

Challenger

Volume 3, Number 8

The Harper College Honors Society Newsletter

May 1993

Student activities open doors

Why aren't *you* involved in student activities?

If you ask a student this question, they often respond, "I just don't have the time. I go to school, I go to work, and then I go home."

NEWSFLASH:

The people involved in student activities have the same busy schedules! However, they squeeze in the extra activities.

I have been involved in student activities since high school and these experiences have enriched my education, my social life and, I hope, my professional career.

I came to Harper from out of district, so I knew no one. Student activities would allow me not only to meet people, but would give me new experiences. I applied and received the

uncharted territory of Harper dissipated quickly as I was introduced to many people and learned more about publicity and promotion.

Getting involved at Harper gave me a variety of experiences I will use in my future career, and future jobs including cooperating with others to achieve a common goal.

In many ways, student activities prepares you for the job world. Career opportunities become available because of the experience. As

the public relations chair, I had job responsibilities I could never hope to get had I applied outside

school. I received low-level job training and my experiences helped me decide on the career field I will enter.

In my second year at Harper on the Program Board, I was the planning and research executive, and my responsibilities changed. I was now responsible for obtaining marketing information about people who attend and don't attend our events. For example, I worked with others to survey the audience attending as they entered the auditorium for a Toad the Wet Sprocket concert.

Honors students, many concerned with scholarships, will learn being involved in student activities is a major plus on any scholarship application. Not only does it show you're open to new challenges and experiences, it shows a concern for your school, and an enthusiasm for enhancing your college experience.

"As the public relations chair, I had job responsibilities I could never hope to get had I applied outside school."

INSIDE

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"The creative conquest of space will serve as a wonderful substitute for war."

★ James McDonnell 1967 ★

Program Board public relations executive position. My fears of the

continued on page 12

Honors Society remembers the past and looks forward to the future

From the desk of Dr. Hull

Congratulations to the Honors Society and Phi Theta Kappa for a wonderfully successful Environmental Expo, and to the several Honors Society members elected to the Student Senate for next year.

This was the most active year for the Honors Society yet, and it's been a lot of fun for me getting to know so many of the Honors Society members. For those of you who are graduating, I will miss you all. Good luck and keep in touch. Our president, Pat Fitzsimmons plans to be around for the summer before starting her studies at DePaul University in the fall. Thanks for all your hard work, Pat!

☆ Looking Forward ☆

We will be planning for summer activities in late May and welcome your suggestions. We will again plan activities with Phi Theta

Kappa, and spouses or friends of members of either organization are always welcome to join us. Past activities included a concert at Ravinia, and trips to the Shedd Aquarium, Adler Planetarium, Museum of Science and Industry, the Botanical Gardens and Brookfield Zoo. Several of our alumni joined us for our traditional end-of-the-summer picnic.

A summer service project remains undetermined. Several people are interested in working for Habitat for Humanity, HFH, during the summer months. If you want to know more about this, contact Pat Fitzsimmons. Please share your activity

ideas with one of the officers. Since

there are always new people, we can repeat activities but maybe you have suggestions we might not otherwise consider.

Final plans, will be posted on my office (F-334 B) door or windows, and we will try to get events posted on the closed circuit television sets around campus. Please make a routine to

check there at least once a week. It's the most effective way to get announcements out during the summer.

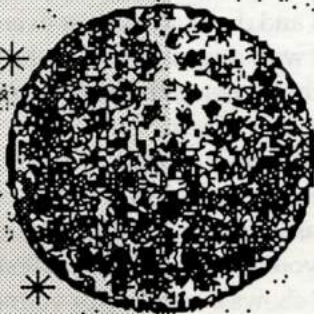
☆ Get Involved ☆

Please consider getting involved in Harper's Honors Society. We will need new leadership. We're planning to continue our weekly discussion/conversation meetings, but the times and dates will depend on the schedules of those people who actively participate — especially those willing to serve as officers. You can be as active as you wish — some of our 'regulars' have come late after their classes let out. Those of you who applied for transfers to selective universities and for virtually all scholarships know most applications ask for extra-curricular activities and community service. Your involvement outside classes could make the difference between you and another student with the same GPA.

You might just have some fun and meet stimulating people whose paths you might not otherwise cross.

—Dr. Elizabeth Anne Hull

"... have
some fun and
meet stimulating
people..."



