

# the Harbinger

Volume 35 Issue 2 October 14, 2002

# HARPER FACULTY GOES ON STRIKE

## Faculty walks out, both sides vent anger, no end in sight

By Anthony McGinn

No event in the 37-year history of Harper College has had this magnitude of catastrophic potential. At 6 am, October 9, the faculty senate union went on strike, forcing the cancellation of all credited classes.

Faculty members picketed the Euclid, Roselle and Algonquin entrances to the campus, displaying signs that pleaded for unity.

"This is my worst nightmare come true," said faculty grievance officer Patty Ferguson. "I did not want to participate in a walkout."

Harper College President Dr. Robert Breuder expressed his thoughts on the strike during a speech held four hours after it began.

"I wish this was non-existent. Our college has been corrupted...The longer (the strike) continues, the more painful it becomes for all of us. Even when the issue is settled, this institution will have been scarred long term and it takes a long time for those scars to go away."

Those scars have already



Getting cars to honk to show their support, the teachers continue to picket through day two.

Photo By Patrick Andrews

begun to scab. Faculty members on the picket line, who wish to remain anonymous, have said, "the strike has soured (our) perspective of this institution and has made (us) seriously question returning to Harper to teach."

With no negotiation sessions scheduled in the near future, no end to the strike is in sight. And the faculty insists it will not back down.

"We will stay out (on the picket lines) until we get what we want," says Jim Edstrom, faculty senate negotiator.

The faculty wants a salary increase that is "equitable" on their terms and that covers their health insurance cost.

The administration claims that this is not possible due to a 46.1 percent increase in rates from Blue Cross/Blue Shield health-care.

"Right now 14.6 percent of companies have had to stop providing health care insurance

because the rates got too high," says Breuder. "I don't want that to happen to our faculty."

According to the administration, Harper will be making about \$752,000 this year. And for an institution the size of Harper College that is not enough.

Breuder related the recent negotiations to buying a car. "Let's say you have X amount of dollars in your bank account and you have your eye on the most expensive car in the lot. No matter how badly you want that car it does not change the amount of money

in your bank account.

"I would like to give everybody more money, but Harper must live within its financial means we are already giving 81 percent of our budget to salary and benefits...and we have raised an additional 4 million from non-traditional methods. What more can we do?"

"The administration has the money," says Edstrom. "There is a 52 million dollar surplus in an education fund. Harper is the richest community college in the state. Nobody can tell me we should be ranked 6th in salary amongst other community college teachers in the state. That's obscene."

Breuder has said the 52 million-dollar surplus cannot be used to fund the teachers. "We have nothing to hide," Breuder says. "In fact, you can contact Judy Theroson and she will provide you with all the information you want about Harper's bank accounts."

Breuder has been justifying his stance on the negotiations with the rationale that all employees are equal.

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NEWS

**STRIKE**

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"I have said this time and time again, and I will not sway from it for one moment. Everybody at Harper is equally important. You do not take general or clinical services off line and generate this institution.

"Every employee who works here is pivotal to making this house run; and as long as I am president, every employee group will be treated equally in terms of salary and benefits. And I will hold on to that at all costs."

When the faculty questioned Breuder's 5 percent pay increase for next year, he said, "I am get-

ting the same exact thing you are."

"That's not exactly true," says Edstrom. "A 5 percent increase for Dr. Breuder is more than \$9,000. A 5 percent increase for the faculty is about \$3,000."

As the tension continues to mount between both sides, Breuder has been constantly reassuring students that they are at the center of the college's attention. "My sympathy truly goes out to the students. They are the ones who suffer the most."

The faculty, however, suggests that Breuder's compassion is nothing more than a public relations act.

"All you have to do is look at the two new buildings," says Edstrom. "First the administra-

tion has spent a huge sum of money to luxuriously furnish the conference center. It has lavish offices and dining rooms and flat screen, plasma TV's.

"The performing arts center intended for students has absolutely nothing inside. Now what does that tell you about the principles of the administration?"

