

AIDS quilt to be displayed at Harper March 1994

The Names Project AIDS quilt will be on display at Harper Wednesday, March 16 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. in Building A.

The quilt was started in 1985 by AIDS activist Cleve Jones, who wanted to find a way to convey to the public the vast loss America has experienced at the hands of the deadly AIDS virus, and at the same time, memorialize the many who have died from HIV-related diseases.

The idea has been graciously accepted by thousands of family members and friends of AIDS victims, who design individual panels commemorating their loved ones with names, personal belongings, symbols, and sayings that they are remembered by, embossed on a variety of fabrics.

Each 6-by-3-foot panel is then sent to the project's headquarters in San Francisco, where it is added to a large 16-panel square, ready to be displayed in sections around the nation, in hopes of raising both

money and public consciousness about AIDS.

When the entire quilt was first shown at the Gay and Lesbian Rights March in Washington in 1987, it consisted of just under 2,000 panels. Since then, the number of panels has dramatically increased, accurately reflecting the progression of the AIDS epidemic in America.

“Since 1987, the number of panels has dramatically increased, accurately reflecting the progression of the AIDS epidemic in America...”

The quilt is rarely shown in its entirety anymore, due to its size. The squares are made so that reassembly is possible in order for the different sections to be displayed all around the United States.

Volunteers are needed to help with security, monitoring and folding of the quilt. If students are interested, there is a mandatory volunteer training session on Friday, March 4, from 1:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. in

Room A242. For more information, students can contact Mike Nejman at ext. 6242.

Every American should take the opportunity to view the quilt: to see the grief and the love that has been artistically projected into each panel, and to witness for themselves how so many have come together to mourn and remember those who have fallen victim to the tragic AIDS virus.

—by Angela Williamson

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From the Desk of Dr. Hull: Items FYI

Honors Committee News:

During Faculty Orientation Week, the Honors Committee met with vice president Ed Dolan to discuss the National Collegiate Honors Council's Report on the visit of an evaluation team to Harper's campus last spring and to learn Dr. Dolan's views on the place of Honors at Harper. He spoke of his attendance at the NCHC meeting last fall as "very educational." We were all delighted to hear him affirm his belief that Harper's Honors Program should continue to be an integral part of our comprehensive community college and his pride in the program to date. We also discussed the future of the program and ways the committee and Dr. Dolan want to see it develop and continue to evolve.

• One of the most urgent ongoing concerns is dedicated space for the program. The committee is pursuing several options in this regard. By the time you read this, our new Honors/Phi Theta Kappa office in Building L may already be occupied. Drop by and say hello. You may be pleasantly surprised. Larry Kent and I will be right across the hall, in the office dedicated to our teaching duties.

• Another suggestion from Dr. Dolan concerns the idea of a capstone "portfolio" from the classes taken for students seeking Honors graduation. Although it is customary in making changes to program requirements to "grandfather" those already admitted under previous rules,

current students probably would be able to choose whether they want to meet any new requirements. This concept and the logistics of how it should be administered and judged will be discussed at several Honors Committee meetings this spring before any changes are made, but if you have any responses you'd like to share on the idea, please convey them to Terri Ellis and Patty Vais, your student representatives to the committee.

• At the Jan. 31 meeting of the Honors Committee, attending members heard an oral presentation of a proposal from Barbara Radebaugh for an Honors Management 111 to be offered in fall 1994. (Professor Radebaugh would have had her written proposal ready to present, but the violent weather played havoc with her computer.) MGT 111 fits into category V (life skills) for General Education requirements for both the A.A. and A.S. degrees. The full schedule of Honors course offerings for fall should be available in the next issue of the *Challenger*.

Another result of the NCHC meeting: I have just made arrangements to lead a "brown bag lunch" discussion on Thursday, March 24, 12:15 to 1:30 p.m., in Room A242a, on the topic, "Writing Effective Letters of Recommendation." It is primarily for faculty, but students are certainly welcome. This idea came out of one of the seminars I attended at NCHC last fall, given by the Harry S. Truman Scholarship

Foundation. As part of the discussion, the HST representative told of the kinds of poor letters of recommendation that might cause a candidate to be rejected.

