

the Harbinger

**Harper College:
8 days without a
faculty strike!**

Volume 35 Issue 3 Week of October 28, 2002

Dealing with fear on the picket line: Jim Edstrom's recollection **By Anthony McGinn**

After 12 days of anger, frustration and fear, the faculty senate union and the administration board reached agreement at about 2 a.m. Sunday.

The faculty senate union approved a new contract by a vote of 158-12.

"We are very pleased with the new contract," says Jim Edstrom, a faculty senate union negotiator.

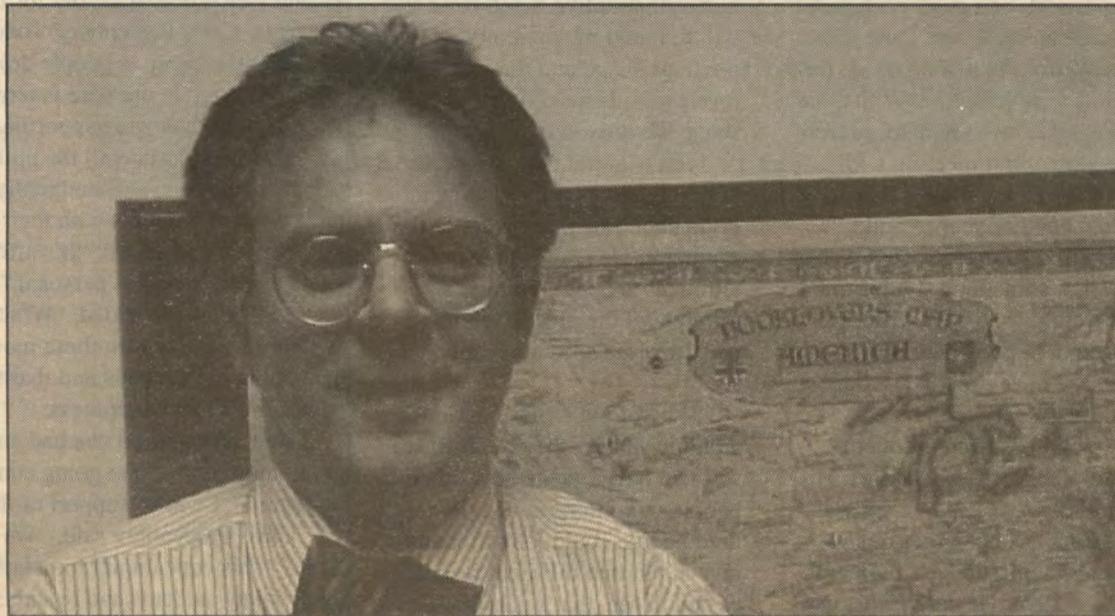
"The central objective of the strike was never money. It was always about the future of the college. If Harper would like to continue to attract top faculty to teaching in this institution, then their needs to be an effort to provide them with an appropriate incentive. I think this contract does that."

In the past, the average faculty member's salary increase was 5 percent. So while one teacher could receive a 12 percent increase, others would receive far less. The new contract provides every full-time teacher a 5 percent increase every year for four years.

One of the biggest decision factors in causing the faculty to strike was the threat of the board increasing the faculty health care premium.

In the new contract, the administration has agreed to keep the current 20 percent cap on health care premiums.

Although Edstrom did not



Now able to smile at all the hectic happenings of the eleven-day teacher's strike, Jim Edstrom tells the Harbinger how difficult striking really was.

Photo By Anthony McGinn

enjoy being on the picket line, he says it did have one advantage.

"It became a learning experience for me. I learned about the values that this great country has been built upon. The freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and freedom to strike for what you believe is right."

During the strike, the administration cancelled all credited classes, but that did not prevent students from seeing the teachers. In a complete reversal of roles, Edstrom insists that it was the students who educated the

"Bravery means making the constructive use out of one's emotions during intense situations" - Jim Edstrom

faculty.

"Students taught me about bravery," says Edstrom. "Mark Twain once said 'Bravery is no the absence of fear, but the mastery of fear.' The students showed me bravery means making constructive use out of emotions during intense situations. "I am overly heartened

by the student's support. It meant a lot to us having them on the picket line, supporting us and building stronger relationships with each other."

The administration's threat to start classes on October 28, with or without the full time faculty, has become a matter of great speculation.

Edstrom says the administration's threat had no affect the faculty bargaining strategy.

"Classes would not have started (On October 28) without the full-time faculty, I don't care what the administration says."

The administration had planned to run the college with part time and retired teachers.

"You cannot run this institution with adjunct faculty," said Edstrom.

"And in my heart I truly believe they would not have crossed the picket line."

As far as avoiding future strikes, Edstrom offers his opinion.

"The faculty and administration both have specific roles to play. The best way for Harper to succeed is to have all those groups play the roles they are intended to while always recognizing students are at the center. The students are the backbone of this college. Students are more important the new buildings, the administration, and the faculty.

With that the faculty back on campus, Edstrom says that morale appears to be very high and more importantly the rebuilding of student relationships can begin.

"The faculty is delighted to be back where it belongs; side by side with students."

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NEWS

"Oasis": not just a wannabe Beatles band anymore

By Georgia Latta

"Oasis" promises to be just that. Installed on September 23 in the circular area in front of the administration offices, the sculpture is reminiscent of waves, trees, and birds. It somehow combines the feel of all of these elements and makes you want to look at it from every angle.

It takes you back to the days of lying in grassy fields and staring up at the clouds, seeing different images in their shapes. In addition to the visual impact, it also incorporates 5 water features which, when functioning, give the sculpture and the surrounding area a peaceful almost Zen-like quality. Situated in the midst of the campus it offers a momentary area of respite where students and faculty can come between classes, meet up or just relax.

John Medeweff brought us this "Oasis". Commissioned by the *Illinois Capitol Development Board Art in Architecture Program* two years ago, he began plans for the sculpture right away. Created in Silicon Bronze and using both forging and pressurized cold forming process the actual creation of the sculpture required a studio staff of six people as well as other off

site tradesmen such as plumbers, electricians, a general contractor and a sandblasting crew. It took over ten months to build and John claims,

"It is interesting working at this scale, if you are doing smaller work, and you have an idea you can exercise that idea in a week or a day or whatever and then move on. Then you learn from that and you go onto your next sculpture. With a piece that takes two years to go from having a first meeting with a client to an approved design and then another year to build, it's sort of a strange process. When I design something, I have to be incredibly satisfied with that design, because working at this scale I have to look at in my studio for a very long time."

John has been producing sculpture for twenty years. His studio, *Medwedeff Forge and Design* has been focusing on public sculpture and fountains since 1996. He derives his work from the practical experience he has had with nature, growing up in Tennessee and from the experiences he has had white water kayaking in the Appalachian Mountains.

The aquatic feel is very evident in this sculpture and his ability to get metal to emulate

this is remarkable. John explains that it is the tension and the strength of metal, which allows it to form such dynamic shapes. He also feels that bronze is a particularly good choice for this sculpture first for its timelessness and then for its malleability and its lack of "memory. This means that unlike Steel, Bronze will not tend to "remember" its previous shape and therefore revert to it. Instead, it holds the shape the artist requires it to.

John is particularly happy with this piece and speaks with pride about the inner parts of the sculpture. He relates how the "lifelike" shapes continue throughout the piece even the parts that the spectator cannot see.