"The faculty has been working without a contract since August 20, because we feel it is important to maintain a good relationship with students."

Breuder fired back at the faculty by stating, "I don't understand how someone who claims to have the students at their center of attention can refuse to work."

Students have begun voicing

opinions of their own. Administration supporter Peter D'agistino says, "There is no money in teaching. People who want wealth and power should not be in the teaching business. I want a teacher who is dedicated to educate me, not dedicated to being the highest paid in the state."

Faculty senate union supporter Rana Raenchle says, "You cannot tell me things are equal when Breuder gets a \$15,000 a year allowance that no other faculty member gets. Or a \$2,500 a year allowance, for his wife's expenses that no faculty member's spouse get.

Unfortunately for students, it does not appear that a resolution will occur any time soon. The

faculty senate will not even return to the negotiating table until more money is offered.

"The faculty should not be picketing," said Breuder. "They should be negotiating."

"The administration knows where to find us," said Edstrom.

"They certainly saw us when they crossed the picket lines today."

When asked how long the administration would allow the strike to continue, Breuder responded, "Until the faculty decides to come back."

With no negotiations scheduled, it could be quite some time before students receive the education they deserve.

**Strike countered by students** *By Georgia Latta*

The teachers' chant I heard as I pulled out of Harper's parking lot went something like: "Roses are red, violets are blue, the teacher's are right, the students are too." And in direct contrast, a group of student protesters sang chants such as; "What about us?", "Education first!", "Stop the strike", and "Build bridges not walls!"

In running the numbers, the difference between the teacher's and administrations proposed salary resolution over a five-year period is negligible. So then what are the issues? Health insurance?

Class cutbacks? Increasing administration and decreasing educators?

It seems that in the eyes of the educators and administration, we as the students at Harper have all but disappeared from the picture. After all, a college is in the business of educating, but the needs of the students do not seem to have been taken into consideration.

Based on the numbers, it would appear that the administration has the financing to keep the educators happy, but they seem unwilling to give in to the teach-



Under the stern gaze of William Rainey Harper, students attempt to forge a protest of their own. The students hope to spur into action more talks between faculty and administration.

Photo By Georgia Latta

ers' demands.

If the strike continues everyone loses. The students are no exception.

The question on the mind of

the student body is, "If the strike continues, what happens to me, will I get my money back?"

So today, while the faculty walked the picket lines, and

blocked entrances into the parking lot, a small group of students gathered on the quad to form a protest.

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**the Harbinger**

Harper College's Premier news publication

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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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# THE LINES ARE DRAWN: ONE STRIKE, THREE SIDES, ONE DEBATE

The following columns are the opinions of their respective writers, and do not necessarily represent the positions of the parties they are speaking of, or the Harbinger staff as a whole. As always, we urge the reader to make up his or her own mind.

## ADMINISTRATION:

By Patrick Andrews

As I attempted to pull into Harper via Algonquin road on Wednesday, October 9, 2002, my path was blocked by a long line of striking teachers, many of which carried signs denoting the news I spent the better part of the previous night hoping would not come.

A small woman shouted into a megaphone. Her words were unintelligible due to her being less than five feet from the open window of my car.

It struck me at that moment, these were the professionals that had been, for the last three semesters, educating me and preparing me for life.

I looked out at the professors, simultaneously chanting in street language, and acting, not as educated scholars that hold the future of the free world on their shoulders, but simply as a mob of angry men and women whose minds seem free of the weight of professional responsibility.

Is it a coincidence that, though the Faculty had the option to strike on August 15, they held off until 10 days before midterms, when students may no longer receive a refund for cancelled credit classes?

Our teachers claim to think "only of the future." However, they have asked that the Board of Trustees tap into funds set aside for construction in order to allow larger raises.

If the Board were to do this, Harper College would lack the money needed to complete construction projects, as well as expand the campus due to inflated attendance.

### A hungry animal does not eat its own legs.

All schools operate as businesses, regardless of what any teacher or administrator may say.

