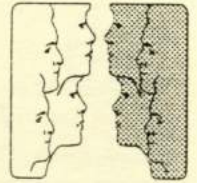


Challenger



A Publication of the Harper College Honors Society

February 1996

Volume 7, No. 1

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This year I resolve ...

Each New Year's Day looms as a new beginning, a clean slate that I feel is waiting to be filled with promises to myself. I along with millions of others wake up on this day and vow to make changes during the next 12 months. Lose weight, quit smoking, find that special someone, and pay off the credit cards. *The New Year's Resolution.*

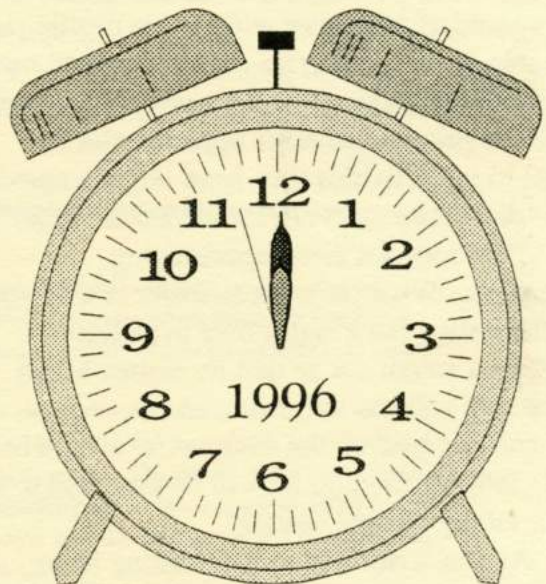
An early custom of New Year's Day was performed by many people of ancient times who began their new year at harvest time. They performed rituals to do away with the past and purify themselves for the new year. For example, some people put out the fires they were using and started new ones.

Around A.D. 43 the Romans celebrated the new year by giving each other gold-covered nuts or coins imprinted with pictures of Janus, the god of gates, doors, and beginnings. January, the first month of the new year, was named after Janus, who had two faces - one looking forward and one looking backward.

I was curious about New Years's resolutions made by other Harper students so I called a few Honors Society members and asked about their 1996 goals. The following is a sample of the responses I received, starting with my own.

This year my resolution is the same as it has been for about the past 5 years, lose weight. Because I am a die-hard Tostito addict, I usually do not make it past the first week of any diet I start. So this year I took a different approach; one that is not self defeating. My resolution is to workout at least 2 times per week and make a conscious effort to keep my face out of the Tostito bag. This resolution differs from those set in the past because I have chosen goals that are realistic and thus attainable.

Lavelle Valez also resolved to lose weight, not only to look better but to feel better. The incentive of a vacation in Florida must be helping because she has made great strides in reaching her goal and has dropped 2 sizes since she made her resolution. (continued on page 5)





It's Scary!

The new editors of *The Challenger* this semester have chosen the theme of "risk taking"--a subject that has come up in the discussions of the Honors Committee many times. One of the qualities that seems to distinguish Honors students from others is their willingness (at least as a group) to take risks. A recent survey of students who have taken one or more honors classes at Harper reveals that they differ little from other Harper students with similar grade point averages and other objectively measurable statistics--except for one significant variation: they tend to transfer to a wider variety of schools to continue their education--to private colleges and universities, to international institutions, to ivy league and/or "Big Ten" schools, in short to places that are more likely to "just say no" to applicants because their admissions are more competitive and they can afford to be choosy in whom they accept.

It seems Honors Program students tend to be risk takers. Risk taking requires confidence, a willingness to face failure and believe that a setback won't be devastating. Naturally, not all Honors students at Harper will fit this profile, and not all non-Honors Program students will be timid or set their goals low. But it is one of the central aims of the program to offer opportunities to students to try activities they have not attempted before--or at least have not succeeded at before.

