



BY DAVE QUINN '04 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Movie

Can't Hardly Wait Directed by Harry Elfont and Deborah Kaplan

Okay. So it's not a collegeinspired graduation film. Still, Can't Hardly Wait deals with a lot of the issues you'll deal with on the way out. Think about all the people you'll have to say goodbye to. Lets see... you've got the posers (Seth Green), the ex's (Jennifer Love Hewitt and Peter Facinelli), the misfits (Charlie Korsmo), and the best-friends (Ethan Embry and Lauren Ambrose). And while our college parties may be nothing in comparison, Can't Hardly Wait is still one pretty good time. Even with Melissa Joan Hart and her stupid yearbook.

Music Vitamin C

Vitamin C

Singer/songwriter/versatile musician she is not. Cheesy one-hit wonder? Bingo. Vitamin C broke into our hearts and minds, (in the vaguest sense of the term), in 1999 with her pop-flop Vitamin C. But while her album basically went no where, her—oh how it pains me to say it—hit single "Graduation (Friends Forever)" soared to the pockets of graduates everywhere. Know who I'm talking about now? Yup. That song. Nice trip down memory lane?



Book

Oh, the Places You'll Go! By Dr. Seuss

If you don't have this book yet—get ready. You know your aunt Belinda who lives in Oregon will be mailing this out to you as soon as she gets your graduation invitation (which you know you only sent her to be nice, and are counting on the fact that she's not going to actually decide to make the trip and trek all the way to Providence). Where was I? Oh yes! This book. Yeah, you're going to get it. It's yours. So enjoy it. It's a pretty entertaining read. And if you already have it—believe me—it's a great "re-gift" for those last minute gifts you forgot to get for your fellow graduates.

Picks Meet your speaker

Commencement speaker Charles Sennott boasts a journalistic resume that has allowed him to travel in the footsteps of history

BY KEITH CARR '04 ASST. NEWS EDITOR

On May 18, Charles Sennott, prominent author and European bureau chief for the Boston Globe, will speak at Providence College's Commencment. Sennott was chosen by the Commencement Speaker Selection Committee earlier this year.

Sennott studied history at the University of Massachusetts Amherst before going on to receive his master's degree from the Columbia School of Journalism. He began his journalistic career by working for the New York Daily News. After reporting extensively on the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, Sennott left the New York Daily News, and in 1994 began writing for the Boston Globe. Throughout 1996, Sennott traveled extensively in the Middle East, and won several awards, including the Livingston Award for National Reporting, the Aronson Award for Social Justice Journalism, and a National Headliner Award for

Investigative Reporting for his series, "Armed for Profit." In 1998, Sennott moved to Jerusalem and continued to report for the *Boston Globe*.

To celebrate the new millennium, Sennott embarked on a pilgrimage through Israel, following the original steps of Jesus, taken 2000 years earlier. His book about the experience, The Body and the Blood: The Holy Land's Christians at the Turn of the Millennium, chronicles Sennott's thoughts on the modern-day Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In a March 2002 interview for CNN, Sennott said of the trip, "I think maybe there's a way for people to rethink the Middle East, and that's to think that 2,000 years ago the exact same issues were resonating at the time of Jesus."

Sennott's position is that although there has been seemingly constant conflict throughout the what is now called Israel, there have been bright moments and opportunities for peace. "...I think that one of the things that we can do in looking 2,000 years ago to the time of Jesus and comparing that to the



Courtesy UMASS Magazine Online

Middle East today is try to find out the answers that exist for reconciliation, for forgiveness, and for finding solutions that exist in all three faiths. Christianity has its take on this..." In his book, Sennott also focuses on the dwindling number of native Christians in Israel today.

-This year, Sennott is reprising his role as comencement speaker—in May of 2002, Sennott spoke at the Oberlin College Baccalaurate Graduation Ceremony.



Stay competitive. Earn your graduate degree in accounting at America's first business university.