The business of education is unique in the sense that the customer (student) pays in advance for services to be received gradually over a semester.

The administration and faculty, ideally, should work in unison as a team to provide us with the best education our \$62 per credit hour can buy.

Our faculty has walked out, mid task, with no regard for customer satisfaction.

I ask you, if your mechanic were to only partially complete repairs on your car, would you pay him? Would you think twice before returning to him?

On Saturday, October 12, Harper College administration announced that they are committed to completing the Fall semester. Interestingly, that same day, the Faculty increased their salary demands, from a raise of 6.6 percent to 7.1 percent, which is now 2.1 percent above the raise proposed by the Board of Trustees. I always believed that the key to negotiation is compromise, but it appears that the Faculty has a different definition of the term. It is, as Harper Public relations Spokesman Phil Burdick said, "one step forward, then two steps backward."

It is imperative that credit classes resume promptly. Our semester is 17 weeks long. Classes must be in session for a minimum of 15 weeks. The administration has stated openly that they are "committed to the completion of this semester."

Where do your teachers stand?

## STUDENTS

By Sean Kelly

We students at Harper put up with a lot- four dollar ham sandwiches, inadequate parking, the stigma of attending "Harper High" or "The University of Southern Palatine," but this one is the topper of all times. At no other time in Harper's history has the student body been so royally shafted, and the worst part is that we're not sure who's doing it.

Could it be the faculty who are picketing us into academic exile and menial retail jobs for the rest of our lives? Or is it the Administration, the "Man," who is as always undercutting us poor hardworking types while lining his own pocket with crisp Benjamins? I tend to think it's probably a little of column A, a little of column B, just because fault can never lie entirely in one person, or with one perspective. If one person is offering too little, that doesn't necessarily mean the other person isn't asking for too much. They can both be holding out.

Admittedly, when I first heard of the strike, I was pleased. After all, my inner child has been trained for years to believe that snow days and class cancellations are a good thing. A chance to relax, an extension on all that homework I wasn't doing anyway. But it occurred to me later that I was paying for this damned education, and it occurred to me even later that maybe there was something I could have done to prevent this mess.

It's very easy to blame the teachers; call them money-grubbing and say they don't care about us. And for the administration, it's very easy to say the same.

But isn't it possible, guys, that we should blame ourselves? All over campus, I hear students saying they weren't warned, that they were caught in the middle, what are they to do now? Well, let me tell you guys, this didn't come along and blindsided us- these talks have been going on since March, and if you'd wanted to know about them, all you had to do was ask. We're customers at this college, just like shoppers at a store, only we're complaining about the fat content of the food when we could have checked the side of the box before we bought it.

Involvement is, and always has been, the key. We could have raised a ruckus three months ago instead of waiting until the day of, and maybe put this thing on hold. We could be paying attention to events a little further away from us than the tips of our noses. They call us a community college, but we have no community, no pooling of information.

At the same time all the faculty is united and striking, seven students are hanging out in the Quad trying to stage a protest. Instead of a student body, we have 40,000 individual students, all doing their own thing, all individually angry and frustrated and hoping that this thing will get resolved quickly. We sit here listening to the faculty trading barbs with the administration like we're a small child watching an argument between divorcing parents. It does not have to be this way.

We are a vocal majority in this school, not some helpless minority. Maybe it's about time we started acting like one, instead of the idiot junior college students everyone assumes we are.

## FACULTY

By Emily Volenec

As police protect the entrance, teachers march in front of Harper College bearing white signs with black lettering that reads "On Strike." Honking cars show their support as they drive past while dozens of TV vans hover in the background.

As for the faculty, they seem determined to strike as long as they don't get what they want. How long will that be? No one knows for sure, but English teacher, Andrew Wilson, says "the national average for a strike is 1-2 days."

However, because both sides are stubbornly holding out, the strike may last longer.

