

## Conference is opportunity to network with other students

Quick: where can you go bowling, have intelligent conversations and receive key chains from other colleges while learning?

Try the Upper Midwest Honors Council Conference. Held at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh April 21-23, the conference is a great opportunity to make connections with other students sharing similar interests.

Dr. Betty Hull believes it is a great way to introduce students to the professional world. She explained that all sorts of professions have national and regional conferences that many students will attend once they are in the professional world. Conferences at the student level provide a chance to get past the nervous stage; they help students feel less threatened by the idea later in life. These conferences can supply students with confidence and poise to apply toward future ones.

Conferences such as this one give students the opportunity to share their ideas with others and gain new perspectives from others' views. Students listen to others make presentations about honors classes they are involved in and can make a presentation of their own if they choose.

This sharing of ideas and experiences with other students serves as an inspiration for those not giving presentations: if you see a good presenter, you may feel that you could do just as well or even better; on the other hand, seeing a presenter who is not quite together can give you the confidence to present one of your own

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**"The whole idea is to get people to know what is going on at other schools and meet people from other schools."**

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after seeing that you do not have to be perfect.

Students not only hear presentations and listen to distinguished guest speakers, they socialize as well. Time is set aside specifically for this purpose because it is so important. When you meet others, you feel more at ease with them. This is facilitated by fun activities that the conference provides.

Thursday night is called trading night because students are encouraged to bring souvenirs such as mugs, T-shirts, hats, pennants, stickers, pens and key chains from their respective schools or cities to exchange for something someone else has brought. Casino night and Battle of the Bands highlight Friday evening's events; sports such as volleyball, swimming and ("Conference" continued on page 6)

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## From the Desk of Dr. Hull: A rose by any other name

At the last meeting of the Honors Committee, student member Patty Vais brought in a code of social ethics that the student senate has endorsed (by a split vote) about which she is worried for a number of reasons, not the least among them being her concern for academic freedom. Essentially the code would bind anyone at Harper (supposedly students, staff, faculty and/or administrators) from speaking or behaving in a way that makes anyone else uncomfortable. This code is proposed to be adopted by the College and published in the bulletin with other policies.

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“ ‘Political correctness’ is a term that comes from the political right to describe the perceived attitude of the political left. . . ”

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offend another, and the concept was too broad, vague and subject to interpretation according to the individual. Still others expressed fears that attempts to enforce the code could restrain academic inquiry and harm the College’s goal of an honest search for the truth.

The phrase “politically correct” was used by several people, without exception in a pejorative way. “Political correctness” is a term that comes from the political right to describe the perceived attitude of the political left, and to be “PC” is definitely not politically popular with those who use it to label the activists who advocate redressing some of the social imbalances and lack of economic, educational, and/or political opportunity for certain groups; that is, for people we were calling “disadvantaged” thirty years ago. In earlier times the same folks were called “poor” or “lower class,” and before the people now dubbed “PC” were called that, they were called “bleeding hearts.”

Some other changes in terminology have

After listening to her explanations, the Honors Committee decided that it was not (yet) appropriate for us to take any action, but we did have a lively discussion. Many felt that such a code would be unenforceable, since what makes one person comfortable might well

occurred over the last generation. In the sixties “colored people” and “Negroes” became “black” or “Afro-American,” while those formerly called “Caucasians” became correspondingly “white”; “Orientals” became “Asians,” and “American Indians” became “Native Americans,” a confusing label that previously had been used to separate people born in the United States from naturalized citizens. Many, though certainly not all, adult females who used to tolerate being called “girls” began to describe themselves as “women” and “feminists.”

In the sixties, those Americans who spoke Spanish as their first or only language were lumped together as “Chicanos” or “Latinos” (Chicanas and Latinas weren’t talked about much till the seventies). Since then, these terms have been almost entirely supplanted by “Hispanic,” even though many with Hispanic surnames can speak Spanish no more fluently in the second and third generation than, say, those whose ancestors came from Poland or Italy can speak the language of their immigrant parents and grandparents. In addition, the customs, culture and pronunciation of the language of various Spanish-speaking groups—such as Cubans, Puerto Ricans, Mexicans, Spaniards, Philipinos, and Central and South Americans from many countries with differing traditions (to name only a sampling)—often set one people against another in values.

In the last few years, “African-American” has become more popular as a self-name, and “whites” are now often labeled “European-Americans,” though not usually by themselves. “Indigenous peoples” is beginning to be preferred to designate those who claim tribal ancestry, perhaps recognizing that their homelands often (*From the Desk” continued on page 3)*

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**"From the Desk"**

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crossed the borders of what is now either Canada or Mexico.