The business world has changed and so have CPA requirements. Students now need 150 hours of class time to sit for the CPA exam. Fulfill this requirement with Bentley's Master of Science in Accountancy (MSA) program - the first in Massachusetts to receive the prestigious accountancy accreditation from AACSB International. The MSA provides the depth of knowledge and access to high-tech facilities that help prepare students for carters in all areas of accounting, from financial and managerial to accounting information systems, A four-year degree is a start. But today you need more, Find it at Bentley, Visit us online or call 800/442-GRAD.

www.bentley.edu/gr/acc



BENTLEY COLLEGE
GRADUATE ACCOUNTING PROGRAMS

MS Accountancy

MS Accounting Information Systems

To learn more about Bentley's graduate accounting programs, attend one of our upcoming information sessions.

BENTLEY COLLEGE

America's First Business University

Opening the doors to a post-PC life

One allum sits down and recalls how the Providence College experience, like it or not, goes on, often following you wherever you go

BY BEN NADEAU SPORTS STAFF 1997-1998

So, graduation's approaching and your Providence College experience is coming to an end, right? Don't believe it for a second. I graduated three years ago, and though I view my college days as being completed, the PC experience goes on.

The past four years have hopefully filled you with stories to tell for the rest of your life.

Enjoy these last few days together with your friends as students and make a few more memories, but don't think that this is the end.

You might move away, start a job, travel around the world - but you'll be amazed at how often PC pops back into your lives. For one thing, once the Alumni Office knows where and how to get in touch with you, you'll be receiving a seemingly endless supply of requests for monetary donations and perhaps a few flyers about Alumni gatherings that are taking place in your area.

The main gathering, of course, is Alumni Weekend. For the first couple years after graduation, this can turn into quite an event. Some people think they

can party like they used to, and that makes for a date with Excedrin the next morning. Other people spend the night getting dinner on Federal Hill and catching up with friends. A few actually spend the outrageous sums of money for campus-sponsored events. Regardless, it's always a pretty good

Another thing is the fact that you always seem to run into people who graduated from here, or have a family member who goes here, or some other connection like that. I remember when PC was playing Penn State in the NCAA Tournament a couple years ago. I was in an airport bar in Oakland, CA on my way to LA for the weekend. As it turned out I was sitting next to a guy who graduated from PC in 1994. It was pretty interesting to hear about his PC experiences and how similar they were to my own. He was amazed to hear about the changes on campus - no more Grotto, no more mailboxes in Slavin, no more baseball team. We found that for both of us, the food at Ray still left something to be desired.

But that's what college is all about, right? Living it up while you're there, getting your education, and complaining about the food. The past four years have hopefully filled you with stories to tell for the rest of your life. Enjoy these last few days together with your friends as students and make a few more memories, but don't think that this is the end. PC has a way of following you wherever you



DAVE QUINN '04/The Cowl

Ben Nadeau returned to PC this summer—this time as the Guzman Hall Director.



PROVIDENCE OYSTER

"New England's Premier Seafood Restaurant"

NOW WELCOMING RESERVATIONS FOR PROVIDENCE COLLEGE **GRADUATING CLASS OF 2003** MAY 18, 2003

and refined at the same time.

After a few dozen, so are our patrons.

Feel free to come out of your shall,

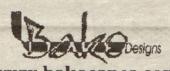
No better place to get stranded.

Aphrodisiac.

After a few cold ones, you'll find more than the conversation stimulating.

Located on Historic Federal Hill 283 Atwells Ave Providence, RI 02903

Call Now for Reservations!!! 401-272-8866



www.bakocapes.com Custom: Capes, Cloaks for Men & Women

Helen Bakogiannis Custom Designer

Ontario, Canada tollfree: 1-866-300-8880 fax: 1-519-823-5229 helenb@bakocapes.com

USA Promo: Lucy

EMAIL: mariachristina@msn.com



WANTED

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Rhode Island and Massachusetts Summer***Full-time***Part-time

Gentle Giant, Boston's premier moving company is interested in hiring intelligent, articulate individuals to work as movers. Strength and above average fitness are required. Great job for athletes and others looking to stay in shape over the summer. Help is needed in our Providence, RI, location. Also, Somerville, Needham, Acton, Framingham, Weymouth, Wilmington, and Beverly, MA locations. If you like physical work and like making money...CHECK US OUT!