The teachers don't believe their salaries are high enough, and they are correct. Is it fair that Dr. Breuder, even though he runs the college, makes three times as much as the instructors? Without the faculty there would be no college to run. Students here at Harper College may scream and protest about the strike, at both faculty and administration, but lets take a look at what is happening here.

Faculty, who besides the students, are the heart of the college, are being paid pennies next to the administration. Yeah, the administration handles the budget, and Dr. Breuder is the president, but who does all the work?

The bottom line is the faculty does not feel respected. Dan Stanford, a chemistry teacher, thinks that feeling will reduce the quality of the institution. "You can't get quality faculty if they don't feel respected," he says, wearing a beige baseball cap adorned with various buttons containing slogans like "Unity," "Fairness," and "100% for Harper."

The strike is wearing on everyone, students, faculty and administration. Many instructors worry about where their next paycheck will come from. They just want this demonstration to end so they can get back to the profession they love and have devoted their careers to.

Wilson feels the strike is a sober necessity, but at the same time, he's very sad. He doesn't feel jubilant, nor do any of them look at this demonstration as a thrill. But they do feel unified.

Tom Stauch of the Music Department calls this an "unfortunate" state of affairs.

Right now most of us are panicking. We think, "What will happen to all the hard work that we've put into this semester if the teachers are on strike for too long?" I think we all feel this way especially those of us who are making an effort to transfer or make it into the nursing program this spring.

Most of the instructors feel bad for their students. They hate to see us in this position and understand the frustration we may feel because we may not be able to transfer. Although it seems there are no gains for us the students, maybe they're right.

If teachers are not feeling respected, then they will go somewhere else, and we will lose the quality education we've come to expect at Harper. So, in the weeks to come, try to look at this strike from, not only our viewpoint, but the faculty's as well, and lets be patient with them and their demonstration. Remember, they are losing money and valuable time to do this.



# Students

From  
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Valerie Kuras one of the student protesters recalls: "In one of the letters the administration was saying, 'How could the faculty do this to their students? Don't worry we still care about you.' But today they're not badmouthing the faculty. It's really confusing and it's a touchy situation, which is why I like the middle ground [stance] because I'm just protesting that I'm not getting what I deserve."

The strike and the general lack of information that has accompanied it seem to be the issues on the minds of most of the protesters. No one quite knows what's going on and even the press conferences and student forums are not well or widely publicized. This is the reason that despite the fact a protest was staged, the showing was not impressive. When I showed up a heated battle was waging between one of the student protesters and a representative from the teachers' line. When he saw me approach and figured out what my intentions were, he quickly left. Though the major reason for staging the protest was the lack of info, additional and individual reasons vary. For example, Bill Staadt, another student protester, cites timeframe considerations, "We basically want to graduate on time. If you're not at class why are you here at all? Especially if you want to start a job in four years....If you're like me it's impossible."

And then there are other protesters who are angry about what they see as inadequate representation by the student senate: "I spoke with members of the student senate yesterday and one or two of them were in support of what we are doing here. Some of the "higher ups" in the student senate were saying this protest was not going to make a difference. I asked them if they would be out here with the students and they said, 'I'll try, I really don't see the significance in it.' But I thought ... they're suppose to represent us, and if the students are trying to remain neutral and this is neutral ground..."

"If the senate is the student's voice, then shouldn't they hear what we are saying? If the campus is closed then we can't really talk to anybody, you would think they would at least come down here [with the attitude of] you are our students, we are representing you, what do you want us to say?"

"They [the senate] were like [the protest] is not going to do anything so I don't see why we should be there, but, if I can get there maybe I'll come through", I [wondered] How are you going to be my voice?"

The protesters seem to not have taken a side regarding admin. vs. educators, but

this is subject to change. One student states, "All the information I have gotten has been so vague, which is why I'm not choosing a side. I like all the teachers here, I've had excellent experiences with every teacher I've had and I'm very supportive of them getting what they deserve. I just haven't heard enough facts."

The educators seem to hope to get the students on their "side" but the fact that the actions of those very same educators is what is causing the upheaval in the lives of students, does not bode well for a student/teacher consolidated team.

