

Challenger

Volume 2, Number 1

A Harper College Honors Society Newsletter

October 1991

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One on One

Meet the New Honors President

This semester's first Honors Society meeting took place on Monday, September 8. Elections for the five executive offices were held with Steve Berk emerging as the new 1991-92 president.

In an interview with *Challenger*, Steve shared his personal background and his working vision for the Honors Society.

After graduating from Fremd High School in 1990, Berk, a business major, enrolled at DePaul University. Finding himself housed on a floor with all art majors, Berk felt out of place and transferred to Harper in the spring of 1991. He fit in much better at Harper and, during the spring, he joined the student-operated business of Formulator, Inc.

This year Steve decided to join the Honors Society. Not content to relax in his newly acquired position, Steve has already proposed several challenges for the Honors Society.

"I would like to see more participation by Honors Society members," Berk said. Typically, the Honor Society has had little support from its 100-student membership - only 15

people on average remain active throughout the year.

Berk's plan is to spark members' interest and encourage active service by organizing publicity opportunities and social/service events. He is promoting a theme of wellness this year - exercising the whole person, both mind and body, in and out of class.

"I believe being an honors student has implications that extend far beyond a better looking resume," Berk said. Honors students are, by nature of their achievements, a model for the rest of the students and the surrounding Harper community. The Honor Society, in the near future, should naturally grow into a respectful campus organization that influences the decisions of the Student Senate and the Program Board, and improves the quality of education at Harper.

Steve and the rest of the executive board are busy planning this year's schedule. If anyone has a suggestion for an activity, he or she should contact an executive as soon as possible.

For the inside scoop
on Steve Berk, turn to
page 8

Fluid of Life in Critical Shortage

On September 11 and 12, Harper held the first of five scheduled blood drives. Despite the many students passing the recruiting station near Building A's east entrance, two volunteers sat idly talking, while waiting for a donor.

"They don't need my type," said one young man walking past the station.

This rationale is contributing to the critical shortage of blood our nation is now facing. Student volunteers Dan O'Connell and Peter Michalski believe the major reason for this is lack of incentive. State law now mandates that there can be no financial reimbursement for blood donation. As a result, the number of inner city donors has decreased, leaving a critical shortage of blood available for those who need it.

According to Chicago blood bank, Lifesource, Americans have very little foresight when it comes to donating blood. If they were aware that they face a one-in-five chance of someday needing a lifesaving transfusion, perhaps we wouldn't be facing this dilemma today.

Of Harper's 25,000 students, 169 volunteered to donate blood, but only 129 units were obtained. "The number of Harper donors has been increasing, but the bottom line is we need more blood," stated one volunteer. Jackie Ramirez, a nurse for Lifesource, added that O and B groups are vital, and also the need for O-negative, the universal donor, is especially crucial.

There are few restrictions on who can donate. You must be over 17 years old, over 110 pounds, in good general health, and have not donated in the past eight weeks. There is also a one-year waiting period if you received a blood transfusion during major surgery.

If you would like to donate or help recruit donors, call Health Services at extension 2849, or Lifesource directly at 298-9660. Harper's next blood drive will be held Tuesday, November 19, and Wednesday, November 20.

Things that make you go Hmmm...

-Is this deja vu or what? The United States is deploying troops in Saudi Arabia again. Here we go again folks!

-In a normal conversation, there is a pause of silence every seven minutes (on average).

-F.Y.I.- German dictator Adolf Hitler was plagued by uncontrollable flatulence.

-Are we wrong or isn't segregation unconstitutional these days? Bush stated that he's in favor of publically funded all-black, male schools.

Hmmm...

Area Lifesource Donor Stations

Hoffman Plaza Donor Center
1029 N. Roselle Rd.
Hoffman Estates 60195

Arlington Annex Donor Center
93 W. Rand Rd.
Arlington Hts. 60004

Deerpath Donor Center
790 S. Rand Rd.
Lake Zurich 60047

The Challenger Needs You

Here we are well into the fall semester. Welcome! The Challenger editors want you to know that this is your newsletter. Our goal is to enrich you outside of school as well as inside, but we need to know what interests you. Through past experience, we've learned that questionnaires don't work; no one sends them back. So how can we get your ideas? We know many of you in the honors courses on campus and we know you're here on campus sometime or another. If there is a cause you support, an upcoming event, or a thought you'd like to share with us, let us know. Give us a call. We need your suggestions. We'll even give you a stamp if need be. Make your own contribution. Suggestions can be dropped off at the journalism office, A379. Remember: no matter what your reasoning, you are still an honors student, one of the elite, and it doesn't take much to get involved. Thanks!!!

