was 10 she auditioned for and was cast in Annie when it came off Broadway and into regional theaters. She went to Holy Trinity High School, well known for

its performing arts, and performed in almost every type of theater, including musicals, straight plays and dance concerts.

Rebecca credits her good friend, Brendan Byrnes, for encouraging her to come to PC. "He had said some very good things about the theater department here and combined with the financial aid I had gotten, I decided to give it a shot." She also says that Brendan has been a major influence in her theater career. He is currently directing her in the upcoming Blackfriars production, Meet Me In St. Louis. Rebecca has been involved in most of the Blackfriars productions since she has been here, including *Our Country's Good*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Arms and the Man* and *Crimes of the Heart*.

Children's theater has also been another area of interest for Rebecca during her time at PC. She has worked with kindergarten ESL students at the Camden school doing theater games and improvisational theater. "The idea of using drama as a communication tool was a

great experience for me just to see what these kids could create", says Rebecca. She also worked in a behavioral disorder class of 3rd graders for a Children's Dance class,

an experience that she didn't find to be enjoyable. "I learned a lot in terms of how to deal with these kids, but I also learned that the troubles of these inner city kids are not easily overcome. It was very frustrating for me not to be able to help them as much as I wanted to", she says.

Rebecca's current project is directing a multicultural children's play at The Robert F. Kennedy Elementary School. The play is called *Moonbow Dreams* and she is co-directing it with Theater Department Chairperson

Mary Farrell. The idea first came about when the school applied for a grant to write a play that dealt with multicultural issues and celebrate the school's diversity.



Rebecca Kupka '95 photo by Amy Cacciola

The school received the grant with a stipulation that they actually had to perform the play that they wrote. The school asked Mary Farrell to direct it and she asked

Rebecca if she would like to help her and receive academic credit for it. She says that it has been an interesting experience. "There is a lot of culture represented in the show. Although it is simple, it deals with the difficulties in the characters themselves, in light of their interaction," she says. "This is really a culmination of the experiences that I've had working with kids." *Moonbow Dreams* will be performed on December 13 and 14.

Rebecca says that upon graduation she doesn't have any definite plans, but she would like to eventually pursue Broadway. If that doesn't work out, she says that she would like to enroll in NYU's well known graduate program in Theater and Education. "I love theater and I love kids, but I also want to perform on my own", she says. Whatever career path Rebecca chooses, her invaluable experiences and achievements at PC will undoubtedly help her achieve her future goals.

Pal - in' Around

PC Pals spend free time with local kids

by Judith Colonna '95
News Writer

Every year, starting from the first week in October until the beginning of May, a group of PC students dedicates a portion of their free time after school to be either a Big Sister or Big Brother to a neighborhood child. The program is called PC Pals, and it has been a growing activity on campus over a number of years.

The weekly schedule is from Monday through Thursday, with the meeting times varying for each group of children. Currently, there are five participating institutions: The Rhode Island School for the Deaf (a.k.a. Duff), The Camden School (predominantly composed of Cambodian children), The Chad Brown School (which come on Mondays and Wednesdays), and two after-school programs affiliated with the YMCA and Federal Hill. Each group has approximately 25-50 children involved, and there is one PC student for every child. Due to the over-whelming desire to be a PC Pal, however, the Federal Hill program has two PC students for every

child, to avoid turning anyone interested away.

Three weeks out of every month, PC Pals have activities prepared for the children to partake in, involving the entire group. Such activities include swimming, team sports, and seasonal exercises such as pumpkin painting. The fourth week is then set aside for one-on-one opportunities with the child and his or her sister/brother.

This year's senior President, Maggie Murphy, commented, "This is a great opportunity for the children because you can see how they benefit from having a Big Brother/Sister. As for the PC students, they too, learn from the kids and experience the influence of helping others in a positive way." Being a fourth year volunteer, Murphy is extremely happy to see the program grow and encourages anyone to try out. Though it's a year-long program, some students can't continue second semester, and interviews will be held for open positions. As one senior PC Pal put it, "It's one of the most rewarding things I've ever done... I just love looking into my little brother's eyes and see them sparkle."

A home away from home

by Keith Christensen '95
Sports Writer

Bright yellow overalls, bad hair and too much make-up may be all that you think of when you hear the words Ronald McDonald. They have very little, however, to do with Ronald McDonald House. Though

familiar knowledge of Ronald McDonald House may be limited to the plastic house-shaped banks found in certain restaurants, the organization is actually a "home away

from home" for families with hospitalized children. Ronald McDonald House opened a Providence chapter five years ago this week, and members of the Providence College Friars Club have been volunteering there twice a month for the past two years.

Ronald McDonald House was founded in Philadelphia 20 years ago to give those families, who have to relocate in order for their children to receive the best treatment, a place to stay. Most often, a nursing supervisor or social worker will refer the

family to a local Ronald McDonald House. There are 140 Ronald McDonald Houses worldwide, including 125 in the U.S. The organization relies on volunteers and a couple of paid staff member to make life a little easier for people in trying circumstances.

The Friars Club volun-

teers are among the 100 plus who make Providence's chapter go. Since its inception in 1989, 27,000 hours of time have been donated to the Providence house by concerned individuals. "Our workers range from college students to grandmothers," says Joanne Tainsh, herself the grandmother of five, who has been giving her time since the Providence house opened.

Ronald McDonald House gives us a chance to help the community

Sophomore Claire Cassidy and senior Andrea Cano are in charge of the Friars' efforts at Ronald McDonald House. Every other Thursday, they lead a

group of four student to 45 Gay St. to re-stock shelves, paint rooms, put away cribs, or do anything else that needs doing. "We do odd jobs for the people in charge," says Cassidy, who is in her first year of involvement with the charity.

Laura Kyle is the director of the Providence house. It

is her job to oversee the operations of what Tainsh calls "a very special program. There are very special people, wonderful families." Tainsh points to the "very dedicated volunteers, all inspired by a tal-

ented director," as the reasons for the program's success.