For people who don't think much about all these groups a large part of the time (that is, probably the majority of people who do not fit into any "disadvantaged" group), it may seem hard to keep up with what each group currently prefers to be called, and the problem of polite forms of address is exacerbated by the undeniable fact that individuals within any of these groups frequently differ among themselves.

In raising our consciousness, the Americans with Disabilities Act has presented even more challenges to our tact in identifying both mental and physical differences from the average. "Handicapped" has gone from being a euphemism to being shunned, and many don't like the word "disabilities" very much either. For a person of good will, the situation can be confusing and many people fear offending others without intending to hurt anyone's feelings.

But consider: while it is no doubt confusing to have to learn new terms, it's not impossible. We seem to pick up the constantly evolving jargon of computers without too much trouble and pride ourselves with being on the cutting edge. It's a matter of re-thinking and being open to social change. Surely the advantages of consciousness-raising are important for us to learn to live together in peace in a shrinking world. In

the future we will have to deal with people all over the globe, and America's racial and ethnic mixture should give us the edge, from our having practiced at home in our own country. We have a horrible alternative to avoid in the example of the former Yugoslavia.

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**"But consider: while it is no doubt confusing to have to learn new terms, it's not impossible."**

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If we are to solve our differences peacefully we must discuss our problems. We will have to have terminology that recognizes that we do have differences, whether these differences make us feel comfortable or not.

Perhaps it is time for those of us who want to be kind and considerate of the feelings of our fellow human beings to think about self-naming. As a person who likes to think that she is reasonably open, tolerant and sensitive, I object to being called a "bleeding heart" because it implies that I am unaware of the true threat that historically underprivileged minorities represent to my own well-being. I regard it as a backlash code word designed to inflame fears. This backlash seems to come of a scarce-goods mentality that assumes every gain by a minority means a loss for a majority, in spite of all the gains our country has made in creature comforts in the peaceful years since World War II. The mental model of the backlash is, "You win-I lose," and it assumes only one side can benefit. I prefer to seek "win-win" solutions

wherein our whole society can be enriched by the prosperity and happiness of all.

I likewise reject the term "politically correct," which snidely suggests that I am a hypocrite, that I use gentle or in-offensive language for political advantage only, without sincerely

being concerned for others' rights and feelings. I resent being mocked in my efforts to

find language that both others and I can be comfortable with by silly suggestions of "political correctness," such as calling short people "vertically challenged."

Perhaps it is time to resurrect the term "liberal," a word which has suffered some pejorative connotations over the years despite its sharing the same roots as "liberty." "Liberal" implies openness, tolerance, freedom, and decency. Let us proclaim with pride, "Liberal is beautiful!"

I suppose it's not perfect, but for the present, "Liberal" is the label I feel most comfortable with—at least till something better comes along. Got any suggestions?

—Dr. Betty Hull



# Organization is key to scholarships

It's that time of year once more. As winter melts slowly into spring, transfer students everywhere sit down and confront the baffling assortment of forms required for admission to four-year institutions. Most look forward to the challenges they will encounter after completing the first phase of their education, but many are concerned about the additional costs they will incur. A college education is expensive. Thus, many hopeful students tackle the mountains of paperwork required for scholarships or financial aid. For those who will go through this process in the next year or two, here is some helpful advice.

## **Rule #1: Start early.**

As early as your freshman year, begin doing a little research on possible choices of universities. Call each school and ask for a catalog, an admissions form and a list of admission requirements, financial aid forms and a list of requirements, and information on scholarships. Some admissions personnel will act like you are jumping the gun by asking for financial aid information prior to acceptance, but be firm. Don't let them deter you from your goal. You need to start early so you can become familiar with all the various requirements you will have to fulfill.

## **Rule #2: Apply to more than one school.**

Consider applying to one private institution and one state-funded school, at least.

Harper Academic Advisor Kathi Holper says, "Honors stu-

dents with a strong grade point average stand a very good chance at scholarship money from schools such as Loyola or Roosevelt or Elmhurst College. Private schools allow for a higher income level because their tuition costs are higher, and they also have a wider pool of financial resources."

You may have thought that a private institution was out of your range, but financial aid opportunities may make it a better deal. Keep your mind open.

## **Rule #3: Build a portfolio of extra-curricular activities.**

There are a lot of very intelligent people out there applying for the same scholarships you are. You can distinguish yourself from the crowd by highlighting your areas of community involvement. These things do count.

