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The Cowl



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OF VALUES
THAT ENDURE

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Providence College • Providence Rhode Island

Orientation 1992

Welcome To PC Class Of 1996 !

Meet The 1992 Orientation Staff



What is your favorite memory of freshman year?

Maureen Marro '93—"Rushing the floor at the Civic Center when PC beat Georgetown."

Mari Garcia '94—"Living in McVinney with Catherine Farr, who I'm still living with!"

Rusty Newell '93—"Getting into the Friars Club."

Kathleen Beaucher '93—"Living with the girls on the fifth floor of McVinney,

and we're all still friends!"

Vinny Colonna '93—"The first big snowball fight on the quad."

Karli Halaby '93—"Coming back from Christmas break after missing all my new friends and talking all night."

Theresa Franco '93—"BDBs!"

Ken Milligan '95—"Studying for a lab

practical in the Grotto and getting a tan at the same time."

Gia Lombardi '93—"Moving in the first day and meeting my roommates."

Georgia Solitro '93—"The BOP Ski Trip to Quebec."

Eileen Bertrand '93—"Party-hopping on St. Patrick's Day."

Mike Molloy '93—"Spontaneous dorm

football games in the mud."

Scott Solloway '93—"My intramural basketball team went to the Final Four up against all juniors and seniors."

Alan Stillman, hall director—"Meeting and talking with lots of interesting people who were different from me both culturally and idealistically."

Jeanne Gumbrell,

hall director—"Enjoying the first snowfall."

Joe Platania '94—"Stickball in the Grotto."

Megan O'Sullivan '94—"Working with the Urban Action program, renovating a homeless shelter with fellow students."

Noreen Kelly '93—"Meeting Brother Kevin and living with his niece."

All You Need to Know About PC...And Less

by Brian Cappello '93
Features Editor

In order to better familiarize the incoming student with the wonderful world of PC, I thought I'd briefly outline some of the more pertinent aspects of campus life. To start right off, I would not be surprised if a few of you do not fully embrace PC within the first few days or weeks. I, myself was not overly impressed at the onset and even harbored thoughts of transferring. Luckily, I stuck with it and now wouldn't leave PC even if Harvard or Yale begged me to reconsider their full scholarship offers.

Here are a few areas worthy of mention:

Roomates—As with (or any other) college, roomates are also something that you may not warm up to right away. At the start of my freshman year, I thought the school had gone out and found the two biggest buttholes in the world and arranged for them to room with me. Fortunately, after I got to know them better, it turned out only one of them led in the all-time biggest butthead category. We stuck with him, however, and despite the torment we went

through, it all paid off as we now have hundreds of "our ex-roomate the moron" stories to tell.

My other roommate turned out to be a great kid and I am still cohabitating with him going into our final year. That reminds me, I'm sure you've all heard it before, but college really does fly by quicker than the average Rhode Island driver. While grades are very important, keep in mind that fifty years from now, your grandchild are not going to be enthralled by stories of all those wild and crazy nights you spent in the library reading from the complete works of William Shakespeare.

Biggest Food—Probably the biggest adjustment a college student has to make besides changing his or her own underwear every day. While Raymond cafe is not exactly home cooking or McDonald's, it's actually not that bad. For instance only three people has to be physically removed upon eating there last semester (just kidding). I have heard a lot about food at other schools, including one where the infirmary is attached to the cafe so that students won't have too long to walk (or crawl). By the way, be sure to load up on chicken patties this summer because Raymond rarely serves them (more than three times a week).

Rules—As many will learn the hard (i.e. expensive) way, PC's rulebook seems longer than *War and Peace*, containing more restrictions than the local YMCA swimming pool. Most of the rules are relatively fair, however, and as long as you don't try to have too much fun on campus, you should remain trouble and fine-free.

The Library—Can often

you stuff like, "Put that food away" and "Get your feet off the furniture." You might mistake him for one of your parents.