Cassidy describes the Friars Club as being "dedicated to the service of the college and community. Ronald McDonald House gives us a chance to help the community." The Friars are not there to feel good about themselves, but "to help others feel better." Next time you go to put your change in your pocket, think about the Friars, the grandmothers, and all the others giving of themselves to make Ronald McDonald House a success, and make the right decision.

The icing on the cake

by Justin Macione '95
Sports Editor

Upon entrance into Raymond Cafeteria on Monday, October 24, freshman and sophomore diners were probably shocked at the site of over twenty additional male workers. From the time hungry students walked in and checked their identification cards into the computer, until the point of exit where food thieves and free-eats seeking stragglers are sighted, the eatery featured a staff boasting the size and service of an elegant French restaurant, compliments of the Friar hockey team.

Upon first sight of Joe Hulbig at the cafe entrance, a number of thoughts could pass through the average student's mind. Have pure athletic scholarships been eliminated in men's hockey, requiring the players to hold a work study job? Or could this be head coach Paul Pooley's punishment for an 8-0 loss to the University of Vermont, the previous afternoon? Rather than these absurd suggestions, the reason for this odd sight is much more realistic: a desire for increased visibility on campus.

This idea of serving dinner to the students is part of the new philosophy which Pooley has transported with himself from the cold shores of Lake Superior State college. "Up at Lake Superior, we used to hold a midnight breakfast every season for the students and faculty", ex-

The players/workers seemed to be enjoying their food service training as well. The first adjustment for the Friars consisted in taking orders from the legendary Rich, instead of the coaching staff. Many of the players earned their keep today, such as junior defenseman Jay



Hockey players serve in Ray Cafe

photo by Mike Carriere

plained Pooley. Coming off of an appearance by the hockey team at Midnight Madness two weeks ago and the fan friendly Black and White game, it is obvious that the Friars are making a serious attempt at winning back many of the fans lost due to two consecutive dismal seasons and the emergence of the Providence Bruins.

Kenney, forced to conduct a major glass cleanup when a diner dropped a plate in the disposal area. "This gives me new respect for the people who work here", added Mike Gambino. Very few food hoarders made it by senior assistant captain George Breen and his assistant bouncers, periodically searching bookbags for extra

bagels and bananas.

More important than the learning experience, events like food service day give the players the opportunity to promote their team. While the current student body has only seen disappointment at Schneider Arena, The Friars had a richer tradition in the 1980's than their basketball counterparts, reaching the NCAA final four twice, and qualifying for the tournament regularly. Unlike other clubs, the hockey team doesn't practice in Alumni or on a field which students regularly pass, creating a "removed from the school" mentality, not to mention the fact that a lot of people can't even stand on skates, never mind navigate a stick on the ice.

Assistant captain Jon LaVarre agrees with some of these previous problems: "In previous years, its as if we were never seen around campus. This is a way of showing the students that the hockey team is part of the school." Upon helping students dump their trays full of trash, LaVarre and his teammates hope that some of these students will dump their support onto the ice and support the Friars in their 1994 season.

Giving time at Amos House

continued from page 3

"please" and "thank you" so early in the morning under the circumstances they are in, surprised me. I could see in their eyes, the gratitude they felt towards Amos House and to all the people that work there. At first it seemed like the work I was doing was tedious. But when I saw that the line of people waiting to be served went out the door, I realized that no matter how insignificant spooning out sugar may seem to me, to them it was VERY significant.

My experience at Amos House was a positive one. No doubt, it was definitely time well spent. I applaud my fellow students who have given of themselves to help. And I encourage anyone who has not yet been a part of Amos House, to start now! You do not have to be a member of the Pastoral Service Organization or of the Friars Club to go. You just have to want to help. If you are interested in volunteering at Amos House, contact the PSO at 865-2440 or stop by the office in Slavin 211 for information on dates and times.

The art of conversation

by Jamie Lantinen '97
Editorial Writer

Irene Cardosa doesn't speak a word of English. Cardosa, an 81 year old resident at the Elmhurst Center for Extended Care, cannot speak the language of the nurses, doctors or other residents. For two hours a week, however, she exercises her gift of gab in her native Portuguese, with a student from Providence College.

"The woman can talk," said Providence College senior Lucy Araujo, referring to Cardosa's love of conversation. Araujo, who is fluent in Portuguese, is Cardosa's link to the world. She spends two hours a week at the center with Cardosa, sharing stories and discussing their Portuguese heritage. The time passes quickly, as both enjoy each other's company. Cardosa, who is a mother of 18, has much to share.

Araujo is not new to the realm of community ser-

vice. A third year resident's assistant, she volunteered her time this summer at the Adult Correctional Institute near her hometown of Attleboro, Massachusetts. She worked with counselors one day a week helping soon-to-be-released inmates find a job. So when she was contacted earlier this year through the Balfour Center

Sharing the gift of gab

for Multicultural Affairs on campus as a candidate for the Elmhurst volunteer position, she was immediately interested in the opportunity to meet Cardosa. Araujo set up a trial meeting with Cardosa. "After the first day, we hit it off really well," Araujo said.

Cardosa is partially paralyzed, so getting out of her room is a rare event. Her physical condition, combined with the language barrier makes it difficult for interaction with other residents. Araujo, a psychology major who hopes to study criminal justice at Northeastern next year, would like to see these barriers broken. "My goal is to get her to leave her room, to get her into other activities and to get her involved," Araujo said. Araujo hopes that her presence will be the first step in getting Cardosa more active at the center.

Although they only met a few weeks ago, Araujo already sees a strong relationship developing. Cardosa responds well to Araujo, and in a short period of time, their friendship has only grown stronger. "I'm an emotional person, and I can feel myself getting attached," Araujo said. "I know it's going to be tough to leave when I graduate."

The need to read

by Anthony Zupka '94
Editorials Editor

Few college students ever give a second thought to a great gift they possess: the ability to read. Millions of Americans cannot read a simple set of directions or street signs for that matter.