• Although I want to pass along his comments and some experience of my own, I don't envision this brown bag lunch as myself teaching everyone else; rather, I would like to have the attendees share ideas and discuss any differences of opinion as to what works and what does not. If you find yourself in a position to write or evaluate letters of recommendation in your foreseeable future—this applies especially to anyone majoring in business, social services, nursing, and education, as well as many other fields—you may contribute to the dialogue.

The Directory: Please check your entry in the enclosed Honors Directory of members for spring 1994 and report any errors or changes to me so we can publish updates in subsequent issues of the *Challenger*.

Meetings, meetings, meetings: There's still time if you would like to attend the HCIR meeting at NIU in DeKalb March 25-26. For those who wish to stay overnight, dorm accommodations can be arranged for Friday evening, but the sooner you let me know, the better. If you're considering a transfer to Northern, this is an opportunity to check out the campus while you're attending the meeting.

• Gayle Corcoran, Pat Fitz-
(*"From the Desk" continued on page 3*)

"From the Desk"

continued from page 2

Fitzsimmons and I are planning to attend the Phi Theta Kappa meeting at Anaheim the weekend of April 7-10.

• Ceil Cooper and Rhea Dawson are planning to attend with students from their Honors classes and make presentations at the UMHC meeting at the University of Wisconsin in Oshkosh April 21-23. We also invite any other Honors students, faculty or committee members who would like to come along, even if you do not want to make a presentation.

• April 18 is the deadline for proposals for the NCHC program next fall (Oct. 27-30) in San Antonio. You can go whether you make a presentation or not, but early planning is a good idea. Come talk to me if you're interested.

AAWCC comes to Harper:

After many years of false starts, we have established a local chapter of an organization focusing on special areas of concern to women of the Harper College Community: the American Association for Women in Community Colleges. Membership in the Harper chapter of AAWCC is open to everyone on campus, including administrators, faculty, staff, and students—and men as well as women. (Harper College president Paul Thompson is a long-time member of the national organization.) Honors student Shabana Jameel served on the steering committee which wrote the by-laws for our campus, and Bonnie Jones is serving on the Board of Directors this spring. I have been elected as vice presi-

dent of communication and will work with another director, Sheila Quirk of Corporate Services, and several of the Honors students who have taken the sources reports to me, chaired by Karen Steltman of the LRC. She is setting up files in the library of organizations which address women's concerns, upcoming conferences dedicated to women's issues and other timely articles of particular relevance to women. So far, no students serve on her committee, which is charged with finding ways to publicize the very fluid collection of resources to anyone on campus who might want the information. If you'd like to get

involved, contact Karen or me.

In case you want to see another side of me: Last but certainly not least, I have been asked to speak at two libraries in the area this spring on the subject of combining writing and a career. This is a bit of a twist on the cliched question, "Can she (they never ask it of a *him*, do they?) combine marriage and a career?" If you'd like to hear me talk and answer questions, please come Thursday, March 10, at the Arlington Heights Library, or Wednesday, April 20, at the Morton Grove Library, both evenings at 8 p.m.

—Dr. Betty Hull

An Invitation from the Editors

We want the Challenger to be a forum for your ideas and experiences. Please share a bit of yourself with others by submitting articles, letters to the editors, cartoons, short fiction, poetry or artwork to us for publication. Drop your contributions in our box in the Journalism office, A379, or mail them to the following address:

*Lisa McBride
Challenger Staff
2202 Kingfisher Lane
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008*

The Honors Society can't respond to your needs unless you speak up and let us know you are out there! Don't be shy. Get involved today. Even if you can't participate in classes or activities, the Challenger offers you a chance to do something.

Diversity adds spice to Honors Society

Students in our Honors Society at Harper range in age from recent high school graduates still in their teens, to men and women in their thirties, forties and beyond. Some of us take Honors courses regularly. Others limit their involvement to reading the *Challenger* once a month. Various members attend weekly meetings and participate in activities and fundraisers as their busy schedules allow. But whatever your age or interests, whatever your schedule, the Honors Society can play a special role in your life.