For more information call David at 800-466-8844 or 617-806-1008

Taste of the Town with Megan Gaffney '03 A&E Staff

Bella Vista 1 Finance Way 272-1040

During Commencement activities, you'll inevitably be thinking about a few things: leaving your friends, finding a job, moving back in with the parents, and perhaps eating a jelly donut. Graduating in the Dunkin' Donuts Center can only lead to pleasant thoughts of coffee and baked snacks, so you'll probably leave the ceremony with an expensive sheet of paper and a watering mouth. With the parents in town, it's your final chance to dine out in style and take advantage of their celebratory generosity. Bella Vista is the perfect place to "take" your parents out to dinner. Unfortunately, it's closed for regular meals on Sunday, but you can easily bring them there after you get your colored cords on Friday or pray for loan relief on Saturday. They also advertise special private parties on Sundays for graduation, so if your parents are really excited about your outstanding achievements, tell them to make a few calls.

Atmosphere: Bella Vista's location is perfect: it's on the river (and you even go down two stories to get to the restaurant and closer to the water) and it offers a beautiful view of downtown Providence. The owners made a wise move in building an outdoor dining area, so nice days and good reservations lead to a gorgeous dinner overlooking this scene. Being inside isn't the worst thing,



MEGAN GAFFNEY '03/The Cowl

either, since the restaurant is well-decorated with an open main dining room and a smaller, more intimate room with a river view. White bricks, light wood, and dark colors complement each other on the walls to create an environment that works nicely with the candlelight. It's not too romantic though, and there's a spacious bar at which you can do congratulatory shots with Grandpa.

Selection: If you're celebrating with a large and picky family, Bella Vista is a safe choice. With familiar choices like veal parmesan, trout and gnocchi, there are meals that please everyone. Some have an even more elegant twist, like the pistachio-encrusted Statler chicken, and grilled entrees come with a choice of creative sides like onion-flavored

mashed potatoes or sweet potato french fries. Bella Vista offers an extensive list of pasta dishes, and a nice touch is their availability in half- or full-sized portions.

Quality: It's nice to know that the high prices at Pella Vista aren't paying only for the view. Marinara sauce at Bella Vista definitely is unique, and its slight spiciness probably comes from red pepper added to it. Chicken parmesan comes with a generous slice of mozzarella cheese and a big portion of fresh penne. The meat itself is tender and also a nice size. Filet mignon medallions also come very tender, and the accompanying veal stock sauce adds an extra flavor to the meal. Red and yellow tomato risotto comes with the meat and constitutes a rich but flavorful side. One problem is the menu's

indication that the plate comes with mixed greens, since they are barely a garnish and do nothing for the meal.

Service: Making a face when you cut into a very rare filet mignon will not go unnoticed here; in fact, the action allows for your plate's transport back into the kitchen to undergo more intense cooking. Constant water refills are almost excessive, but attention to detail is always nice.

Affordability: We've established that the elders are footing this bill, so does it matter? Maybe. Bella Vista isn't Providence's cheapest restaurant – chicken entrees are about \$17 and up, the filet mignon \$26. Half-portions of pasta constitute a nice way to save money, though the portion might not fill you up.

Overall: Bella Vista has a beautiful view of Providence and the river, as well as delicious food. Its atmosphere is quiet enough for your family to bombard you with praise and questions about your murky future as you enjoy a variety of meals. Don't let the slightly high prices scare you, unless you plan on celebrating Commencement in style every day of the next few months.

Scared of the water?: Other good picks for nice Commencement dining are the Capital Grille, Napa Valley Grille, Capriccio's, Mediterraneo, Casserino's, Blue Grotto, Andino's, Pot au Feu, New Rivers, Florentine Grill.