This does not mean encouraging recklessness. What we want to foster is the "sea legs" flexibility that a sailor uses to position himself on a rough sea so that no matter which way the ship rolls he will maintain his vertical stance and not land on the deck. And even when he does lose his footing, he will be prepared to fall without fatally hurting himself.

As I'm writing this, I'm waiting to be picked up and driven to Lansing Airport by the

president of the Mortar Board Society of Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. Last night I spoke for their group and others on their campus on my participation in the U.N. Women's Conference last fall in China. The young woman who was responsible for my being invited to talk here, Luyi Guo, is the daughter of one of the first friends I made in China in 1981. She is just about to graduate with a major in chemistry and is being courted by various graduate schools, among them my alma mater, Northwestern. She had just learned this week that she will be honored by the governor of Michigan as one of the two top students from her college, an award she never expected to win because of her status as a non-citizen student. She told me that she had never given a second thought to the possibility of winning after she had filled out the application.

"Why did you even bother to fill out the form?" I asked. I know she has been complaining about all the time it takes to complete the endless paperwork while keeping up with her studies, maintaining her position as the number one chemistry student in the department, tutoring others, tending her lab experiments, and trying to keep in touch with her parents by writing a daily journal of her experiences in America, which she sends to them every two weeks, so they will not find her a bafflingly transformed stranger.

"Well," she said. "I don't know. I guess I figured, what could I lose? Just a little time."

I think this is one of the keys to risk taking and risk management. When all you have to lose is time, you make decisions about the relative value of the demands on your time. Good students, whether in the Honors Program or not, will generally make the decision to invest time in their studies.

On the other hand, sometimes one has to risk losing face. If the success or defeat will be

public (rather than private like the decision on who will receive a scholarship or award) it is even harder to persuade yourself that the potential for reward might be worth the risk.

As some of you already have heard, I have decided to take one of these scary risks and run for political office--U.S. Representative in the 8th Congressional District, the district now served by Philip Crane. I will not only have to make a commitment of my time but also have to risk the likelihood of a very public defeat in a district known to be traditionally Republican territory, especially in the northern portion (ironically known as downstate) which takes in Lake County up to the Wisconsin border. Many people have already told me how much they admire my courage to take on a man who has held his seat since I moved into this district in 1971, and who has held on against very good opponents in recent elections, such as Sheila Smith and Bob Walberg.

So I ask myself why I am doing it. One reason is that the Democratic National Congressional Campaign Committee asked me to when their candidate withdrew at the last minute, and the local party regulars are supporting me. Moreover, someone has to do it. I may not win (although I may--I will remember Luyi Guo as well as Carole Moseley Braun for my inspiration and hope), but since there is no other regular Democrat right now who is willing to stand, I feel I must. There are opposing views that should be heard, or we have no right to complain about the changes that will occur in our government--and especially in our educational system--if we allow the Newt Gingrich agenda to prevail without protest.

At this point I am a write-in candidate for the March 19 primary, and there is no one on the ballot for the Democrats in this race. Although I know I will eventually need bipartisan support to win the general election, I am not asking people who normally would pull a Republican ballot to cross over to vote for me--Republicans have their own primary contests to decide. But I am asking for those who would take a Democratic ballot anyway to make the effort to do a proper write-in. It takes a little effort. Three steps are required:

1. write-in the title of the office;
2. write the name of the candidate below the office;
3. make a cross (x) in the box.

[David Orr, Election Day Duties and Procedures Handbook]

Anyone who needs help may ask the judges for a demonstration of the procedure. In order to make it just a little easier for my supporters I have been persuaded by my mentors in the party that I should shorten my name so voters will have to write only "Betty Hull." I suspect that anyone smart enough to do a proper write in could also write out my full name, but what's the point of seeking advice from experts if you're not going to listen to it?

I'm assuming that I will be successful in my write in campaign and be the opponent of Phil Crane in November. If not, I will face a brief time of public humiliation in defeat, but I will know I gave it my best shot. And it will be easier to live with that in the long run than with knowing I could have tried and didn't even bother.✕

Our Vision

We believe that the Challenger is "the voice of the Honors Society" and will include articles and information pertinent to the Honors Society. We will publish Honors course information for the coming semester, upcoming events and meetings, a message from Dr. Hull, and hopefully accomplishments and views from Honors Society members.