At first glance, the great diversity among Harper Honors students might seem to be a problem. After all, how can one program possibly meet the needs of all of these different people? Dr. Betty Hull, the director of the Honors Society, disagrees. She explains that, because Harper doesn't currently have a large ethnic, racial or socio-economic diversity, the age variance among members provides one of the few areas where we have an opportunity for variety. Without this diversity, there would be little chance for members to

be exposed to new outlooks and observations. By being a part of a small class or by being involved in activities, Honors students have a chance to relate to one another and to share their varied perspectives.

But what do you want from your Honors Society? Why did you join and what kind of interests and experiences can you bring to others? An informal phone sampling revealed some interesting insights into our diverse group.

ferent experience. He first joined the Honors Society so he could include it on his resumé. Although he would like to be involved, he hasn't been able to take any Honors classes because he hasn't found any he needed that were offered at a time he could attend. (This seemed to be a fairly common complaint.)

Debbie Maday, 20, was just accepted into Harper's Nursing Program. She took Honors MTH-120 and found it to be very interesting and challenging. She

pace of Honors classes and says she got to know the other students in her Honors Geology class much better than she would have in a regular classroom setting. However, as a voice major, she has had great difficulty finding Honors classes that fulfill her requirements.

Nancy Moczisko is 35. She recently joined the Honors Society because she thought the classes sounded interesting. She works fulltime, however, so she hasn't had an opportunity to enroll in any Honors

"Without diversity there would be little chance for members to be exposed to new outlooks and observations."

Rhonda Lawson is probably one of the youngest Honors Society members at age 17. She says she didn't even know Harper had an Honors program until an admissions counselor suggested she join. She has taken several Honors classes and says she really enjoys the smaller class size and the in-depth discussions.

Jeffrey Kirsch, 21, has had a somewhat dif-

ferent point that since Harper is a commuter school it is difficult to get people involved in programs on campus. However, she felt it was worth the extra effort.

Wendy Martinez, 21, was in the gifted program in elementary and secondary school, so it was natural for her to choose the Honors Society at Harper. She likes the accelerated learning

courses yet.

Kay Herzog is another non-traditional student. She says she joined the Honors Society because she wanted to be involved with other Honors students. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the president of BASIC (Brothers and Sisters in Christ).

Sherry DeWald joined the Honors Society ("Diversity" cont. on page 5)

"Diversity"

continued from page 4

ety so she could take the independent studies journalism course on newsletters. She now writes regularly for the *Daily Herald*, so her journalism courses at Harper must have paid off.

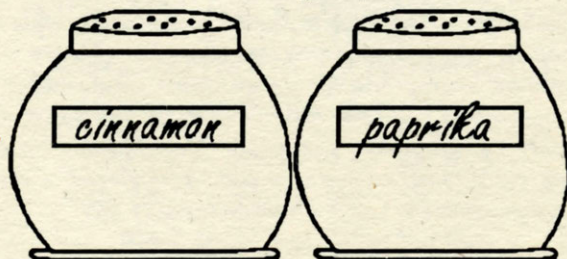
Pat Fitzsimmons, 48, was the president of the Honors Society during the 1992-93 school year. Initially, she joined the Honors Society out of curiosity and a belief that she couldn't help but benefit from the smaller classes and quality instruction. A dynamic leader, Fitzsimmons really put her heart and soul into building the Honors program last year.

John Wiese is 51 years old. He already has a master's degree, but he attends Harper because he loves learning. One reason he joined the Honors Society was because he wanted to challenge his children, who are also attending college. He has been unable to take any Honors courses due to his work schedule, but he expressed his appreciation for the monthly newsletter.

The members of the Honors Society vary in age, experience and interests. Each student has his or her own story and agenda. Every person I spoke with was actively involved with life and had something interesting to tell me. I encourage every one of you to participate in the Honors Society and flavor your own college experience with the spice of associating with other Honors students.

—by Lisa R. McBride

The Honors Society Spice Rack



Letter to the Editors

To the editors:

I chose the honors program because I like the challenge and also because the time it offered the psychology course fit in my schedule.

