

70 Years of News at Providence College



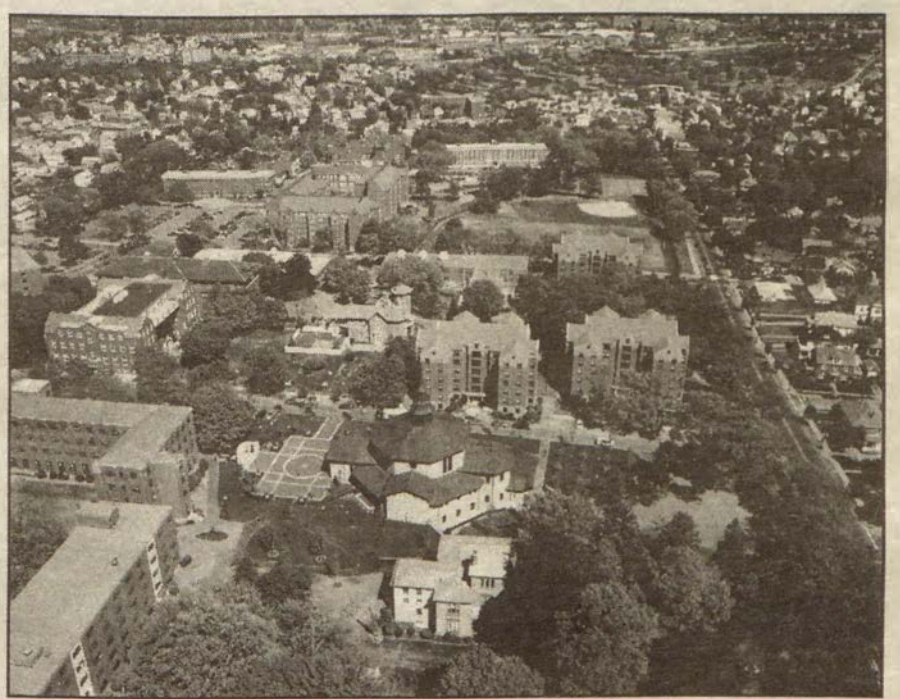
Providence College aerial photo circa 1939



Providence College aerial photo circa 1949



Providence College aerial photo circa 1972



Providence College aerial photo circa 2001

As *The Cowl* celebrates its 70th Anniversary, we invite our readers to look back on some of the events and personalities that have defined the College, the city, and our newspaper.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
MIDNITE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
HELMET

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
OUR LADY PEACE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
BADFISH

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
KINGS OF LEON

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
DAR WILLIAMS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
PORCUPINE TREE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
GANG OF FOUR

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1
LEMONHEADS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2
TEGAN & SARA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5
GHOSTFACE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8
DECEMBERISTS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11
BURNING SPEAR

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12
ATMOSPHERE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15
LES CLAYPOOL

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18
DANZIG w/DOYLE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19
SUSAN TEDESCHI

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22
DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26
THE WAILERS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28
TONY YAYO

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29
DRESDEN DOLLS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30
BLACK LABEL SOCIETY

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MEDESKI MARTIN & WOOD

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The Cowl makes its debut

BY MICHAEL J. MASSEY '06
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Seventy years ago two Providence College students published the first issue of *The Cowl*. Except for a short period during World War II, *The Cowl* has been the main voice of the student body on campus.

There were many ways we could have chosen to commemorate this event. However, I was determined not to make this a look back at *The Cowl* (in part to save our readers the boredom of reading about new office upgrades) but instead to pub-

lish a retrospective of 70 years of news at PC.

A great amount of time was spent researching for this issue, and for that I would like to personally thank Jane M. Jackson and Robin Rancourt of Archives for the time they spent indulging the staff with countless photos and facts, all of which helped to make this issue of *The Cowl* so comprehensive.

However, it is important for us as a newspaper and as a school, not to remain fixed upon the past. The future is a bright and promising destination, and there is much more work for us to do,

students, faculty, and administration together.

This year is something of a new beginning for PC as we welcome Rev. Brian J. Shanley '78, O.P. as our new president. Though I have only had the chance to speak with him briefly, I am very excited about what he can bring to our institution.

But it is not just his responsibility to better this campus. That responsibility also rests upon us, the students. We need to embrace these changes with outstretched arms and take on more responsibility in making this school that much better. As young people it is our responsibility to speak out about the injustices of society, whether it be inhumane conditions of hurricane survivors, or more trivial details such as not enough forks at Raymond Hall.

So PC, as I look at the last 70 years I am proud of what our school has accomplished. Now let's see if we can say the same about the next 70.



Protests shatter quiet campus

BY CHRIS ACKLEY '06
COMMENTARY EDITOR

From the day Providence College opened its gates in 1917, students have justified the existence of this institution. Without students, there would be no need for teachers, administrators, dormitories or school food. This said, the collection of young men and women comprising PC's student body throughout the years is the greatest force this campus will ever see—whether it realizes it or not.

It is the right and the responsibility of the student body to constantly question the policy and the intentions of those who ultimately speak for them. If Providence College does not reflect our genuine character and model, a life we strive to live, then we are being wronged. Furthermore, it has always been the job of the youth to question their seniors. Unfairly marginalized because they lack social and economic pull, young people find strength in collective empowerment and in their passion for freedom.

Throughout the years, students at PC have made their voices heard over the actions of our U.S. government and the decisions of the Providence College administration. Students spoke out about the conflict in Vietnam. Some students staged pro-war protests on and off campus. In October of 1965, 300 students—most of whom were from PC—rallied at the Capitol building in defense of U.S. policy. PC student Christopher Dodd, now a U.S. Senator from Connecticut, led the march and rally while waving an American flag.

By 1969, as controversy over the war grew, an overwhelming majority of students opposed the U.S. occupation of South Vietnam. October 15, 1969, Moratorium Day, a time for a national examination of conscience in respect of the war, ignited a student strike and protest. Some picketed, some dressed as American soldiers pretending to lay dead on the lawn while others merely sat quietly. Students parked themselves on stairs, in front of doorways and on school lawns, effectively shutting down the PC campus.

That same day, Providence College faculty members published an open letter in the *Providence Journal* expressing their sadness and disgust with the tragedies in Vietnam, President Nixon and the local Senators who had not publicly opposed the war. This letter was signed by college President Rev. William Paul Haas, O.P., and nearly 40 other faculty members. Names on that list include current faculty such as Richard J. Grace, professor of history, and Richard



PC students, in protest of the Vietnam War, staged marches and participated in the nationwide student strike in 1969. Students protested in a variety of ways, including picketing, dressing as American soldiers, on stairs, and in front of doorways on campus.

J. Murphy, professor of English.

Earlier that year, in February of 1969, students reacted to several changes in school policy that were made without approval of the students. Father Haas passed two separate pieces of legislation which came as a shock to the student body. The first was a \$250 tuition hike which boosted the cost to \$1,700 a year and, secondly, an ordinance mandating that all students live on campus. Upon learning of the required on-campus living through a letter sent home to parents, students at PC took immediate action. An emergency meeting was held in Alumni Hall on Thursday, October 3, and it was decided that if the legislation was not rescinded then there would be a student strike and protest beginning on Monday, October 7. With the threat of a major student uprising, the order was waived and students were allowed to live wherever they pleased.