MERCURY

Mercury, the sun's closest neighbor is the solar system's smallest planet. It is not much bigger than our moon.

Expo highlights environmental concerns

A word from the president



Gayle Corcoran answers volunteers' questions at Environmental Expo.

Well, it's been an amazingly busy month, to say the least! We just finished the Environmental Expo. It was a great success; everything we had hoped for and more.

If you weren't able to join us, here are a few highlights:

- ★ Nine speakers shared their views of several issues including local prairie stewardship, our planet's status and endangered species.

- ★ Booths and displays were staffed by people who were knowledgeable and quick to respond to questions. A nutrition center, staffed by natural foods specialists, offered nutritious snacks and natural soda for sale.

- ★ The Astronomy Club sold some great tee-shirts, the proceeds going to their new planetarium building fund. A time capsule was dedicated and will be placed in the cornerstone of the new building. For a list of the contents contact Gayle Corcoran, Marilyn Perry, or Dr. Larry Kent, Phi Theta Kappa Advisor.

- ★ The video "Ferngully" ran continually for the many children in attendance. A ten-part series called "The Race To Save The Planet" also ran continuously in a classroom.

- ★ The keynote speaker was Wendy Paulson, a Barrington resident, and member of the

national board of the Nature Conservancy. She spoke of her 20 year involvement in conservation issues.

I hope some of the photos I took during the event will come out. Everyone worked hard for this event and should be congratulated for their efforts "above and beyond the call of duty." Volunteers showed up the day of the conference to direct people to the various activities.

It was a wonderful, fun, and exciting, event that couldn't have been accomplished without all of you!

Gayle Corcoran has already volunteered to chair an Environmental Expo next year. She'll need all of the help she can get so please volunteer. You'll have a wonderful time!

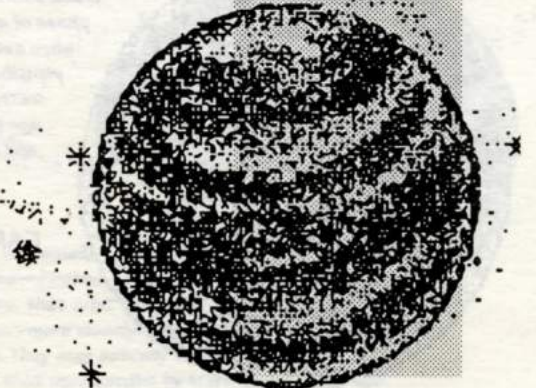
—Pat Fitzsimmons

"It will free man from the remaining chains of gravity which still tie him to the planet."

★ —Werner von Braun, 1958 on the importance of space travel. ★

VENUS

Venus is surrounded by poisonous gas clouds, so it reflects a lot of sunlight. This makes Venus the brightest object you can see in the sky besides the sun and moon.



Investigating galaxies in Astronomy 101

Astronomy 101, Monday and Wednesday 6:35-9:35 pm D 239 Instructor Professor Paul Siplera

The day is gone and stars fill the sky — ostensibly unchanged, unchangeable. Their flickering lights arouse curiosity. What star is that? Is that even a star? Where did they come from?

Paul Siplera, professor of geology and astronomy, investigates these questions and many others about the inhabitants of the sky with students in Astronomy 101. Siplera hopes to interest students so they continue astronomical studies on their own.

"It's not enough to memorize something. I want them to think." Siplera enthusiastically explains. He believes students really learn things on their own — through personal discovery. Students challenge Siplera's ideas because he encourages them to.

"It makes me happy when they 'best me' or out-think me. That really shows they're discovering the information for them-

selves." Siplera says.

Class on Monday night, April 19, introduced students to the origin of the solar system. Siplera simplifies complex ideas with illustrations on the board. His lecture is interspersed with new findings and theories. One theory he offers is from an article he wrote about the origin of an asteroid belt which splits the solar system in half (it falls between Mars and Jupiter).

Siplera says his asteroid belt theory came out of discussions with Astronomy 101 students who couldn't understand theories from the 'big guns.' Siplera says, "If you look at complex ideas simplistically, the complex becomes clear." So Siplera looked at the belt simplistically and came up with his theory.