I am taking a couple of classes at Harper because I need to fulfill some humanities requirements. After that I will complete my B.S. degree in Biochemistry from the University of Illinois.

I aim to pursue another degree after completion of my Biochemistry degree. I would like to contribute to the areas of medicine and international law.

Among extracurricular activities I enjoy tennis, racquetball, chess and hiking. In 1989 I took part in a 15-mile hike of the Grand Canyon.

I also enjoy writing poetry on occasion. The following is an example of how I once took advantage of February 14.

"On Valentine's Day"

*A rose is a rose is a rose
And love is but a rose in repose
Blossoming amidst the thorn
Like hope in lives all torn
Yet I offer you a carnation
With my courage and motivation
Easily scattered in the brink
Of a blooming bright red rose
Which may strike an eternal pose
In your most desirable part
In the blossoms of your heart*

Mansoor Hussaini
Psychology 101

Share your poetry, prose, opinion or artwork with the other Honors Society members in this space. See page 3.

Are you sure about your career choice?

“... get a clear picture of your own interests, needs and goals...”

People spend one-third of their lives at work. And work has a great impact on every aspect of life. Therefore, career choice is a very important decision. Not many of us, however, realize that whatever choice we make now will have a major impact on our future. If we do not make the right choice, we could either suffer or come back to school again. But do we really want to take that risk?

In the book *Psychology of Adjustment*, Paul S. Kaplan and J. Stein wrote that career choice is influenced by many factors including socioeconomic status, intelligence, school achievement, family background, gender and personal interest. Many of those factors are beyond our control but some crucial ones lie in our hands. The most important one is that we do not have enough knowledge about many areas in life. In the article “Thinking clearly about career choices,” Irving L. Janis and D. Wheeler show that vocational choice is often rather haphazard.

Our interest in something comes when we get good grades in school or we are encouraged by an authority figure. But this could be misleading in our career

choice. We also have a tendency to stick with what we already know and are afraid to explore other fields. We do not want to take a risk for fear of failure. But how do we know what is best for us if we do not try.

Another factor that influences our career decision is pressure from the family. Very often parents want their children to fulfill the parents’ dreams or continue the family business and tradition. This pressure has a great impact on our decision making, but not many of us realize that. Some students succumb to the pressure rather than seeking their own path. Others, however, go against their parents’ wishes even though their suggestion could be the right one.

We see many people at Harper College who come back to school because of failure in their career choice. But there are many others who went in the wrong direction and tolerate career dissatisfaction because they cannot afford to or do not have enough courage to come back to school.

If we want to avoid a poor choice we should make very careful, informed decisions about our vocational choice. We should first gain an accurate understanding of various occupations, and second, get a clear picture of our own interests, needs and goals.

Harper College provides students with the opportunity to make a wise choice. At the campus Career Center (A347) students can take a battery of tests and obtain counseling to clarify where best to direct their career ambitions.

If you have any doubt about your choice, do not wait until it is too late and find out about your real interests because your job will be a major part of your life.

—by Anna Kuzniar

Challenger

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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. 6561. Written material should be placed in the Challenger box in the Journalism office, A379.

Society members question own apathy

At 3:05, Dr. Elizabeth Hull decides to start the Feb. 2 meeting of the Honors Society. Present are Dr. Hull, Vice President Larry S. Vais, and me, a newcomer to the Society. The topic for the day, "Apathy," was decided at the previous meeting, and somehow, it seemed to fit.

There are around 200 members of the Society, but only three bothered to show up for the second meeting of the semester.

Sure, the weather was bad, but it seems that this problem has been here for quite awhile. As three other members (two of them officers) trickled in, the discussion seemed to come alive.

"We call it apathy, but I don't think that's the right word," Dr. Hull commented as to the correct diagnosis of the low turn-out at meetings problem. She felt that those who are apathetic become "disengaged in life. They lose interest in things people are normally interested in." She gave the examples of going out and generally making oneself presentable.

So Honors Society members are not apathetic, but they are definitely indifferent when it comes to meetings.