This form of open protest is not an obsolete tool. In the late 1990's and as recently as 2002, there have been sizable protests at Providence College resonating in the rest of the city and even reported on by the Associated Press.

In 1999, a group of students formed New Students for a Democratic Society (NSDS). This was in reference to Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) a larger student activist group which was born out of the socialist group League for Industrial Democracy.

This group of students primarily fo-

cused on the UNICCO contract, diversity issues, and free speech. The students of NSDS picketed the Huxley Gates with UNICCO workers for weeks and started working with Jobs for Justice to organize marches through campus. In 2002, NSDS and Jobs for Justice staged their biggest rally in support of the UNICCO workers. Organizing students from Brown, Rhode Island College, and the University of Rhode Island, hundreds of protesters marched through campus on their way to Dominic Hall, residence of then college president Rev. Philip A. Smith, O.P. This protest was on the anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who also supported striking custodians. The story was picked up by the *Providence Journal* as well as the Associated Press.

NSDS was not only controversial for its very public protests, but also for its clandestine flyer campaigns and underground newspaper *The Wet Towel*. Relations between several key members of NSDS and the school's administration were severely strained and disciplinary actions from the school resulted in the weakening and eventual disintegration of the group. However, their spirit lives on as concerned students here at PC today continue fighting for change in many of these same areas. Seeing the power that students have exercised throughout the years should inspire us all to continue asking "why?"

Students organize first PC newspaper

BY STEPHANIE A. SMITH '06
A&E EDITOR

Believe it or not, there once was a time when there was no *Cowl* on the Providence College campus. The informative news stories and witty banter that you enjoy every week was only a dream to the men of PC back in 1917.

The Cowl's predecessor was a daily news sheet called *The Tie-In* that kept PC students up to date with all the "hot items of information" on campus. As for stories on campus events, faculty notes, and sports information, *The Alembic* took care of all that. These days *The Alembic* has taken the more artsy route and focuses on short stories and poems.

The first ever *Cowl* was published on Nov. 16, 1935. Its headline read, "Friars battle State (URI) for football crown" and sure enough, the Friars won. The first issue also featured an article on Friar Boy of What Ho, our Dalmatian mascot (What Ho is the farm where he was born). The Dalmatian breed is connected to St. Dominic because while his mother was pregnant with him, she dreamt of a dog.

Then College President, Rev. Lorenzo C. McCarthy, O.P., wrote a special dedication in the first *Cowl*. He wanted the newspaper to firstly develop writers, but also enhance the College's spirit and strengthen the students' loyalty to the aims and purpose of PC.

With only two staff members, *The Cowl* dedicated that issue to St. Albert the Great and

adopted the slogan "It's here because it's true, not true because it's here." The slogan was submitted by a lucky freshman during a contest to find the best idea.

The Cowl's first editor-in-chief was Joseph Dyer '36, who wrote that the mission of *The Cowl* was to serve students as a news organization but also, and perhaps more importantly, to foster and intensify the enthusiastic spirit and loyalty that students have for PC.

In April of 1943, with the start of our country's participation in World War II, *The Cowl* stopped publication. The school foresaw a "depletion in the civilian student ranks" as students joined the service. Throughout the war, *The Cowl* ceased to exist.

Luckily, on Oct. 26, 1946, with the world in a calmer state, *The Cowl* returned, better than ever and at ten cents a copy. Through the 1950's, 60's, and 70's, it grew from four to six to eight pages, and now is consistently more than 20 pages a week.

In the 1970s, *The Cowl* underwent even more changes, as it saw the introduction of women on its staff and its first female editor-in-chief, Ann Frank, in 1974. Also, it started to push boundaries fitting with the social climate. At one point, an outraged alumnus wrote to the school in disapproval after he read the word "bullshit" in *The Cowl* for the first time.

Throughout the next decades, *The Cowl* would become the sounding board for all of the campus's issues and concerns.



The 1937-1938 Editorial Board of *The Cowl*. The first issue of *The Cowl* was published on Nov. 16, 1935. Photo Courtesy of Archives

As scandals broke, sports teams won, and students rallied around causes, *The Cowl* had the privilege of reporting the news all back to the people who lived it.

In 1991, an issue that received much *Cowl* coverage was the "Mardis Gras"-esque off-campus situation, as one Providence Police inspector called it. Apparently, as the police came to break up parties off-campus, the press would suddenly show up—with television cameras. Students found themselves being videotaped late at night, against their will, and grew upset to say the least. Numerous columns in *The Cowl* were dedicated to voicing both sides of the problem. As one reads issue after issue, the stories and opinion pieces display a growing solution and, finally, the end of the problem. It is ob-

vious that *The Cowl* played an intricate role in letting voices be heard and adding many different opinions to the mix.

Similar debates have found a home in *The Cowl*, such as studying Western civilization versus multiculturalism, the consolidation of Commencement Week, the 1997 closing of the Slavin Center mini-mall (where you could get Ronzio's, rent movies, and more), and the cutting of the baseball program, men's tennis program and funding for the women's tennis team in 1999. Such issues would not have resonated so thoroughly on campus without *The Cowl* to act as a way to get student, faculty, and administrative concerns out there.

Moreover, *The Cowl* has seen its own share of controversy. In 1995, its moderator,

Richard Testa, was fired after an incident in which, at 4 a.m. right before deadline, the paper's editors placed what was called a "borderline anti-semitic" advertisement that questioned the claims of the National Holocaust Museum. These editors, as well as those from other college newspapers around the country, had mistakenly overlooked the ad's implications. After being released from his position, Testa wrote a piece for *The Cowl* explaining his side of the story.

Throughout the years, *The Cowl* has strived to remain faithful to Joseph Dyer's vision: fostering enthusiasm for PC. As a news source, discussion forum, and window into the world of Providence College for the past 70 years, *The Cowl* has grown immensely while still maintaining its original spirit.

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A college on the edge of forever

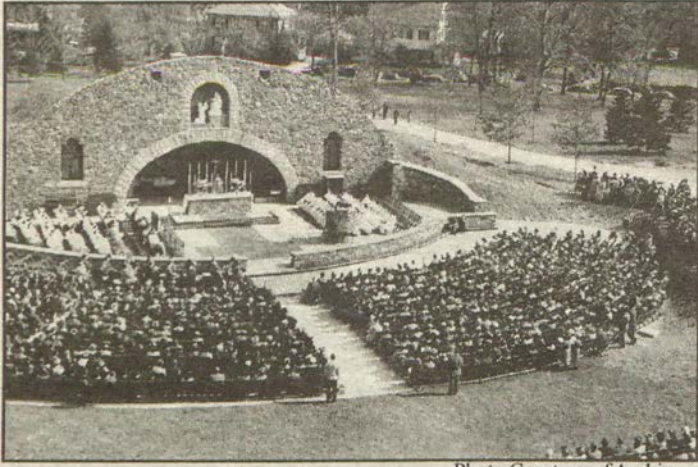


Photo Courtesy of Archives

The former war memorial grotto located where St. Dominic Chapel currently stands was dedicated in 1948.