A group of dedicated students are hard at work at PC, however, trying to help some handicapped members of the Providence community learn to read. Led by Sister Pat Farley and Pastoral Council liaison Patty Keefe '96, this group of thirty volunteers donate hours of their time in one-on-one tutorial with students. The PC adult literacy program is sponsored by the Adult Learning Academy of Rhode Island and meets on a weekly basis.

While the backbone of this program is the student volunteers, the heart and soul of it is represented by the students, who range in age from 23-69. These individuals are living with disabilities such as Muscular Dystrophy, Down's Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, and Multiple Sclerosis. The degree of proficiency these students possess ranges from grasp of the alphabet to more advanced competence with English.

Learning to read is important to these people for more than the obvious personal goal that the accomplishment will represent. Many of the students are living in group homes or with their families and the ability to read will enable them to become independent members of our community.

According to Ms. Keefe, the volunteers and students who are paired with each other, spend many months learning together, and consequently develop a strong bond. Via a no pressure teaching approach which many of us would appreciate, progress occurs, and they emerge as friends as well as teacher and pupil.

Congratulations to all of the class members of the Adult Literacy program and the volunteers who selflessly make it possible.

Being there

Big brother/Big Sisters reach out to local children

by John J. Olohan '95
Editorial Writer

Good people, providing a good example to the future of our country. This is what takes place year round here at Providence College in the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program. These altruistic PC students take time out of their schedules to be role models for children of the Providence community.

Every participating Providence College student is assigned a sixth grader from Camden Day school. The sixth graders are bused to PC one day a week. When the sixth graders arrive the Big Brothers and Big Sisters give their "brothers" and "sisters" their undivided attention for three hours. Everyone has seen the Big Brothers and Big Sisters

playing games, eating pizza, and just sitting around talking, with their "brothers" and "sisters."

As of today, 30 Providence College students are involved with the pro-

A win-win situation for all...

gram. Providence College sponsors Halloween and Christmas parties for the program; aside from those two parties, the only sponsors for this program are the 30 PC Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

"There are those that are Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and there are far more people who should be involved in the program,"

according to Scott Baby '95. Kevin Magnier '95 says, "it is extremely important to put yourself in the kids shoes. Some of us have been gifted by God and it is our obligation to help out those who want and need our attention."

It doesn't take much insight to see how much of an impact a college student can have on a very impressionable sixth grader. This program needs the financial support of the college and its generous alumni. By donating money to the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program of Providence College, more children will be able to partake in such a positive experience.

Most importantly, the Big Brothers and Big Sisters need more PC students to spend one afternoon a week being role models. It is a win-win situation for everyone involved.

Going for the gold

by Scott Laprade '97
Sports Writer

Carolyn Cunneen, a senior at Providence College, is one of three chairpersons, who organize three events for the Special Olympics, which are played on campus on various dates throughout the fall and spring semesters. The Special Olympics makes it possible for the disabled to play in sporting events, which they normally would not be able to participate in. The Oath of the Special Olympics, "Let me win, but if I can't let me be brave in the attempt" illustrates the importance of participating in sports with a sense of pride. Winning is only second nature; Having fun and giving a full effort are the es-

sentials, aspects that are often forgotten in the world of sports.

The first event is going to be held on December 10th. It will be a unified basketball tournament for the more dexterous disabled citizens, and will be conducted in the Peterson facility.

The second event will include more participants, and will be held on March 11th, 1995 in the Peterson and Alumni facilities. This will be the largest of the three scheduled events, and is designed for those who have skills in various areas of the game of basketball. There will be skills contests in dribbling, shooting, passing, etc.

The last of the activities will be held on April 5th, 1995 in the Taylor Natorium.

continued on page 8

Ken Milligan: Medicine Man

by Mike 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 have a friend in Houston. I wanted to do something different for the summer, and I knew Houston had good hospitals. I called him up, 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 had 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. They had to give me a key, even though they usually don't give them to students. That's

pretty much how the paper came about — working a lot of hours.

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. So every morning when I walked up, I would play with the kids. They were incredible. I would take time to see them in between experiments, and I was there so much I decided to volunteer there on

Tuesday nights. I still have the shirt from that, I think.

MQ: Now, I've never been to the south. What was the culture like in Houston?

Ken: It's a great city, and I had the benefit of knowing some people. We went country dancing three times a week, at this big place called the Wild West. I loved the people down there.

MQ: Did anything catch you by surprise down there?

Ken: The Fourth of July is a good example. Texas is the most patriotic state. I went

largest display in Houston; then later on, in Texas; and finally, they said it was the greatest display and patriotic celebration in America. By the end of that day I was just dead. It was overload.

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



Ken Milligan '95

to this place called Buffalo Bayou, where they were having five bands or something. It was great. By the middle of the day there were 500,000 people there. The most amazing thing was the fireworks display that night. It was the hugest one I had ever seen. Every set of fireworks was like a finale, and there were no pauses between them. It was announced at one point that it was the

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 Cilliac 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 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.

Colin Baerman: Poet extraordinaire

by Pat Heap '96
A&E Writer

I was nervous at first when *The Cowl* asked me to interview him, Colin Baerman, 21, senior, psychology major. In many ways I was intimidated. After all he has accomplished most of the things I wish to accomplish before graduation. Colin has been in a number of plays, Fair Weather Therapy (a Rorschach production) and 4 Black Friars plays; Arms and The Man, Edith Stein, Trojan Women, and Crimes of the Heart. Also Colin has a published book of poetry, which is something I am most envious about.

4 p.m. Saturday. Cool temp. Sunny. Picture of fall in a booklet of New England. I'm very relaxed as I sit on his doorstep waiting. I am a few minutes early. He gets dropped off in front of his house and meets me halfway in his front-yard. He walks with half strut, half graceful ballerina steps. It suits his tall, slim figure. I had a friend, Mike, who walked like this. They knew each other. Their parents both lived in Kansas at the same time. Maybe they learned this secret walk together. There I go again with conspiracy. Too much X-files.