The general consensus seems to say that the nursing program will be one the hardest hit. Valerie Kuras a participant in the student protest as well as a nursing student also says: "I'm in the nursing program right now, if they cancel this semester, I have to wait until fall 2003 to start all over again because they only start the program in the fall. I heard a rumor that if it goes more than five days they have to cancel our nursing program because we're missing clinical time and lab time and class time."

Other concerns range on issues of student who have sacrificed times where they could be working in order to be at class and students who pay for childcare not being able to use that time constructively at class.

Overall, no one is happy and some students are even questioning the decision to attend Harper. Rebecca Weirich says: "We don't want our education to get pushed back or messed up because they can't come to an agreement." And still another protestor states: "I'm just so frustrated, I'm feeling completely insecure about even being here, I'm debating weather or not to even come back next semester."

Obviously this is a dark time for Harper and if the strike continues, the questions which at this point may only be rumors, or ideas may become nagging and frightening realities.

One night of having your class off is one thing, but what about a week or a month? As Lydia Higgins states: "I went out last night and I enjoyed having the night off, not having to study. That's not why I'm here though, I'm here to learn, and if I have to ... study every night and that's what it takes, then that's what I'm [prepared to] do." I think we can all echo Lydias sentiment. We are here to study and to learn; at what point do we cut our losses and look for that education elsewhere?

Maybe before waging a war based on principal and semantics that is merely being fought to see who wins, the people waging that war should give a little consideration to the people who are sure to lose, in this case the students.



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# Harper mathematics teacher conquers Orient

By Emily Volenec

Harper math teacher, Judith Sallee, recently traveled to Xi'an, China.

With the help of a Global Volunteers program, Sallee volunteered as a conversational English teacher even though she did not know one word of Chinese.

This past June, Sallee spent three weeks instructing 2-14 year-olds at Bo Air International School through games, gestures, drama and song.

"It was interesting," Sallee says. "They didn't know what dance was, so I made one boy put his arm around me and the

children all sang, and then they understood!"

All children attending the summer camp have English names at the school and use them when communicating. If they don't already have one, their instructor gives them one.

"It was a great responsibility," Sallee says, "so I just made up a large list of male and female names that I'd taken from my friends, and I let them choose. After they chose, I would tell them who I knew with that name, so it made it a bit more personal."

According to Sallee, although

the region was poor, the children who came to the school were considered wealthy. She says that if a child has a new notebook, pencil and desk, he or she is considered one of the more privileged.

"The culture was very different," Sallee explains.

But in volunteering, Sallee was able to see more than just tourist sites during her three weeks away. Volunteering also provided her with an opportunity to view that culture in-depth.

"I was able to have deep conversations with the Chinese, thereby learning more about them and their lifestyle," Sallee says.

And, she didn't leave China without seeing anything either.

Her trip included visits to the famous Army of Terra Cotta Soldiers, the Great Wall of China and museums while she stayed in Beijing.

Global Volunteers has been sending people to nations across the world since the early 1980's.

The organization was begun by Bud Philbrook and Michele Gren in 1984.

"They were getting married. Michele wanted to do something meaningful on her honeymoon, and Bud wanted to have some fun," said Barbara DeGroot, spokesperson for the group.

So they decided to combine the two, volunteering a week in Guatemala before spending another week at Disneyworld.

Soon many people began to express interest in their work, and Global Volunteers was born. Offering short-term volunteer opportunities in 19 countries for a minimal cost, the organization soon became Philbrook's and Gren's full-time occupation.

"We send people of many different ages to countries," DeGroot reports, "and we offer discounts to college students."

The one thing that is unique about Global Volunteers is that they don't seek out opportunities. Members of the communities initiate the programs, and

they are run with supervision by the community. Sallee says the 60 year-old man directing her team's efforts wants to improve life for his community and feels that in order to do that, they must be more aware of the world around them.

"His idea to make this happen is to bring the world to his city," Sallee says.