BY CHRIS DONNELLY '08
NEWS STAFF

Hurricane Katrina is one of the worst national disasters in American history and will be remembered as a major world event of the 21st century. The world has been through several major historical events in the 70 years of *The Cowl's* existence. These moments in time have affected Providence College in many ways. PC has always adapted to these transformations in society as a community.

World War II was the major event of the 20th century, so it

is not surprising that it had a profound impact on Providence College just as it did with the rest of the world. During the war, the College adopted a trimester system to allow more students to get their degrees before going to war. More courses in mathematics and defense production were added to the curriculum.

Because most college-aged men either enlisted or were drafted, an Army Specialized Training Program was started at the College to help with the loss of students. Dormitories like Aquinas were turned into bar-

racks and Hendricken Field was used as training grounds. *The Cowl* was forced to stop printing after the April 1943 edition due to the dwindling civilian student population and wouldn't start up again until October 1946. The students of the Army training program were then eventually called up for action months before D-Day, which left PC with a small enrollment. Enrollment was so low that PC graduated only nine students at the Commencement of January 1945.

The biggest effect of World War II on PC was its ending. The GI Bill of Rights was passed in congress in 1944 to accommodate the returning veterans. The government paid for a veteran's entire education. This caused enrollment to soar for many colleges, including Providence. "The GI Bill of Rights saved Providence College. It had a tremendous impact financially, intellectually, and spiritually," said Edwin Palumbo, instructor of economics.

The 1960's to the early 1970's was a time of tremendous change in America and Providence College. The Vietnam War had an amazing impact on colleges and universities across America and stirred up

political dissent on the PC campus. Dr. Mario R. DiNunzio, professor of history, began to teach during this time and said of PC, "As far as the campus was concerned, it was as divided as the rest of the country."

Dr. Richard J. Grace also of the history department said, "There had never been a radical movement at Providence College before that. PC turned from a quiet college to a radical college overnight."

In 1966, Norman Thomas, a leading socialist of the time and one of the first outspoken opponents of the war in Vietnam, gave an anti-war speech in Harkins Hall. In 1969 some members of the PC administration and faculty took out a large ad in *The Providence Journal* asking its readers to demand that Nixon withdraw from Vietnam. Students held demonstrations, debates, and marches to show their anger over the war, but in the spring of 1970 that anger would reach its breaking point.

About one week before the end of the spring semester the students went on strike to protest the invasion of Cambodia and the shootings at Kent State University. The Faculty Senate voted to support the student strike, which cancelled classes and made finals voluntary. The

Vietnam era was a time of great change for PC which, during all the controversy of the war, was making plans to enroll its first female students.

The events of September 11, 2001, which caused the deaths of several alumni and family members of those in the Providence College community, shocked the nation and saddened every American. That night the PC community responded by holding a vigil on Slavin lawn. In the wake of America's greatest tragedy, the PC community banded together to show support to those and grieve for those closely affected; Masses were held and scholarships were created in remembrance of the tragedy.

Lectures were also given on topics such as international relations, the Middle East, and Islam. As with other events in history, PC responded as a community.

Now, Providence College students have engaged in several initiatives to help those affected by Hurricane Katrina. PC will be forever changing as the world itself changes, and though no one can predict these transformations, one can hope PC will continue to change for the better.

The Renaissance city called Providence

BY JEN JARVIS '07
NEWS EDITOR

Providence wasn't always the thriving city it is now. Many of the attractions for college students today, such as the Providence Place Mall and Waterplace Park, did not exist a mere 15 years ago. The city of Providence is much more accessible for PC students today than it was for our Friar predecessors.

"We found it boring," said Carla Boczanowski '83. "It was all business by day, not too much to offer at night."

Boczanowski, who transferred to PC after her freshman year, said that most students found entertainment on campus rather than venturing downtown. She remembered the enthusiasm generated from Oktoberfest, which was held near Halloween. "Everybody went down to Slavin Center," Boczanowski said, citing the "outrageous" costumes. "They really went all-out."

In the 80s, the bar scene was the main off-campus entertainment. "I frequently visited Brad's," Boczanowski said. But as far as downtown was concerned, she recalls just one notable establishment—Spat's—where "they had really good chicken wings," she said.

Centuries before, Providence started as a shipping port and became a "major economic center," according to a Downtown Providence Historical Preservation report. Banks, shopping centers, and theaters sprung up, especially between 1860 and 1940, when about 80 percent of the downtown buildings were erected.

With the Great Depression, trade and commerce slowed in Providence, and not many new buildings were constructed

downtown. In the 50's, efforts to modernize Providence meant that many old buildings were resheathed while others were completely knocked down.

Retail businesses packed up and left downtown too, settling in the suburbs instead, and "public perception of downtown continued to decline," according to the Historical Preservation Report. With a lot of traffic and not a lot of stores, downtown was more of an office and financial center than a fun place for a date.

"Life was certainly a lot simpler," said Dr. Paul O'Malley '60, assistant professor of history. On-campus "mixers" were a common weekend activity for Providence College students, though they had to import the girls from the surrounding town since PC at the time was only for men. Brad's was another option for entertainment, and has been since the 50's.

As a "day hop," or commuter student, O'Malley said, "I couldn't really speak as much about the dorm students," but said that in his experience, downtown was not a regular excursion. However, O'Malley said that Oate's Tavern—now the Florentine Grill—was utilized for special occasions. "You'd go there after a great basketball victory," he said.

When O'Malley was a student, basketball games were still played on campus. That changed in 1972 with the completion of the Civic Center, now the Dunkin Donuts Center. Friar basketball games now take place there, one more downtown attraction for PC students.

"It's something we can do that gets us all together," said Melissa Cuda '09. Living only an hour or so from Providence, she had the opportunity to go downtown even before coming to PC. "I've been [to the Dunkin

Donuts Center] to see a couple concerts," she said.

Other more recent developments have accompanied the Civic Center in attempts to revitalize downtown. The Providence Place Mall is a popular spot for college students and one that Cuda and Ashley Prescott '09 agree is the best part of downtown. Opened in 1999, Providence Place holds a myriad of stores and restaurants, a movie theater, and an IMAX theater.

"I heard a lot of people go down to the mall for the movies," said Matt Alcide '09.

In addition, Waterplace Park and Riverwalk, completed in 1994 after work to reroute the Providence River was completed, have opened up much of downtown to pedestrians. This area, across from the mall, hosts WaterFire and other cultural events.

"I think [visiting WaterFire] is a cool thing to do once in a while," said Prescott. "It's a good place to go on a date."

These novelties of downtown can be easy to take for granted since present PC students are too young to have experienced the Providence of the past. Yet some alumni are amazed at the improvements.

