



KELLY'S CORNER

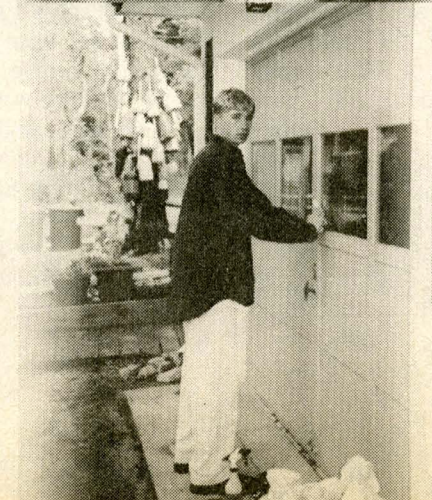
by Jan Kelly

Teenage years: active, sometimes volatile, never stagnant. Growth and change occur rapidly during these learning and searching years. Early childhood seemed so easy, adults seem to have it so easy, all the anguish and questions are left to us—teenagers all feel this way at some moments. Idle moments, unprotected, unsupervised floundering moments. Yet once occupied in an absorbing task, all is action and cheer. With our country spending so much energy trying to understand “two students gone wrong” let us hope that that same energy will turn into the building up and total support of all our youth.

We in Provincetown are fortunate enough to be close to most, if not all, of our youth solely as a member of the community, not necessarily as part of the school system, an organized religion or organized sports. We live among and with each other. Because of our small population, we can and do follow a student's progress from birth to graduation and, if possible, beyond – even if they move away.

Some adults follow one or more sports programs by game attendance. No one misses the annual musical. Many go to graduation every year. Prom and class nights have excited adults proud of our town's youth. Mentors abound in Provincetown, experts in fields that students might want to pursue. And so they have the chance during the school year to experience and conclude whether or not to follow a desired career.

The National Honor Society, a much prized group, has broad support not only by school and peer standards, but also from various age groups in the community, from fundraisers and from town businesses. The Honor Society is so busy with



these attractive, intelligent youths taking responsibility for themselves and others, that I had to find one isolated activity to broaden my understanding and to allow me to better enjoy their upcoming Induction Ceremony which will take place at Napi's Restaurant on the evening of May 17th.

I decided to pinpoint the 4th Annual “Let The Sunshine In” group event. This window washing day for

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seniors citizens brings students and senior in contact under the sponsorship of the Council on Aging, Lands End Marine Supply and the Provincetown High School Culinary Arts Class. I went to Nelson Avenue last Friday morning and met with Jennifer Borgesi, Nathaniel Mayo and Justin White—three juniors armed with Windex and paper towels, happily

chasing all the winter dirt from as many windows as possible that can be reached without a ladder.

They arrived with cupcakes and flowers for their host and hostess, and after polite introductions or reintroductions they were off to work, enjoying the fine spring day, each other's company and maybe the window washing. Jennifer, Nate and Justin were obviously proud to be part of this group. Articulate and not at all shy, they praised Amy Rokicki, their supervisor. They perform this task once a year as part of spring cleanup.

If interested, call Diane Corbo at the Council on Aging. All three students want to extend the program to a seasonal schedule, four times a year. "Nice to work outside if the day is nice," Jennifer said. Justin thinks "It's good enjoyment" and Nathaniel likes "the interaction with the community."

A small group of three people can tackle two houses; five people handle two to four homes. These three had just left Saul Adler's house where they read poems and were given some poems to take with them. "He's really an interesting guy," said Justin. "We wished there were more windows." "Yes, we kept doing the same windows over and over so we wouldn't have to go." said Jennifer. "Yes," Nate said, "he received his doctorate in abnormal psychology."

Through the program they get to meet people they would not readily contact. Because of the small school population, Jennifer feels the one-on-one opportunity provides an important advantage to learning. Nathaniel likes the small school climate because "you get to know everyone" and involvement in extra curricular activities and sports becomes more feasible and rewarding. "Instead of 150 trying out for a sport or a role in the play, there will be 15. You have a chance." Justin finds the smaller student-teacher ratio a great benefit in learning. "You learn better with that personal attention." They all love being a part of the Honor Society. "Definitely!" in unison. Reason? "You're part of the community."

Nathaniel wants to pursue a language program. "I know five year old twins."

One parent is Chinese and the other French. The children speak three languages. Their English has almost no accent. It's so impressive."

Each member of the Honor Society mentors an individual 7th grader. They tutor them, talk to them as older friends and enjoy outings together for complete socialization. A sleepover at the school was a unique activity. The high schoolers set an example for the 7th graders. They also help out at the Soup Kitchen, from cooking to serving to cleaning up. They make Christmas Cards at the Cape End Manor, play Tennis For Life, and join the Boston AIDS Walk—all part of their altruistic Honor Society activities.

"Almost everybody did the AIDS Walk. That was a good way to get my hour," Jennifer told me, explaining that each member must complete so many hours of community service. To qualify for membership, a student must maintain a B+ average. Continued membership requires those grades to be maintained in the 10th 11th and 12th grades. Below that average, a student gets probationary status and may have to wait till junior or senior year to get that "G.P.A. grade point average to 11". Alissa Santos, a senior, will be inducted this year.

The National Honor Society is now gearing up for the the Induction Ceremony on the evening of May 17th. The seniors help the sophomores prepare their speeches on the evening theme: the Four Tenets of Community: Service, Leadership, Character and Scholarship. Most of the inductees are class officers and eager to continue the valuable and productive work of the National Honor Society. The three subjects I interviewed all agreed, "It feels good to continue. It feels good to help."