## **Rule #4: Look at all your options.**

Consider civic organizations, such as the Rotary Club. Perhaps you can qualify for tuition reimbursement through your work. Libraries often have lists of scholarships, as does the Academic Counselling Office in Building I. Recently there have been several offers of scholarships listed in the *Daily Herald*. Be creative.

## **Rule #5: Get professional help.**

Attend transfer orientation sessions at Harper or make an appointment with an admissions counsellor at your chosen school. It is a good idea to take a tour of the campus. Admissions counsellors can be a good source of additional scholarship ideas. It is their job to help you. Let them do

the work they are trained to do.

## **Rule #6: For part-time students, consider becoming full-time students.**

Some students simply cannot attend school full-time due to work or family commitments. Scholarships for part-time students are much harder to find; however, Roosevelt is one school that offers them.

## **Rule #7: Make a checklist of requirements.**

Read all directions before beginning to fill out an application. Make a checklist and check off items as you complete them. This will eliminate problems with duplicating or missing key elements of your application file.

## **Rule #8: Neatness counts.**

Pay attention to the details. Type if possible. Be concise; don't include unnecessary information. Do detail any achievements that aren't self-explanatory. Also explain any unusual financial needs that aren't covered by the questions on the form. Try to get a second opinion on essays.

## **Rule #9: Don't get discouraged.**

The paper stream will be somewhat overwhelming. Don't give up, however. It will be worth it in the end.

Here are some specific suggestions for common forms:

- Most schools use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA,) but some use the Family Financial Statement (FFS.) Harper has the FAFSA forms in the Financial Aid Office, but you will have to get the FFS from any ("Organization" continued on page 8)

# MIDTERM ANXIETY?

## Study efficiently with these helpful hints!

Midterm is just around the corner, but don't worry! You can ace any test, if you know just how to study for them. There are many different kinds of test formats (true-false, multiple choice, and the ever-dreaded essay exam, to name a few), and you should prepare for each one in a different way. Some general guidelines when studying for a test are as follows:

- First find out which test format your teacher has in store for you, and study accordingly (see test-taking strategies below).

- Give yourself two full weeks to study for an exam. After the first week, if you have any questions or if you are unclear about something, you have another class before the test to ask your instructor.

- Go over key words and ideas in your mind for fifteen seconds, thereby transferring the information from short term to long term memory, where it is proven to be more easily and accurately obtainable.

- Don't worry about remembering every scrap of material! If you review your notes right before test time, you should have no problem remembering everything!

- **NEVER CRAM!** It may seem like the fastest and easiest way to prepare for a test, but you will just end up stressing out and more than likely forgetting the information anyway.

- On the night before a big exam, be sure to get a good night's sleep, between seven and eight hours is best.

- Although you may be sick with anxiety, it is very important to eat a balanced meal before taking a test. It provides your body with the needed energy to successfully take the exam! Plus, you wouldn't want your stomach to start making that embarrassing growling noise in a silent room full of your fellow students!

Exactly how you study will depend on what type of test you will be taking. Here are some test-taking strategies for different formats:

### **MULTIPLE CHOICE TESTS:**

- Read every question just once. If you are not sure of the answer, or have second thoughts, put a mark next to the question and come back to it if you have time. Often times, your first instinct is the best.

- Make sure you understand *exactly* what the question is asking! Don't make a sloppy mistake because you misread the question!

- **BECAREFUL OF ALLOF THE ABOVE AND NONE OF THE ABOVE ANSWERS!** Only select these if they apply totally! If you have any doubts, read over the other options again.

- Guess the answer before you read the options. It saves time, and you can feel more confident that you have answered correctly.

- If you are unsure of the answer, try eliminating all implausible answers to narrow your choice. After you have done that, pick the closest answer. If all else fails, you can always guess.

- **LOOK FOR CLUE WORDS SUCH AS ALWAYS, NEVER, and ALL!** These words often change the entire meaning of the question. Reread the question carefully before answering!

- When you finish the test, go back and check the questions you marked to come back to. Next, make sure you put all your answers in the correct place! Finally, if there is time, recheck all your work!

### **TRUE-FALSE TESTS:**

- Break down every complex sentence into smaller phrases. Remember each section must be true, or the entire statement is FALSE.

- **WATCH FOR WORDS LIKE ALL, ONLY, ALWAYS, and BECAUSE!** Statements with these words are usually true!

- **ALSO WATCH FOR WORDS LIKE NONE, GENERALLY, and USUALLY!** These statements are usually false!