"Teaching by discovery might work if we could have an Aristotelian system where students could wander around with their instructors. But one teacher cannot

*"It's not enough to memorize something. I want them to think."
— Paul Siplera*

'discover' with each individual student (even in small classes of only 10 students). It's just physically impossible."

In astronomy, discovery is an important route

toward understanding because new theories, explanations and occurrences arise daily. "I may read an article before class one day and have to restructure my entire lesson because of the new information." Siplera explains.

Siplera really hopes students learn not to read science thinking it is fact. Instead, he wants them to systematically question anything worthwhile.

A textbook, Siplera maintains, is not always fact or even right.

But how many students have time to systematically question astronomy for themselves?

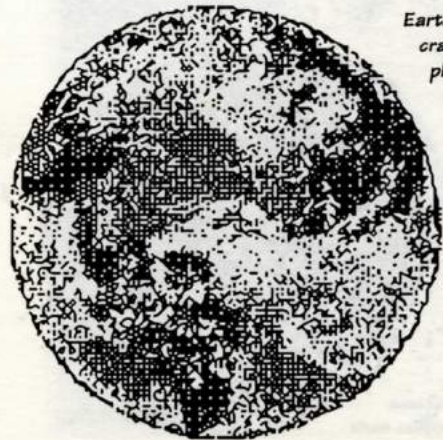
Astronomy 101 student Carol Mazikowski says these expectations are high because this is an Honors class.

Jason Kopeny and Gayle Corcoran explain the effect of higher expectations — harder tests. Siplera's tests consist of only short and long answer essay questions.

But Gayle Corcoran thinks these expectations help form a "camaraderie between Honors students."

So when you look up in the sky tonight, don't only think about those lights up there but where discovering and questioning may lead.

—Vicki Milewski

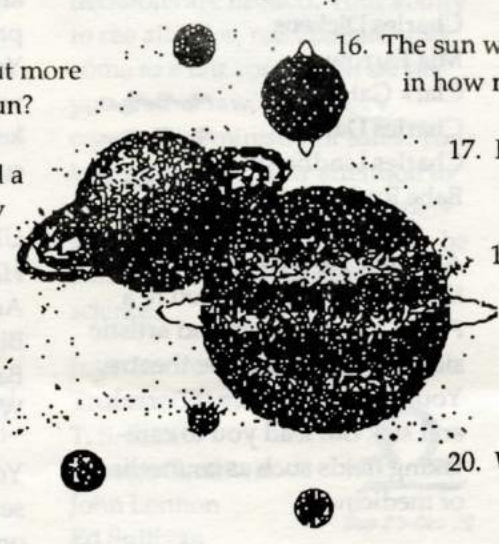


Earth was once pock-marked by craters formed during an early phase of solar system history when asteroids were more plentiful. Most of these craters were erased long ago by mountain-building and erosion.

EARTH

Galactic Quiz

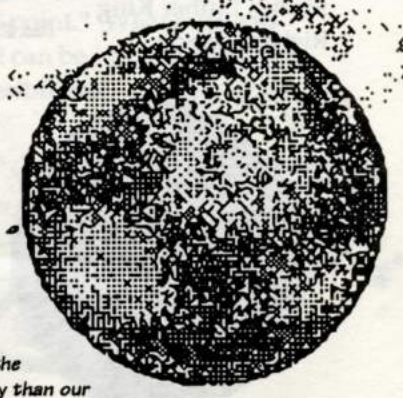
- How far is one light-year?
- How fast does the Earth spin?
- How many constellations have been named so far?
- Besides the planets and sun, what other bodies share our solar system?
- What is a great cloud of gas and dust within a galaxy called?
- Which planet actually sends out more heat than it receives from the sun?
- How long would it take to send a radio message to another galaxy and receive a reply?
- What is the largest and brightest type of all stars called?
- How many stars are in the Milky Way?
- What are "shooting stars?"
- Which is the hottest planet?
- How hot is the sun's center?
- What is the term "quasar" short for?
- What are the furthest objects ever seen?
- When will Halley's comet, which was last seen in 1985-86, return?
- The sun will die and become a black dwarf in how many years?
- If you fell into a black hole, what would happen to you?
- What are the incredibly dense remains of a massive star that has burned itself out called?
- What is a "black dwarf" star?
- What are the especially dense concentrations of gas and dust that are the first stage of a star's formation called?



