

# Corps members recommend program

**CITY YEAR**  
continued from page nine

Housing is a personal responsibility. At the end of the term, corp members participate in graduation and each receive a \$4,725 public service award to be used toward higher education.

Corp members make up about five teams, and each address different needs in the community. These teams include the Public Health team, which focuses on the elderly and mentally disabled, and the Drug and Alcohol team, which promotes drug and alcohol abuse prevention in elementary schools.

Charndrea Leonard of Columbia is completing her second year with City Year. She is on the team that runs after-school programs for kids and admits that while it is a tough job, it's one that she enjoys.

“Helping the community and helping children opened my eyes to how difficult it is to be a child today.”

**Charndrea Leonard**  
City Year Corp member

“I love City Year because I love the work that we do. Helping the community and helping children opened my eyes to how difficult it is to be a child today. [We] give them the needed attention they sometimes don't get from home,” she said.

Leonard's team encourages community service to these kids by having them do service projects every month around their school.

The application process has begun for the next corps. Applications are four pages that question reasons for wanting to join City Year as well as the level of commitment.

Drop-ins are planned through the end of May to provide more information about City Year. Attendance at the drop-in is not mandatory, but it is highly recommended.

Next the applicant can shadow a corp member and experience a typical day. At the end of the day they are interviewed by a committee. Two letters of recommendation are also required. Those accepted are notified with a letter.

Anyone interested in being a corp member can obtain an application from Bryan Kost, Director of Recruitment at 254-3349 or stop by the office located at 1420 Gregg St. in Columbia.

**DESIGNER**  
continued from page nine

big career for him. Strange, I don't remember him being any better dressed than the other kids.”

Five years ago, Dalal formed a friendship and business relationship with Rocco Ciccarelli, who runs Primo, a clothing manufacturing business in the heart of Manhattan.

“He came here and he wanted to know everything,” Ciccarelli said. “He is very nosy, always asking questions, but that's the way you learn. He is very smart and he knows exactly what he wants. He will continue to be successful.”

About two years ago, Dalal put together a small collection of tailored suits, somewhat in the spirit of Truman Capote's sartorial style.

He showed it to a few fashion editors during men's fashion week. At

the time, he said he was not sure when he would go into the business, as he was still a sophomore at Penn.

But he was so eager to pursue his designer's muse that he finished his courses in three years. He commuted from school to New York when he was preparing for that first show last year. His parents invested the \$30,000 that would have gone to pay for his fourth year of college, and Dalal added a few thousand that he had been saving to finance his first collection.

His mother explained: “We did see the talent. We have seen that everything that he touches he likes to have to perfection. He is very strong in whatever he starts he wants to finish. I think he is quite talented given a chance. We were just not sure how it would be, how his clothes would be accepted in the market place. As we saw the product, we started supporting him

more, when we saw the progress. After all he is our son.”

What a triumph the show was. The ultra-hip clothes, silk shirts, pleat-less pants, narrow jackets, were created in paisley and other prints popular during the era of Colonial India. (His parents were both born in India.) His \$250 shirts and \$800 blazers are now sold in tony stores such as Barneys New York.

Dalal left the University of Pennsylvania without graduating.

“I still owe two papers,” he said. His family and friends, who have since contributed \$1.4 million to get his business off the ground, still insist that he get his degree.

“We are on his back,” said his mother. “That was one of the conditions of him going in business, that school came first. ... Every night I tell him to finish those papers.”

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