Christie
Allison
Matt

EDITORIAL

Do You Have a Brain in There?

Two weeks ago I was at home, unfortunately watching whatever was on TV. And, unfortunately, the only thing on was the Miss America Pageant. It was unfortunate because, I, being a male, understood the Pageant about as much as I understood Physics in high school. So I asked both my mom and my sister, "I know these girls really work hard and sacrifice a lot to compete in this pageant, but is the Pageant really that important or is it just a bunch of brouhaha?"

They didn't know either. They told me that for some of the women, the Pageant was probably a vanity trip, and others were actually working hard for, hmm... scholarships, maybe? I'll bet those dresses alone would pay for a decent education.

Before I go further, for the record I must honestly say I did not watch the swimsuit competition - something more exciting was on PBS.

Did you ever notice how *happy* these women are? They're all good losers! They actually look ecstatic when Miss Whoever wins instead of them. I wondered if anything other than the smiles on their faces went through their heads...

If the answers to the essay questions were any indication, these women have it all together. Let's face it - according to the competition in the Pageant, all of them are beautiful, talented, intelligent, hard-working, and dedicated servers of society - they make the rest of us look like inferior, pudgy mutants from outer space. Hmm.... Maybe we are... After all, these are the best women society has to offer, right? Ha! Wrong.

Let's listen to a standard essay response: "If I were Miss America, I would address the issue of the horrible exploitation of bunny rabbits during the Easter season. Poor bunnies everywhere are misrepresented as their likenesses are molded into various forms of chocolate.." (Okay, I made this up, but you get the meaning? Mega-sentamentality folks!) You could substitute any noun for bunnies and still come up with the normal response.

Now let's look at the two days that followed the Pageant: The day after, the new Miss America, Carolyn Sapp of Hawaii, remarked in a photo shoot, "I'm so excited. Is this how President Bush feels?" Whoa! Nothing going on in that head of hers!

Remember all those good losers? Well, not everyone was. Two days after the Pageant, our own Miss Illinois, Cheryl Majercik, claimed to have seen one of the judges, good ol' boy Donald Trump, give the Pageant director the thumbs up sign after Miss Sapp was announced the winner.

Continued on page 7

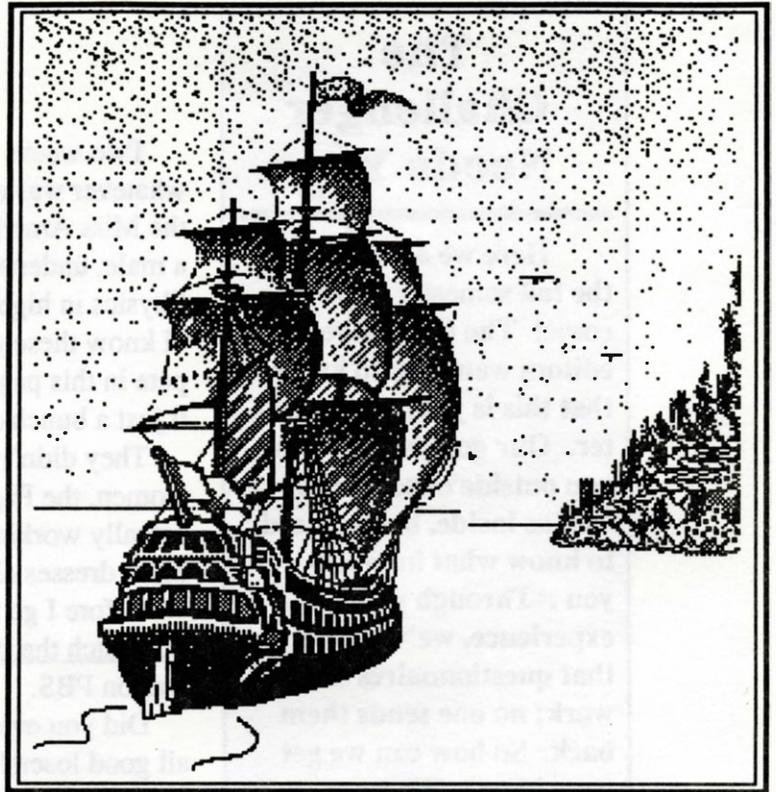
THE ECLIPSE - Four Minutes, Six Seconds (Or, What I Did on My Summer Vacation)

There were two “places to be” for the totality, somewhere near the Baja coast of Mexico or the big Island of Hawaii; for various reasons, we chose the latter.