"The purpose of Global Volunteers," DeGroot says, "is to build bridges of understanding and respect between people of diverse cultures."

No experience or special skills are required to volunteer. The organization provides the little training needed. Sallee says that it was an excellent opportunity for her, and if she had to do it over again she would.

"Global Volunteers was anything and everything I expected, she said. "They were wonderful."



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# Introducing your 2002-03 Student Senate By Georgia Latta

The student senate held their first official meeting this past Friday. Many new senators have joined the student government this year and so, they held a fairly informal getting-to-know-you session.

They first introduced themselves, and then proceeded to elect a new Vice-President.

They went over parliamentary procedure and the way the senate runs, then President Arpan Shah brought up the possibility of opening some seats on the council to student representatives.

The biggest difference between representatives and senators is that representatives have no official vote, yet still function as the voice of the students. After discussing the topic for a while and voting, the senate decided to open seats for representatives on the student government.

So, the next meeting of the student government will open with a time in which interested students will have the opportunity to introduce themselves and state why they feel they should occupy one of the new representative seats. If interested, please meet promptly at 1:30 on October 18, Room A243. Please keep in



Ready for anything, the new Student Senate groups together at their meeting.

Photo by Georgia Latta

mind that the limitations in the availability of seats means that the competition may be stiff.

Each student senator represents part of the school. This means that a student with a concern regarding that part of the school goes to the respective student senator, voices the concern and then that senator to bring it to the attention of the senate. After being presented and discussed, someone makes a motion to

resolve the issue (in an appropriate manner) and then the senate votes either by secret ballot or sometimes by using a "yea or nay" voting structure.

Therefore, any problems, questions, or suggestions should be brought to the attention to the student senator in charge. Make your voice heard, unless we let our senators know our opinions and ideas, our concerns will not be addressed.

The following members currently make up the student senate: President Arpan Shah, Vice President Ron Kroel, Treasurer Ken Akeo, Student Trustee Patrick Chartrand, Life Sci. Senator Sima Patel, A.E. & L.S. Senator Nikki Winikates, Stu. Dev. Senator Abdulrahman Habeeb, Bus & Soc. Senator Jeffery Innocenti, Liberal Arts Senator Stacey Vest, T.M.P.S. Senator Christopher Dozois,

A.D.S. Senator Sheila Maloney, Continuing Ed. Senator John Keller, and Wellness Senator Lindsay Lazarus.

The faculty advisors are Jeanne Pankanin, Dean of Wellness and Campus Activities and Michael Nejman, Director of Student Activities.

So, as the school year progresses and nagging issues start to bug you, you, such as the teacher strike or any subsequent tuition hikes keep in mind, something can be done about it.

As people who have invested our time, dollars and talents in this community, we have a right and a responsibility to make sure this campus adequately meets our needs, and if it doesn't we need to make that known as well. So, when you see a member of the student senate on campus, make it a point to go up, say hello, and tell them what you think. Not only will they appreciate the input, but you will have the opportunity to make sure that you, as a member of their constituency, have your viewpoint taken seriously and that you ensure your own positive college experience.

## Before seeing the world through cosmetic contact lenses, take a look at this By Nicole Heinz

Cosmetic contact lenses cause eye damage.

With improper care, many diseases including blindness can occur.

The average student does not know the risks associated with contacts. One teenager named Robyn Rouse, bought a pair of colored contacts at an unlicensed store. According to Dr. Thomas Steineman, director of the eye clinic at Metro Health Medical Center in Ohio, Rouse suffered a serious eye infection called pseudomonas. Her lack of knowledge in eye care led her into a devastating situation.

Pseudomonas is a very serious infection because it destroys the eye in a short amount of time. Rouse was very lucky not to have lost her vision.

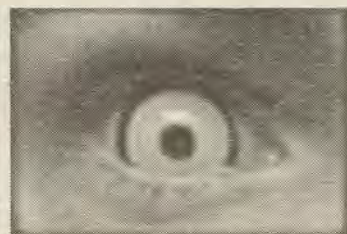
"Robyn Rouse is one of at least 1,500 people went into emergency rooms last year as a

result of contact lens problems," states ABC News.