"When I put a piece out into a public sphere, they're abstract, so I can never gauge how other people will interpret it. A hundred people could look at it and give a hundred different responses and to me, that's part of it, what I think that does, is it brings life to the piece, it actually comes out of the viewer. In some way when I create a piece of artwork it creates some shift in that viewers consciousness." In all art, what is in the mind of

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A day on the picket line

By Habib Behrouzi

Wednesday, October 9, 2002 was a day that stands out in many people's minds, as it was the first day of picketing on Harper's perimeter. Never having participated in a strike, or picket for any cause really gave me no perception as to what I was to encounter.

I had arrived at Harper 10:30 am that Wednesday. Looking on to faculty members walking back and forth with wooden sticks with posters attached saying, "Harper College Faculty Senate ON STRIKE for Salary Parity, Fringe Benefits, and Working Conditions." It was somewhat what was expected from what movies and TV portrayed, yet it still was culture shock to see live.

Walking up to faculty with a warm smile was greatly appreciated and welcomed. I sat out for most of that late morning with Greg Herriges, Chris Piepenburg, Todd Valentine, and Patti Ferguson and joined in the cheer as people drove by honking their horns.

"The morale out here is terrific," said Mr. Herriges as he waved, appreciating a supporting toot from Union truck drivers.

However despite all the uplifting spirits, everyone was emotional about the events and really took the strike to heart, wanting to be back in classrooms with their students.

Mr. Valentine said, "It's affecting families and children and to some degree becomes personal."

Ms. Ferguson added, "What we do is not a hobby. It's a job. It's our life." It was in these moments that I felt that our teachers do care about the students and that their passion for educating US is what brings them happiness.

And although no one had any idea how long this battle was going to go on for, the going consensus was that it would end with no regrets. I was in support of the faculty and what they stood for.

Chris Piepenburg said, "We just want to keep on to what's been built." This educational foundation Harper has established has made many students and teachers loyal to what Harper is. And picketing with the faculty showed me that we all wanted the same thing, which was to be back in classrooms content.

"We all miss the students and are grateful for students' support," said Mr. Herriges as I was saying my good-byes. Every faculty member on that picket line gave me a hearty, "Thanks for coming out," which made me feel one hundred percent. And by the looks of all the support and appreciation, I'm sure that every faculty member wants to be at that one hundred percent mark in the classroom.

the Harbinger

Harper College's Premier news publication

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The Harbinger is the Harper College student publication published bi-weekly throughout the school year, except during holidays and final exams. It is distributed free to all students, faculty and administration.

The Harbinger's sole purpose is to provide the Harper community with information pertaining to the campus, surrounding activities, and events of note.

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Rumors of construction worker's "sympathy strike" with faculty strike: Harbinger investigates

By Georgia Latta

Rumors that the construction workers would respect the picket lines of the teachers' strike circulated around campus, but factual information was elusive. The source of the rumor was pursued this only bore a negative response. The head of construction and the workers themselves were asked, no one seemed to know of this rumored work stoppage and so the lead was dropped. Two weeks later the rumors in fact proved to be true. So why was it so difficult to get confirmation of this? Referring back to the whole dynamic of the strike, it becomes apparent that throughout it's growth, information has been lacking and so why should garnering information regarding the construction workers respect of the picket lines be any different?

The office for construction and special projects was contacted about obtaining union information and our calls were referred to Phil Burdick who was apparently handling media negotiations at the college. Phil referred us to Rick Wyes over at Gilbane Construction, one of the contractors working at the school. Rick was unwilling to release the names of the union representatives, sighting it was a matter of privacy and saying, "Well, I know they wouldn't want me to do that [release the names.]" So we turned to the community and asked a local contractor what his take on the strike and the construction workers respect for the picket lines was, this is what he had to say:

Harbinger: "As a builder you are surely familiar with the industries volatility- do you think that the construction workers at Harper should be striking at this time, especially in light of the past years economic slow down?"

"From my understanding their striking is a sympathetic movement with the teachers strike which doesn't strike me as the most beneficial way to go about this. I can certainly understand union solidarity but, you don't want to cut off your nose to spite your face so to



speak, so it probably is not in their best interest to go on strike, from an economic standpoint it doesn't make sense."

Harbinger: "Do you think that because of their status as Union labor that perhaps the construction workers have the luxury of stopping work that if they were not in a union they could not exercise?"

"Going on strike is for all practical purposes a power play saying 'We all quit and nothings going to get done.' There seems to be a brotherhood in the union. For example the construction workers really don't have anything o gain by respecting the picket lines. As far as it being a luxury, I don't think that's accurate because they are not working or being paid so they're certainly not helping themselves. There is always the potential especially in today's day and age that the general contractor could go out and hire private contractors and put the union to bed and say 'fine if you don't want to do the job, we'll just get somebody else....'"

I personally feel that unions are over-rated at this point, I don't think they serve any useful purpose anymore. Laborers are not mistreated and they are paid extraordinarily well and people in general are paid a lot more then they used to be paid. I don't have anything against the unions I suppose... they do have the ability to strike and if they win great and if they loose fine. Like

I said, I don't think striking is a luxury, because if you're on strike, you're not making money, though it becomes a matter of principle. You're only guaranteed that you will be paid a certain amount if you do work, there's no assurance that you will work.

The use of union labor ebbs and flows just like the job market outside of the unions, there's no difference. Union people are on a list and they get called up based on seniority and who's needed and what trades are needed. There's no guarantee that they work. The only guarantee that the union has is a benefits package which if you are in the private sector is hard to come by and the only other guarantee is that they will make a minimum wage... The union pays X amount for X amount of experience, end of story."

Harbinger: "How do you feel about their support for the teachers strike, do you think that their "respect" for the picket lines is valid?"

"If they want to strike as a show of solidarity I guess that's fine... it seems darn silly to me though because weather the building gets built or not has nothing to do with teachers or their situation. The unions are completely and utterly unrelated. I don't see how they will have any impact on the administration to cow-tow to the teachers union and in fact it should have no bearing whatsoever, Granted the building doesn't get built, but

you know what, that's fine, it will eventually. It will get finished and as long as the building isn't getting built, payment aren't being made."

"In fact if the school has invested its endowments wisely, they're sitting making more interest while they're not making payments. The longer they hold onto their money the more money they make and the more money they'll have left over after paying out the contractors. So if the contractors want to strike for six months, fine. I just don't see what benefit for the teachers union this respect for the picket lines has other than unions have certain curtsies I suppose."

Harbinger: "Why have you chosen not to be a member of a union?"

"I don't want people dictating what and how I can do things, simple as that. I have the freedom to choose the jobs I work on and the ability to choose the tasks I do. If you're in the union you're labeled with a skill and you do nothing outside that skill. You don't have the chance to switch skills or learn multiple disciplines and get paid as such. So for me it's not an option, it's far to limiting."

Harbinger: "What is your opinion of the teachers' strike?"

"I think it's about someone claiming they won and that's all. Because they are splitting hairs,

in the long run, the teachers do pennies better by their own terms as opposed to the schools [terms]. It doesn't seem to me that is would be any big deal for the school to match the teachers requests because they have offered essentially the same thing. So the money's there, you basically just have two bulls butting heads and neither of them wants to move and unfortunately the students are getting hurt. The fact that the teachers have health care at all is a benefit that maybe they are being a little bit ungrateful about. They should try being self-employed and see how much health insurance they're offered."

