BOYCOTT

PARC FIFTY-FIVE HOTEL

COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

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"STOP THE THREATS AND STOP THE LIES, ITS OUR RIGHT TO ORGANIZE!"

DAREing to Organize in "Utopia"

According to *Newsweek*, Providence is the "hottest" city to live in the United States, but to DARE organizers and their members, plenty of problems need fixing in this so-called utopia! Direct Action for Rights and Equality (DARE) was created four years ago to work on improving conditions in some of Providence's less-favored neighborhoods, and ever since then, DARE members have tackled the utility company, the parks and health departments, the state hospital and much much more. The organization is based and concentrated in South Providence, where communites are most neglected by the city and where most minority and low-income neighborhoods are situated.

This summer, three energetic MAAP interns and their well-versed site coordinator joined the DARE crew in their battle against insensitive bureacracies and deteriorating neighborhoods in South Providence. Rowena Pineda, a recent Brandeis University graduate, brought her experience as the coordinator of her school's chapter of Amnesty International to the MAAP program. Nineteen year-old Emiliano Lastra plans to apply the knowledge and experience he has gained from this program to improve his community in San Francisco. Theresa Tran, the third intern, is a senior at the University of California, Santa Cruz where she majors in Social Psychology. The interns were accompanied by their ever-knowledgeable and spunky site coordinator, Sister Guadalupe Guajardo. This feisty nun has God on her side and twenty years of organizing experience under her belt!

This summer DARE focused on three separate yet interrelated campaigns: fighting cutbacks at Rhode Island Hospital, renovating neglected playgrounds, and cleaning up vacant lots in the area. Rhode Island Hospital is the largest hospital in the state, andhas recently cut back on their dental services and to close down the pharmacy that most low-income people in the area use. DARE is campaigning to restore the clinic and the pharmacy and to get rid of the parking fee. In other words, DARE is trying to restore the hospital to its original purpose — serving all the people in the state and not just the wealthy few.

The second issue concerns playgrounds. Community residents wanted the old ones renovated, and new ones built. The MAAP interns were responsible for recruiting new members to DARE, for arranging planning meetings where the community people decided what they wanted in their playgrounds, and for recruiting people to attend a meeting with the Parks Department concerning the construction of each playground.

The third campaign this summer was to get the city to do something about the multitude of rat and garbage-infested vacant lots in the area. DARE interns and organizers mobilized community members against this problem, and staged an action against the Public Works Department. The director of Public Works then agreed to tour the areas concerned and to issue litter fines to those landlords with filthy lots.

Other intern activities included recruiting 30 new members to the organization, raising $300 in membership dues, organizing and participating in three actions and attending and organizing numerous house and community meetings.

Teamwork was one of the many successes for the two interns as Rowena and Theresa learned to divide chores as well as to share responsibilities. With Theresa's flair for fundraising and Rowena's excellent note-taking and writing abilities, over $1500 was raised for the CTWO adbook, a newsletter was published and sent to all interns, articles were written for local Providence newspapers, and agendas were prepared for the numerous DARE meet-

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