Cosmetic Contacts have become very popular with the younger population. Contacts are made in every color, for dark or light eyes and some have designs on them like cat eyes, eight balls and the American flag.

With Halloween around the corner, the sales of cosmetic contacts have increased. Because of the popular demand, not everyone finds it necessary to have an eye exam.

Without an eye exam, the



lens may not fit the eye correctly. The contact may not stay on the eye if it is too big. If the



contact is too small it can seriously damage the eye. Scratches and redness can occur and turn into infections.

The lack of exams can result in unawareness of contact safety. Contacts can scratch and tear the cornea, which is the area surrounding the outside of the eye. You can also tear contacts if they are incorrectly cleaned. By visiting your optometrist regularly, you can obtain all the necessary information on eye care.

Exams are pricey, but they are also efficient. The patient can return to the doctor's office within one year of the exam in case any problem arises. If you have already had an eye exam, a contact lens fitting can cost around \$45. Many stores compete at giving the customers the best price for their contact lenses.

Lens Crafters is one eye care store that can price match with any competitor to give the patients the best price for their product.

If you are interested in cos-



metic lenses, here is a brief list of what you need to know before you buy them:

1. An eye exam and contact fitting is required when purchasing contacts.
2. It is illegal to buy contacts from unlicensed vendors.
3. Contact lenses cannot be shared. This spreads disease.
4. Never sleep in contact lenses. This will increase bacterial growth.
5. Most importantly, keep your contacts clean with proper solution.

Cosmetic contacts are not for everyone. If the contacts are not in your price range, it is safer to refrain from purchasing them rather than illegally owning contact lenses from unlicensed vendors. Cosmetic contacts require safety precautions that must be recognized to prevent long term eye damage.



# Time on your hands, strike victims? Then head out for a rental, and check what's new on DVD By Stuart Millar



## Changing Lanes (2002) Paramount Pictures.

**Cast:** Ben Affleck, Samuel L. Jackson, Toni Collette, Kim Staunton and Sydney Pollack

A well-assembled cast is always a joy to watch, and "Changing Lanes" is a breath of fresh air that fully utilizes its great leading men. It's basically the story of how a small accident can escalate into a full-scale battle of personalities.

Gavin Banek (Affleck) and Doyle Gipson (Jackson) collide while driving on the F.D.R. turnpike one morning, both on their way to different court cases. Banek

has a big case to settle. Gipson has a critical custody hearing. Banek leaves the scene of the accident, not realizing that he is without a critical document that may decide his case. Gipson is actually now in possession of the file, and the story accelerates from this point.

The events that unravel are intense as the feud between the characters becomes dangerous and each man tries to gain revenge on the other. As the movie progresses the story becomes a study of human nature that rattles the senses. We discover that both men are flawed; Gipson is a recovering alcoholic, Banek is cheating on his wife with another lawyer (Toni Collette).

The movie is well structured and

Roger Michell ("Notting Hill") keeps the tension cranked up for most of the movie.

Both Affleck and Jackson prove how a good script can bring out the best performances, and the screenplay is full of great dialogue (The scene when Gipson visits his bank manager was particularly funny) that is consistently entertaining.

Affleck is great as the cocky young lawyer, and Jackson gives his best performance since "Pulp Fiction." The supporting cast is also great with Sydney Pollack as Banek's corrupt boss.

This is easily one of the best movies this year, and well worth a look.

who believes that God has sent him a message to destroy demons that are walking the earth in human form.

Fenton Meiks (Matthew McConaughey) is confessing to the FBI that he knows the serial killer they have been looking for, and that the killer is actually his own father (Paxton). The beginning the story is told in flashback as Meiks recollects his disturbing childhood and the murders that he and his brother witnessed their sick father commit.