We left Honolulu on the evening of Saturday, July 6, sailing on the S.S. Independence, just minutes after our sister ship, the S.S. Constitution. Of course these ships provided all the usual cruise food (six or more luscious meals a day) and entertainment, (various games from bridge to board games, two swimming pools, a health program in the fully equipped fitness center, lessons in playing the ukelele, folding napkins, making leis, dancing the hula, etc., movies, music, song and dance revues, juggling and magic shows, even a performance of Neil Simon’s The Odd Couple) and shopping and sightseeing in our ports of call (everything from helicopters over a volcano to snorkeling in Kealakakua Bay— where I saw all kinds of fish *except* a humuhumunukanuka apua’a go swimming by).

An unexpected bonus we experienced was the vision of the lava flows down the south face of the Big Island after dark, with plumes of steam rising as tons of boiling rock crash into and explode above the surface of the Pacific Ocean in sprays like fireworks, only much, much better. This effect cannot be seen by helicopter during the day because much of the lava is obscured, only showing red where it breaks through the surface of the tube against the night sky. (This spectacle was almost worth the trip all by itself, without any eclipse.)

We also were provided lectures by guest experts to prepare us for maximum appreciation of the experience. With us on the Independence were experienced astro-photographer George Keene, meteorologist Jo Rao (who, working with Captain Dick Haugh and the U.S. weather service, was largely responsible



for finding us a hole in the clouds at the critical moment), former astronaut Michael Collins (the one who stayed in the orbiter while Aldrin and Armstrong walked on the moon), and my husband, Fred Pohl, who was there to do some farfetching for us.

Aside from being more affluent than the average, our fellow passengers also seemed to be more educated and interested in science generally than most Americans, with many teachers and scientists or people retired from science careers. There were a very few who seemed to have stumbled onto the cruise almost by accident, booking with out really being aware that *this* cruise offered anything unusual or that the itinerary would detour slightly from its usual course to be in position off the Kona Coast to maximize our time of totality. I heard some rumors of passengers grumbling because we wouldn’t get to Maui on Thursday as early as the brochure had promised. But even *these* Scrooges got caught up in the spirit of communion that swept the ship just before, during, and after the event. Afterward the crew performed a hula for the passengers on deck (they’d rehearsed all week—I don’t know what would have happened had we

"I saw all kinds of fish except a humuhumunukanuka apua'a go swimming by"

Hip Happenings

To aid you in coping with these slow autumn weekends the Challenger staff is compiled a list of Chicago and suburban events. Don't miss out - take advantage of these unique opportunities!

Allison's Real Good Advice-

Looking for a cultural yet campy way to unwind while simultaneously stimulating your intellect? "Sylvia's Real Good Advice" is currently running at the Organic Theatre, 3319 N. Clark in Chicago. Call for show times and prices at 1-312-327-5588. Tickets are also available through Ticketmaster.

New Library-The new Harold Washington Public Library officially opens Oct.7. The unique institution offers a range of 1.8 million books, the world's largest children's area, and a fascinating architectural experience. Hours are 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.; 9 a.m.- 6 p.m. Fri.; 9 a.m. -5 p.m. Satur.; closed Sunday and holidays. Located on Van Buren and State streets in Chicago.

Architectural awareness- It is quite natural to become jaded while living in the Chicago metropolitan area ["the suburban jungle"]. Take advantage of our kind of town's multicultural and multifaceted events. A guided walking tour presented by the

Chicago Architecture Foundation is available beginning at Frank Lloyd Wright's Homan studio, 951 Chicago Ave., Oak Park. Tours take place on Sundays at 1 p.m. For additional information call 1-708-782-1776.

Entertainment hotline: call F-I-N-E-A-R-T to obtain current information on entertainment and cultural events.

Groovy vibes are flowing freely at the Old Town School of Folk Music, 909 W. Armitage Ave. in Chicago.

Inquiries about performances or classes are available by calling 1-312-327-0231.

Eclipse -cont. from page 4

been unable to find a hole in the clouds and get a good view of the totality) and we had an on-deck ceremony to raise the eclipse flag.

At my last breakfast on deck as we sailed back into Honolulu on Saturday morning, I shared a table with a woman who appeared to be at least twenty years older than I am. She told me she followed eclipses around the world, had already seen six and expected to "collect" a few more before she died. I had heard of the totality-junkie phenomenon and encouraged her to talk. But since the eclipse was now

over, what she wanted most to discuss was the New Age medium she had been consulting about nutrition and which fruits and vegetables helped with what ailments. She wasn't too clear on the question of with whom in the "other world" her medium was talking, but she claimed, "He's helped me so much with my arthritis" When I suggested as gently as I could manage that there seemed to be some incongruity in her hobbies, one so scientific and the other the very anti-thesis of science, she gave me a funny look, sort of an unspoken don't-knock-it-if-you-haven't-tried-it expression. I guess that's the way I look at people who wonder why I took a week out of my life and went eight thousand miles out of my way to see the solar eclipse of 11 July 1991.