- Don't search for hidden meanings! True-false questions are usually straightforward.

- If the statement is worded poorly, explain your answer (and confusion) on the answer paper (if it's hand-graded) or talk to your teacher about the question.

- **HINT:** There are usually more true answers than false, they are easier to write. Most come (*"Midterm Anxiety" continued on page 7*)

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**"Midterm Anxiety"**  
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than false, and they are usually copied directly from notes or textbooks, so they're easy to identify.

**MATCHING TESTS:**

- Make sure you know whether you can use an answer more than once.
- To save time, read down the longest column first, so you'll be rereading the shorter phrases, looking for your answer.
- Do the matches you are sure of first, then use process of elimination to determine the tougher answers.

**SHORT ANSWER TESTS:**

- Don't look too hard for hidden meanings. Teachers seldom are looking for more than a recall of key words, phrases, and meanings.
- If you don't know a specific answer, it is best to generalize; use words like tends to, may, and often. That way, you should at least get partial credit.
- Overanswer! If you feel there is more than one answer, write them both down!

**ESSAY EXAMS:**

- Reread the directions before you actually start writing. Make sure you include all the information the question asks for.
- Include as many facts, details, and examples as you can, to prove you know what you're writing about.
- Make an outline of information to follow while you write, including an introduction and conclusion.
- Pick a title that includes the topic and point of view that you will use.
- Check that your finished essay flows, that it is organized and consistent. Also carefully check grammatical and spelling errors.
- If you run out of time, make sure to note that on your paper. Then, copy as neatly and completely as possible your outline. You have a good chance for at least getting partial credit, and most teachers would be impressed with your effort.

Most importantly, when taking any test- DO NOT PANIC! Anxiety is the biggest distraction, and could cost you a good grade. Take a deep breath, relax, and Good Luck on midterms!

-by Angela Williamson

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**"Conference"**  
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basketball will also be available for those wishing for some friendly competition. Saturday morning breakfast is held at the EAA Museum followed by a tour of the museum.

As Dr. Hull said, "The whole idea is to get people to know what

is going on at other schools and meet people from other schools."

She also feels that students don't realize what the conference can do for them until they experience it themselves.

Students will stay in either campus dorms or the Pioneer

Inn and Marina, depending on how much you want to spend.

The fee for the conference is \$40, and the deadline for registration is March 31, so see Dr. Hull as soon as possible if you are interested.

—by Michelle Knapp

<i>Challenger</i>	EDITORIAL STAFF	EDITORIAL POLICY
HONORS SOCIETY OFFICERS	Michelle Knapp	<i>Challenger is the voice of the Harper College Honors Society. We welcome articles, ideas and letters of interest appropriate for our members. Final editorial judgment is the sole responsibility of the editorial staff. For information on possible submissions, call ext. 2551. Written material should be placed in the Challenger box in the Journalism office, A379.</i>
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Secretary Beverly Goodman	Angela Williamson	
Treasurer Puni Kalra	Published by students in	
Instructor Rhea Dawson	ID6-290 for class credit.	

# Have you thought about Honors courses?

Would you like a challenge? Take an Honors course. The Honors courses are not much harder than regular classes and they are really fun. There will be two courses offered during the summer and seven in the fall.

To give you an idea about some Honors courses, Dr. John M. Muchmore and Lawrence W. Knight, speech and geology instructors, respectively, talked about their classes.

**The Honors speech class** is approximately half the size of a regular class. Dr. Muchmore said, "Limited number of people provides productive criticism and opportunity for coaching." He remarked that establishing a sense of group is very important, and the smaller number of students provides the opportunity for that as well.

I took Dr. Muchmore's class two semesters ago, and the small class size made me feel very comfortable. I had more contact with my classmates. When I gave a speech I didn't have to worry about making a fool of myself in front of 30 people—only 15. The class was very supportive, making it easier for all of us.

Dr. Muchmore said that an Honors course is a very challenging experience. The students in an Honors course are more willing to work, which

helps the teacher go further with the material, making the class more enjoyable.

I enjoyed this class very much and I would strongly recommend it.

**The Honors geology class** is about the same size, and as Knight said, this fosters cooperation. He said, "There is more discussion in the Honors courses and the level of discussion is higher than in regular class."

He thinks Honors students are more aggressive and ask more questions, giving him an opportunity to talk more about nature and make the class more interesting. He said that there is a different mindset in an Honors course, and the students challenge the teacher as much as he challenges them. Overall, Knight said, "It's a fun class."