We go for coffee. I pay. I don't mind. \$1.10 is a small price to sit and talk to Colin alone. We sit under trees of red, yellow, and sunlight. His angelic pale skin illuminates the depth of his eyes. His face reeks of some strange knowledge. He has seen the world. He tells me

he was born in Switzerland and then moved to Colorado. He then moved around, his father was in the army, to places like Kansas, New York, Germany, Hawaii, Holland, New Jersey, and then back to Colorado. Colorado is home for Colin and his first childhood

memories.

After telling about his drama career, briefly mentioned earlier, he tells me that he never had much experience in drama productions until college. He takes a moment to say that he loved the people at the Black Friars and thanks them.

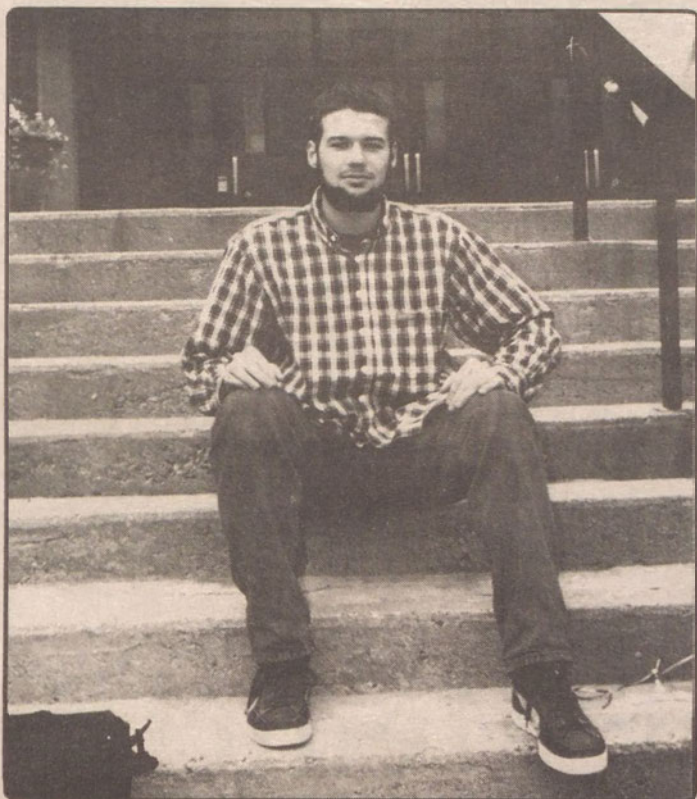
I ramble on about myself as the coffee diminishes. Mine mocha. His a regular. "A good interviewer always gets interviewed", he says making me feel good that I'm not just babbling. We talk of jazz, the Beats, a common friend. We talk about his poetry book *Song of a Rat* which Northwind Publishing put out. I learn that its a book of poems he wrote which come from a period in his life of images. He has moved on, he discovers, when he looks back upon them. The book, *Song of a Rat*, sold the P.C. Bookstore, Brown Bookstore, and College Hill Bookstore, but most have sold out. I want a copy. A book can make some one immortal you know. If some one reads it when he is physically gone, his poetry will still be alive.

This topic leads us to his tutorial with Jane Perel. He is very enthusiastic about it. He meets once a week with Perel and appears to have

gathered a great deal of knowledge. He tells me he works on editing and fine tuning his own poetry. Perel also gives him great books to read, which create new ideas for him. I get excited about his tutorial and for a moment believe that I have one, but I don't.

After a little improv poetry between the two of us about the small back-yard of the coffee house and everything connected beyond it, "spiderweb trees". We talk about future goals. Colin Baerman wants to work, hopefully something where he can travel and see different cities. New environments create new ideas. Then he wishes to go back to school and get a degree in Fine Arts. Mine consist of getting his book.

We talked for one and a half hours about everything, nothing, and something not quite clear yet. I learned a lot from my interview about him, myself, Mocha a Zog's, and us. I drop him off with a tape of Kerouac and my eternal friendship. I had no reason to be intimidated by the tall, bearded Colin Baerman I've seen walking, strutting, dancing across campus. He part human, part something else just like the rest of us.



Colin Baerman '95

photo by Amy Cacciola

Balfour Center Scholars: Motivating local youths

by Vera Schomer '96
Editorial Writer

Serving Providence school children has become a growing commitment for PC's students of color. The Balfour Center for Multicultural Student Affairs and S. Carolyn Sullivan, Director for Community Outreach, have supported Martin Luther King and South East Asian Scholars in their goals and incentives to give to the community.

Summerbridge is a program in which college students work at area middle schools as tutors, mentors and friends to students who need extra encouragement to continue to succeed in school. During the school year, college students volunteer to work twice a week tutoring and aiding teachers, and can then apply to work full time in the summer program. This national program is named Summerbridge because instead of leaving an academic gap during summer vacations, it gives students a

chance to continue and enhance their academic interests in a fun and supportive environment. The Providence chapter was established three years ago, and is now funded with federal grants from the Clinton Administration's AmeriCorps Program, which is a type of in-house Peace Corps movement.

Miriam Marcelin '96 has

empower them."

Summerbridge workers and volunteers make an effort to provide individualized attention to all students. They try to meet the needs of students that learn in different ways, whether they need help or more of a challenge. They also act as resource persons and they prepare students for entrance exams for some of the area

Encouraging students to go on to higher education.

been involved with Summerbridge for one year. This year, she and three freshmen, Mary Kong, Chan Pong and Cheechee Kue are volunteering at Nathanael Greene Middle School. When asked about the kinds of students she works with, she said, "Some of them may be at risk because they live in the city. Many of them are gifted or exceptional students, but basically, they are kids that just need the encouragement to do well... we

high schools.

PC's minority students also take part in the curriculum of a new specialized area high school. The Providence Chamber of Commerce has created the "School to Work Program" at the Feinstein High School for Public Service in South Providence. This program came about through teachers that were alarmed by poor attitudes, drop-out rates, and absenteeism among students with high potential. 119 stu-

dents were personally invited for four years to be taught by a core faculty of teachers, two counselors and a principal.