"I'm enjoying Providence more now than in my 20's," said Boczanowski.

Francis Scire '88 is also invested in the changing face of downtown. Scire is Director of Leasing and Marketing for Cornish Associates, a real estate development company that is renovating many of the vacant buildings downtown.

"Since I've graduated from PC, this is the first job I've really loved," said Scire. He said downtown Providence has gone from "vacant wasteland to thriving neighborhood" and is "overcoming that perception that it

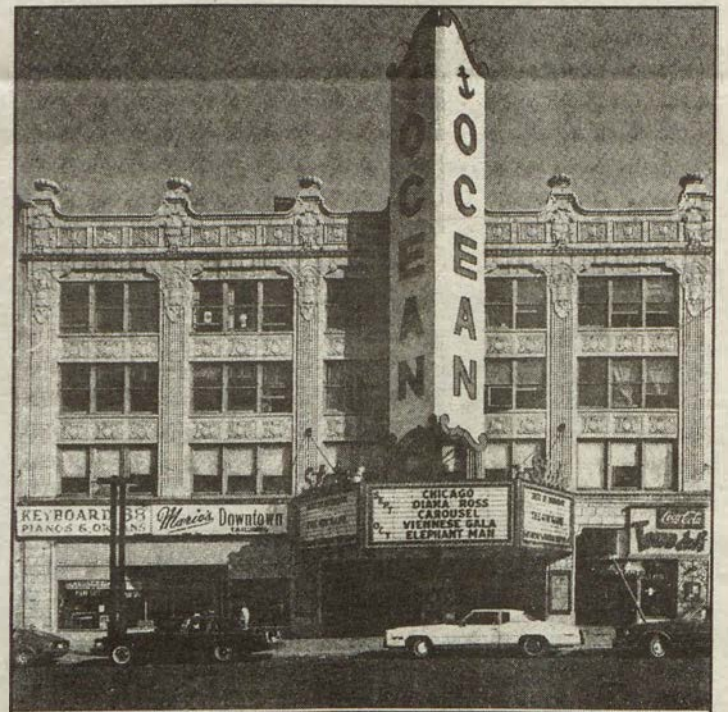


Photo Courtesy of Archives

The Ocean Theater; PC students may recognize it as the current Providence Performing Arts Center.

isn't safe."

Many of the buildings that Cornish Associates refurbished are residential apartments on the upper floors and retail space on the ground floor. The Peerless Building on Westminster Street houses 97 apartments and is what Scire considers his "biggest coup."

The apartments are loft style, with big, open rooms, wooden floors, and many windows. "Each apartment is different," said Scire. The Peerless Building also features a roof garden for residents and an atrium in the center of the building allowing for natural sunlight.

Scire said that PC students should be interested in the changes in downtown because with residential development comes entertainment as well. A Symposium Books bookstore and Tazza Caffè and Lounge have opened on Westminster Street, while The Space at Alice

on Union Street is a cooperative gallery and a community meeting place.

"There [are] a lot of places I'm glad I know of," said Chris Cwynar '06, an intern at Cornish Associates last spring.

While buildings are being renovated, Cornish Associates keeps people interested in development by having temporary retail expositions in the space in what Scire calls "guerilla retail." For example, this past spring, a fashion collaborative of about 20 designers set up shop for two weeks selling trendy urban clothing. The next "exhibit" there could be furniture, artwork, or something else entirely. "It keeps the lights on, keeps people coming down," said Scire.

The bottom line is that, unlike 15 years ago, students can find a variety of fun things to do in Providence.

PC opens its doors to female students

BY KRISTINA REARDON '08
PORTFOLIO STAFF

They came because of Providence College's good academic reputation and for the attractive campus, but the Class of 1975 also came for something else: a chance to leave their mark on PC history.

The Class of 1975 was the first co-educational class admitted through the looming gates leading toward Harkins Hall, and they weren't exactly quiet about it.

News of this landmark class made it to the *Providence Journal* and to the front page of *The Cowl* the week undergraduate classes started in 1971. Issues surrounding women on campus spotted *The Cowl* for the next several years.

"PC has finally gone co-ed!" Patricia L. Slonina Vieira '75 wrote on Sept. 9, 1971, in her front-page article entitled, "Record Breaking Class Enters PC."

But the response to women on campus was not 100 percent enthusiastic. Some women complained professors did not take them seriously at first.

"I was a math major and I was having problems with a class. I went to see the professor and he said, 'Don't worry about it honey, you can always get married,'" Mary McKee '75 recently told the magazine *providence*. "I felt dismissed."

Others, however, reported a slightly different experience.

"I thought I might be made to feel like a showpiece, but this hasn't happened," one freshman

said at the time.

Cowl writers Lyn Griffin '75 and Sue Doyle '73 reported that women were outnumbered at an almost 8:1 ratio that first year.

"On the whole, however, the girls expressed a desire to make co-education successful at Providence," they wrote in the Sept. 15, 1971 issue in a piece titled "Initial Reactions to Co-Education."

While Griffin and Doyle interviewed females for that piece, *Cowl* writer Rick Sell '72 got the male perspective.

"The seniors seemed to agree that girls on campus definitely improved the atmosphere," he wrote.

Perhaps one of the biggest debates on campus at the time surrounded Aquinas Hall, where women were allowed to live.

Peter Christopher reported the rules and regulations of Aquinas back in 1971 in a piece entitled "PC Chauvinism." He wrote that all women were required to sign in and out of the building, giving a time of departure and an expected time of return. Women were required to return by 11:30 p.m., and if they decided to leave campus for a night, women needed to submit a sealed envelope with information about where they could be reached. After 6:30 p.m., shades had to be drawn in their rooms, and they had no parietal privileges.

"If such regulations were to be put on the men's dormitories here at PC... to put it candidly, all hell would break loose," Christopher wrote in his com-

mentary. "However, since the rules are for women, they are supposedly acceptable and understandable. This is not only a fallacy, it is an insult to every female student at this great and progressive school."

A week later, a meeting was held to discuss the alleged "confusion" surrounding Aquinas, and the director of residence then reported residence regulations would be equal between men and women.

Just a month later, Sally J. Thibodeau, who now has a Ph.D. and is an assistant professor of education, was named the first female administrator in the college's history. She served as the assistant dean of freshmen.

"Actually," she admitted at the time, "a lot of people think I'm just another secretary."

By 1974, three young women formed what has come to be known as the "triumvirate": Ann Frank Goldstein '75, the first female editor of *The Cowl*, Ana Cabrera '75, the first female editor of *Veritas*, and Patricia L. Slonina Vieira '75, the first female editor of *The Alembic*.

By 1975, women athletes were receiving scholarships, and varsity programs had been started in basketball, tennis, field hockey, and softball.

In 1981, a celebration of 10 years of co-education was held on campus. Dr. Terry Curran remarked that women brought "a disturbance of a healthy all-male atmosphere."

Even College president Rev. Thomas R. Peterson, O.P.,



Photo Courtesy of Archives

Some of the first female undergraduates on move-in day, 1971.

voiced his support for women on campus.