We wanted a theme that would focus on what we believe to be a common value of the Honors student. What's more appropriate as a theme than **Challenge**. After all, the newsletter is called *The Challenger* and as an Honors student, facing challenges is always present. Therefore, we would like to challenge you to go forward, to take that extra step and learn something new. We hope that some of the articles that will appear in *The Challenger* this semester will open some new doors for you and that you will take our challenge and learn, push yourself, and discover. **Take a risk.**

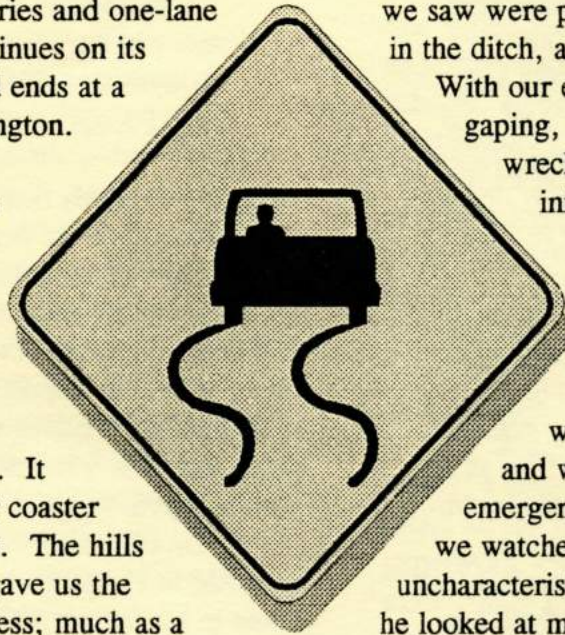
- Peggy Mann and Cheryl Vaccarello ☺

A New Cuba Road

We came over the hill and found two men staggering down the street. The street was Cuba Road. Cuba Road connects Long Grove, Kildeer, and Barrington in northeast Illinois. The road starts in the nineteenth-century town of Long Grove and has two lanes that meander through grassy knolls, forests, and swamps. At night it becomes dark, mysterious, and deserted, from which many unfounded stories of satanic monks and human sacrifice have evolved. Past cemeteries and one-lane bridges, the road continues on its hilly path until it dead ends at a t-intersection in Barrington.

To casual Sunday drivers, Cuba Road is viewed as a beautiful scenic drive. But to my friends and I, it was seen much differently. To us, the hills and the turns were all that mattered. It was more like a roller coaster without safety devices. The hills were like ramps and gave us the feeling of weightlessness; much as a pilot might feel going into a sudden dive. And the curves - oh yes - gave the feeling of being on a runaway train in the Rocky Mountains. At night, to get the adrenaline really flowing, we turned off the lights of the car. If anyone asked why we drove in such a reckless manner, we would just inform them of the snipers in the trees and tell them, "The faster you drive, the better your chances." We didn't care if they thought we were crazy. We knew we were. We didn't care if they would say that we would get killed one day. We knew we wouldn't. We were invincible.

Then came the day we saw two strangers staggering down the street. As we came upon them, they flagged us down.



Whether one was holding the other up or they were both just making a concerted effort to walk, we could not tell. My ever-adventurous friend Joe rolled down the window. The two strangers appeared hurt and asked if we would go for help. Not knowing what happened, Joe agreed and drove off. About a half of a mile away we came over the top of a hill and saw what might have been a Pontiac Fiero. There was no way to know for sure because all we saw were parts littered along the road, in the ditch, and even in bushes and trees.

With our eyes wide and mouths gaping, we looked upon the wreckage. We nearly had to initiate take-off procedures as we sped to the nearest pay telephone, which was about five miles away but seemed more like fifty.