What is different about this program is that when classes end at 1:30, most students go to work at area businesses and experience something much like college internships. Those who aren't working yet stay to listen to motivational speakers. These speakers range from business professionals to college students, many of which come from PC. Our students tell a story of perseverance and beating the odds. They talk about being in college, about the difficulties involved and how it is well worth it. Because their audience is made up of minority students, they also emphasize the importance of being open-minded, and of taking the risk to enter into an environment that may make them feel uncomfortable. They describe the opportunities that an education at PC has given them, and they encourage students to go on to higher education.

Special Olympics

continued from page 7

Unlike the first two events, this one involves the sport of swimming and is referred to as "aquatics time trial", which simply means timed swimming races.

The Special Olympics' games are a real nice way to get the disabled involved in the wide world of sports, which no one should be deprived of. Carolyn Cunneen added that, "it is especially nice because the Special Olympics gives out a lot of medals". This makes everyone feel good about their accomplishments, and doesn't create a "must win" situation for the participants. It is plainly a day of fun and exercise for those with special needs.

The PC committee for the Special Olympics needs volunteers for these on-campus activities to time keep, score keep, or to cheer/give support to the participants. If anyone is interested, please contact Carolyn Cunneen at 521-6663.

Taking Action

by Renet M.A. Ladocsi '96
News Writer

The students of Providence College have spent much time and effort making sure that they leave this area better than they found it. From Big Brothers and Sisters to Habitat to Humanity students have never been frugal with their spare time when it comes to helping our surrounding community. The urban surrounding of our college is yet another place where the students of Providence College see a chance to make a difference, the opportunity to make a lasting impression. So students developed another public service organization, Urban Action.

The overall program invites freshmen students to come to school four days early. They are invited to spend a few days to become acquainted with their new surroundings and meet people with the similar goals; and to face new challenges that will make them grow from adolescents to adults. In a way, the changes they make in their community foreshadow the changes that will come in their lives. Through helping other people they are helping themselves to grow and become aware of how lucky we all are for what we have been

blessed with, and the opportunities we have been given. These students have chosen to give something back to the area that lays the back-

ground for their future memories, a way to say thank you in advance.

The goal is to become involved in the com-

munity, to make a impact. This past year 105 students spread themselves over six different locations in Providence. They worked on the future site of the Nigerian Cultural Center, laid the foundation for a house on Sayles Street for Habitat for Humanity, did demolition work for the Black Stone Construction Company on Whipple Street, painted playrooms at the Smith Hill Day Care Center, and finally, they painted 2 murals; one at Corliss Park and the other at Metcalf Field in Admiral Street.

The original team of "Urban Actioners" was headed by Nicole Riva and Meghan O'Sullivan '94. Having heard of other schools in depressed areas offering the same type of urban assistance, they decided to incorporate the same positive energy into Providence College.

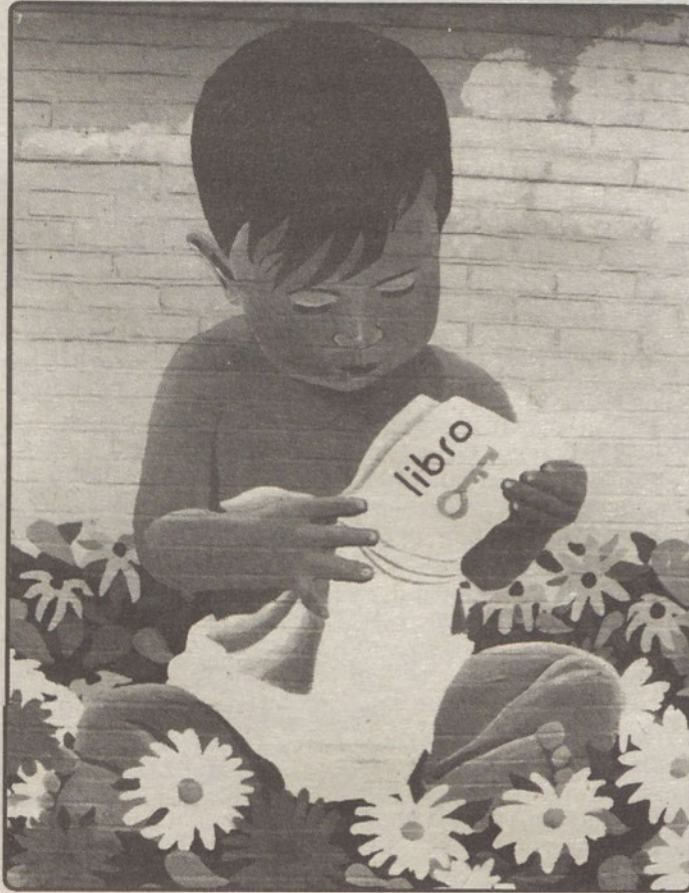
Students, as well as faculty and administration, have recognized the overall dedication and effort students have put forth to beautify and rebuild Providence and it's surrounding communities.

These students accomplished tremendous amounts for our community. In 1991 the original project was for the Advent House. This is a shelter for ten males who were all drug and alco-

hol abusers. For four days Providence College students worked together to patch walls, rip down wall paper and repaint this house. Funding and supplies were so low for these renovations that students were forced to use kitchen utensils, such as butter knives, to repair the house. These students were determined, they were dedicated, and they turned the heads of people in our college as well as the city of Providence.

The first Urban Action team consisted of 17 students. It grew to 68 students the very next year. Because of the success of the original group, offices such as Students Services, Public Relations and the Physical Plant were all highly cooperative and resourceful.

In 1992 the organization focused on renovating the West End Community Center in downtown Providence. In 1993 Urban Action was headed by Alyssa Murgia and Glorialis Alonso '95. The students renovated the Smith Hill Day Care Center where many of our students volunteer during the year, and the beautiful Douglas Avenue Mural depicting children and the word HOPE. Obviously a message to our community that we should not lose hope and that we should continually look to the future.