"Women have added academically and socially [to the college,]" he said at the celebration. "The best thing PC ever did was to go co-ed."

Though it took the school 53 years to admit its first co-educational class, women were actually the first to receive instruction from Providence College professors. Before the College opened to males on Sept. 18, 1919, a group of Dominican Sisters took classes in philosophy, english, spanish, and mathematics.

The college also granted degrees to a group of religious sis-

ters in 1926, and extension course laywomen began receiving degrees in 1932.

At a corporation meeting on June 2, 1970, the College voted in favor of establishing co-education, a little more than a year from that date, co-education was established on campus. By the fall of 1978, women would outnumber men on campus.

Sources: "The Co-eds of the Class of 1975 and Other 'First' Women of Providence College, 1918 - Present," an exhibit located in the Phillips Memorial Library Entryway from June 3 - Sept. 6, 2005.



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Fire takes lives of 10 students

BY JAMES MCGEHEE '08
ASST. A&E EDITOR

December 13, 1977. Snow laces the ground. On the quad, a group of girls toss snowballs through the freezing night air. It is getting late. Exhausted, the girls end the snowball fight and return to their rooms on the fourth floor of Aquinas Hall. They remove soaking wet mittens, scarves, and hats, and begin drying them with a blow-dryer.

Across the city, 24 year-old Providence firefighter Michael Dillon steps off the engine after a bad fire downtown. Before he can remove his wet, cold gear, an alarm sounds. It's after 1:00 A.M. when his engine pulls up to Aquinas Hall. Two companies are already feverishly at work removing girls from the fourth floor windows by ladders.

"Our company was told to put on air packs and go up to the fourth floor to

remove girls," says Assistant Chief Dillon, 28 years later. "We found a girl behind a door. She was unconscious. I picked her up and brought her down to receive first aid." The girl Dillon carried out was among the seven girls who died on that horrific December morning. Three more girls died later in the hospital.

Once the blow-dryer sparked, the fire spread quickly. The residents of Aquinas's fourth floor had covered the rooms and halls with decorative Christmas crepe paper that served as a catalyst in the fire's spread. "The decorations helped create what is known as a 'flash fire,'" Dillon explains. Girls living in rooms adjacent to room 406, where the spark ignited, had no time to escape. To make matters worse, the burned crepe paper left a foot of hot ash on the floor, another obstacle. Consequently, the most effective way to rescue the girls was by aerial ladders.

The back of Aquinas Hall used to be a parking lot. Cars blocked the area where the firefighters needed to place the ladders. "Eight or ten male students would come up and literally move a car so we could position the ladders," Dillon recalls. "It was really an effort on everybody's part."

Rev. Joseph Reid, O.P., the Chaplain at the time, is still overwhelmed by this "genuine sacrificial love that prompted heroic action."

"The girl who discovered the fire did not run away in fear of her life," says Reid. "She banged on the doors to awake the girls who were sleeping." Some Dominicans even went up to the fourth floor to aid in the rescue.

One firefighter risked his life climbing to the top rung of a ladder to rescue a girl from the window. He caught the girl by the ankle and saved her life.



Photo Courtesy of Archives

Firetrucks litter the back lawn of Aquinas Hall in the early morning hours of Dec. 13, 1977.



Photo Courtesy of Archives

Flags flew at half-mast, and several memorial masses were held on and off campus to commemorate the victims.

The firefighters contained and extinguished the blaze before it spread to other floors, but the struggle was far from over. Jacqueline MacKay, Assistant Vice President of Student Services, was the only full-time counselor during the fire. "Many students were grieving over the loss of friends, while some were questioning as to why they survived and others did not. Others needed to be listened to as they talked of their anxieties about returning to school in January."

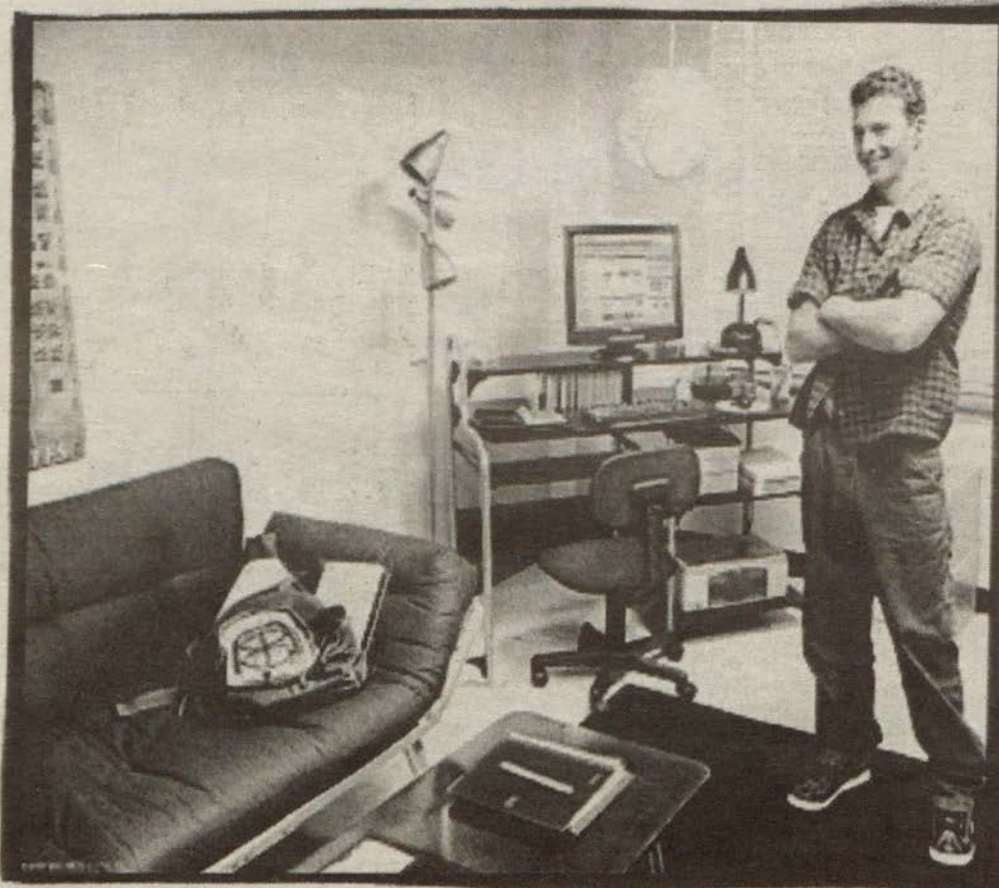
To assist the hospitalized girls, Dominicans waited by their bedsides. Rev. Thomas R. Peterson, O.P., then president of Providence College, called all the families of the deceased girls. Father

Peterson and other Dominicans made a great effort to attend every funeral, in one case traveling as far as Michigan.