After Joe called 911, we returned to the accident and watched in awe as the emergency crews went to work. As we watched, we both become uncharacteristically quiet. I looked at Joe; he looked at me. Unsure of what to say, we could only return each others questioning stare.

I believe we both saw Cuba Road a little differently after that. Our ride home was a lot slower and the blinders we'd been wearing to focus on the road fell off like baby teeth; for the first time, I looked past the hills and the turns. I couldn't believe what I saw. Along the road were pieces of life I never observed. There were cemeteries that were serene and enchanting, grassy knolls where prairie dogs, perched on their hind legs, looked over their kingdom, and forests that would guard their interior with their own trees from the casual observer. 🖱

- Tim Brauer

(I Resolve ... continued from page 1)

Cheryl Vaccarello has made 1996 her year to look and feel better and GET ORGANIZED! She says that between working outside the home (40 plus hours per week), school (11 credit hours this semester), and taking care of her home (including 3 sons and a husband), she must organize to find time for herself.

Echoing resolutions of other respondents that 1996 is the year to get healthy, Paula Ostrowski joined a health club. She did not make losing weight an official New Year's resolution, but her goal is to feel better.

Other responses included trying to spend more time with family, stop putting homework off until the last minute, find a different job, and the most popular, quit smoking.

What is your resolution? Is it an attainable goal or plan or just a dream? Resolving to take responsibility for our health, relationships, finances and career should be among our top priorities in the new year. Focus on the areas you desire to change and take the first step to making these changes a permanent part of your life. Good luck! ♦

- Peggy Mann

Life takes some crazy directions
sometimes, causing changes we
can't always anticipate.
And even though we try to cope as best
we can, some things
are beyond our control.
We can only accept them and
try to move confidently forward,
for each new direction is really a gift -
a new chance to grow, to learn,
to succeed.

Dear Honors Society Members,

As the President of the Honors Society, I have the pleasure of sharing some thoughts and plans with you. First of all, I welcome the new members. For those who have gone on to transfer or to work, I wish you the best of luck in your endeavors.

I have some plans, ideas, and schemes for this Spring's activities. A group of us are gathering Saturday, **March 10**, to venture down to **Briar Street Theater-Chicago**, for a **3:00 p.m.** performance of "**Having Our Say.**" Group discounted tickets are available for **\$18.00**, contact **Alicia Campos-Rivera**, Honors Program member. Call the Briar Street Theater for more information 312-537-0050. We would also like to gather a group of Honors students and guests to visit the **Museum of Science and Industry and Omnimax**. Currently showing is "**Destiny in Space.**" Call the Museum of Science and Industry for more information, 312-684-1414. How does an evening of live comedy sound? Wednesday evenings at **Zanie's Comedy Club-Mt. Prospect** are "**Good Neighbor Nights**", **\$1.00** admission with proof of local residence. If a **10:00 p.m. Wednesday** performance doesn't coincide with many schedules, perhaps a weekend performance would be better. Call Zanie's for more information 847-228-6161.

Two up-and-coming Honors Conferences are worthy of mention. The 1996 Upper Midwest Honors Council convention, April 11-13, 1996, is being held at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, MI. The National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, October 21 - November 4, 1996 is being held at the Hilton Tower and Hotel in San Francisco, CA. If interested in presenting at the NCHC, the deadline for proposals is March 31, 1996.

Congratulations to our newly elected Vice President, Josephina Campos-Rivera; Secretary, Heather Sullivan; Treasurer, Tim Brauer; and two Student Representatives for the Honors committee, Josephina Campos-Rivera and Karen Shallcross. Thank you for your time and dedication.

If anyone has any rallying suggestions, times, or dates, feel free to call me at home, 847-776-0339. Thanks, see you at the next Honors Society Meeting!

Sincerely,

Lavelle Valez
Honors Society President

Pepto Bismol

Raymee Wilson is brown. I like him. Not just 'cause he's brown, but 'cause he has a funny name: Raymee.