A mural on Douglas Avenue painted by members of Urban Action

photo by Joe Razcynski

Adopting new grandparents

by Justin Macione '95
Sports Editor

Upon walking through the doors of the Elmhurst Extended Care nursing facility, one might think that they entered hotel lobby. Plush couches, carpeting, and even a gift shop await. The dining facility contains the atmosphere of a New England country inn. However, upon entering the elevator of the Smith Street facility and dropping into various rooms of residents, a more common nursing home picture becomes apparent: large numbers of lonely, elderly men and women.

This social commentary on senior neglect is also evident at Providence College, although not purposeful. A large number of PC service organizations aid the youth of Providence, but the under-publicized Adopt a Grandparent organization is one of the few aiding the city's senior citizens.

Adopt a Grandparent, a Pastoral Council program, consists of over 10 students who make a weekly visit to Elmhurst Extended Care, a nursing facility at the Roger Williams Medical Center. This first class facility houses over 100 senior citizens, ranging in age from 75 to 95 years young. "It matches up a PC student with an elderly resident. They'll meet once a week for an hour", explained program organizer Laura Earlis.

Students can explore a multitude of activities, through which they can interact with their grandparent. While most "adopted grandchildren" choose to talk or watch television with their partner, they also have the option of using the Roger Williams van to attend ballgames, hit the beach, or take their grandparent shopping at the mall. Despite the opportunities, most of the nursing home residents are just looking for some company. The couples also tend

to keep in touch over the summer and vacations. The seniors enjoy recounting to the younger generation their past and numerous experiences.

Earlis stressed the high level of satisfaction in her experience last year. "I had just lost my grandmother named Mary, so I chose to work with a woman

named Mary who had multiple sclerosis. She cried every time I saw her because her own daughter doesn't visit her. I got a lot of satisfaction out of the experience though", recounted Earlis, a senior at PC. Seniors who don't receive many visits from family and friends are the most fortunate beneficiaries of the program.

While one of the smallest service groups at Providence College, the Adopt a Grandparent organization is one of the most dedicated at the institution. Although the time commitment involves a bare minimum of one hour per week, one hour of interaction for a grandparent who doesn't receive company can feel like five. In addition it shouldn't be difficult to put this situation in an individual perspective: If you are forced to leave your home for medical reasons in your golden years, would you rather be treated with anonymity or dignity?



Students enjoy their special time with the seniors.

photo by Rian Arthur

Afterschool at Smith Hill

by Karen Stauffer '96
Features Writer

*"The purest affection the heart
can hold - is the honest love
of a nine-year-old."*

When I walked into Sidelines today for the Smith Hill Center's Afterschool Program's Halloween party, it was obvious that the above quote by Holman Francis Day is quite true. Some children were getting their faces painted, some were drinking juice and eating cookies, and others were simply talking amongst themselves. None-the-less, all of these children were laughing and smiling. What makes these smiles possible is the dedication of the Providence College students who set aside a couple of hours every week in order to spend time with these children.

Although the Halloween party was a lot of fun, the students who volunteer at The Smith Hill Center do quite a bit more than just show up at Sidelines and eat cookies every week. Actu-

ally, they spend one day a week at the Center and stay there for a least two hours. Some of the students even volunteer to pick up the children from their schools and bring them to the center. At the center, the students organize activities which range from sports to helping the children with their homework.

When I spoke with a few of the students who volunteer at The Smith Hill Center, I immediately noticed their outgoing personalities and caring attitudes. It takes a special type of person to work with children, and all of the students I spoke with and observed at the party, displayed this uniqueness. These students spoke of the experience as a very positive one, and commented that they would like to continue volunteering for as long as they can. It is obvious that these students have gotten just as much, if not more, out of the program than the children at the center. Rosemary Fernandes, a freshman education major, told me a story which exemplifies this. One day at the center, a little girl was scribbling "I hate school" on her paper. When Rosemary talked to her and encouraged the little girl to write positive thoughts on her paper, the girl responded by writing, "I love Rosemary" on her paper. For Rosemary it felt good to know that she had made a

difference in this little girl's life. It is through experiences like this one that the volunteers are learning the significance of helping those in need. Most of these students began volunteering through the efforts of Sister Caroline. When I spoke with Sister Caroline, who is head of the Community Outreach Programs here at P.C., she was enthusiastic to speak with me about the program. She noted that although quite a few students presently volunteer, there is always a need for more students to donate some of their time. This need was also recognized by Domenic Lancellotta and Cedric L. Frazier who are the Afternoon and Morning Site Program Director's at the Smith Hill Center. Although Sister Caroline, Domenic, and Cedric recognize the need for more volunteers, they are extremely happy with the effort and dedication of the students who presently help out. Domenic Lancellotta, commented

that, "P. C. does more [volunteering] than people think."

As I left the Halloween party today, all of the children were gathered around as someone read them a Halloween story. When I looked at the children's faces, I knew that this program was making a difference in peoples lives, most importantly the children's lives. No matter who you are or where you come from, if you are fortunate enough to attend Providence College, you have the ability to help someone else along this difficult road we call life, and that is exactly what these volunteers are doing. When freshman, Marlene Gabilondo left the Smith Hill Center one day, a child said to her, "promise you'll come back?" If that doesn't show the impact these students have on the children, I don't know what will. In conclusion, I would like to say that it was a privilege to meet some of the volunteers. And although I only spoke with some of the student volunteers, they should all know that the effort they put forth is highly respected. Volunteers include: Laurie Gonzalez, Mary Kong, Viengxay Sihapanya, Linicia Melton, Deanne Gomes, Maalikat Vill, Marlene Gabilondo, Rosemary Fernandes, Nicole Garnett, Christina Kelley, Alda Farlow, Xoua Kue, KaraBeth Drezek, Roy Woodton, Jack Casimiro, Mathew Launh

It takes a special type of person to work with children

Julie Shea: "Service compliments faith"

by Tina Kloter '95
Features Editor

It's hard to get Julie Shea '95 to talk about herself. Legs curled up underneath her on a chair in the Chaplain's office, she is content to smile and say earnestly, "students at PC are great." Julie ought to know. She has been working with some eight hundred students who volunteer through the Pastoral Service Organization. She has been president of the PSO for two years. Before that, during high school and her first two years at PC, Julie taught CCD classes and tutored English as a second language. During her sophomore year, she worked as chair of the Adult Literacy program. She enjoys it. Service for Julie is a matter of faith.