10 things to love about Providence College

One senior sells back her books and stops to smell the roses

BY ERIN SIMMETH '03 COMMENTARY EDITOR 2002-2003

In my four years on Commentary I have spent most of my time griping about what I think is wrong with Providence College. Really though, I do think this is a pretty good place to be. At the end of my time here, I suddenly feel nostalgic about so many little things that I figure I should share the best of them with you all, to stay with you until you, too, can experience this sudden attack of belated school-related

1) Trees This time of year, beauty pops up as if out of nowhere: take, for example, the tree-in-a-box by the stairs to lower Slavin. The first tree to bloom on campus every year, Magnolia Starletta is especially lovely growing out of that unexpected concrete corner. We actually have a lot of nice trees on this campus, from the shady oaks that pummel us with bullet-like acorns every fall, to the pink flowery ones that turn your car green in spring: and all are neatly identified and tagged, if only anyone could find the mysterious Tree

2) Food I know, you wouldn't expect food to top a list of things to love at PC. But seriously, breakfast at Ray is the best reason to get up for classes. And Slavin is even better, if you make it there in time...they have these great egg sandwiches. Tuna melts are another main reason for my existence on this campus, especially with tomato, and admit it: we all love the desert table, even if we have to approach it in groups to alleviate dietrelated guilt and anxiety.

3) People I feel kind of bad putting fellow human beings after food...but this

is my list. It's a cliché but true that PC is just the right size if you want to meet new people all the time and still be able to say hello to a dozen people just walking between classes. I'm going to miss being surrounded by all these people, from my best friends to the mysterious ones at whom I have enjoyed smiling even if I never knew your

4) The Quad Although most of the year it's a frozen tundra, the quad makes up for its six months of dormancy by suddenly becoming the place to be on the first nice day of the year. A note for future generations: prolong the quad's seasonal longevity by warming up by a

5) Random Grassy Spots When the quad is a little too "hopping" for your taste, or if you actually like grass, check out those hidden pockets of paradise. Take for example the "sculpture garden" and fountain by Hunt-Cavanaugh. Not too many sculptures are to be seen, except for one of some saint with rats on his feet, and a big balding man's head. But the grass is lovely, and did I mention that there are fish? While you're there, check out the art gallery, yeah that's right we have an art gallery, or lose yourself in the wilderness of the Dore/Fennel woods. (One of my only regrets is that I never made out with anyone there. Anyone feel like helping me fulfill my

6) The Library Speaking of making out, I hear they are planning to build lots of "group study areas" in the new library that will doubtless be helpful for those with another related fantasy. I also hope there are lots of new couches...the current ones have given me many nice naps in the corners or in the Concrete



DAVE QUINN '04/The

Pit. There's nothing like waking up with that burlap pattern perma-pressed into your face...future PC generation will never know what they've missed. Also, I hope they come up with some way to record the graffiti on those carrels for posterity...some of that stuff goes back to prehistoric times and is a fantastic record of student life and culture.

7) The City OK, so most of the time, our namesake mini-metropolis just makes a nice sparkly scenic backdrop to the campus. But when these 105 acres get a little claustrophobic, the city

provides a welcome change of scenery, as well as the opportunity to look at people with really wacky hair. Oh and there are some great restaurants...not to get back to food again or anything.

8) Lunch Ladies Heck I'll just talk about food some more. Some of my best friends on campus are the people in charge of the food, such as Margaret in Slavin, Alvin the ice cream guy and Flo the box lunch lady, Fran, Blanche and Terry serving and swiping with smiles, Keith with International, not to mention Brian the grill guy...these people help make the cafeteria feel more like a kitchen, even if it isn't Mom's cooking (Keith, it's actually better!).

9) Frank This winter, having the shuttle take me to my door at night probably saved me from freezing to death on more than one occasion...and Frank always managed to remember my destination, no matter how bundled up I was. Frank truly rules, from his chill tunes to his uncanny ability to never pass by a desperate would-be passenger. He is nothing less than a living institution

on this campus!