ANSWERS:

1. 5,900 billion miles 2. 994 miles per hour 3. 88 4. Asteroids and comets 5. A nebula 6. Jupiter, it is shrinking by about one centimeter per year, which releases heat energy. 7. Six thousand million years 8. A supergiant 9. Over 100 billion 10. "High speed stones," or meteoroids, entering our atmosphere and burning up as they do so: another term for them is "meteor" 11. Venus—Dense carbon dioxide holds the heat in so the temperature is hotter than on Mercury 12. At the center—27 million degrees Fahrenheit; on the surface—10,800 degrees Fahrenheit. 13. Quasistellar radio source. 14. Quasars 15. 2061-62 16. 7,100,000,000 17. You would be pulled apart atom by atom 18. A black hole 19. A star that is radiating so little energy that it can't be observed directly any longer 20. Globules

MARS



Mars has two small, dark moons—Phobos and Deimos, that orbit the planet much more closely than our own moon. They may actually have been asteroids that were caught by Mars' gravity long ago.

Do the heavens hold the key to your future?

Are you having a hard time deciding what to do with your life? Have you searched your heart and soul and the want ads, and still not found your niche? Why not look at the stars? What have you got to lose?

As a *Capricorn* you set your sights on the top and do what it takes to get there. You're always striving for something better. In a leadership position, you're not selfish about your authority. You are willing to ask for help when you need it. You may find business, science, politics, accounting and construction rewarding.

Muhammad Ali
Steve Allen
Humphrey Bogart
Benjamin Franklin
Martin Luther King
Richard Nixon



Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Aquarians have provided endless hours of enjoyment on stage and in literature as well as improving the human condition through science. You seem to have a natural ability to persuade people which makes you an excellent sales person. Politics or fundraising might also be a fit for you.

Charles Dickens
Mia Farrow
Clark Gable
Charles Darwin
Charles Lindbergh
Babe Ruth



Jan. 20-Feb. 18

An office job may not be your final career choice, if you're a *Pisces*. Your creative and artistic side find a home in the theatre. Your compassion for the weak and sick can lead you to care-taking fields such as counseling or medicine.

George Washington
Andrew Jackson
James Madison
Grover Cleveland
Michelangelo
Albert Einstein



Feb. 19-Mar. 20

As an *Aries*, you will strive to make yourself the best in whatever field you choose. You need recognition and an outlet for your creativity. You can't stand the rigidity of an office environment. You inspire others to search for exploration and growth opportunities.

Jupiter is enormous, bigger than all of the other planets combined. It has what looks like a giant spot on its surface. It is actually a storm larger than Earth.

Karim Abdul-Jabbar
Joe Frazier
Thomas Jefferson
Nikita Khrushchev
Joseph Pulitzer
Werner Von Braun



Mar. 21-Apr. 20

If you're a *Taurus*, you may set your sights on a specific career and never change your mind. You are patriotic and conscientious and may find a promising career in local politics. You do your homework so you won't make promises you can't keep or statements you can't support.

Ulysses S. Grant
Harry S. Truman
Adolph Hitler
Bing Crosby
Barbra Streisand
William Shakespeare



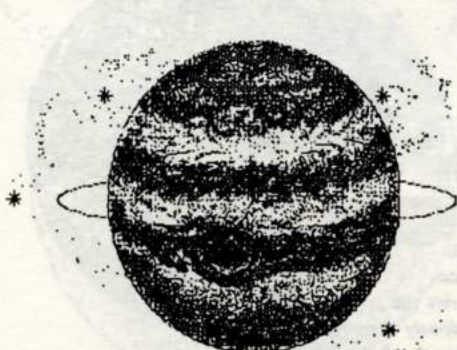
April 20-May 20

You *Geminis* often try your hand at several jobs before you settle on one. You need a job filled with variety that allows you to move around and interact with different people. Your greatest asset is your skill with words, written and spoken. Teaching, journalism, translating, and business may be a fit for you.

Ralph Waldo Emerson
John Dillinger
Bob Hope
John F. Kennedy
Arthur Conan Doyle
Bob Dylan



May 21-Jun 20



JUPITER

If your sign is *Cancer*, you are a responsible, dependable employee, even when you're not completely happy with the job. However, you will pursue the top and your ability to always finish what you set out to do will help you. Teaching, especially small children, medicine and social work call to your protective and caring side. Shrewd and skillful in money management, a career in finance may fit you well.