"...Salary should be commiserate with experience, but I have a hard time believing that every single teacher at that school ranks in the top 5 percent, there's good and bad like there is in everything else.... They want a salary increase strait across the board, but there's got to be a few teachers in there who aren't as good as the other teachers, why should they make out every bit as well when other people are probably working harder? Maybe some of the teachers do deserve this increase, but if you based it [pay increase] instead on performance and everybody knew that scale, then that's fair. But I don't think that you can work that in a union very well. What happens if in two years from now their [the schools] ranking slips, do we say 'fine well, your ranking slipped so we're taking that money back.' I don't think they would be to amenable to that."

Different opinions have been expressed throughout the strike. Because of the vast discrepancy in these opinions, this contractor has asked that his identity be kept confidential. We challenge any party who has a differing opinion regarding this topic to contact out offices and let us know what you think. If you're arguments are compelling enough perhaps we will print an interview with you. As always the Harbinger remains an impartial party reporting the news as we see and hear it.

Neither wind nor rain nor teacher's strike can keep Lance Olsen from his adoring public

By Anthony McGinn



Listen up, book lovers! Lance Olsen braves the elements to read from his novel, "Girl Imagined By Chance." His speaking engagement at Harper was canceled due to the teacher's strike.

Photo by Anthony McGinn

Lance Olsen had been told stay away from Harper College.

The administration had stated that Olsen would not be allowed on the Harper Campus to read from his new book, "Girl Imagined by Chance," due to the ongoing faculty strike.

Nor, would Olsen receive the check he had been promised* or be able to offer writing tips to students who so desperately craved them.

But, Olsen decided to read from his book anyway; on the faculty senate unions picket line.

Standing on a 5-foot tall electric transformer at the Algonquin Road entrance to Harper College, Olsen spoke to over 80 striking faculty members and students alike through the aid of a megaphone.

"If anyone loses attention to me, this will happen," Olsen said blasting a deafening siren on the megaphone before letting out a long, hearty laugh.

Loud car horns supporting faculty members overpowered Olsen's megaphone, but that did not bother him one bit.

"This is absolutely surreal!" Olsen said, brushing his long blonde hair off his red John Lennon shades. "It was freezing, and no one could hear a word I said, but there was so much energy!"

Why would an established author stand in frigid temperatures and offer advice to students without being paid?

He cares about them.

Olsen says he relates to young students because he was quite young when he knew he wanted to become an author.

"I was in 10th grade and I read Edgar Allan Poe's 'Pit in Pendulum.' During the class discussion I remember saying to myself, 'my God I can do this!'"

Olsen has an important piece of advice to share with aspiring authors.

"Do not give up! If you are 30 and you are not a rock star, then you should stop. If you are 30 and you are still not an author, that's only the beginning."

"Girl Imagined by Chance" is Olsen's sixth novel. It is a story about a couple who find themselves having created an imaginary daughter to please their family.

The subject got its roots from Olsen's personal life.

"My wife (Andi) and I have decided not to have kids, and our families always give us a hard time about it. So I got this funny idea, that a couple created a child with their imagination and digitally altered the pictures to send to their families."

Olsen had been working on "Girl Imagined by Chance" for the past two and a half years and explains that every sentence underwent painstaking detail.

"Oscar Wilde once wrote in his journal, 'I spent the entire morning placing a comma into a sentence and the rest of the day wondering if I should take it out. That is the best way to describe the writing process.'"

As far as Olsen's writing career is concerned, he foresees no end in sight.

"Writing is like a viral infection, once you got it, it's not going away. I was bitten 30 years ago and I still haven't been cured."

*The Student Activities department has since sent Olsen a check.

How to write good well: journalist Tom Valeo visits Harper

By Chris Edwardsen

For some, writing can soothe the sting of shyness or freeze the flight of a stutter. And for others, it can win back parting lovers.

But for journalist Tom Valeo, writing serves a more practical purpose.

It pays the bills.

"I'm a really good writer," Valeo said, championing his recent decision to become a freelancer.

Last month, Valeo spoke to a group of Harper College feature writing students about what it takes to write a story worthy of publication.

"When a story is really, really good, it's really, really simple," said Valeo, donning a brown and beige checkered shirt with sleeves twice rolled to expose a fashionably ill-fitted chrome watch.

He then encouraged the students not to write a feature story using the inverted pyramid structure, which, he said, enables readers to lap up the gist of the story too quickly. The inverted pyramid – generally reserved for hard news, or breaking news, stories – affords readers no incentive to move beyond the vital information crammed into the first few paragraphs.

Next, for a feature story to work, the writer must first decide on an idea.

"Ask [yourself] what the story is about, answer it with one sentence and begin there," Valeo said. "It doesn't have to be the most important thing."

Once the idea is established, the story must be broken down into three components: a beginning, a middle and an end.

The beginning, said Valeo, should set up the story in a seductive way, luring readers

further.

The middle ushers in conflict – a feature story must – and character development. Conflict and people make up every part of one's everyday life. So, when the writer fails to imbue a story with those "everyday" elements, he or she leaves readers with nothing to identify themselves with, said Valeo.

At the end, all three parts must converge to bring some kind of resolution, whether good or bad, to the conflict around which the writer has built his or her story.

"When a story is really, really good, it's really, really simple... ask what the story is about, answer it with one sentence and begin there."

-Tom Valeo

Otherwise, the story becomes, well, not really a story at all – but rather a font of humdrum information.

"People don't crave information," said Valeo. "But they do crave stories."

"Anything's a story if you think in terms of stories. You have to spin it."

The lecture soon tapered off

with a question and answer forum, offering the students the occasion to act as reporters.

Throughout his journalism career, Valeo has shouldered many job titles: crime reporter, arts and science staff writer, theater critic, assistant features editor and editor, to name a few. All have dovetailed to forge a writing style so unique and refreshing that each person he writes about today comes to enjoy – by dint of his brilliant diction – a status almost tantamount to that of a celebrity.

Although freelancing at a time when the economy cannot promise much is risky, his knack for bringing the wonderful oddities of his otherwise unknown subjects to print has, no doubt, earned Valeo the reputation he needs to ensure steady publication from here on out.

FOUNTAIN:

From page two

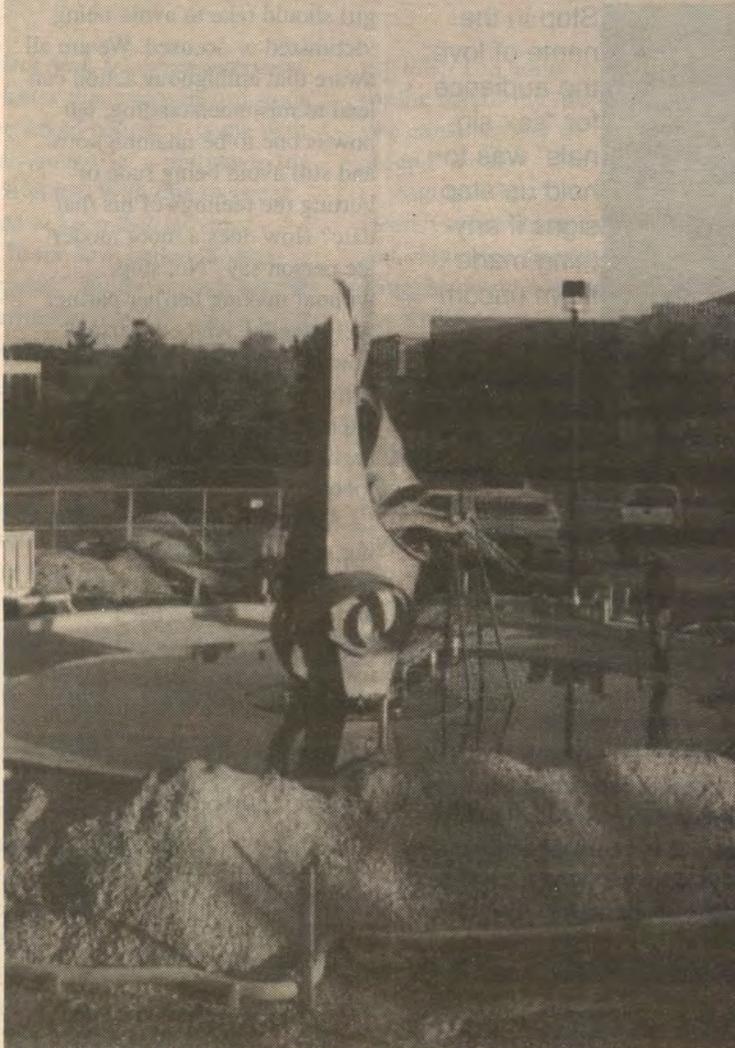
the artist is not necessarily what is in the mind of the viewer and so the beauty of interpretation and personal experience always add it's own particular flavor to each individuals viewing.