10) Parties When all is said and done, one thing PC knows how to do is party. When St. Patrick's Day warrants a two-week celebration and even your dorkiest clubs can flip-cup themselves under the table, you know you're at a party school. Some of my favorite memories involve holding a plastic cup in someone's groaty basement, or dancing like a stripper in someone's living room, or having the party where a freshman is dancing with the wall...it all comes full circle in the end, people. Remember that, if nothing else...and enjoy all those crazy little things that make this place so wonderful.

PRIME CUT

901 Smith Street Providence, RI 02908 (401) 831-9743

COMMENCEMENT 2003 IS COMING SOON! MAKE PRIME CUT PART OF COMMENCEMENT 2003 WEEK!



FOR THE LADIES ... **UPDOS - \$30** WAXING - \$5 AND UP PEDICURES - \$22 MANICURES - \$12

FOR THE GENTLEMEN ... HAIRCUTS - \$10, A PC SPECIAL!



CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT SOON!

Philosophy of a senior sophist

BY JOHN MCHUGH COMMENTARY STAFF

...Please, enough with the 80s stuff. When they were in full swing, the oldest among you was about six and the last time that I checked, six-year-olds aren't too heavily involved with popular culture. So enough with the 80s music, the 80s clothes, the 80s jokes, the 80s themed parties. Not only is this annoying but it doesn't make any sense. Why must we emphasize such a terribly styled (in all facets of life) era when none of us are even old enough to be nostalgic about it?

...You can try and try and try and buy all kinds of fancy Gore-tex but you will never be able to improve on the best possible method of keeping warm: Tucking your T-shirt into your skivvies.

...Who decided that cinnamon and pizza are perfect compliments? It doesn't make a lick of sense. All of a sudden, every pizza place in the world, even the non-chain mom-and-pop's, started serving cinnamon breadsticks with pizza. And yet, people must still buy them if they keep popping up on menus. I just don't understand it. Is the next big idea going to be chicken wings and chocolate sauce? Or how about mozzarella sticks and whipped cream? Somebody needs to tell these people that there is a desert/pastry world and a greasy food world and that the two should always be kept distinct.

...I have a friend named Larry. Everyone should have a friend named Larry. Or at least a crazy uncle named Larry. What a great, all-American name. It is so enjoyable to be able to say things like "So I was out having a beer the other night with my buddy Larry..." No one should ever refer to a guy named Larry by his last name. And that includes Larry Bird.

...We have gotten to the point where we cannot even walk through an institution of higher learning without being under the watchful eye of our television-god. (Please forgive my inexcusably long silence on this topic. Looking back, I should have devoted the last two years of my life to inciting student action against the school's unholy contract with the College Television Network. And trust me, I am dead serious. Perhaps my prolonged idleness is really just an ironic testimony to fact that they have won and the years of conditioned zombification have not passed without taking their toll).

Putting those CTN TV's in Slavin and Raymond Cafeteria is the worst, most unforgivable thing that the school has ever done. I know I have put most of the blame on myself but we are all guilty of allowing this to happen. Something needs to be done or we will all be sucked into the corporate machine that is eating our world with its television teeth. And regardless of the advertisements, we cannot ignore the fact that we are all affected by this constant sensory stimulation that is designed to make us do anything—anything at all but think. This is a serious social problem and I am sickened by the fact that PC, an institution of higher learning and therefore culture, through its contract or agreement or whatever with CTN, is not only allowing this to happen but is deliberately making things worse. I have never been angrier about anything at PC than I am about the CTN. Like I said before, maybe the fact that I have waited so long to say something is the result of my CTN-aided brain rot. Or maybe I have been successful enough in blocking out the crap that it feeds us, thereby making me less affected and not as angry. Regardless, if I was a parent and saw the televisions in Ray and Slavin, I would not send my kid to Providence College. Period. And those are strong words for someone who loved his time here as much as I have.

... The worst tasting thing in the entire world is the wood of a Popsicle stick. I can't even describe the feeling I get when my tongue hits the stick inside a Popsicle. I guess I can make an analogy between this feeling and the feeling of a gum wrapper hitting a filling. Absolute agony. This is why I am glad that the Hood ice cream company took this into consideration and made the spoons inside Hoodsies out of the exact same material as the Popsicle sticks! Who were the marketing geniuses behind that decision? I understand that plastic may be expensive, but aren't there other types of wood? Or at least other materials? Did they really have to make the spoon, a completely necessary tool for eating ice cream, out of the same disgusting material as the dreaded, disgusting Popsicle stick?

