

FEATURE

FREELANCE

Luxurious Newport Mansions

by Lisa Pavadore
Collegian Feature Editor

My roommate hasn't had the chance to come home to Boston with me during vacations, but when she does finally come to visit, one attraction I want her to see is not in Boston, but is about two hours South in Newport, Rhode Island.

Situated amidst the town of Newport are eight mansions of various backgrounds, which have been taken care of by the Preservation Society and can be seen through tours.

If you are not from the Northeast coast, you may have never heard of the Newport Mansions. Tours are conducted from mid-April through November, when it is warm enough to walk around the grounds of each mansion and see how much land each mansion encompasses. Prices of tours range from \$4-\$16, and when I visited the mansions last summer I bought tickets that allowed me to see any four mansions for ten dollars.

Each mansion has its own illustrious past, which is explained at the beginning and throughout the tour.

The mansions I visited were Rosecliff, The Elms, and The Breakers, as I did not have enough time to see a fourth mansion.

The Elms was the first of my stops, and I was pretty surprised when I realized how large the

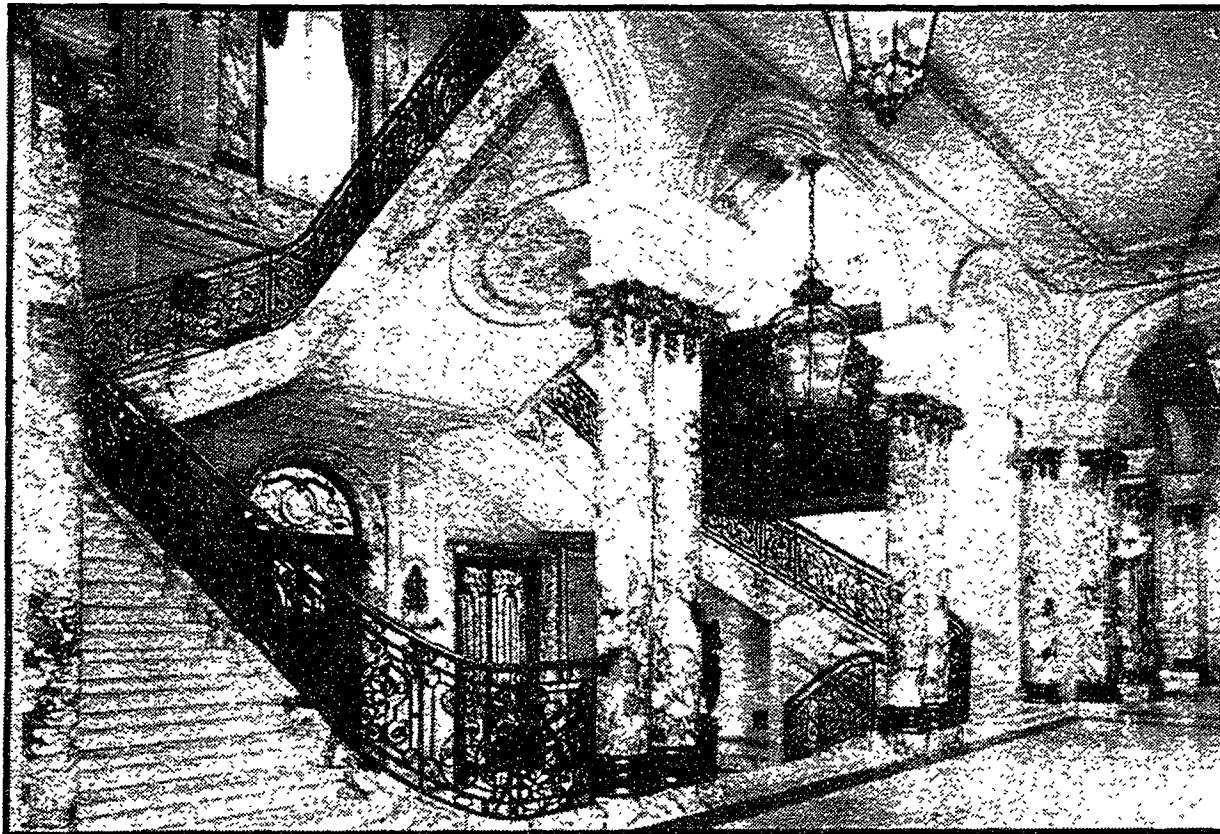
mansions really are. The front entrance alone is bigger than my whole apartment back home, with its draping marble staircase and marble columns.

Rosecliff, my second stop, had a history I found interesting. It seems that one of the owners of the mansion at one time had been the founder of the Campbell Soup Company. Rosecliff also has been the set of movies such as the *Great Gatsby* and *The Betsy*. I even got to stand in the bedroom that Robert Redford used as his dressing room!