Bedtime—Load up on sleep this summer because you'll likely never see the dark of 10 p.m. again. I haven't been to bed before midnight since Dan Quayle was "elected" vice-president. I now watch *Letterman* as frequently as my little sister watches *The Brady Bunch*. And during freshman year, I found myself napping as often as a newborn (both in and out of class). The subject of fatigue brings me to another area:

8:30s—Avoid taking an 8:30 a.m. class at all costs—utilize bribery, forgery, whatever it takes. Picture what it would be like getting up for high school at 8:30 and you'll know what it's like getting up for an 8:30. Sitting through one is almost as tough as it is for a guy to sit through an entire feminine hygiene commercial. Unfortunately, being freshmen, you'll likely be forced to take a few and all I can say is HA-HA!—wake me up for my 11:30.

Single-Sex Dorms—When I heard this term, I naturally thought it meant that to live in the dorms, you had to be single and in favor of... well anyway, that is not the case. While

many see this as a drawback of the school, it is actually quite a luxury. Every night after midnight on weeknights and 2 a.m. on the weekends, each dorm contains only members of the same sex. This serves to eliminate roommate conflicts such as when one wishes to pull an all-nighter (studying, of course) with a member of the opposite sex. This also allows for such bonding tactics as running naked through the halls chanting the lyrics to the PC alma mater (don't knock it till you try it). Finally, single-sex dorms allows for us guys to take off all our make-up and not have to worry about showing what we "really" look like (I'm sure your girls would know nothing about that).

I hope this article has given you more insight into the wonderful institution of higher learning where you'll be spending the next four years of your life. While I may not have been as impartial as the Friars Club tour guides, who will gladly tell you the good and the good of PC, I feel most would agree with my assessments. If you have any questions or want to hear a story about my ex-roomate the moron, be sure to look me up in the *Cowl* office.

I'm sure you've all heard it before, but college really does fly by quicker than the average Rhode Island driver.

prove to be a great social setting as well as work environment. I like to refer to it as "Phillips Memorial Tavern", an on-campus bar without the alcohol. If you ever get homesick, you might want to head over to this complex, as eventually a guy in a light blue sport coat will appear and tell

Advice from Someone Who's Been There

Looking Back...Reflections on College Life

I WISH I'D KNOWN THAT...

...I'd have to learn to sleep with the lights on, the radio blaring, and the phone ringing.
...my old car takes twice as much money and time to keep running away from home and that it's not so bad to walk sometimes.
...Christian colleges aren't little utopias. They have their problems, too.
...college isn't all fun and games. It's hard work and takes a lot of self-discipline.
...a Saturday night can get pretty lonely.
...I'd need an iron and the know-how to use one.
...everybody's human and I'd have to learn to live with different kinds of people.
...I could and should have learned to type.
...there would be no one to tell me to do my homework before I turned on the TV or read a book.
...I should be more aware of current events so I wouldn't sound so stupid at ball sessions.
...college is not as hard as I thought it would be because it's interesting.
...I should be really open to new, controversial ideas, not necessarily to accept them but to evaluate them.
...my prejudices would come out, even though I thought I didn't have. I have to

admit them and get rid of them.
...getting used to a roommate is like getting married without being engaged. It takes a great deal of compromise, lots of give and take, to live consistently with one person.
...I shouldn't be afraid to ask questions.
...one of the main purposes of college education is to teach me to express myself well on essay exams, in class, in clubs, or in bull sessions.
...there is no little brother or sister to get mad at when things go wrong.
...the best way to study is without any form of distraction, e.g. radio, people, etc.
...to make the best use of my time, I must assess what things are most important and therefore need to be done first.
...everybody complains about the food, but I really pretty good.
...I shouldn't go everywhere with my roommate or we'll soon be at each other's throats.
...if I keep up with my reading, I can avoid the last-minute panic.
...the way to remember is review, review, review, whenever possible.
...I should expect loneliness. It takes time to get past superficial relationships and form close friendships.
...the people I thought at first would be great friends may not turn out to be.
...I cannot to judge people by