Arthur Ashe
Julius Caesar
Calvin Coolidge
Bill Cosby
John Glenn
Ernest Hemingway



Jun 21-Jul 22

You *Leos* expect to achieve positions of authority in whatever field you choose. You thrive on recognition and will outdo yourself if rewards with compliments and frequent raises. Although, in lieu of raises, a nice title will do. The ideal job may be one where you are your own boss.

Gracie Allen
Lucille Ball
Dustin Hoffman
Mick Jagger
Fidel Castro
Willie Shoemaker



Jul 23-Aug 22

Although you can be indecisive, once you *Virgos* make a decision you don't look back. You prefer supportive jobs that keep you out of the limelight. You prefer to look inside for your definition of success. Your analytical mind and eagerness to serve make you an excellent employee.

Leonard Bernstein
Sophia Loren
Bob Newhart
Peter Sellers
Prince Albert
Queen Elizabeth I



Aug 23-Sep 22

If you are a *Libran*, your careful analysis of any situation can cause you problems in jobs where quick decisions are needed. Your ability to see all sides, read people, and come to a fair conclusion serves you well in law, diplomacy, counseling, ministry or sales. Your love of beauty, your attention to detail and your openness to new ideas and not to prejudge may be a fit for design, advertising or science.

Julie Andrews
Truman Capote
T. S. Eliot
George Gershwin
John Lennon
Ed Sullivan



Sep 23-Oct 22

You *Scorpions* are creative, energetic, bold and ambitious and can motivate others to follow your direction. Music, literature and your imagination are your diversions. Learn to trust your factual analytical side and corporations will reward you for your vision. You are self-confident, accept accountability for your actions and take pride in your work but be sure to delegate authority. Science, especially medicine, calls to your questioning mind and alert analysis.

Saturn's rings can be seen through a small telescope. They are made up of bands of dust, rocks and chunks of ice.

Theodore Roosevelt
James Polk
Warren Harding
Robert F. Kennedy
Pablo Picasso
Rev. Billy Graham
John Philip Sousa



Oct 23-Nov 21

As a *Sagittarian*, you thrive on change and challenge and your working life may take several turns. But no matter what area you choose to pursue, Your ambition and lack of patience will drive you to the top. Your tendency to treat superiors as equals can cause you problems. You tend to trust people and believe them to be as open and honest as you. Be careful of playing financial hunches without considering the consequences.

Ludwig von Beethoven
Walt Disney
Mary Martin
Frank Sinatra
James Thurber
Mark Twain



Nov 22-Dec 21

As you can see, no matter what sign you were born under, you have some well known company. Your sign may offer you your final destination or just a "jumping-off-point." What ever happens, it can be fun investigating the possibilities. — Kathy Kokoszka



SATURN

Eliminate government

by Adam McCabe

POINT

Governments have participated in a long tradition of making attempts to relieve the poor. Usually, their attempts have not been successful. Each attempt has increased poverty instead of reducing it. In the middle sixties, President Lyndon B. Johnson and the U.S. Congress initiated the: "War on Poverty." It consisted of an onslaught of federal welfare programs. President Johnson described the War this way: "We are going to

"Taxes are government's forceful confiscation of individual's fruits of production"

take all of the money that we think is unnecessarily being spent and take it from the 'haves' and give it to the 'have-nots' that need it so much (Los Angeles Times, March 3, 1965.)"

Johnson's statement and the "Great Society" programs that have followed and continue with us are an affront to all individuals who wish to be free.

We, as individuals, have a right to our own life, a right to live. In order to live, man must procure means of subsistence. Man must use his physical and mental abilities to produce. If man owns his own life, then he must have the rights to his means of subsistence—the fruits of his thought and actions—that he has produced. If he does not, he then possesses no meaningful right to his own life.

The War on Poverty's welfare programs, as

COUNTERPOINT: Don't punish the baby

Mr. McCabe speaks to two issues in his comments; the government's attempt to help the poor and our constitutional right to be free and own our own lives.

I agree our attempts at dealing with the poverty in this country leave much to be desired. There are abuses of the system on both sides. But elim-

inating the welfare system is like "throwing the baby out with the bathwater." Sure, the water is dirty but the answer is to clean up the water, not punish the baby. The private sector is not immune to abuse. The recent United Way scandal is a perfect example.