...It was a sad, sad day for New Englanders when MVP Sports became Decathlon Sports. We lost the radio jingle, the trademark royal blue, and worst of all, the memories.

...Why would they ever make Spaggethios without meatballs? Nothing tops the disappointment of realizing that you screwed up at the supermarket and

bought the kind without meatballs. Do they really think vegetarian-types (i.e. the extremely health conscious, etc.) eat *Spaggethios* in the first place?

...A scary thing happened when I went to Texas. The time on my cell phone changed to meet the change in time zones on its own! That means that someone that I do not know and will probably never meet, always knows where I am, at all times. The damn things are like tracking devices. It would actually be fitting that the micro-chip-in-the-thumbnail thing essentially already happened when we all bought cell phones and tied ourselves into the "cellular network". We willingly gave up our freedom already and didn't even realize that we did.

...To hell with the Admiral Spa. Walking into it is like walking into the Yankees clubhouse. This is made all the more offensive by the fact that we live in *Rhode Island*. This is not New York! This is not even Connecticut (which is a state that I disregard entirely for the reason that most Connecticut folk aren't even New England Patriots fan, despite the fact that it is the only major sports franchise that even acknowledges their existence in its name and almost moved there a few years ago). We are less than 40 minutes from where the Red Sox play home games! In New York, I would be willing to bend on this but, so help me God, I will not eat breakfast in a place in *Rhode Island* that is so heavily Yankees-associated.

... The difference between the villains in Wayne's World and Wayne's World 2 is worthy of notice. They go from Mr. Suave Rob Lowe to the creepiest man in the world, Christopher Walken. You'd think that after not losing his girlfriend to Rob Lowe, Wayne wouldn't really have to worry about the advances of Christopher Walken. (I just wanted to point this out, not express an opinion one way or the other, as I like Christopher Walken too much to be against him in any role).

...Despite what contemporary society likes to tell you, the extreme liberal is just as much of an absurdly ridiculous, ignorant jerk as any card-carrying member of the KKK.

...What is the deal with Grimace? You've got the Hamburgler, Ronald, that duck-thingy chick, and the

Cumberland, RI

(Next to Deluxe Cleaners)

335-9077

rest of the McDonald's crew who are all understandable existents. And then you have Grimace. Grimace is a giant purple blob with a face. Hey, pretty creative old man McDonald. What, did your two-year old son come up with that one?

...Did you ever realize how cool Venetian blinds are? All you do is twist this skinny plastic rod and they open and shut at your whim.

...Reason number 426 why I will never care about women's basketball: Hey, did you hear that Tennessee played Uconn in the Women's Final Four this year? Wow, that is amazing. Its not like Uconn plays Tennessee every single year. Is the talent pool that thin that the same two schools can dominate a major collegiate sport with such regularity? (And yes, I am aware of the fact that a lot of little girls aren't brought up to play basketball because of archaic gender roles, social pressures, yata-yata-yata, and that this is the reason why the talent pool is so small. This, however, still doesn't mean I have to watch an inferior product).

...Group projects/papers do not make any sense. Their use rests on the logical fallacy that more people giving input means better results. Writing a paper is like driving a car. If I take the wheel, you take the gas, and Jim Labibbins takes the brake, we are almost assuredly going to crash.

...And lastly, the best possible advice I can give to any of you who still have some time left at our fine academic institution is to change you major. Get out of those horrible business classes with their useless group projects while you still can. Study something that you enjoy and will thereby have an easier time of doing well in. You are investing not only a ton of money but also four years of your life in this school. The least you can do for yourself is to come out of it as a mildly educated and somewhat cultured individual. It is entirely up to you. Don't believe that you won't be able to get a job if you're a liberal-arts major. People hiring you only care about two things: Whether or not you will work hard and whether or not they will be able to tolerate your company every single day for an extended period of time. Even if you really want to enter the rat race, rest assured, you'd still be able to. Just don't do it for four years before you planned.

