

Spring break continued

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Services and Jacquette Wade, coordinator for Residence Life and Human Relations Programming.

This group's activities reflect a new focus on service by the Office of Student Activities. Chris Rizzo, director of Student Activities, said the group's activities are part of a larger movement toward a service-oriented campus.

"The Alternative Spring Break reflects a continuing focus in student life on service to others," Rizzo said.

Rizzo expects the program to grow in the future. "This is just the start of something much bigger...something good. Next year I expect we will be bringing several busloads of students from Behrend [for the Alternative Spring Break]," said Rizzo.

There is still space available for interested students. The group will be leaving Sunday, March 3 and returning Saturday, March 9.

The group is now trying to raise money to pay for the trip. They have been going door to door as well as sending letters to local businesses requesting support.

Kelly Shroud, Coordinator of the Protestant Campus Ministry, wants students to help even if they can't go on the trip.

"You don't have to be going to help or participate...there are other ways to help," Shroud said.

Donations of food or money would be greatly appreciated.

Food items requested include the following:

- tea macaroni
- spaghetti coffee
- sugar rice
- canned goods- bread
- vegetables baggies
- fruit napkins
- tuna spaghetti
- mayonaisse sauce
- brown bags (lunches)

If anyone is interested in going on the Alternative Spring Break or making a donation, they can get more details by calling either Rizzo at x6171 or Shroud at x7139.

As part of the focus on service, Behrend students participated in the United Way's Day of Caring last fall. The Day of Caring is a county-wide event that gives citizens and groups an opportunity to help local member agencies of the United Way on various projects.

In keeping with the focus on service, the Office of Student Activities co-sponsored a special speaker for Thanksgiving. The Reverend John Steinbruck spoke at Behrend after the "Dinner with Six Strangers" this year. The topic of his lecture was homelessness and the importance of becoming "our brother's keeper."

If you wish to make any kind of donation or if you would like to go on the Alternative Spring Break you can call either Chris Rizzo at x6171 or Kelly Shroud at x7139.

Love in cyberspace

By D. Morgan McVicar
Providence Journal-Bulletin
Knight-Ridder/Tribune
Information Services

PROVIDENCE, R.I.--Love is in the cyberspace at Brown University, where more than 1,500 students have responded to a student-run computer dating service scheduled to do some matchmaking just in time for Valentine's Day.

By next Tuesday, participants will get a list of their 10 most compatible campus counterparts, as well as their two least compatible (as in, opposites attract). The next step is up to them.

The service is an acknowledgment, says junior Rajib Chanda, that most Brown students do not date, are overly cliquish and could use a little companionship and, maybe, some amore in their lives.

"The first thing (HUGS will sponsor) is the dating service. We're setting up social officers for each class, to arrange barbecues and beach trips. And a big-brother, big-sister program for freshmen."

So, besides the occasional love connection, HUGS organizers hope to spark more interaction among the diverse ethnic, racial and socioeconomic elements of the Brown student body.

"At a place like Brown," says Chanda, "where everybody comes

because it's so open-minded and so tolerant and people are accepting of people letting them be individuals, there's no reason why people shouldn't have diverse groups of friends."

Accordingly, the service is not limited to heterosexuals. About 7 percent of the participants have made same-sex requests.

To the outsider, it might seem ludicrous, the notion of 5,660 undergraduate men and women sharing age, interests and raging hormones, living and going to class together, yet somehow crying into their cappuccino at a lonelyhearts cafe.

"Brown and schools like Brown may be different in terms of male and female relationships," says Toby Simon, associate dean for student life. "The women have perhaps more confidence in themselves. They may feel less pressure than other women their ages and at other schools about the need to find someone significant in their lives."

"Careers are probably more important to them than anything else," she says.

And that, say students, tends to intimidate Brown men.

Which may help explain why one-quarter of the Brown undergraduates have completed a form asking such questions as:

"If you were to compare yourself to a car, which would you pick?

1) Mazda Miata--sporty, fast and fun.

2) Limousine--high-class, only the best.

3) Jeep--daring, a risk taker.

4) Mitsubishi Mirage--regular, down-to-earth person."