We need to protect the welfare system from abuse but when someone does abuse it, the abusers must pay "meaningful" consequences for their actions.

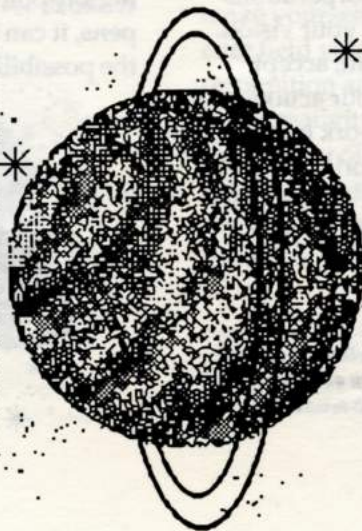
The belief that every man is responsible for and must take care of himself, using his "physical and mental abilities to produce" sounds fair. But, the opposing viewpoint goes on to say, "If he does not, he then possesses no meaningful right to his own life." *Everyone* has the right to his "own life." Abraham Lincoln made that very clear. What happens if you are permanently injured or sick and can't "produce." What about a handicapped person? Or the mentally ill? Or the elderly?

There will always be people who need the rest of us in order to live. I sincerely hope we, as a society and as individuals, never turn our backs on people who need our help.

—Kathy Kokoszka

URANUS

Uranus is so far away from the sun that if you were standing on Uranus, the sun would look like another bright star.



welfare programs

well as all other government endeavors, are financed, at least in part, by taxes. Taxes are government's forceful confiscation of individual's fruits of production—the forceful confiscation of individual's right to his very own life. Need, nor anything else, is not a sufficient reason to violate the rights of others. Individuals who do not possess the right to their own lives are *slaves* to whomever does. In our case, we are all slaves to Uncle Sam.

The turning of individuals into slaves is not an acceptable method in achieving the goals of eliminating or even reducing poverty. Nor has it been successful. As outlays for these programs have grown so has poverty. Eliminating government-run welfare programs and thus, privatizing welfare is a step in the right direction.

It is estimated that private charity organizations raise over \$100 billion per year through voluntary contributions. Imagine what that figure could be if individuals were emancipated from the taxes that

enslave them in order to finance the Welfare State. With the emancipation, a great burden would be lifted off the economy. This would lead to job creation. In addition, private charity organizations are far more efficient because they must compete in the charity marketplace. Governments, on the other hand, do not have to compete. They simply take by force.

Eliminating government welfare programs will not create Utopia. Utopia is not an option. Instead it will offer the poor more opportunities and provide assistance to them far more effectively than what exists now.

COUNTERPOINT: Welfare not a simple issue

Mr. McCabe equates the welfare system and our enslavement to Uncle Sam without taking into consideration where the rest of our tax dollars go. Just how much of our taxes go to the welfare system?

He also assumes if the U.S. tax payers were emancipated from this debt to Uncle Sam, they would immediately contribute to their nearest charity. These simplifications illustrate his simplification of the entire welfare system and government's role in it.

His whole point is that the welfare system is ineffective and it should be replaced by another,

more individualistic system. However, no facts or statistics are included to illustrate exactly how bad the "system" is. He merely states, "Each attempt [to reduce poverty] has increased poverty instead of reducing it."

There are many intricate aspects of this issue, but his argument is weakened by not including them.

—Tasha Ponczek

"Two things fill the mind with ever new and increasing admiration and awe, the oftener and more steadily they are reflected on: the starry heavens above me, and the moral law with in me."

☆ Immanuel Kant 1724-1804 ☆



NEPTUNE

It takes about 165 Earth years to complete one of its own, so there are at least 68,000

Honors Society Scrapbook '93



Harper President Paul Thompson and his wife Doriann visited the Honors Society information table. Cheryl Brandt (center) and Pat Fitzsimmons staffed the display at the college's 25th anniversary community day.

Active
Honors
Society
members
find
enjoyment
in
involvement



Pat Fitzsimmons, Gail Corcoran, Marilyn Perry and Rita Blackwell represented Harper at the Upper Midwest Honors Council at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisc. The theme for the UMHC conference was "What's Your Story?"