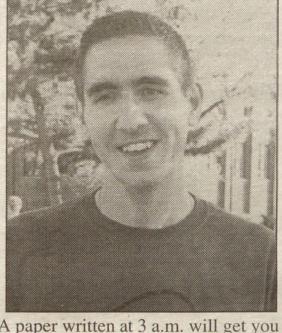


Distance Delivery
-Come in or Call

"What important life lessons has four years at Providence College taught you?



"Motown music sounds best when it's blasting from the PC Shuttle." Jenn O'Melia '03 Kelly Delmonte '03

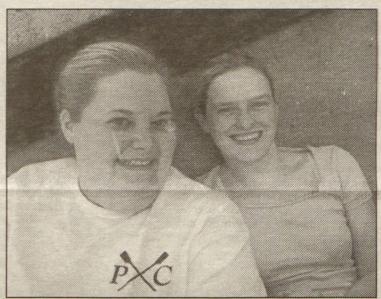


"A paper written at 3 a.m. will get you the same grade as a paper written three weeks in advance."

Justin Cusce '03



"Diet Coke and asprin are part of this complete breakfast." Beth Narbonne '03



"You can still be up at 8:30 a.m. with a hangover."

Kate Vince '03 Blair Riley '03



"\$30,000 in debt equals no job." Ben Fillo '03 Allie Wroblewski '03



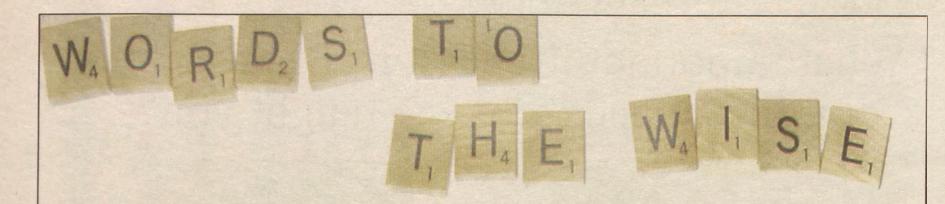
"You'll never get a medal for racking up the most parking tickets." Daniela Busciglio '03



Zack and Kelly

"The college years go by a lot faster than high school ever did."





Commencement tips from those who've been there

BY DAVE QUINN '04
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

AND KATY McBrine '04
PORTFOLIO STAFF

If you decide not to go to Commencement, that's perfectly fine. But it is a good time. So don't write it off just because you don't feel like buying a dress or renting a tux.

Take someone or don't take someone. No matter what, you'll have fun. Don't be afraid to go stag. Surround yourself with your friends and you won't know the difference. A date often gets in the way. And if you're really concerned about having that Commencement promlike photo, then stop worrying. Wouldn't you rather a picture of a whole bunch of your friends then just you and someone you probably didn't want to go with anyway?

If you decide to take someone, pick the perfect date. You want someone who has her own group of friends but can still fit in with your group. Don't choose someone who will leave you the second she gets with her friends because she can't get along with your boys. In the same respect, you want to be able to have alone time without feeling like you are ditching someone. It's a fine line to walk, but try and walk it well.

If this isn't your Commencement, (i.e. you are not a senior but are going with a senior), don't be stupid. Of course, by stupid, we mean drunk. Make sure the other person doesn't regret taking you. Know your limit. Be on your best behavior. Don't ruin your senior's final event.

Be prepared. This whole "secret events at secret locations" thing is nothing new for PC. Plan for all sorts of locations by dressing in clothing that can universally be applied to many areas.

With that said, pack lightly! You know you don't want to carry all that stuff around. Ladies, keep the purses small. Gentlemen, plan on pocket room for all the things your date can't fit into her purse.

Carry your ATM card at all times. \$6 for a mixed drink. Have fun with that.