She tells me with a shine in her eyes that she has learned so much from "the greater community." Julie tells me the people that she has met through the ESL program have made the greatest impression on her. "I've been humbled," she says. Their dedication is something she says that she hopes to pick up. Julie speaks about service as an opportunity to grow. She hopes that PC students will always continue to foster a relationship with the greater community. "Service is all about relationships," after all.

The PSO program has reorganized in the past few years. As always, Julie says that they want to get more students involved, but there

is now a greater concentration on serving more people. Service is a Christian responsibility, Julie reminds me. She speaks of it as "faith in action." And although she's sitting still, I actually see not only her faith, but her dedication to serving other people. I tell Julie this and she laughs, saying that it's just who she is. She has faith

Service Program, is a double major in Political Science and Latin American Studies and is an RA. To me this sounds like an impossible amount of commitments, but Julie says, "If you really love what you do, it's not hard."

"Speaking of what you do," I say, "what do you plan on doing next year?" Even though she says she doesn't



Julie Shea '95

photo by Joe Raczynski

not only in God, but in people and she is comfortable with this. As I hurry to write down her words she says, "service complements faith." I begin to marvel at the truths which Julie sets forth as just part of the conversation. She's got an eloquence and a simplicity in her words that a writer dreams about having. I attempt to explain this to her and she laughs and calls her words "sound bytes."

Julie is awfully mellow for such a busy woman. Aside from her position on the PSO, she is also involved in the new Feinstein Public

want to talk about it, Julie is still smiling. She tells me that she is considering two possibilities. She may go to graduate school and pursue a career in counseling, or she may participate in a volunteer program for a year. I ask her which she would like to do more and she shrugs her shoulders. She would be happy doing either one. "I like to do too many things," she says. Whatever Julie decides to do, she is sure to continue to have an impact on the people she works with. With her little bits of wisdom, I know she affected me.

Children's theater explodes

by Mary Shaffrey '97
News Writer

When one thinks of the Theatre Department,

usually big productions such as the upcoming "Meet Me In St. Louis" show, or the successful "Trojan Women" of last year come to mind. Chances are teaching the students of the nearby Kennedy, Camden and Veazie schools usually does not, unless you are a part of the Children's Theatre class that does this on a regular basis.

As part of a practicum, for the last ten PC students have brought

creative learning courses to these schools. Long before there were any official service learning courses here, students involved in this class provided arts educa-

PC theatre department regularly invites children and teachers to participate in Drama Master classes here at PC.

Many students also give extra time to help direct fourth, fifth and sixth graders in plays, such as the upcoming multicultural production, "Moonbow Dreams."

Mary Farrell, Chairwoman of the Theatre Depart-

ment believes that this is an excellent program. "We have great students willing to give of their time to help others, and we have had many successful ventures such as the Shel Silverstien production we did recently."

PC students
educate
children in the
arts.

tion opportunities to the schools, when budget cuts were cutting these so-called extras from the program.

Recently the college began offering a children's dance class that does the same. In addition to this, the

Communication is key

PC students teach English as a second language

by Christina Burgmyer '96
News Writer
and Juliette Marchioli '95
Features Writer

Imagine yourself in a foreign country, with no knowledge of the language, helpless when trying to ask for the simplest of things... and perhaps then you might experience one of the primary obstacles immigrants face upon arriving in the U.S. For every nation, the ability to speak the native tongue is a given, so perhaps this is why we often don't give enough thought to the struggles newcomers go through when trying to learn a new language. However, there are those, both on and off campus, who are helping certain individuals eliminate this problem, by teaching them the basics of the English language.

Here on campus, a number of students are involved in English as a Second Language (ESL), a relatively new organization designed to deal with language needs. For several hours weekly, PC students volunteer their time to teach basic English language skills to various members of the community. The Pastoral Service Organization oversees two such programs, one at Smith Hill and another on campus involv-

ing the UNNICO workers. The Smith Hill program is run three nights a week for two hours at the Camden school, under the supervision of director Lynn Zagoudis-Eastridge. The classes are broken down into four categories based on proficiency level and are team taught by regular volunteers and PC students. However, the program has very little



photo by Rian Arthur

funding, and is in desperate need of people willing to teach.

There are no specific re-

quirements to become an instructor in ESL. The PC students who volunteer their time range from Policial Science majors to Psychology majors. Furthermore, the program is extremely open and has no strict guidelines. Most of the students currently teaching simply observed some classes before they began teaching a class themselves. One senior involved in the

program states, "You learn so much more than grammar and vocabulary. Each student brings with them a different background and culture. There is such a great mixture of people, from all generations."

The students in the ESL program come from all over the world, including such places as Cambodia and Guatemala, and the program is open to anyone who needs help

learning English. Besides the PC students who teach, there are also students who volunteer for the day care program

at Smith Hill. Many of the ESL students bring their children during their classes, and are able to leave them in day care.

The second program involves the UNNICO workers, begun last year by Stephanie Bellanger '95 and continued this year by Carol Bodden '97. These workers are involved here on campus with housekeeping, and are mostly recent immigrants from the Dominican Republic. This program, like Smith Hill, is run under the guidelines of the nation-wide ESL organization, and was created specifically to service the needs of those who are working here on campus.

Catherine Szetela, '96, found out about the program through a friend, and as a Modern Languages major (Spanish and Portuguese), thought it would be an excellent opportunity to practice her languages, and at the same time, help teach those in need. "I'm in the process of learning Spanish, just like they're trying to learn English, so I know exactly what they're going through. You can see how much they're struggling to learn, and their enthusiasm motivates me to help them."