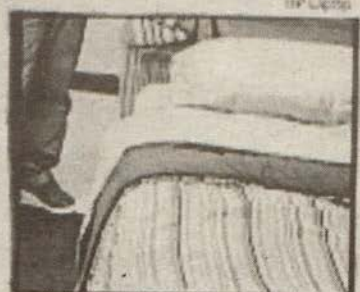
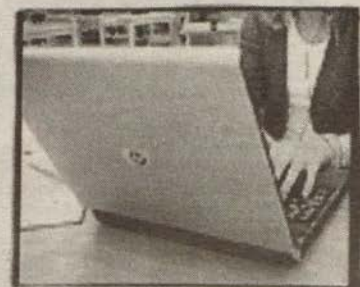
The wing of Aquinas Hall damaged by the fire was refurbished. Among the renovations: a fire escape stairwell, fire retardant paint, and sprinklers. The fire even helped spur legislative changes to college dormitory fire safety standards.

The fire's legacy, of course, extends beyond the renovations and legislation. The ten girls lost in the tragedy will never be forgotten. And when Jacqueline MacKay says "it had a profound impact on my life," she speaks for everyone who witnessed the terror on that early morning in December.

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PC Friars excel at Olympic Games

BY MEGAN GORZKOWSKI '08
COPY EDITOR

Providence College is known for having a top-notch athletics program. Many teams, including men's and women's cross-country, track, and most recently women's rugby, have won national championships. Providence students and alumni have also found success in world championships over the decades, namely, in the Olympics.

PC's Olympic tradition began in 1976 when John Thompson '64, became assistant coach of the US Olympic Men's Basketball team. Four years later, former PC Men's Basketball coach Dave Gavitt became head coach of the U.S. Men's Basketball team for the Moscow Olympics, but was unable to compete due to America's boycott of the Soviet Games.

Providence's biggest Olympic basketball success, however, came from a member of the Class of 1960. Lenny Wilkens began playing basketball in high school. During his senior year, his coach, Father Thomas Mannion, suggested that Wilkens look at Providence College. Friar coach Joe Mullaney offered Wilkens a basketball scholarship at the College, and throughout the next four years, Wilkens helped to establish PC as a basketball powerhouse. His freshman team went undefeated, and he led the Varsity team to the National Invitation Tournament (NIT) twice, coming in second place during his senior year.

During his time as a Friar, Lenny Wilkens received much national recognition as a basketball star: winning awards such as NIT MVP and New England Player of the Year. He is 19th on PC's All-Time Scoring List with 1,193 points throughout his four years. After graduating with a degree in economics, Wilkens went on to play for the St. Louis Hawks, making him the first Friar drafted in the NBA.

After 15 years of playing for the NBA, Wilkens switched roles and became a full time NBA coach. His brush with Olympic greatness began at the 1992 Games in Barcelona, where he served as an assistant coach to the original "Dream Team," working with greats such as Larry Bird, "Magic" Johnson, and Michael Jordan. The 1992 Olympic team went on to go undefeated in the Games, bring-

ing the gold medal home to U.S. Wilkens served as head coach of the US Men's Basketball team at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996, and once again, his "Dream Team" won the gold.

Lenny Wilkens has not forgotten the experiences that Providence offered him both on and off the court. He became a member of the College's Board of Trustees in 1996 and he has been involved in several school fund-raising events. In addition, Wilkens has helped establish a scholarship in his name for players on the PC Men's Basketball team.

There is no doubt that Lenny Wilkens helped to bring awareness to PC's Basketball program through his success in the Olympics. However, the Olympic sport that Providence College athletes have most dominated is Women's Ice Hockey. The sport debuted in the 1998 Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan, where the U.S. team beat Canada in the finals to win the gold medal. Nine of the 20 members on Team USA were Providence College students or alumni: including Chris Bailey '94; Laurie Baker '99; Alana Blahoski '96; Lisa Brown-Miller '88; Cammi Granato '93; Sara DeCosta '00; Vicki Movsessian '94; Stephanie O'Sullivan '95; and Kelly O'Leary '90. Four of the players—Granato, DeCosta, Baker, and Bailey—went on to help the American team win the silver medal in the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics.

While all of the women helped the US win medals in the two Olympics, no one received as much attention as the two-time USA Women's Hockey team captain, Cammi Granato. Granato proved her talent long before her successes in Nagano and Utah, however. She came to PC in 1989 on a hockey scholarship, and became a three-time ECAC (Eastern College Athletic Conference) Women's Hockey Player of the Year, as well as the all-time leading scorer in Providence College Women's Ice Hockey history.

Providence College athletes have not only brought Olympic success to America. Many have represented their home countries as well, particularly in the track and field competitions. The bond between PC runners and international Olympic success began in the 1980 Games, which featured Geoff Smith '84 running for Great Britain in the marathon



Photo Courtesy of Archives

Nine members of the U.S. Women's Olympic Ice Hockey team in the 1998 Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan, were Providence College alumni.

competition and Mick O'Shea '75 and John Treacy '78 of Ireland in the 5,000 meters event.

Treacy returned to the Olympics in 1984, 1988, and 1992. He won the silver medal in the marathon event for Ireland in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. His success inspired other Irish runners, including his younger brother Ray, to attend PC. Ray Treacy '82 is now coach of both the men's and the women's cross-

country teams at Providence College, and many of his runners have appeared in the Olympics since then. Four PC runners appeared in the 2004 Olympics in Athens: Marie McMahan Davenport '98, Maria McCambridge '98, and Mark Carroll '95 ran for Ireland, while Kim Smith '04 competed for New Zealand. Sources: CNN.com, NBA.com, Providence Journal

Providence advances to the Final Four

BY KEVIN O'BRIEN '07
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

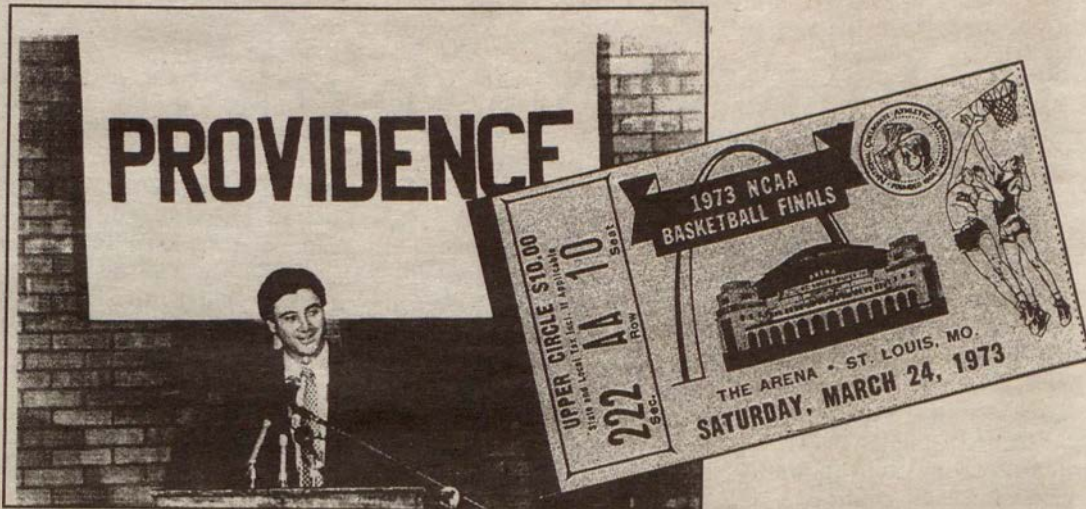
In a day and age when the Providence College basketball program struggles to compete with the big national powers, it's easy to lose sight of the fact that PC once owned a dominant program itself. Huge state universities run the sport nowadays—none of the past four national champions has a student enrollment under 10,000—and small schools like Providence simply don't have the resources to compete with the big boys.