He talks about the complexity of even the plumbing and states that in creating a sculptural fountain, it is important to make sure the sculpture makes a statement even without the water flowing. This is particularly true in northern environments such as ours because for 4-5 months, due to ice, the fountains will not be flowing.

When creating this sculpture, he said that because of the location (adjacent to the performing arts center) he felt a certain element of drama was warranted. He beat out about 20 other applicants when he was selected to do this sculpture, and when asked if he has anything that he wants the students at Harper to know, he simply states with a modest laugh that he hopes we enjoy it.

At left: the new fountain "Oasis" at one stage of its construction

Photo by Georgia Latta



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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Performers sending the right "signals" for entertainment By Georgia Latta

Christian Murphy and Gail Stern portrayed different archetypes of the male and female roles in society today, in last week's presentation of Sex Signals. Gail went from being a virgin to a vixen and Christian a Neanderthal to a girly-man in the course of two hours. Their portrayal was humorous, insightful and on point as they looked at modern day dating and troubles that many people face. At one point Christian lit up his farts and inserted his superiority and at another point Gail put fake plastic breasts up her shirt while begging to watch sports.

There were cards under each seat, which simply said STOP. The audience was asked to hold up these cards whenever something in the show made them uncomfortable. The audience was quick to comply to this request but despite their attempts, the show went on, uninterrupted. After a while most of the audience members seemed to realize that holding up the cards was pointless and



eventually they gave up.

Toward the end of the show Christian and Gail pointed out the fact that people had stopped holding up the cards. The tone of the show suddenly changed when they explained that in many date rape situations this is exactly the way a victim feels. Sometimes despite the fact a date rape victim may have sent what she/he feels are clear signals, these signals go unheeded or unnoticed and so the victim gives up trying because it seems pointless or they don't want to be rude.

At one point Gail stated: "There's a difference between being aggressive and assertive.

Stop in the name of love: the audience for "sex signals" was to hold up stop signs if anything made them uncomfortable.

An assertive guy can be confident and not be an shmoe." And at another Christian defended a mans confusion by claiming:

"In much less extreme situations, both men and women communicate in very subtle ways that they are attracted to each other, to the point that people are deliberately being ambiguous."

It is these two differing viewpoints that mixed with a lack of communication that can inadvertently lead to the tragedy of date rape. Chris and Gail focused the audiences attention on how such a thing could happen, but what seemed to be missing were the preventative measures a guy or a

girl should take to avoid being victimized or accused. We are all aware that ambiguous action can lead to misunderstanding, but how is one to be unambiguous and still avoid being rude or hurting the feelings of his /her date? How does a more moderate person say "No, stop..." without making her/her partner feel rejected. And conversely how does a more assertive person say, "Is this O.K.?" while attempting to override their urges and avoid killing the mood?

Although a funny, entertaining, and informative presentation, The intent of the message and act would have been strengthened if these questions had been answered. Instead, the audience walked away thinking "God, I hope that doesn't happen to me." but really had no tools to prevent it other than what they may have already learned from life experience and/or from dealing with other people in a dating environment. While for some people these "life lessons" may

be sufficient when negotiating the dating world, sadly for others, this is not the case.

All dating situations are different, and it is probably impossible to communicate a "how to" manual that will work for every person every time in the course of 2 hours. Perhaps the humorous approach that Chris and Gail took in requesting that every person be responsible and respectful of their partners needs is the most effective way of avoiding a date rape situation. If we were all to do this, perhaps the cases of date rape would decrease and Chris and Gail would have achieved their hoped for outcome.

The audience walked away with a lot of new ideas and perspectives about how to recognize a potentially dangerous situation. Ultimately, the first step in avoiding a bad scenario is to know the pitfalls and Sex Signals served as an effective means by which to communicate what some of these might be.

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“The Instigator” doesn’t cause trouble for the ears or the mind

By Chris
Edwardson

Old 97’s front man Rhett Miller trades in his alternative-country twang for a euphoric blend of acoustic power-chord pop and Sylvia Plath-like poesy on his new solo effort, *The Instigator* (Elektra).

Naked of the rip-roaring guitar slides and scathing lyrics that dress the songs of the Old 97’s, *The Instigator* lays bare a subtler, more emotional Miller – one who may have longtime fans asking, Why?

“If I try to make those people happy, then I’m not going to be doing what comes naturally,” said Miller, 32, during a *Fort*

Worth Star-Telegram interview. “I know that every record so far, I’ve asked people to come with me...on sort of a journey to the next place. With this record, I tried to keep that moving.”

In the love ballad “Come Around,” Miller, though happily married in real life, confesses to his deep-seated fear of being alone (“I’m dressed all in blue/ And I’m remembering you and the dress you wore when you broke my heart/ I’m depressed upstairs/ And I’m remembering where and when and how and why you have to go so far/ Am I going to be lonely for the rest of

my life?! I’m going to be lonely for the rest of my life/ Unless you come around/ So come around”).

And later in “Your Nervous Heart,” Miller again finds himself verging on loneliness as he struggles to rid a loved one of the ambivalence she has about love and – more stinging – about them as a couple (“I try to make your world a better place/ I’d smother you with kisses/ I’d give you outer space/ But you’re terrified and it’s tearing me apart/ Can I kiss your furrowed brow and calm your nervous heart?! I know the world’s a bitch/ Don’t

get me wrong/ You gotta give the world the finger/ You gotta sing a happy song/ If you gotta believe in something, make it us”).

Its pathos aside, *The Instigator* explodes with melodic, upbeat fun – banking on the musical contributions of British singer-songwriter Robyn Hitchcock in “Point Shirley” and former X punk rocker John Doe in “Terrible Vision.”

“I got the quirky American and the quirky Brit,” Miller said in an MTV.com-News interview. “To me that makes the record, even for those people who don’t

read liner notes and know that it’s special.”

Also leaguely with Miller is an all-women chorus in “Terrible Vision,” the last of the CD’s 12 tracks. The chorus splendidly offsets the song’s desuetude of bass and drums.

If Miller’s musical wandering on *The Instigator* should leave ardent fans feeling a bit nostalgic, they can rest assured that Miller and the gang plan to release a new Old 97’s CD in spring 2003.

