

One Student's Viewpoint: Planned Parenthood

By Amy Lea Henrick

The first time I went to their office in Cameron Village, I was so scared my hands shook. I don't deal well with new situations, and I was facing this alone. But I believed in the cause, so I took a deep breath and went inside. The first to greet me was a smiling woman I later came to know as Margaret Beck Odom. She takes care of new people at Planned Parenthood, particularly Escort trainees, which I was to become.

On a volunteer basis, we Escorts go to either of the two Raleigh Abortion Clinics to help the patients remain calm during demonstrations by anti-abortion activists. We are given as much

notice as possible, but it's usually only a twenty-four hour's warning of an impending attack. Margaret's an ex-Escort — now she trains and organizes us. We are there for the patient's convenience only, though, to protect them if they want us to.

I no longer have any qualms about going to the office — there's always someone there I know. But I think about one thing quite often: If it was so hard for me to get up the nerve to go, how would a woman who's just found out she's pregnant feel about going? The Planned Parenthood of Greater Raleigh office is for consultation. Counselors work there to help women arrive at their

own decisions, not to make the choice for them.

Planned Parenthood of Greater Raleigh's purpose is to "keep abortion safe and legal." It is made up of Americans who believe that it is (1) everyone's right to make their own decisions about childbearing, (2) the laws "should uphold that right for everyone," and (3) that instead of wasting our time and energy trying to shut down Abortion Clinics, we should be working to render them useless by preventing unwanted pregnancies. Other, similar organizations are NARAL (the National Abortion Rights Action League) and NOW (the National

Organization for Women).

Each of these Pro-Choice groups banded together for a nationally rally November 12, with simultaneous small-scale demonstrations in every state's capital — for instance, Raleigh supporters of Pro-Choice wore green ribbons. This was to show the unity of the various Pro-Choice groups in a peaceful show of belief.

I am among the youngest members of Planned Parenthood. I feel that it is my generation's responsibility to keep the freedom our mothers won for us alive. A man wrote to the editor of the News and Observer, predicting a time when there would be special policemen to investigate miscarriages. I cannot allow my body to be so controlled by my congressman. How many children I will have is between me and my future husband, not me and Jesse Helms.

Spotlight On Barbara Richards



Barbara Richards

By Kelsea Parker

Meet Barbara Richards, Saint Mary's new business manager. When asked why she selected Saint Mary's for this job, she responded by saying, "You get to know the students better" and working at a small college, "you

have a wide range of job responsibilities." She worked for three years as Assistant Controller at Kennesaw State College in Georgia where her job responsibilities were narrow due to the School's size.

Barbara Richards' goals at this college are to "update technology and communications" in the business office and to be "a role model for the students" as living proof that women can excel. She skipped her senior year in high school, received her B.A. from the State University of New York, and worked as the financial and administrative director for the U.S. Professional Tennis Association before her position at Kennesaw State College. From her back-

ground, one can tell that Barbara Richards was persistent in getting to the top.

Today she is working on her master's degree while taking two classes in correspondence. As the business manager here, Ms. Richards handles the college's monetary problems and supervises the landscaping and grounds, plumbing, telephone services, bookstore, post office, food service, and other important services on the campus.

Sports

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girls had great spirit and worked together well," said Robin Bullard when I spoke with her. The team consisted of: Amy Albertson, Robin Bullard, Ali Karn, Katie Landry, Kathryn Taft, Linnell Vaughan, and Cassie Walsh. They finished the season 7-2 and proceeded to the I.S.H.S.A.A. (Independent Schools' High School Athletic Association) State Tournament. There they tied for fourth place overall. Amy Albertson and Kathryn Taft were the semi-finalists in the Singles; the semi-finalists for the Doubles division were Robin Bullard and Amy Albertson. Congratulations to you all!

Well What Do You Know! . . .

On November 6th, ten girls were chosen for the College Tennis Team. After two weeks of try-outs, Margaret Bridger, Chris Easley, Anne Finley, Elizabeth Gillikin, Mary Virginia Green, Brook Jaeger, Virginia McGratty, Claire Norman, Janet Poythress, and Blanche Slade made the team. They will not begin practice until after Christmas, but the coach, Mrs. Jones, has put them on an exercise program and told them to eat right and get into shape in order to do their best for this coming Spring Season.

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"I can save you a long trip if you'll give 'em to me now."