their looks or reject them for what they say, but be ready to accept differences.
...dating is practically extinct at PC.
...I'd change, so I could get my parents used to the idea.
...I could save a lot of money by buying used books from other kids.
...if you wait until vacation to catch up on your schoolwork and sleep, you'll get neither done and will ruin your vacation to boot.
...what if it's like to be completely on my own, making all my own decisions.
...I must take life as it comes. That I shouldn't get uptight before I even know what's going on. Play it cool.
...there is more to learning than just what happens in the classroom, as well as outside the classroom.
...I should take advantage of campus events like concerts, clubs, and discussion groups.
...Not only does it round out my personality but it also makes me a more interesting person.
...the best education comes from getting to know people, not only from books.
...the most important thing I should try to learn is to think and solve problems and get to know myself, accepting myself as I am.

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The Cow!

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Packing Your Bags

A Guide Of What To Bring And What To Leave Home

by Kate Malloy '93
News Editor
and Tricia Connolly '93
Editor-in-chief

After the hurdle of orientation is behind you, the next step in preparation for your future PC career is to determine what to bring. Looking back, I remember spending far too much time and energy being terrified I would forget something of the utmost importance. First of all, don't stress. After about a month of school, Columbus Day will roll around and most freshman and sophomores head home for the long weekend. Anything you might have forgotten can be easily picked up then or sent by Mom and Dad.

A few weeks before you arrive at PC, the school will contact you with the names and phone numbers of your roommate(s). Don't be shy; call them right away and decide who will be bringing a phone, a stereo, a computer or word processor, and a TV or even a VCR. If none of you own a small refrigerator, one can be rented when you get to school. Remember, space is limited and you'll want to make the most of it. For the lucky people with

big rooms in Raymond, Mcagher, McDermott, Stephens, and Joseph halls, you might want to look yourselves up with a small couch or comfy chair. These are key for intimate gatherings in your room with friends.

Bring lots of things to decorate your room; this is your home for the next year, and you'll want to make it feel that way, so bring posters and lots of pictures of friends and family. As a side note, leave home the posters of kittens or New Kids on the Block, and for guys, those cheesy posters of busty women sprawled out on sports cars. The Claude Monet's and Salvador Dali's look a lot nicer and people will think you're very worldly and cultured.

Cardboard storage boxes that can fit under your bed are a good idea since closet and dresser space is very limited. DO NOT bring any plastic shelves or milk crates because they are prohibited under the school's strict fire regulations. Extension cords are also a no-no, but circuit breakers with a row of outlets can be bought at any hardware store and they work just as well. You can leave the candles and incense burners at home too.

For girls, pocketbooks are a

sure sign of freshmanhood and are definitely a rare sight on the PC campus. A sturdy backpack with pockets is more convenient and definitely more cool. A good buy is the L.L. Bean backpack; I've had mine since eighth grade and it's still good as new.

Here are some other miscellaneous items you will need;

Bring lots of things to decorate your room; this is your home for the next year, and you'll want to make it feel that way.

buy all your stationery supplies at home since Barnes and Noble is a major rip-off.
-typing/computer paper
-typewriter ribbon
-floppy disks
-stapler and staples

-scissors
-tape
-paper clips
-thumbtacks
-rubber bands
-looseleaf
-pencil sharpener
-dictionary
-thesaurus
-ruler
-envelopes
-stationery
-stamps
-notebooks
-folders
-pens and pencils
-address book
-calendar/date book
-towels/facelcloths
-extra-long sheets (regular ones won't fit)
-pillows
-blankets
-mattress cover
-clock radio
-plants
-desk lamp
-light bulbs
-nails
-screwdriver
-hammer
-adhesive hooks
-detergent/bleach/fabric softener
-big laundry bag
-quarters for washing machines (getting change is a major task)
-flashlight
-hangers

-hot pot
-glasses/mugs
-a few utensils, bowls, and plates (Eric will catch you if you try to steal from Raymond cafe)
-coffee/tea/hot cocoa mix
-a case of Diet Coke
-toothbrush and toothbrush holder
-toothpaste
-shower bucket
-soap and soap holder
-flip-flops for the shower
-bathrobe
-shampoo/conditioner
-razors
-make-up bag
-band-aids
-deodorant
-vitamins
-cotton balls
-Q-Tips
-comb/brush
-blow dryer/hot rollers/curling iron
-safety pins
-small sewing kit
-wallet/change purse
-umbrella
-boots for winter
-a fan
-camera
-walkman
-an ID
-high school yearbook
-a sense of humor and a lot of patience to deal with dorm life!
Good luck class of '96!