The service costs \$2 for a top-10 list of compatibles from one's class, \$3 for one from the entire student body. All profits will be donated to the financial aid office another reason cited by many students for participating.

Relations between the sexes on an Ivy League campus in the 1990s are more complex than for previous generations and for students at less high-pressured colleges, say several Brown students.

Simon, the dean of student life, says that some black students have told her they think the

HUGS service is great for whites but "they don't feel a need for such a service, because they tend to know each other pretty well."

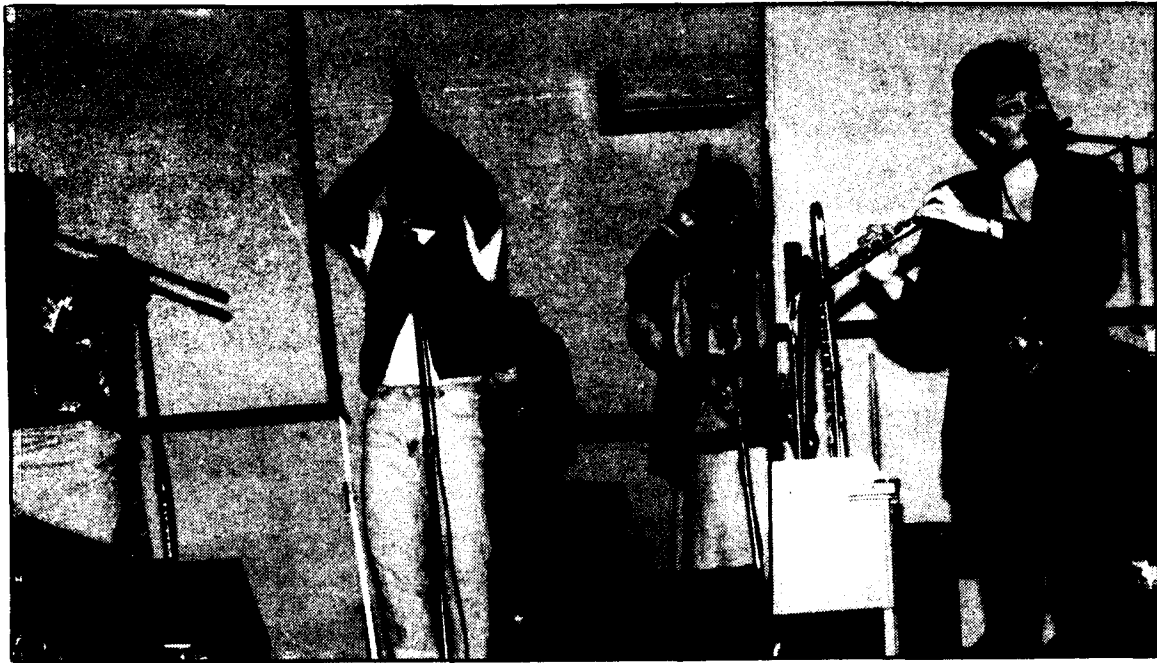
Neil Roberts, a sophomore from Bethesda, Md., disagrees, saying that he is interested in the service even though he has a steady girlfriend.

"Just to see who I'm compatible with," he says. "It's a curiosity thing."

Roberts, who says he has made a lot of friends through his participation on the soccer team, student council and other activities, finds nothing wrong with the social life at Brown:

"If anything, it's great. You get to know a lot of people. I'm not going to lie to you I also have to study."

The HUGS service has generated a lot of talk on campus and an unprecedented rate of participation "You can't get 1,500 students at Brown to do anything," says Chanda. But even two of its organizers evince the hardened realism toward romance that Brown seems to engender.



World Color: International musicians and storytellers addressed issues such as racism and environmental concerns. Matchbox Players, the Student Programming Council and the Multi-Cultural Council sponsored the event with the Office of Student Activities on Monday.

At 50, Smokey's Wish List HASN'T CHANGED.

1. Prevent forest fires.
2. Prevent forest fires.
3. Prevent forest fires.
4. Prevent forest fires.
5. Prevent forest fires.
6. Prevent forest fires.
7. Prevent forest fires.
8. Red convertible.
9. Prevent forest fires.
10. Prevent forest fires.

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