But back in the day, the Friars were one of those big boys. Throughout Dave Gavitt's tenure as head coach in the 1970's, PC was the leading hoops powerhouse in New England as well as a national contender year in and year out. The Dunkin Donuts Center, affectionately (or perhaps not so affectionately) called the Dunk by Friar fanatics, isn't in the greatest shape today—but 30 years ago, it was the brand spanking new Providence Civic Center, one of the biggest venues for college hoops in the nation.

The 1972-73 season was PC's first in the new building, and Gavitt had assembled quite a squad for that opening year. The brunt of the Friars' attack came via their three-headed monster of Ernie DiGregorio '73, Marvin Barnes '74, and Kevin Stacom '74. Ernie D. was the catalyst, both scoring and dishing in equal measure, while Barnes patrolled the inside and dominated the boards and Stacom functioned as the outside sharpshooter.

A 24-2 regular season record propelled the Friars into the NCAA tournament, where they made quick work of St. Joe's in the first round, and then UPenn and Maryland in the Eastern Regional. The victory over the John Lucas—led Terrapins, ranked fourth in the nation at that point, made the Friars the Eastern Regional champs and sent them to the school's first Final Four ever.

Memphis State was now all that stood between PC and a shot at John Wooden's UCLA squad, the five-time defending national champs led by standout forward Bill Walton. Alas, it was not to be, as a cruel twist of fate prevented the Friars from



Photos Courtesy of Archives

Rick Pitino, now head coach of the men's basketball team at the University of Louisville led the Friars to their second Final Four appearance during the 1986-1987 season.

realizing their goal. Just eight minutes into the semifinal against Memphis State, Barnes went down with a knee injury, and the Friars had lost a vital cog in their wheel. Despite the best efforts of Ernie D., whose senior year would end on a disappointing note, the Friars were unable to match Memphis and succumbed 98-85.

DiGregorio graduated, and while Barnes and Stacom re-

turned for another year, the Friars could not quite replicate the success of that 1972-73 campaign. Just once, the Friars had not only rubbed elbows with the elite, but had themselves been the elite, one of the top programs in the nation. There would be other great postseason runs to follow in Friars hoops history—the 1986-87 team would return PC to the Final Four, while the 1996-97

fell just short of that lofty goal—but neither of those teams had quite the invincibility of their predecessors. No, the 1972-73 squad wasn't a team of over-achievers who just happened to catch lightning in a jar at the right time—they were a dominant force themselves, and the greatest team in Providence College basketball history.

Looking at the next 70 years

College President Rev. Brian J. Shanley '78, O.P., answers questions and looks ahead to the future of Providence

BY MALLARY JEAN TENORE '07
ASSOCIATE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

One year ago, Rev. Brian J. Shanley '78, O.P., Providence College's new president, was teaching philosophy at The Catholic University of America, with no intentions of switching jobs.

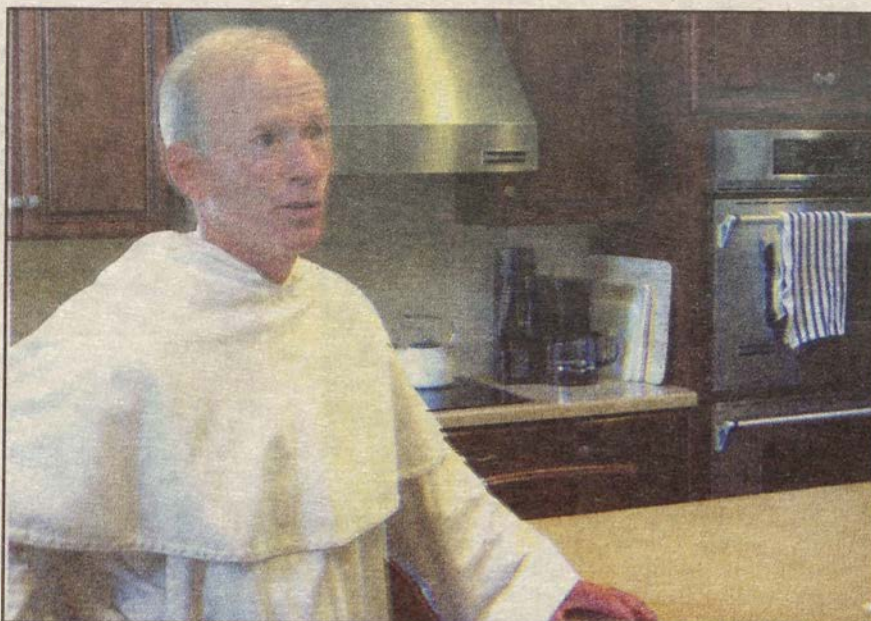
This year, he has left all that behind to return to his roots in Providence, the place he calls home. For Father Shanley, the College's 12th president, Providence is not merely a capital city or the name of the college where he is president. Rather, it is the very thing he believes led him to become president of PC.

"I wasn't looking to leave Catholic U.; the life I had was a great life," said Father Shanley during a recent interview at his home in St. Dominic Hall. "I love PC because of what it's done for me and a lot of people who I've met. This is the only job I'd want because I care so much about the school. I think it's what God wanted ultimately . . . and I really believe that." As a history major who entered PC wanting to become a lawyer, Father Shanley said it was the College's Dominicans who inspired him to enter the priesthood. "None of the things that I've done in my life would have been possible without PC. For me, this is a chance to give back to the place where I came alive," he said.

With a little help from Providence, Father Shanley hopes to continue steering the College in the direction it needs to take to become a better institution. The question he often asks himself is not so much "How do we make Providence College better?", but rather, "How can we do better what we already do well?"

Three things come to mind: Spreading and enriching the College's mission; improving academically; and raising endowment.

A dwindling and aging population of Dominican priests is something Father Shanley said the College needs to consider in its efforts to strengthen its mission. To help develop the College's mission, plans for a Center for Catholic and Dominican Studies—which will be located in the former Aquinas chapel—are underway. The Center will provide a place for the PC community to study, present lectures, and visit exhibitions that correspond to the mission and ministry



Father Shanley, seen here standing in the kitchen of Dominic Hall, has three goals he hopes to accomplish as president of PC: developing the College's mission statement, improving academics, and increasing endowment.

of the College, Father Shanley said.