Until then, just pop it in and enjoy the journey.

Shortened grief makes “Mile” long

By Steph
Wolferman

The film *Moonlight Mile* stars Dustin Hoffman and Susan Sarandon as Ben and JoJo Floss, who are the parents of Diana, who was murdered. Diana, their only daughter, was engaged to be married to Joe Nast (played by Jake Gyllenhaal), and he joins the parents in their effort to carry on after her death. Though this film has great acting, it shows an unrealistic portrayal of grief.

The first sign that this film doesn’t recognize the impact of grief is when, days after burying his girlfriend, Joe falls in love with another girl. He meets Bernie Knox (played by Ellen Pompeo) at the post office, and by observing their body language you can tell they are attracted to each other. Then, based on the predictability of the plot, you can tell that a relationship is about to happen. Yet, I never realized it would happen in such a short amount of time.

The worst part about the whole film is that it wants the viewer to support this relationship. They do this in two ways. First, they give us barely any clues who Diana (who is now deceased) really is. We never get a feel for who she is and the impact she has made in people’s lives. Though we don’t really get to know her, we do feel a sense of how her family feels about her. Second, which is the cruelest, the plot has Joe reveal a terrible secret that makes his new relationship sit well with the audience. Though I won’t disclose, the

explanation of their relationship is only placed there so the story can move along with the new couple. I just couldn’t go along on that path the film was taking me in. I didn’t believe, even with the secret revealed, that he could move on to another relationship so quickly.

The main problem with the picture is with the love interest, Bernie. The worse part is how cold she comes off when Joe has second thoughts about their relationship. Just getting over the lost of someone close to her, you would think she would understand the dilemma facing Joe. Instead, she scolds him for still holding on to the memory of his girlfriend months after her death. Again, it doesn’t make sense that a character who knows grief would be so insensitive to someone experiencing it. In that moment, the character comes off as selfish and makes the audience wonder why Joe would want to be with her in the first place.

The ending of films shows how, in what seems a couple of months after Diana’s death, everyone moves on. The symbolic putting away the picture montage is shown to leave the film with a nice happy ending. The ending ends too neatly and it wouldn’t have if it truly represent grief. It makes grief seem like it only last with a person for a while, and then just disappears.

The grief shown in this film is unrealistic because the time it takes place in. The film really doesn’t give a

sense of a time span. So, by the end of the film, it only feels like a couple of months have passed by since the burial of the fiancée. Maybe if the film used a longer time span to show this change from struggling with grief to moving on from it, it would have worked. But, the timing of the film feels too short, which makes the audience feel betrayed when Joe falls in love with someone new.

The inspiration for the film makes the experience even less enjoyable. Through interviews given about the film, Brad Silberling (writer, director, and producer of this project) reveals the film was made for his murdered girlfriend. So wouldn’t you think of all people, he would know what grief does to a person? I think he could show how someone couldn’t move

on with his or her life within months of a loved one’s death, especially when the person was murdered. It is just disappointing because it feels the film was tailored so the audience won’t come out too depressed.

The film has great strong performances, but they can’t make me forget the unrealistic script.

The film was meant to show a realistic portrayal of losing someone close, and instead, leaves the audience with a sweet fairy tale where grief doesn’t live with you forever.

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November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>CC All videos/DVDs will be shown Tuesdays at 12:15 pm and Wednesdays at 1:00 pm in the TV Lounge, Student and Administration Center, A336.</p> <p>⚖ An attorney will be available to offer legal advice at no charge to Harper students with a current activity card. Call 847.925.6242 to schedule an appointment for Wednesday afternoons and evenings. Saturday mornings may be available as well.</p> <p>Movie tickets good for admission at any Loews/Cineplex, AMC, or General Cinema movie theatre are available for \$5.00 (AMC and Loews/Cineplex) or \$5.50 (General Cinema) to Harper students with a fall activity pass. Tickets are available through the Box Office, Business and Social Science Center, J135, with a limit of 10 (of each type) tickets per student.</p>						
3	4 Art Exhibit, November 4-15 Area High Schools Art Exhibition Space Room C200 New Student Services and Art Center	5 Men's Basketball, 7:00 pm Wright at Harper	6	7	8 eXcel, Session Three: Appreciating Diversity, Part Two 1:00-4:00 pm Student and Administration Center, A 238	9 ⚖ Free legal advice for Harper students 9:00 am-2:00 pm Call 847.925.6242 for appointment Men's Basketball, 3:00 pm Harper at Olivet
10	11 Veteran's Day Observed (Classes not in session)	12 Women's Basketball, 5:00 pm Moraine Valley at Harper	13 ⚖ Free legal advice for Harper students 1:00-7:00 pm Call 847.925.6242 for appointment	14	15 Frank Abagnale Author of <i>Catch Me If You Can!</i> 7:30 pm, Wellness and Sports Center, \$5-\$7 Student Senate Meeting 1:30-5:00 pm Student and Administration Center, A315 Men's Basketball, TBA Harper at Lake County Women's Basketball, TBA Harper at Parkland	16 Last day for withdrawals No later than noon Harper Theatre Encore: An Alumni Celebration to Benefit the Performing Arts Center Performing Arts Center, \$30 Men's Basketball, TBA Harper at Lake County Women's Basketball, TBA Harper at Parkland
17	18	19 Women's Basketball, 5:00 pm Waubensee at Harper Men's Basketball, 7:00 pm Harper at Oakton	20 ⚖ Free legal advice for Harper students 1:00-7:00 pm Call 847.925.6242 for appointment	21 Great American Smoke Out Concert: Peter Aglinskas, guitar Chris White, piano 12:15 pm Music Instruction Center P205 FREE	22 Student Senate Meeting 1:30-5:00 pm Student and Administration Center, A243 Dave Rudolf's Big Holiday Extravaganza! 7:00 pm Business and Social Science Center Theatre, J143, \$3-\$7	23 Men's Basketball, TBA Harper at Milwaukee Women's Basketball, TBA Harper at Milwaukee
24	25 Art Exhibit November 25-December 13 Special Projects Art Exhibition Space Room C200 New Student Services and Art Center	26 Women's Basketball, 5:15 pm Lake County at Harper Men's Basketball, 7:00 pm Lake County at Harper	27	28 November 28-December 1 Thanksgiving Holiday (Classes not in session)	29	30 Men's Basketball, 3:00 pm Morton at Harper

Decisions, decisions, decisions.



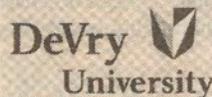
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Meet Your Harbinger Staff, Part Three:

Nicole

VS

Georgia

Two delicate flowers of Harper Journalism... in a knock-down, drag-out cage match! (Editor's note. We strongly encourage hair pulling and nail breaking!)

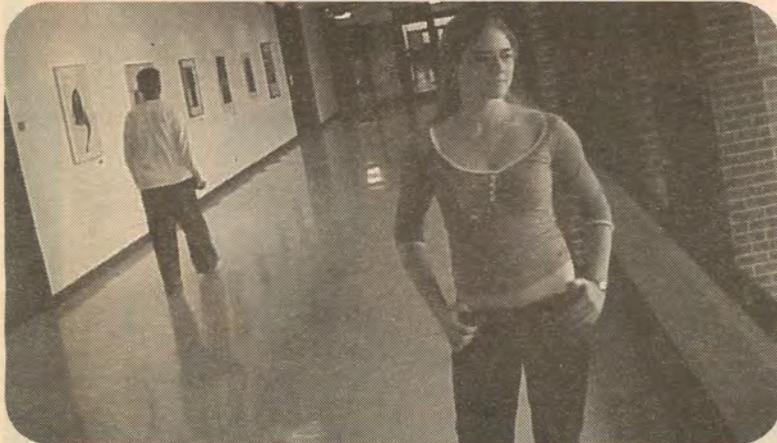


photo by Anthony McGinn

A newspaper without boundaries. That's the best way I can describe the Harbinger. This paper goes beyond the limits to deliver fine articles throughout the Harper Campus.