All the kids yell, "Hey! Got any dough-ray-me?" Get it? Dough-ray me, like the song? We just keep sayin' it, over and over, "Got any dough-ray-me?" That's fun.

But sometimes Raymee gets mad, and we stop 'til he's not mad anymore. Then we start again.

Bull's Eyes are Raymee's favorite kind'a candy. He only likes the white insides, though. But that's okay 'cause I like the brown outsides. So we share. I give him my middles and he gives me his outsides.

Sometimes Raymee tries eatin' the outsides, just in case he might all-of-a-sudden start likin' 'em. But he just spits 'em right out and makes a real nasty face.

Raymee has the biggest lips of anybody I know. They're kind'a like the candy wax lips you get at the candy store; only Raymee's lips ain't red, they're pink, like Pepto Bismol, that pink, minty medicine my mom gives me when I got dia . . . dia . . . runny poop.

I like Pepto Bismol. It tastes like them nickel-size, pink, mint candies they sell in clear bags at the grocery store. My mom don't like buyin' them candies 'cause I always eat too many and get a tummy ache and she has to give me Pepto Bismol. But I don't care, 'cause I like Pepto Bismol.

Raymee's lips are real big and Pepto Bismol pink. And his hair is real--real curly, with teeny-weeny curls, like Bobby Sliwa's mom's wig when Bobby lit it on fire with a match. It was a good thing it was on one of them white dummy heads and not on his mom's head 'cause he would'a got whacked!

Raymee can spit real far. He can spit over cars. I can't, but Raymee can. Sometimes he misses, though; then he

scoots up on the car and wipes the spit up with his blue jeans. He slides his butt around 'til the spit's gone. It's really neat watchin' him spit over cars.

My uncle Gary told me not to play with Raymee no more. He said it's 'cause Raymee's a "nibber" or somethin' like that. I think that's people with really big lips. Every time we go drivin' in the car and see brown people with big lips, uncle Gary points and yells, "Look't them nibbers!" So I guess that's what it means.

Maybe uncle Gary's just afraid Raymee's gonna try spittin' on me or somethin'. But Raymee would never spit on me. He just spits over cars.

I told Raymee uncle Gary told me not to play with him 'cause of his big lips, and Raymee looked down at his lips to see. It hurts tryin' to look at your own lips. I tried. It hurts your eyes. I can't see my lips 'cause mine are little; but Raymee can, his are big.

Raymee laughed and said, "I guess they is kind'a big, ain't they?" And we both started laughin' 'til we almost had to pee.

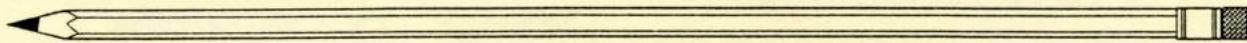
Raymee asked if I was still gonna play with him, and I said yes. I told him I don't care about his lips, just as long as he don't spit on me. He can spit over me if he wants, but not on me. So he did! He spit right over me. It was neat!

I can't spit over people. It's 'cause I only got little, skinny lips. I guess that's why more kids wanna play with me and not with Raymee. 'Cause Raymee has real big lips. Pink, like Pepto Bismol.

Bill Weiss

A note from the author:

"Pepto Bismol" is a short story told from a small boy's point of view. It is one of eight such stories, the first of which, "Flat Pennies," was published in the March/April 1995 Challenger (Vol. 5, No. 6). "Pepto Bismol" uses light humor to explore childhood's naivete concerning racial prejudice.

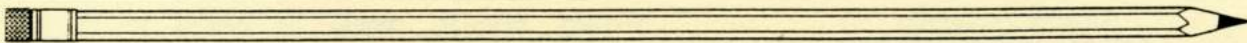


Phi Phi Chapter News

Phi Theta Kappa, Phi Phi Chapter, is conducting a campus-wide essay contest during the Spring 1996 semester. The topic is this year's Phi Theta Kappa National Honors Study Topic:
"Rights, Privileges, and Responsibilities - An Indelicate Balance."