The last, and possibly the most impressive of the mansions is The Breakers. It is named so because the rear of the house faces the Atlantic coast and the waves break at the stone wall that guards the grounds and the mansion. Though most of the mansions have had different owners throughout the years, Breakers claims one owner since being built - The Vanderbilt family, Cornelius Vanderbilt being the first owner. Gloria Vanderbilt, known worldwide for her fashions, is one of Cornelius' descendents.

This mansion, like all the others, is spacious and very ornate, with its silk wallpaper and alabaster columns. The dimensions of the kitchen floor are big enough to fit the foundation of an average two-story house in it.

The mansions can be rented for weddings, receptions, etc., and



"The ELMS" - the grand staircase, descending from the second floor divides at the first landing and comes down on both sides of the entrance hall. The stairway walls are adorned with rare tapestries.

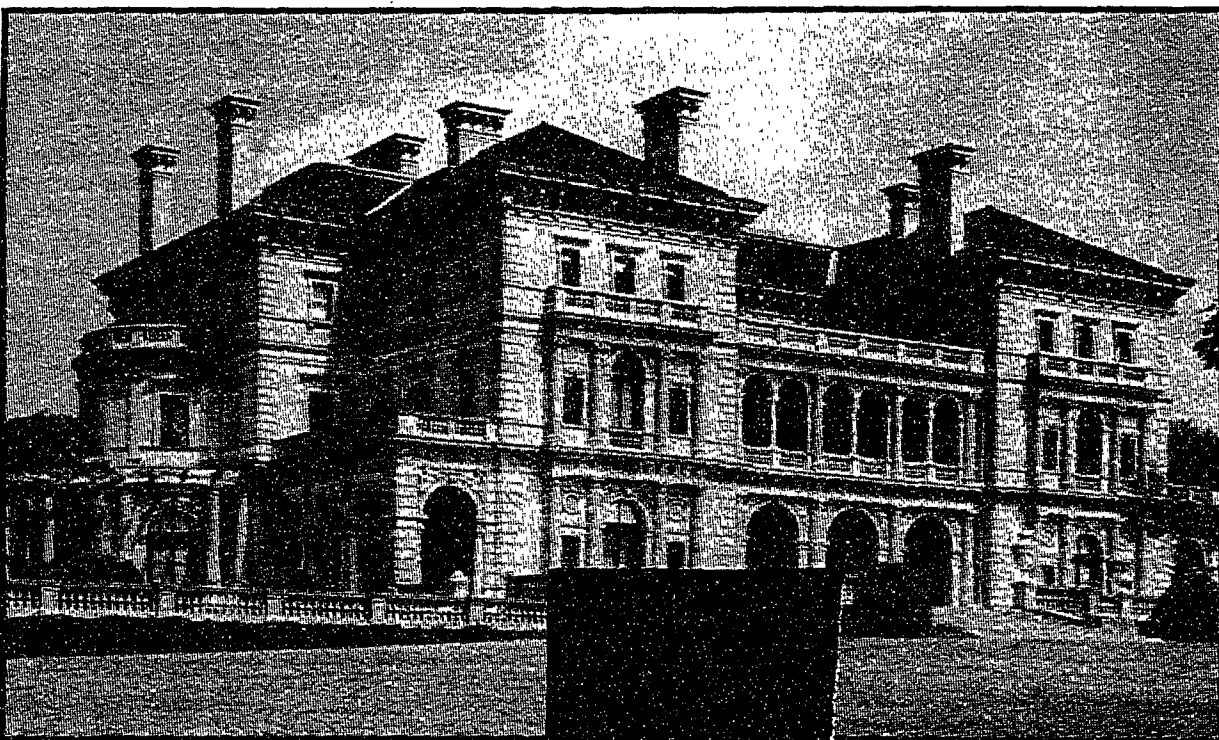
the average price to rent one for a day is around \$2300, not including music, catering, and whatever else you might want.

The mansions and their

grounds seem to possess a magic of their own, attracting thousands of people yearly. Sometimes there is a wait in line to tour the mansions, and to view just four of the

mansions would take a full day.

So, if you ever happen to head East, a tour of the mansions in Newport, Rhode Island may be a visit to consider.



"THE BREAKERS" - The 1895 Cornelius Vanderbilt mansion, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, is perhaps the finest example of American Renaissance architecture.

When you patronize our advertisers
TELL THEM You Saw THEIR AD in
The Behrend Collegian



Haircutter's Salon

2648 Buffalo Road Erie, Pa.
CORNER OF BUFFALO ROAD & BIRD DRIVE 898-0180

"STUDENT DAY" - Tues - Wed - Thurs
All Style Cuts Only \$7.00

Includes Shampoo, Condition, Cut and Blow-dry
With Student I.D.



Free Consultation
OPEN 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.