If *you'd* like to see what all the fuss in astronomy is about, Paul Sipiera's Honors Astronomy 101 next spring may be just what you're looking for to fulfill your general education science requirements.

By Dr. Elizabeth Anne Hull

Meeting Minutes

The first Honors Society meeting was held on September 9. Election of the officers for the 1991-92 school year were held. Offices and office holders are as follows:

President - Steve Berk
Vice President - Dan Liu
Co-Secretaries - Sue Adamski and Marie Montero

Treasurer - Pat Schenck
Delegate to Honors Committee - Lisa Smith

Alternate Delegate - Katrina Josefsen
Meetings are held weekly on Mondays at 5:15 p.m. in room F350. The meeting to be held on October 7 will be a discussion regarding disabled students on campus. There is a possibility of a guest speaker that day.

October Calendar

**Honors Meetings every
Monday 5:15 F/351**

**October 14 meeting;
Discussion on
Constructive Criticism**

**Mon. 10/7
12 Noon
Concert - Regency
(acapella group)
A Building**

**Oct. 14-18
International Week
Read the brochure
and attend some of
these excellent events!**

**Fri. 10/18
8pm M bldg
Lecture - Kurt Vonnegut
-buy tickets soon-**

**Fri.-Sun. 10/25-10/27
Jefferson Meeting on
the Bill of Rights
Call Harper for more
info.**

**Thurs.-Sun. 10/31-11/3
National Collegiate
Honors Program
Downtown Chicago
Talk to Dr. Hull
if interested.**

Conquer the Research Sweats

If you're like the thousands of students whose teeth start to chatter and whose palms begin to sweat the moment you learn your grade in a course depends on a research project, take heart. You're not alone. "Oh, great, that helps!" you're probably thinking. "Do you have any other pearls of wisdom for me?" Well, actually we do.

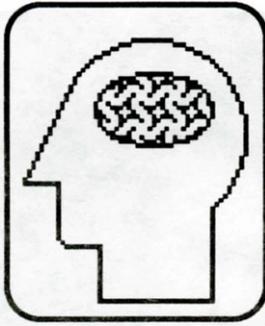
Mara Miller, in her book Where to go for what: How to Research, Organize and Present Your Ideas, says, "Research is a process whose components are common sense, some intelligence, imagination and a few specific habits."

Research doesn't have to be drudge work. Believe it or not it, you can produce an A+ paper and have fun at the same time. Follow these easy but helpful guidelines and we guarantee research projects won't be the same again.

- **Get started.** Even if you just wander around the library looking at possible resources or sit on your bed thinking about the paper, you're already ahead. Procrastination only makes it worse and suddenly you find yourself the night before the paper's due running to the library and burning the midnight oil.
- **Use your imagination.** After all, a research paper is merely a matter of knowing where to find the best information about your subject. Think about what you want to know and then about who would have the information you want to know.
- **Don't be afraid to risk making a fool of yourself.** Most of the time you won't anyway. If you think someone has information you might need, call them and ask. (One writer learned this lesson while researching the women's movement for a college term paper. Knowing that Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor provided a role model for many feminists, the student author took a chance and called her office on the off-chance that she might speak with a secretary. Instead, she was actually given the opportunity to talk personally to Justice O'Connor.)
- **Make use of as many resources as you can find.** These include contacting experts (try using the Encyclopedia of Associations) and utilizing library resources such as Readers Guide to Periodical Literature. Government information can be obtained by calling the Federal Information Center of The Government Services Administration (202/755-8669).

Finally, our advice to you is to relax and have fun with your research. You may end up with an A paper and a great source network at the same time.

by Lynn Eyles



So You Think You're An Intellectual

If you have any desire to prove you're a genius, membership in Mensa might be just the thing for you. Described as "a social club for the mind-

over-matter club" in a July 29, 1982 Chicago Tribune article, Mensa claims an 80,000 worldwide membership with 35,000 of those American citizens and 2100 from Chicago.

Mensa is Latin for "roundtable" where everyone present is equal in stature. To qualify, potential members must prove their IQ is in the upper 2 percent. An SAT combined score of 1250 or Law School Admission Test score of 662 qualifies for membership. Another alternative is a proctored IQ test which only one in five passes.

According to an October 26, 1990 Chicago Tribune article, Mensa members include 29 meteorologists, 139 airline pilots, 540 nurses, and six astronauts, as well as a number of janitors, elevator operators and other blue-collar workers.