We are off to a great start, already delivering three issues to the anticipating public. I am ecstatic to be part of this, anything but ordinary, group of writers.

Being a freshman, I came to the Harbinger with little experience and an uncertainty of what was to come. I learned that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity that I am able to participate in. It's hard to express your views on subject matters. The Harbinger allows us to write for the public at a very broad extent.

Within the first month of school, I was asked to be the Arts and Entertainment Editor. I must admit that I lack a lot of the talent that the other writer's have, for this I felt very privileged. Given the opportunity to be an editor enables me to work with six other editors, five of them male. I didn't think twice.

Although the Harbinger seems like the dystopia of human civilization, it could use more of a female influence. Unfortunately, due to the Editor-in-Chief's extreme fear of girls, the outlook is not so good. Either way, the paper has an extraordinary group of creative writers and it is only getting better with each issue.

If you ever want to make your voice heard, simply contact the Harby at (847 925-6460). Otherwise, stay updated with

the college student's point of view by reading the Harbinger.

Lastly, I would like to thank the entire staff of the Harbinger. Keep up the great work! -Nicole

Vitals:

Top 5 bands:

- 1. Frank Sinatra
- 2. Pearl Jam
- 3. Creed
- 4. John Mayer
- 5. Weezer

Top 3 movies:

- 1.) Office Space
- 2.) Punch Drunk Love (now playing)
- 3.) There's Something About Mary

(Please note. The majority of movies will provide me with entertainments long, as it does not depict men or women as sex objects.)

And as for the results of last week's bout: Patrick vs. Sean... Patrick called Sean a Conan O'Brien lookalike, Sean ran crying from the room. The match is being rescheduled. As for Anthony vs. Kiel, two rounds into the match they agreed to set aside their differences and work towards their common goal of world domination.



photo by Kiel Cross

So now that it's my turn to be in the spotlight I find myself strangely reticent. Usually I am brimming over with things to say. But now... I better be good right? Since you sit precariously, hanging onto my every word of wisdom... Wisdom, do I really have any to impart? I know I think I do. I find that in coming back to college at the age of 30, I have a totally different perspective. At the age of 20 the point of college seemed to be to find the best bar with the cutest boys. Now, I have actually come to a place in my life where I can say I am happy to be here getting an education, bettering my life etc... Strange change of events...

I have a great amount of admiration for the members of the Harbinger staff because of their ability to write humorous and amusing anecdotes under pressure. I wish I could do that, but my attempts at witty literary humor tends to come out, well, corny on a good day and just lame on every other day. So you will find that I will deliver riveting, informative features and the occasional editorial, but despite the great enjoyment I take in humor of all sorts, I will leave the producing of it to, well, funnier people than I.

So does the part of the "dark knight" entail? I guess it means being deep, meaningful, and tortured. I can assure you with full confidence that despite my seemingly sunny demeanor, within me, exists a dark rebel soul ready to strike at the smallest provocation. My picture

shows me in front of a chessboard, and yes, I know how to play. In fact, at one point I might have even been considered good. Of course after I got married, my husband beat me at every chess game and now I don't play so much anymore. But I loved the game so much that while going to college in New York I actually decorated my room in a chessboard motif. I painted a big chessboard on the walls and a big red queen on the door (Oh God I think that makes me a chess geek).

I have soothed my spirit by assuring myself that although some of my interests may relegate me to geek-dom, surely my artistic side saves me from this most dreaded of fates. O.K., I'll stop being melodramatic now. I really don't take myself that seriously (anymore). So, what is my philosophy these days? Be as happy as you can without screwing anyone over and without being an immoral bastard (if possible). If to be happy, you need to be an immoral bastard, well, I don't know what to tell you.

Top 5 bands:

- U2
- Simon & Garfunkle
- David Bowie
- Rolling Stones
- Fleetwood Mac

Top 3 movies: Dangerous Liaisons, Elizabeth, Almost Famous

Introducing some new faces

By Charles
Caan

The Spring Semester, which left students quietly with most if not all their favorite faculty and staff retiring did not just leave mixed reaction but made many thinking of who is going to come next. The fall semester has however started with the introduction a new line of wonderful faculty and staff if not the best handling affairs and quickly filling all the vacancies. One such person is **Terry Lindsey, new Dean of Student Development.**

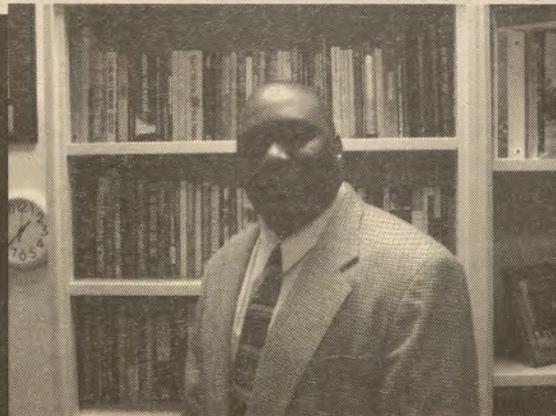
Prior to coming to Harper, Terry was in Iowa Wesleyan College, where he served as Associate Vice President and Dean of Student Life. With his rich experience with students from high school to college, Mr. Lindsey has enhanced the lives of many young people with support and encouragement. This is the kind of spirit he wants to inspire students with to be excited about the opportunities in Harper. Answering the question "what plans he has for Harper?," Terry expressed optimistically "for many of our student enjoy being

here, at Harper College and we want to provide every opportunity for our student to be successful, we want to see more students staying here and do a better job of having student complete the semester." He also went on to add that, he intends to make sure services and opportunities to students are of high quality and student centered. Mr. Lindsey is also excited about his team, and the wonderful ideas already coming up. In his bid to fulfill his dream, Terry intends to partner with both academic and non-academic staff to fully integrate his plan of action.

In the D-building is the new **Associate Dean for Multicultural Learning, Ms. Laura LaBauve-Maher.** Coming from a very diverse background, having lived the life of an international student and worked closely with the minorities as coordinator of Latino student business at Northwestern University, Ms. LaBauve-Maher believes in the academics with priority

in helping students succeed. "Personally, I can offer a lot of enthusiasm, great ear, big heart, listen to students and see their vision and side of things" said Laura in her beautiful Anglo-Spanish voice. She intends to work with students, staff and faculty, administration to build a very solid foundation and institutionalize the celebration of different cultures for all to participate.

Another new face is **Cyrus Johnson, new Coordinator for Student Affairs.** Mr. Johnson, a former programmer of Barat of DePaul university; intends to bring more diverse programs to the campus. "In our conscious efforts of bringing entertainers and groups to Harper," said Cyrus, "we also want to make sure we bring diversity within those programs as well, where, we celebrate all cultures on the campus." Cyrus is already excited in working with students of Harper College.