Catherine, like the others in the program, works an hour a day, up to four times a week, with two workers.

All of the workers are at a different level as far as their English skills are concerned, and so the PC tutors are assigned according to need. The lessons are of a practical nature, in which the PC tutors creatively design lessons to facilitate every day living through the acquisition of language skills.

PC is doing its part in providing temporary jobs for the workers, and the PC students are helping them gain the basic necessary skill to move onto better things. As Catherine stated, "They're aware that there are certain disadvantages if they can't speak English, and so in order to get good jobs, they're trying to eliminate this discriminating factor. We're helping them overcome that obstacle, and it's so great to be able to make that kind of difference in their lives."

These two programs are extremely rewarding for all involved, not only for those who are learning English, but also for the students whose lives are being enriched through interaction with their students. The rewards involve touching individual lives and making a difference in someone's future. Both programs are continually looking for volunteers, so get in touch either with Carol or Lynn, and become an ESL instructor!

Want to subscribe to *The Cowl*?

Keep up to date on all the happenings at
Providence College with the official student
news paper!

Simply fill in the information below and send a check for \$15 to:

Yes! I'd like to suscribe to *The Cowl*. Please
send my issues to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Don't forget to include a check for \$15!
Thanks, from *The Cowl* staff

The Cowl
Attn: Circulation
P.O. Box 2981
Providence College
Providence, RI 02918

Thank you, PC students!!!

The following article has been reprinted from the 10/26 issue of the *Providence Journal* and was written by Thomas D. Twitchell, acting co-director of the Smith Hill Center.

We support and laud some Providence College initiatives that take place on a continual basis in our neighborhood and seldom receive recognition. Quite often we hear and read about the disruptive activities of Providence College students who live in the Elmhurst area of Providence. Since we live right next door, on Smith Hill, we are very much aware of the problems. But we are also the recipients of an incredible amount of good will and loving outreach offered by hundreds of students year-round.

We have recently finished working with 25 students who painted two large licensed after-school-care rooms here at the Smith Hill Center. When they finished painting the two rooms with five wonderful pastel colors, they went to work demolishing the interior of a building that will become a church sanctuary for the Rhode Island

Nigerian population. This will go a very long way in stabilizing a part of our neighborhood that has had years of decay. And last year, PC Urban Action, a group of 70 undergraduates, painted a building in our area with a mural depicting hope, another mural of children playing near our day-care facility, and, again,

matched with a PC student mentor, go to the college each week and spend time with their mentor. It would be impossible to measure the good that comes from this major commitment from the college community.

Our English-as-a-second-language program for 80 adult learners could not function

with seniors, day-care children, neighborhood cleanups, etc. Last year, more than 90 volunteers, including professors and administrators, cleaned throughout the neighborhood and repaired the roof of yet another neighborhood church.

Most recently, the first class of the Feinstein Institute for

gress in the Smith Hill area. In this program, people came together to discuss issues that concerned them while developing solutions to address those issues. In the future, the Congress will set much of the community's social agenda.

While many local Rhode Island residents are aware of the parties on Oakland, Radcliffe, Pembroke and Pinehurst Avenues, they are not informed about all the wonderful acts of kindness and good will that the entire Providence College community participates in. We are only one community center of many where the college is present and sharing its very valuable human resources.

We are, of course, extremely grateful to them for all their continuing efforts to improve our lives in these persistently difficult times. But we want others to know, too. There will, after all, be many more of these great stories to publicize.

We are, of course,
extremely grateful to them for all
their continuing efforts to
improve our lives in these
persistently difficult times...

some of the hallways in the center.

PC Urban Action is the tip of the iceberg for us. Over the years, as many as 90 students a year have participated in PC Pals (formerly Big Brothers of PC) - a program for youngsters from the Chad Brown housing project. The young people are

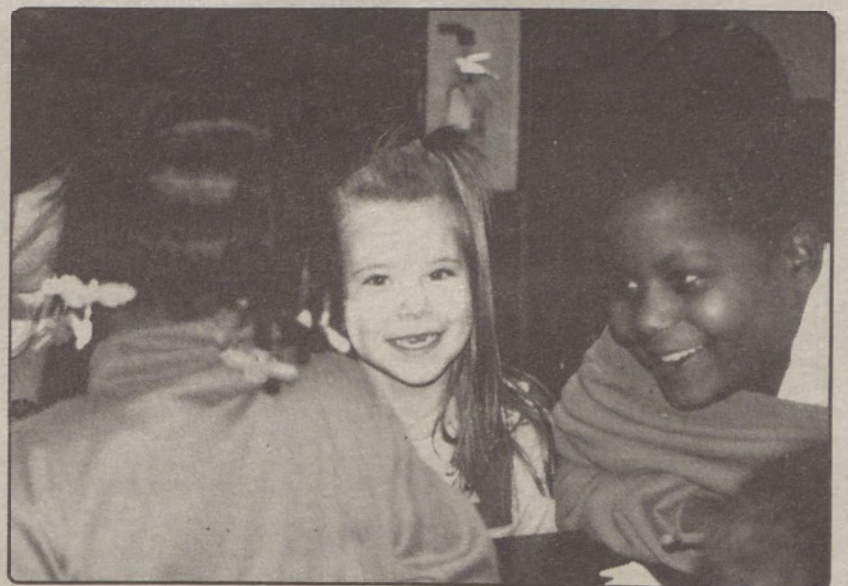
without the help of more than 30 volunteer tutors from students working through the Pastoral Council. For years, the various groups that make up the Pastoral Council have volunteered not only to supply our ESL program with tutors but also to volunteer in our other programs to help

Public Service initiated two programs in our area that will be helpful for years to come. They were, first, building a Parenting Resource Center at the Rogers Recreational Facility, behind the Camden Avenue Elementary School, and second, orchestrating the first Neighborhood Con-

Are these future PC students?



One girl plays Pin the Pumpkin at the Smith Hill Halloween party



Children play at the Afterschool program.

Keep up the good work students!