Membership will cost you \$36 a year and entitles you to a list of local and national special interest groups, information on scholarships and research and the Mensa newsletter.

If you think you might be interested in this group, try answering these questions:

What is the next term in this series? 7, 12, 27, 72

Which two of the following words are most nearly opposite in meaning? Aggravate, please, enjoy, improve, like.

If seven belly dancers lose 20 pounds altogether in eight hours dancing, how many more belly dancers would be needed to lose a total of 20 pounds in four hours dancing, provided the new dancers shed weight only half as fast as the original seven?

Answers next issue...

Looking for a place to:

**share your views?
air a complaint?
broadcast your opinion?
get your writing published?
whine?
discuss a topic?
make an argument?
say whatever you want?**

**Then the Challenger wants
to help you!**

**Any correspondence should be
brought to the Challenger mailbox
in the journalism lab A380**

We await your reply!!

Editorial -cont. from page 3

right after Miss Sapp was announced the winner.

Now, I won't dwell on the facts that 1) should Donald Trump even be considered a qualified judge? (we've already seen his way with women), 2) Sapp, at 24, was a college junior who could not recall her GPA, 3) if Miss Illinois was on stage (I think she was), she couldn't have seen anything because of the glare of the spotlights, 4) Miss Sapp had stayed at Trump's hotel for two weeks, although Sapp denies any monkey business, and 5) who cares anyway?

It just goes to show you that the Miss America women are not perfect - they bicker and complain more than the rest of us. So, how about sparing a lot of us some grief and cancel this Pageant all together?

Miss Majercik spoke for us all when she said, "picking her (Miss Sapp) was an insult to all of us." Indeed. The Pageant alone is an insult. Let's boycott - no more watching Pageants. Instead, while one is being broadcast, let's do something, anything, that is worthwhile.

By Matt Eiseman

Personals:

Steve Berk

Occupation: Castmember at Mickey's Kitchen

Birthday: November 2, 1972

Birthplace: Chicago, IL

Current Home: Big blue box in Hoffman Estates

Marital Status: Single

Car: '83 Nissan Sentra

Working On: becoming more ecologically aware.

Worst Job: Stockboy at White Hen

I stay home to watch: Quantum Leap

The last good movie I saw was: The Commitments (4 stars- the music was great!).

The book I've been reading is: Let's Get Off our Butts and Nightshift.

Favorite Pigout Food: "Smartfood" popcorn

Favorite Performer: Kurt Russell, Isabeth Rosellini, and REM

Favorite Childhood Memory: seeing Santa at Marshall Field's on State Street

Nobody knows I'm: a Scorpio.

My friends like me because: I can always make them laugh.

I've never been able to: ask anyone to dance, except once.

I'm better than anyone else because: I'm the pres.

The one thing I can't stand is : pushy interviewers.

Behind my back, people think I'm: arrogant and moody(but I'm really not.)

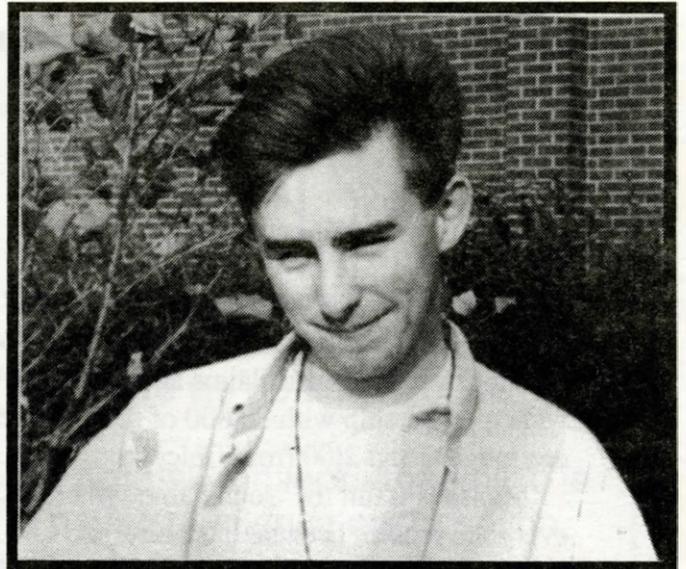
The worst time of my life was: Junior year in high school.

If I weren't a student, I'd be: a writer or photographer.

Major Accomplishment: starting my car every morning.

Three words that describe me: dedicated, educated, medicated (I have allergies).

My idea of a perfect evening: Pizza at Lou Malnati's, then dancing downtown.



Enough said.. Until next issue...