Dress appropriately. Commencement isn't about making statements. Simple tuxes and simple dresses. Believe me, you'll be happier in the long run. There's nothing worse than looking back at old pictures and thinking "what the heck was I wearing?" Prom, anyone?

Word of advice from the man on the street: Ladies, Shereef doesn't like "busted shoes."

Gentlemen. Here's a little lesson: have your dates pick out your tuxes with you. Females know style. They will help you pick out colors that match their dress. Four words guys—the jewel ain't cool. Forgoing the standard tie for a grossly oversized button cover is simply embarrassing. And ladies—do not encourage your date to sport a cane, top hat, ascot, tuxedo T-shirt, or zoot suit at any point during the weekend.

This, of course, carries on to the flower purchases. Remember—white is always a standard color that matches everything. Thank your date for your flowers, no matter how hideous, wilted, or orange they may be.

Mom taught us this one. When you pick up your tuxes, look them over IN FRONT of the rental people. If there are any problems, you can deal with it right then and there. Make sure things fit. Try stuff on if necessary. Make sure things aren't ripped, or stained, or falling apart. Try the shoes. Try the vest.

Don't buy socks there. Go to Brooks Brothers. Heck, go to The Gap. You want a pair of well-priced socks that don't fall apart halfway through the event. Though, if you don't have dark socks by now, you probably deserve to have that happen to you.

Return your tux on time! You do not want to pay those late charges. And keep all the plastic bags. It will help keep you organized and get you in and out of tux return.

Ladies, prohibit your date from the wifebeater/tuxedo-pant look at all costs.

Sit with your date on the bus, both to and from events.

Ladies. It's Commencement. Please put the girls away for club night. Please no white on white. Make sure your pasties are not exposed. And if we can see your crack, your club night skirt is too short.

Grinding is never appropriate in front of Fr. Smith. Wait till the higher-ups leave before you let loose.

Guys, if you can't dance, don't get up on a platform and start grinding with a girl. I don't care how hot she is. She'll NEVER make you a good dancer. That doesn't mean you still can't shake it up. Dance with your girls. Just do it in the background. Or surrounded by a big group of people where no one can see your terrible moves. P.S. that goes the same for girls.

If you don't like an event, stop complaining. It's your last bit of time with your class. We don't need no hateration. Don't miss "Dancing Queen" for teary-eyed bathroom drama. Put on a smile, laugh with your friends, and give props to the core for putting in the time. Sure, you could have done it better yourself, but you didn't really try for it, did you?

Plan for sitting in traffic on 93. Make mix CDs. Carpool.

Do not spend more that what a small vehicle would cost for a room at the Park Plaza. Check around for cheaper hotels—maybe ones with less strict rules.

Eat the food at the formal. You'll be starving if you spend dinnertime jumping from table to table.

Considering leaving the camera at home. Make mental memories, and let one person in your group have the disposable. Then just chip in for doubles. Besides, don't you just hate standing in a group and having one person take the same picture on 16 cameras?

Do not whip out a flask on the dance floor and think you are impressing people.

Change your clothes after the formal. Comfort is key at that point.

Find something unique and fun to do after the formal. You'll have the energy, but not enough to drive back to Providence. Most of you will stay in Boston overnight anyway. Explore the area. Go to a late nightclub. Or a diner. Don't plan on just drinking in the hotel room, cause seriously, that's not much fun.

Don't sleep through the breakfast the next day. As lame as those videos might seem, you know you want to see them.

DO NOT wear your tuxes and gowns from the formal to breakfast. Okay. We get it. You stayed out all night. You're still drunk. You're a rock star! Now shut up and sit down. Honestly, you look stupid and foolish, and quite frankly, pathetic.

Try and remain sober during the actual Commencement ceremony. Yea it may be 3 hours long, but you don't want to be tripping over yourself and reeking of rum when you go to shake Fr. Smith's hand.

Be careful not to get lost in the sea of grandparents and nephews at Commencement ceremonies. Designate a meeting spot for the family after the ceremony. And please—leave your cell phone at home. We know you have friends, but we don't need to hear your latest cell phone jingle busting up during the ceremonies.