

MS. CARRUTH GOES TO WASHINGTON

by Sandee Carruth, Political Science Junior

Like many of us, I've always been fascinated with the White House. As a child I would test my older brother by saying, "If I were to run for President, would you vote for me?" Of course he would always say, "No," and then I would go through a series of "Why not?" and "What if?" questions. In the end I don't think he ever did say he would vote for me, but it taught me a couple of lessons: One, never listen to your brother. And two, strive to be what you want to be — pick something that you do well and stick with it. This is exactly what I've tried to do.

During the months of January, February, and March 1997 I had the opportunity to intern at the White House. I was one of 200 interns chosen from a pool of 2,000 applicants. I worked in the Office of Presidential Personnel with Bob Nash, special assistant to the president and director of presidential personnel.

Recent government cutbacks have caused the White House to rely heavily on its interns. As a White House intern, my duties included answering phones, facilitating correspondence, giving direction to people regarding the proper channels to get appointed, maintaining Mr. Nash's schedule, and various other office projects.

Throughout my stay in Washington, I was introduced to President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton, Vice-President Gore and Tipper Gore, Janet Reno, Oliver North, and Maria Shriver. I also had the opportunity to meet Rodney Slater, secretary of transportation; Rahm Emanuel, senior advisor to the president for policy and strategy and executive assistant to the chief of staff; Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli prime minister; Eduardo Frei, president of Chile, and his wife; various ambassadors, congressmen, and senators; and Socks, the First Feline. I also attended the Presidential Inauguration and the state arrival of the Chilean president.

Although I never did find out exactly which qualities prompted the White House staff to choose me as one of its lucky interns, I do have political background experience, including interning and volunteering for former 22nd District Rep. Congresswoman Andrea Seastrand's 1996 re-election campaign. I've also spent many summers working as an administrative



Sandee Carruth was the only intern in her group of nine to meet President Clinton during her White House assignment. (White House photo)

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assistant and data entry clerk, which provided me with professional office experience.

I suppose one of the most important things I gained while interning at the White House was a better understanding of how government and the White House work, and specifically, how my department worked and connected with the President's office. I used to think the President chose all of the presidential appointees, when, in fact,

our department researched and assigned the presidential appointee candidates.

Another thing I learned was that my party affiliation didn't matter. I was dedicated to performing my job and duties to the best of my ability. It was important for me just to be there and make the best of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

As for my immediate future, I've been accepted to Franklin College in Switzerland to study

and pursue academic travel during the fall 1997 quarter. I've also been elected vice president of the Cal Poly College Republicans and Area 7 director of the California College Republicans.

Eventually I want to run for office, starting at the local level and progressing from there. I plan to pursue as many government offices as I can, and I look forward to and welcome any and all new challenges. **CP**

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A conversation between Johnson and Zweifel about the many similarities in the basic skills being taught to students in both art and architecture started the idea for a RAML rolling. Both agree the use of RAML for the new class last spring was the beginning of "spectacular growth" for their students.

Mike Romey and Mike Rosenbrock, the class's student leaders, were instrumental in encouraging the development of the 3-D and animation class, and in suggesting the most effective hardware and software. Their goals were to have each student understand how the software

works and how to be an effective team member.

Cal Poly Plan funds were used to develop the spring course and refurbish the lab spaces. Corporate donations and discounts made it possible to obtain the expensive high-tech software and computers. **CP**

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