Generally the Honors courses are in the introductory level and anyone can take them, except for the creative writing class which requires LIT 220. They are fun, challenging and meet requirements for a degree as well as regular classes. Plus if you take four Honors courses you graduate with Honors designation on your transcript.

Don't be afraid to take an Honors course—it could be a great experience for you.

—by Anna Kuzniar

## HONORS COURSES FOR SUMMER 1994

LIT 105-002 3 hrs. MW 10:30 a.m.-1:05 p.m. (Poetry) Barbara Hickey

IDS 290 3 or 4 hrs. (Advanced Creative Writing\*) TBA Betty Hull

\* requires individual contract, prerequisite English 220 or consent of the instructor

## HONORS COURSES FOR FALL 1994

PSY 101-020 3 hrs. MWF 11-11:50 a.m. Bill Jedlicka

ENG 101-028 3hrs. MWF 12-12:50 p.m. Martha Simonsen

GEO 101-003 4 hrs. MW 1-2:15 p.m. & R 1:30-3:40 p.m. Larry Knight

MGT 111-022 3 hrs. T 12:15-3:25 p.m. Barbara Radebaugh

LIT 110-001 3 hrs. T 6:35-9:15 p.m. (Drama) Betty Hull

SPE 101-034 3 hrs. W 6:35-9:15 p.m. John Muchmore

ENG 102-032 3 hrs. R 6:35-9:15 p.m. Jack Dodds (computer assisted)

IDS 290 3 or 4 hrs. (Journalism: Honors Newsletters\*) TBA Rhea Dawson

\*requires individual contract

# Notes, News & Apologies

## • Attention all Honors students!!

Our "sister" Honors Program at Elgin Community College invites you to participate in Cultural Study Day, an enrichment program provided by the ECC Honors Program.

"Focus on Africa" will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2 p.m. to approximately 9 p.m.

Activities include a lecture by a visiting scholar from Africa at Elgin, a visit to the Museum of Natural History and dinner at an Ethiopian restaurant. Cost is \$10 inclusive. Fees are subsidized by the ECC Honors Program. Reservations are a must! See or call Dr. Hull at least three days in advance to attend the event.

• The editors would like to apologize for a mistake in the February 1994 *Challenger*. In the story "Diversity adds spice to Honors Society," we incorrectly identified Sherry Giewald as "Sherry DeWald."

• Mark your calendars! There will be an end-of-the-year party for Honors Society members on Friday, May 20, at Dr. Hull's house at an undetermined time. We'll keep you posted.

## President's Corner

In this issue of the *Challenger*, I would first like to congratulate our new officers. Puni Kalra is our new treasurer; she replaced Theresa Beeksma, who can no longer attend meetings. Shabana Jamel and Debbie Maday can no longer attend meetings, as well. Their joint position as secretary has been awarded to Beverly Goodman.

I am happy to see some new faces at our meetings this semester. Further, I encourage any other members who haven't had a chance to attend to give one a try. Our meetings are discussion-based and usually turn out to be very lively! If you would like to attend a meeting, they are held every Wednesday at 3 p.m. in F325. Hope to see you there!

—Art Weston

## "Organization"

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schools requiring it.

• You will need to have a copy of your transcript mailed from Harper (and any other post-secondary school you may have attended) to each of your chosen schools. Go to the Registrar's Office in Building A for this. The cost is \$3 per transcript. Get an additional copy mailed directly to you so you can take it with you when you go to appointments

with admissions counsellors.

• You will have to get Financial Aid Transcripts mailed to schools where you are applying for financial aid or scholarships. Go to Harper's Financial Aid Office and they will take care of it for you after you fill out the proper form.

• Many schools will also require a copy of your Federal Taxes for the previous year.

• Some schools require an essay; some, faculty recommendations. North Central College

requires two recent photographs with your application for admission. Most require an application fee, ranging from \$15 to \$50. Each school is different — that is why it's so important to start early and familiarize yourself with all the paperwork.

—by Lisa R. McBride

## Upcoming topics for discussion at Society meetings

April 13—Guest Speaker

Paul Siplera: "My Antarctica Trip"

April 20—Political Correctness

April 27—TV, Sex and Violence

May 4—Assisted Suicide

May 11—Power and Money

Honors Society meetings are open to members and their friends. Topics for discussion serve as points of departure, and we may stray far from the originally announced topic, as circumstances lead us. We value diversity of viewpoints and do not try to force an artificial consensus. Our uppermost aim is to understand how and why intelligent people differ in their perspectives according to their life experiences. Please come and share yours with us. Meetings are at 3 p.m. in F325.