Terry Lindsey – Dean Of Student Development



Laura LaBauve-Maher – Associate Dean of Center for Multicultural Learning



Cyrus Johnson, new Coordinator for Student Affairs

A very belated story about Paris Combo

By Chardonde
Matthews

Yes, I know this article is a bit on the late side, but you know what they say. Better late than never! If you have ever heard of the group, Paris Combo, then you know what outstanding musicians they are....and if you haven't; then you better ask somebody!

Seriously, Paris Combo is one

of the BEST bands that I have ever heard. The band is made up of five members, four men and one woman; Potzi, Daniel Lewis, Mano Razanajato, Francois Francois, and Belle du Berry. The band was originally formed by Belle du Berry (lead singer) in the '90s, the band plays French music.

Most of the songs are about love and about women finding what they want out of their lives. They played at Harper College September 20th, 2002, however, they were to play at Harper College last year but sadly Sept. 11th happened and they were unable to make an appearance at the college.

Now, I have never listened to French music, other than the songs form Moulin Rouge, so I had my doubts but Paris Combo blew away every doubt that I had. The concert proved to be delightful in every aspect of the word. The crowd was

singing along, dancing in the aisles (some to the beat of their own drum), and a good time was had by all. Although I didn't understand the words in the songs, for I speak no French, I found the songs to be inspiring. One song called, "LIVING-ROOM" was translated for me; here are the first two verses of the song (for those who are French illiterate as I am): "We are all born of love in old countries. Where only old, very old apes are sitting. At controls of our liberty, At the joystick of our integrity. So, let's punch each other on the nose. That always makes them laugh. Come on, let's fight amongst ourselves. That never fails to make them big money. When they sell us the knives, And unhealthy ideas. So our little lives are buried, Under the violence and the hate...." The song is easy enough to understand and relate to, for it talks about every-

day life, about how people treat each other. However, and I must stress this, I don't understand the eighth verse. It says, "That's why, when you think about it, We have become elephants. Gnu, giraffes and orangutans-. In our reserves, under surveillance." Don't get me wrong, I love the song, I just don't understand the correlation between people and the animals. Other than the symbolism of humanity and animalism, the songs sang by Belle, brought laughter and joy to my heart.

And I am forever a fan of Paris Combo.

If you want to hear more music by Paris Combo, the band has a cd out now at stores called, "Paris Combo Attraction." With such songs as Danse de Esprits, Pourquoi Vaches?, Ubiquite, Avril and much much more! Pick up your copy now, trust me, you WON'T be disappointed.

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PAGE 13

It's not just a kid's holiday any more... Sean Kelly shows how Harper students can celebrate Halloween with a vengeance

B before A: low-budget horror tops Halloween entertainment

Halloween is not a time to watch "Halloween." For one thing, Blockbuster isn't too likely to have it, and for another, the movie's too good. "Scream?" Too slick. "The Exorcist?" Too much downtime. "The Shining?" The book's scarier than that movie in broad daylight. So when you're at the video rental store, wondering why twenty-two-year-olds can't go trick-or-treating, what type of film should you look at to occupy your time?

The bad ones.

The really, really bad ones.

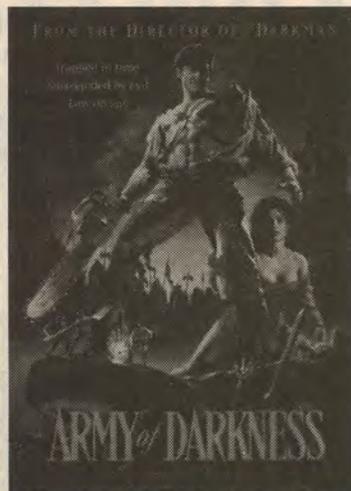
We're not talking about "B" movies here, we're talking about the "C" films, or even a "D" if you can find it. Because it's the bad films that equal real entertainment value.

Take, for example, a rather thought-provoking case study on the work conditions in the world of carnival entertainment throughout the milky way. I'm referring, of course, to "Killer Clowns From Outer Space." Not only will this story of galaxy-hopping Pennywise protégés make you jump, but you also get to laugh at a Big Top spaceship, cotton candy cocoons, and a man getting a hand rammed into his back, turning him into a makeshift ventriloquist's dummy. Never again will you think about shadow puppets the same way. This movie is available on DVD,

I kid you not.

Also on DVD is the long-lost, recently re-discovered cult classic, "Incubus." It features all the staples of an instant classic: gorgeous blondes, demonic possession, a low budget, and... William Shatner speaking in tongues. This is the first and only movie ever filmed entirely in the invented language of "Esperanto," and it actually sounds pretty chilling when you watch it with the lights off. The cinematographer went on to win Oscars for films like "American Beauty." And you get to read about the "Curse of the Incubus," in the special features portion, which tells of how the curse doomed many cast members to an untimely death, and William Shatner to a lifetime languishing in Star Trek conventions lamenting his lost hair. If you like "The Twilight Zone," you'll love this.

And, finally- (insert angelic choral music here) the holy trinity of horror movies: "The Evil Dead," "Evil Dead II," and "Army of Darkness." Please tell me you've seen these. This series was the inspiration for such flops as "Idle Hands," and video game characters like "Duke Nukem." It chronicles the tale of Ash, your mild-mannered college student type, who typically gets together with his friends in a cabin in the woods in hopes of getting laid,



Courtesy of Anchor Bay

but instead accidentally reads from the Book of the Dead and gets his girlfriend and all his buddies possessed by demons. Kind of like your weekend, but with worse acting. Over the course of the movies, the situations get zanier and the budget gets higher, and cult hero Bruce Campbell starts taking out the denizens of the underworld with a chainsaw hand and a double-barreled Remington.

Pointing out plot holes is half the fun, and though you and your friends with have no end of fun reaming these movies, when you're done these cinematic gems will have taken up a special place in your heart. And when you turn the lights off later, you'll discover they've also taken up real estate in your nightmares.

It comes every year, lurking in the shadows of October (or, sometimes early november,) bringing with it the potential for a speedy death for all those who look upon it.

I'm speaking, of course, of "The Simpson's Treehouse of Horror" special, which promises the possibility that the viewer could die laughing. Even though there has been a marked decline in the quality of "The Simpsons" over the years, the Halloween special remains the highlight of the holiday, for

"Simpsons" aficionados and horror buffs alike.

Who can forget the time Homer sold his soul for a donut? Or when they moved into a new house where the walls bleed (and rather than thinking it frightening, Bart thought it was cool and tried to coax the house into doing it more often). Or the episode where Groundskeeper Willy got an axe to the back, over and over and over?

If you have no clue what I'm talking about, fear not: in the weeks surrounding Halloween, the fun begins in re-runs (in the smartest move ever, Fox runs the Simpsons three times a day) where you're bound to see every single one of the previous twelve Halloween specials.

The older ones start out with

Marge telling the audience to send their children to bed, as the show is far too scary for youngin's to watch. This in itself is hilarious, because at the time the Simpsons had been under fire for being a bad show for children to watch. This sequence is followed by three Halloween-themed stories, typically based off of classic and recent horror films ("The Shining," and "I Know What

You Did Last Summer" come to mind) or things like classic episodes of "The Twilight Zone."

I promise you you won't be frightened. But as you watch, you may feel your air supply getting cut off, as you'll be laughing too hard to breathe. So on Sunday, watch what should be a yearly tradition.