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The Mystery Of Civ

by Brian Cappello '93
Features Editor

By far the biggest mystery in the eyes of an incoming freshman is the question of what the Dominican Friars actually wear under their robes. A close second, however, is the class titled The History of Western Civilization.

For those of you who haven't already heard of it, Civ is one of many required classes in the PC curriculum. What makes this class unique, however, is that Civ is taught by not one but four professors and meets every day for not one, but two years. If that's not enough, it also involves a test or quiz virtually every week.

Civ begins with the ancient civilizations of Egypt and Mesopotamia and wraps up some two years later with the Presidency of Homer Simpson (assuming he eventually enters and wins this year's election, considering the competition). Civ is broken down into four areas: history, philosophy, religion, and literature. Each day, a different field is concentrated on with each somehow relating to the time period of study.

Civ tests are quite extensive, usually requiring a great amount of preparation and a solid five to ten hours of studying on the days preceding the exam. Believe it or not, if you really study for a Civ exam,

you may actually be able to retain the hordes of information in your mind for up to seven minutes after completing the exam (at which point virtually everything you studied will be permanently erased from your mind). What you do retain, however, will be of tremendous value for the rest of your life, provided you are an avid *Jeopardy* and *Trivial Pursuit* player, that is.

Every year, many rumors circulate as to how difficult, and downright torturous Civ actually is. For instance, I was told by one student that he once had a copy of the test and still failed. Naturally, I didn't believe him until the same thing happened to me (just kidding).

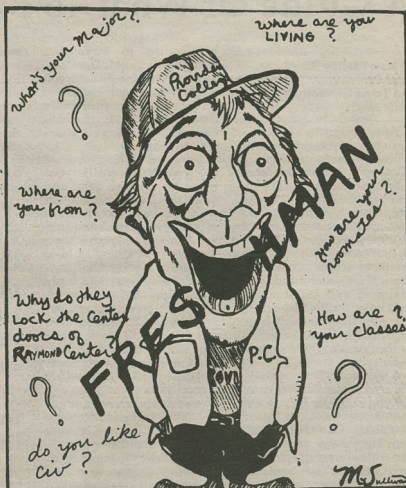
The fact is, regardless of what you've heard about Civ, most students agree its difficulty is far overexaggerated. It certainly requires a bit more effort than the traditional high school woodshop class, but if you go to class and figure out what and what not to study, it's really not that bad. I even discovered that if you take good notes, study extra hard, and find a descendant of Einstein to take the tests for you, it's actually quite easy to get an A.

One phenomenon that serves to perpetuate the Civ torture rumors is the infamous Civ scream. Each semester, on the eve before the Civ final, students flock to their respective windows at midnight and

proceed to scream as if Pee Wee Herman was standing naked in the middle of their room. Don't let hearing of this intimidate you, however, as the Civ scream is primarily done for fun and actually has very little to do with the stress caused by 24 straight hours of studying roughly 200 years worth of material.

Overall, while Civ may have its drawbacks, I truly feel I benefitted from taking the class. Despite the fact that I have forgotten roughly 90% of the test material, just having a subconscious awareness of things I once learned is quite handy. For instance, when watching *Jeopardy*, I am often able to recognize a question and know that for a good hour or so during my freshman and sophomore years at college, I did in fact know the correct answer.

In all seriousness, Civ is really not that tough and though it's not as fun as lying on hot coals after a cold shower, it remains a highly significant course that should leave you as well-rounded as a bowling ball. The bottom line is that when it comes time to choose your classes, I highly recommend that you pick Civ—not only for academic reasons, but because otherwise, come '96, you'll be watching from the Civic Center grandstands as your classmates graduate.



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