To improve the College academically and enhance students' classroom experience, the school's curriculum—which dates back to the early 1980's—will be reevaluated and revised. "Civ is still going to be Civ. . . . But we need to look at what should our students be studying now and a couple years from now," Father Shanley said. PC is also in the midst of seeking accreditation for the College's business programs through the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Father Shanley also plans to enhance the classroom atmosphere by implementing more Smart Classrooms. Of even greater importance to him is the caliber of professors at PC. "We need to keep getting more faculty that are well-known and we have to keep pushing the professors to become even better," he said.

Perhaps the greatest challenge PC's new president faces is how to increase the College's endowment. Currently at \$117 million, the endowment is significantly lower than that of its competitor schools and about four times lower than what it should be, Father Shanley said. The problem stems, in part he said, from the fact that PC is a tuition-driven institution, as about 85 percent of its budget is generated by tuition revenue.

A larger endowment would allow the College to offer more students scholarships and to build new facilities on campus. Aware of this problem, Father Shanley has no qualms about asking the big wigs for money. "I actually think the money's out there and I'm confident about it," he said.

Aware of the College's lack of ethnic and racial diversity, Father Shanley said he hopes the College can recruit more members of the Latino population, as it continues to surge in the U.S. But the issue of diversity is not always cut and dry. "In some ways, I think the school's homogeneity is part of its strongest suit," said Father Shanley, noting that many students feel at home at PC precisely because they are surrounded by people like themselves. How he will increase diversity at Providence is not definite. "I can't sit here and say I've got the plan. We just need to think more creatively about it," he said.

To better understand the needs of the PC community, Father Shanley said he wants to hear students' questions and concerns. Reflecting on his career as a student at PC, he mentioned Dr. Richard J. Grace, professor of history and Dr. Raymond Sickinger, professor of history and director of the Feinstein Institute for Public and Community Service, as some

of the teachers who made an impact on his student life. Now, he hopes he can do the same for students at PC.

A glimpse into the personal life of Father Shanley reveals that he is an unassuming, ordinary kind of guy who enjoys reading, praying, exercising. On a normal day, he wakes up at 6:00 a.m., visits the priory for daily prayer and Mass, returns home to read his favorite newspaper, *The New York Times*, and then practices martial arts in his backyard. As a former moderator of PC's old Karate Club, Father Shanley is familiar with several martial arts forms, including Jeet Kun Do, the technique used by martial artist Bruce Lee. An avid Red Sox and Patriots fan, Father Shanley spends much of his free time watching Red Sox games and rooting for his favorite player, Jason Veritek. A row of Red Sox baseball caps decorates a shelf in one of his rooms, along with an oversized Red Sox pillow and blanket.

In between his approximate 12-hour work days, Father Shanley often retreats to his hideaway office, a room of overflowing bookshelves, with everything from *The Odyssey* to *Tuesdays With Morrie*. "Reading is the thing I've spent more time in my life doing than anything else," he said. Besides the bible, his favorite book is *Kristin Lavransdatter* by Sigrid Undset.

Short-story writers Sandra O'Connor and Alice Munroe are two of his proclaimed literary heroes and opera and classical tunes are his preferred choice of music. *Casablanca* ranks high on his list of favorite movies, along with *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon* and the *Red Sox Victory* DVD.

When he reflects on all that has happened in the past year, Father Shanley is still in disbelief. "I wake up and I can't believe I'm president of this place. I keep waiting for the police to come take me away," he joked.

Despite the challenges and hardships he expects to face as president, Father Shanley is confident about the future of PC.

"Father Smith was a great president. I get to build on a school that I think is on the verge of taking off even more," he said.

"I feel like I'm very blessed to be here and I see so much good-will on this campus."

Making their mark outside Providence

BY MEGHAN WELSH '06
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Providence College has turned out thousands of graduates since it opened its doors in 1917. Many of these alumni have gone on to careers that have made them recognizable to the general public today, in fields varying from sports to entertainment to politics.

Lenny Wilkins '60 entered Providence College on a basketball scholarship after beating out hundreds of other prospective hopefuls at a tryout for high school students looking to attend college and play sports.

Wilkins was serious about his studies in economics while he was here, but his legacy shines the most on the basketball court.

While playing for Providence for four years, Wilkins made every All-American team and later became the first Providence College player ever drafted by the NBA. He was a first-round draft choice of the St.

Louis Hawks and averaged 16.5 points and 6.7 assists per game in his fifteen NBA seasons.

In his career as a coach following his time as a player in the NBA, Wilkins won more games than any other coach in NBA history. He has even brought two Olympic basketball teams to gold medal glory.

Providence College honored Wilkins in 1980 with an Honorary Doctorate of Humanities Service degree. Wilkins was also elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1989 and named to the NBA's 50 Greatest Players List in 1996.

In the 1978 summer edition of *Providence Alumni Magazine*, Wilkins shared his memories about his time at Providence College saying that, "Looking back on those years at Providence, I am thankful for having received an excellent education, for having matured and for having met many wonderful people."

Another famous alumnus of Providence College who arrived

at the school to play sports was Michael Leonard '70, now a feature correspondent for *NBC News* who has made his career in broadcasting traveling the world in search of off-beat, underreported news stories.

Leonard had hopes of playing on the hockey team while at PC. While Leonard's hockey career at PC was not legendary, he has said that being on the team taught him discipline and the ability to handle tough criticism, which later helped his career in the competitive world of television.

When Providence College honored Leonard with an honorary degree in 2000, Leonard was the keynote Commencement speaker and summed up his experience at PC as one that was important in many ways.

"In retrospect, it was the whole college experience at PC that helped me, not really so much what I learned in the classroom."

In a 1986 interview with *The Cowl*, Leonard reminded stu-

dents to enjoy their time at PC just as he had, remembering moments spent on campus having a lot of laughs with his friends.

"We used to shoot flaming arrows, golf balls, and one time even a bowling ball at the door of the priest who lived on our floor and the poor guy never managed to catch any of us," he said.

Another famous alumnus of Providence College probably would have appreciated Leonard's prank.

Peter Farrelly '79 was an accounting major at Providence College, but his career in screenwriting and directing has led to comedy hits such as *Dumb and Dumber*, *There's Something About Mary*, and *Me, Myself, & Irene* along with his brother Bobby Farrelly.

Though Providence College has had its fair share of entertainers and sports stars in its ranks, Ray Flynn '63 is recognized by the general public for a completely different reason.

Flynn was the mayor of Boston from 1984 to 1993 and was later the American ambassador to the Vatican under President Bill Clinton from 1993 until 1997.

Prior to entering politics, Flynn was an All-American basketball player at Providence College and was selected Most Valuable Player in the National Invitational Tournament (NIT) during his senior year.

Flynn was the last player cut from the then-World Champion Boston Celtics following graduation. He then moved on to begin his political career as a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1971.

Providence College honored Flynn with an Honorary Doctorate of Public Administration in 1984, shortly after he began his career as mayor in the city of Boston.

Mayor Flynn's policies as a politician centered strongly on difficulties in urban areas and community renewal, interests which he says stemmed very closely from his Catholic faith.