D'oh!
Simpsons Halloween special is the highlight of the year

Top Ten Costumes For Harper Students

10. Death (most effective at nursing homes)
9. Striking teacher
8. Doesn't matter, just go trick or treating at midnight the day before Halloween. It's much more fun.
7. Eminem (they try to dress like him anyway)
6. Speed Racer (just ask Public Safety)
5. Candy Inspector (hey, kids, let me check that candy)
4. Spooky Mr. Give-me-the-damn-candy-and-I'll-go-away
3. Billy Corrigan of Smashing Pumpkins
2. Harbinger Reporter (yeah, right)
1. I-just-woke-up-man

Top Ten Things Stephen King has made us afraid of (besides thousand-page books):

10. Hotels (The Shining)
9. Small children (The Shining, It, Salem's Lot)
8. Pet cemeteries (Pet Sematery)
7. Classic cars (Christine)
6. St. Bernards (Cujo)
5. Vampires in Maine (Salem's Lot)
4. New England (All of his books)
3. High school girls (Carrie)
2. Novelists (The Dark Half, It, basically all of them)
1. CLOWNS! Oh, dear God, CLOWNS!!! (It)

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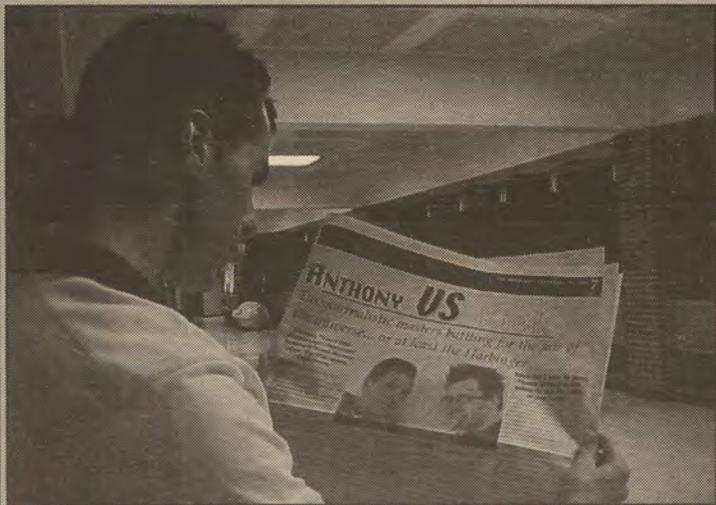
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the BACK PAGE

THANKS FOR READING! BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR NEXT ISSUE, COMING TO YOU ON NOVEMBER 11, 2002!

Anthony McGinn- Editor-in-Chief

Can I Borrow a feeling?



I could not believe what I was hearing. I thought I must be on "Candid Camera," or "The Jamie Kennedy Experiment." This could never happen inside a real classroom setting, right?

Inside a full lecture hall, an adjunct faculty member who was supposed to be teaching Psychology, lectured the class about school busses.

For over forty-five minutes, he told the class about the intricacies of school busses. How he had purchased a school bus and named it "the cool bus," and how he sleeps inside the "cool bus."

At the end of class there were hidden cameras, no controlled group of students, and no "smile, your on candid camera."

I started thinking, during the strike, when the administration said they would continue classes with adjunct faculty members, how did this guy rate? What if he were one of the better ones? Frightening.

At that moment, it hit me. I have been taking the full time faculty for granite all these years. So let me say from the bottom of my heart, to all full time the faculty members, welcome back.

Overcoming obstacles:

Okay, issue #1 was too big. Issue #2 was too late. If nursery rhymes have any social value instilled within them, then I can safely conclude that issue #3 to be just right.

Lack of communication:

During the strike, I had the unfortunate experience of talking to students who claimed to feel "helpless" through that ordeal.

I do not want any student at this college to every have that feeling of helplessness again.

There is a place, right here on campus for students to voice opinions, vent frustrations and express anger.

That place, right here, inside the pages of the Harbinger newspaper. This paper is not confined for the used f the staff. I encourage all students to use to use this paper as a vehicle of self expression.

Contact us through any means which you feel comfortable. Send an email to Harpernews@yahoo.com, stop by the office, room A367 to chat, slide a letter under the door.

If you do get lonely on a Friday night, give us a call. (847) 925-6460 odds are someone will be there wasting away their precious youth. Chances are it's Sean pining over his girlfriend who's away at state school, or Patrick pining over the girlfriend who conveniently remains unseen and unnamed.

One student should never feel silenced, and if you take advantage of the dedication this paper has for you, you never will be.

Also, we are still in need of more journalist and cartoonists. If you are interested in any of these tasks please call the office at 847-925-6460.

New for November- *watch for this hot stuff*

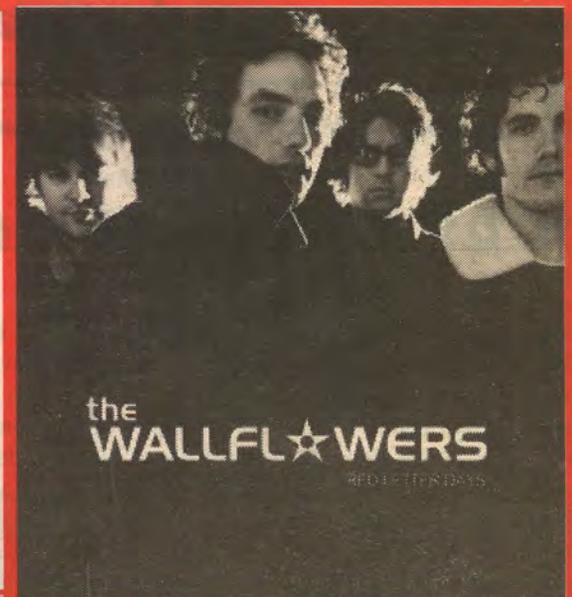
November 5

The Wallflowers Red Letter Days

The new Wall flowers Album, "Red Letter Days" This is the the bands first album after 2000's commercial flop, "Breach."

It appears the Dylan has stepped away from acoustic albums, by bringing in hard rocking lead guitarist, Mike McCready of Pearl Jam.

If McCready's guitar can give the Wallflowers a harder edge, it should pull them out of rock star purgatory.



November 8

8-mile

The highly anticipated Eminem bio-pic opens on November 8.

This film has already been praised by critics and has been called, "The 'Rocky' for the next generation.

Kim Basinger plays the role of Eminem's mother and Britany Murphy as the loveable Kim.



November 12

Pearl Jam

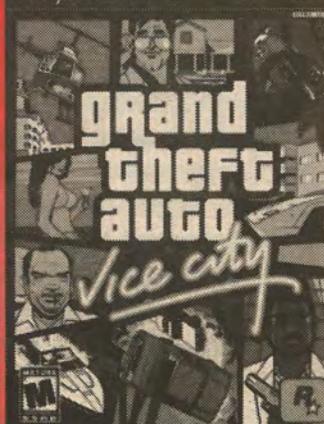
"Riot act"

The most anticipated album of the year finally arrives! Early reviews promise that "Riot Act" is Pearl Jam at their hardest, darkest and best.

Look for a full review of "Riot Act in the next issue of "The Harbinger."



PlayStation 2



Available Now

Grand Theft Auto: Vice City

The follow up to the instant classic "Grand Theft Auto 3" hit the shelves on October 29. Already labeled as the most violent video game of all time. That is good news for adolescent males, but bad news for disgruntled parents.

If you can find this game sitting on the shelves, consider yourself lucky. Even if you don't like the game, you can sell it on Ebay for a lot more than you paid for it.