- Purpose:** To bring attention to and begin campus-wide dialogue on Phi Theta Kappa's honors study topic
- Eligibility:** All Spring 1996 credit and non-credit registered students, except Phi Phi Chapter officers
- Important Dates:** *Entries Accepted:* Monday, February 19, 1996
Entries Deadline: Friday, March 22, 1996
- Rules:** Essay should be 200-250 words, typewritten, double-spaced, single-sided, on white paper
- Entry Fee:** None
- Prizes:** One \$50.00 gift certificate for Harper College Bookstore
Winning essay printed in Harbinger and Challenger
Winner invited to read the winning essay as the featured speaker after a Phi Phi Chapter general meeting
- Method of Submission:** Essay should be turned in to the Liberal Arts Office. A cover sheet must only include name, social security number, address, telephone number, title of essay, pages of essay, and date essay submitted. On each essay page, provide the name of the essay and page number.

Develop the Honors Study Topic in a way that clearly defines the terms and applies concepts to practical examples. In other words, what are our rights? privileges? responsibilities? How does an understanding and application of these ideas impact our quality of life? Do we all share equal rights, privileges, and responsibilities? Why or why not? What does "indelicate balance" mean? Should we strive for more of a "delicate balance?" What if we do? What if we don't? How does this topic apply to Harper campus specifically?



Honors Society Meetings Topics and Discussion

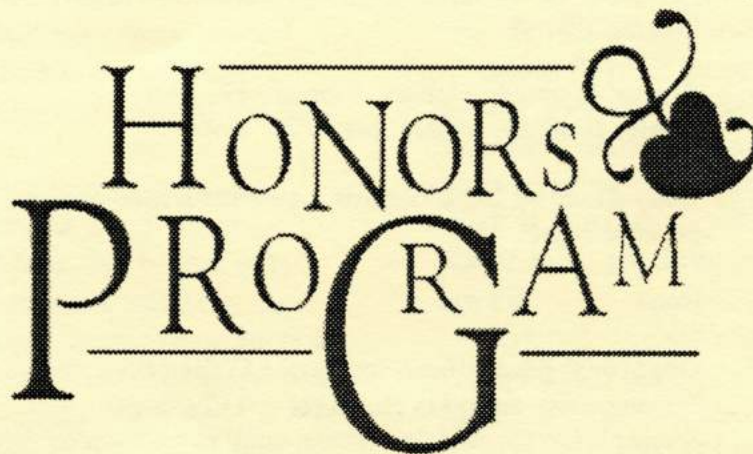
- March 6 Violence Against Women
and Children
March 13 Drug Decriminalization
March 20 Comedy (video will be
shown)

*Honors Society Meetings Every
Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.
Room L329*

Upcoming Events

- April 11-13 Upper Midwest Honors
Council (UMHC)
Barrian Springs, MI
Oct 31 - Nov 3 National Collegiate Honors
Council (NCHC)
San Francisco, CA

*Anyone interested in attending one of the
Honors Conventions should contact
Dr. Betty Hull*



Honors Class for Summer 1996

EDU 201-002	10:30 am - 12:05 pm	M-W	Roger Mussell
LIT 115-005	6:25 pm - 9:05 pm	MW	Greg Herriges
IDS 290	Honors Advanced Creative Writing	TBA	(individual contract with faculty required)

OFFICERS

President	Lavelle Velez
Vice President	Josephina Campos-Rivera
Secretary	Heather Sullivan
Treasurer	Tim Brauer

EDITORIAL STAFF

Peggy Mann
Cheryl Vaccarello
IDS-290 INSTRUCTOR
Mike Knudsen

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Challenger is the voice of the Harper College Honors Society. We welcome articles, ideas, and letters of interest appropriate for our members. We encourage contributions. Final editorial judgment is the sole responsibility of the editorial staff. For information on possible submissions, call x6323. Written materials should be placed in the Challenger box in the Journalism office, A379. Published by students in IDS-290 for class credit.