Betty Hull and Gayle Corcoran were elected by the Illinois caucus as representatives to Upper Midwest Honors Council.

Editorial Staff

Joy Phillips Blocki
Kathy Kokoszka
Vicki Milewski
Tasha Ponczek

Editorial Policy

The Challenger is the voice of the membership of the Harper College Honors Society. We welcome articles and letters of interest to our members. Articles should contribute constructively to the goals and ideals of the Honors Society. Articles should be informative and should include verification of facts presented. Please check with the editors before writing an article. For details on acceptable style and format, call EXT. 2581. Letters should be addressed to: Challenger
Room A 379

Honors Society Society Scrapbook '93

Russian interns toured Chicago's loop with Honors Society. From left to right: Vlad, Pat, Ilea, Ina and Vladimir.

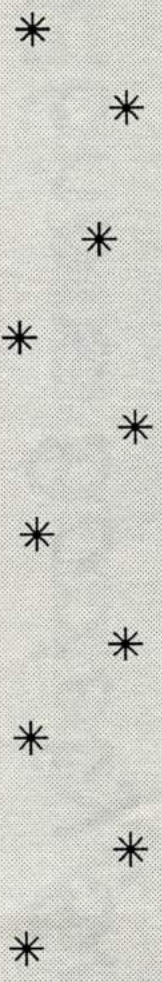


The tour group unexpectedly ran into a Polish Day parade.

Russian interns tour Chicago with members

Vlad and Vladimir stand in front of Calder's flamingo by the Federal Building.





When I heard the learn'd astronomer,
 When the proofs, the figures, were ranged in columns before me,
 When I was shown charts and diagrams, to add, divide, and measure
 them,
 When I sitting heard the astronomer where he lectured with much
 applause in the lecture room,
 How soon unaccountably I became tired and sick,
 Till rising and gliding out I wander'd off by myself,
 In the mystical moist night-air, and from time to time,
 Look'd up in perfect silence at the stars."
 ☆ Walt Whitman 1865-1867 ☆

continued from page 1

In addition, when you're ready to apply for a job, student activities can be included on your resume. Many employers give extra consideration to potential employees who show extra-curricular activities on their resumes.

Harper offers other job experiences including the Harbinger newspaper, the radio station WHCM, the student-run business-Formula, the Student Senate and

tutoring. All these activities offer students responsible positions, and the opportunity to perform professional tasks and use up-to-date equipment.

People involved in student activities think their experiences are worth the extra commitment. In fact, one thing student activities offer is a break from the work-school drudgery many experience.

Even if you are involved in a schedule of school-work-home-school-work, getting involved is possible. It makes sense to learn the most you can, especially when it's offered for free. You can contribute more to your personal life, and future or present jobs. Student activities opens doors to new people and experiences. No one should pass up this great opportunity.

—Natasha Ponczek

Directory Updates

Welcome new members:

Paula Hayden
 2129 Tepee Avenue
 Carpentersville, IL 60110
 (708) 836-0719

Bryan Johnson
 4542 Lincoln Avenue
 Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
 (708) 358-2029

Margaret Kevorkian
 519 S. Elm
 Palatine, IL 60067
 (708) 358-5284

Melissa Schmidt
 1190 Old Timber Court
 Hoffman Estates, IL 60195
 (708) 359-7885

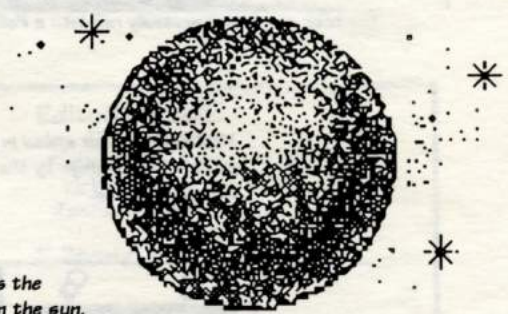
Jody Shipka
 5550 Astor Lane
 Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
 (708) 392-6729

Karen Wulf
 909 Ridgeway Court
 Schaumburg, IL 60194
 (708) 885-0459

Change of address:

Gayle Corcoran
 1713 Glen Lake
 Hoffman Estates, IL 60195
 (708) 884-8361

PLUTO



Although Pluto is the ninth planet from the sun, Pluto's orbit is so odd that sometimes it wanders closer to the sun than Neptune.