The idea of boredom as the reason was addressed. Vais challenged those who took the stand that meetings were uninteresting. "Come make them more enjoyable."

Also discussed at the meeting were two new topics for the semester: "Academic Honesty" and "Grade Inflation." Those two discussions, planned for late March/early April, should be interesting.

After sitting through the meeting, which lasted an hour and a half, I felt that it is definitely the type of forum for someone who likes to voice his opinions. Meetings are also good for those who like to learn about other viewpoints and those who sim-

ply enjoy observing others' behaviors, especially when impassioned by a topic. (Psych & sociology majors, maybe this could be a learning experience for you!)

I'm not saying that these meetings are perfectly great with no room for improvement. After discussing my experience

with a fellow honors society member who has attended meetings in the past, we came up with some ideas to liven up meetings. Speakers and experiments could add depth to the topic as well as make it more visually interesting.

My advice to those who have gone once and never returned is not to give up after one meeting. Give it another shot; add your ideas!

As Dr. Hull said, part of your college education is outside of class, even though you are not being graded. Experiences like those that can be had at an Honors Society meeting will change your life by "making you see the world in a different way."

-by Michelle Knapp

"Come make them more enjoyable."
—Larry S. Vais

Upcoming topics for discussion at Society meetings

March 2—Marriage Agreements

March 9—Materialism

March 16—Jury System

March 23—Academic Honesty

April 6—Grade Inflation

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.

"Detailed Attention"

*At fourteen I learned to sew
My mother taught me.
Despite her disapproval I chose a Vogue pattern -
Simplicity simply would not do.
She sighed, then said to pay attention.
She showed me how to pin the tissue paper pieces
One by one. Painstakingly
Against the miles of dark and shimmery cloth.
With a surgeon's skillful hand she cut them out.
She told me to follow the directions
Precisely. She told me to press open the seams
After I had stitched them. She told me that
If I made a mistake I should go back
And fix it right away. "Pay attention to the details."*

*I tried to do as she said
But I chafed at the tedious pace.
Like a thoroughbred impatient for the finish line
I raced blindly. Those dull and deadly details
Were a crushing weight upon my back.
My anxious foot pressed heavily against the pedal.
The ancient sewing machine roared to life. Hungry.
My fingers pushed frantically at the cloth
As I rushed to feed the soft mounds into its gaping jaws.
Haphazardly suturing the edges she had cleanly sliced.
The mangy creature growled and grumbled,
Resenting my inexperienced touch.*

*Finally it was finished. I trembled in anticipation
As I slipped the silky folds against my skin.
Disappointment. The mirror stood at attention
Faithfully reflecting the details.
The dress seemed to lean one way
And I another.
Buttons staggered drunkenly down the
Slick black slope of my body.
Sloppy seams. Crooked hem. Darts and pleats awry.
Flaccid white collar - fat and limp,
Looked nothing like its stiff soldierly counterpart
Which stood smartly at the neck of the paper girl
In the pattern book.
"No, no, no," my mother clucked.
A plump brown hen. She tried to fix it,
Make it better. But it was too late.
The details weren't paying attention.*

—by Lisa R. McBride

Phi Theta Kappa needs volunteers for Environmental Expo

"The Delicate Balance: Our Planet-Our People" is the theme for Phi Theta Kappa's 1994 Spring Environmental Exposition.

The condition of our planet is the concern of all people. That is what makes this event so important—through the Environmental Exposition we can learn what each of us can do toward the betterment of our world. The Environmental Exposition will feature six guest speakers and a keynote speaker to be announced.

In addition, many environmental groups such as The Sierra Club, Earth Watch Chicago, and Blue Skies Market will have information tables and displays set up for the day. Area elementary schools will be participating in an environmental poster contest, and all of the local high schools have been invited.

This year's expo is being held in conjunction with Harper's Community Day, so there will be a lot of activity on campus. The day promises to be educational and entertaining. Please make an effort to attend—for yourself and for future generations.

*—Gayle L Corcoran
President, Phi Phi Chapter
Phi Theta Kappa*

P.S. Volunteers are needed—either for the day of the expo or in other areas of involvement. Please give Gayle a call if you can help.