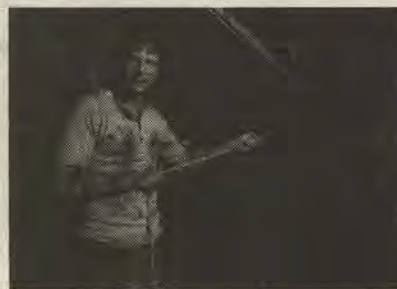
Frailty is very similar to "The Sixth Sense" and "The Gift," but in many ways uses the supernatural elements of its story in a truly effective way, and because of this becomes a scarier movie with some really vivid moments. In one scene, Paxton has an encounter with an angel while fixing the engine of a car. Moments like this are pretty unnerving.

Paxton really shines as a crazy father and his direction is subtle and effective without being too flashy. As with most recent suspense movies, Frailty has a very big twist at the end. However, I didn't really think this was entirely necessary, as the movie would be just as effective without it (as "Signs" recently proved).

Importantly, this movie takes a good horror story and creates the right atmosphere that is often lacking in this kind of movie, and truly creeps-out its audience.

Not a happy movie, but certainly worth watching.

## Frailty (2002) Lions Gate Films.



**Cast:** Bill Paxton, Matthew McConaughey, Matthew O'Leary, Jeremy Sumpter and Powers Boothe

Bill Paxton makes his directorial debut and stars in this creepy tale of a father

## BROWN AND THE ROOMMATE

I thought sharing an apartment with my best friend would be fun. But like they say, you really don't know someone until you live with them. UPS is making it possible for me to afford paying the rent myself. So no more missing food, no more missing clothes and I can watch whatever I want on cable. Brown makes me happy.



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## Meet Your Harbinger Staff, Part Two:

# PATRICK WS SEAN

**One page. One newspaper. Two men will enter, but only one will leave!!!!**

**journal** (jur' nal) n. a diary; a book recording daily transactions of a business firm; a daily newspaper; a periodical. [Fr. fr. L. diurnalis, daily]

I find it difficult, as a journalist, to put into words a complete description of myself.

To begin, Webster's Dictionary defines a journal as "a book recording of daily events and/or occurrences."

Therefore, the art of journalism is merely the practice of keeping a record of daily events and/or occurrences.

The most difficult aspect of attempting to define oneself in a single moment is hindsight. I know who I am right now, but am I already who I will be in six months time? Or am I merely connecting the dots of some interstellar constellation predetermined in both time and space?

While there are many nuances about me that may remain the same, I am by no means one constant mathematical variable. Frankly, I would rest assured knowing that my choice is free, and waiting to be made.

So let us assume, for the sake of space constraints, that the person I will be is, in fact, the driving force behind the wheel of this literary cavalcade. Due to the fact that my interest in horseplay is minimal (at best) compared to my fellow staff mates here at "Now 60% Smaller!", my interest in all things unrelated to "The Harbinger" has grown in gigantic proportion since last spring; when I was first assigned the role of staff writer.

Originally majoring in Child Psychology, I converted to English Education after reading the good book "The Fountainhead", then, after careful consideration, added Music to the top of my "things to do" list.

While juggling two jobs on campus, membership to four clubs (Juggling Club, Harbinger, Program Board, Harper Pride), and 13 credit hours of general education requirements (nine of them English classes),



I cannot say that I have successfully found a breaking point. On the contrary, it seems that with the spreading thin of myself about the campus of William Rainey Harper College, I have actually performed better than I had ever expected. It appears that one is only efficient when every minute of every day is put to good use.

Obvious? Yes, but since when have people listened to the obvious? I am a journalist. I give you the facts. It is your job to fit the puzzle pieces together.

I would personally like to thank the following for their support: Program Board, Harper Pride, the rest of the dedicated Harbinger staff, Chicken Chalupas, Student Activities, David Richmond, the ability to stay awake, and Dharmesh (for Zen juggling.)

Music: Aurore Rien, Midsummer, Thursday, Radiohead, Ben Folds, Nada Surf, Cake, Rilo Kiley, OZMA

Books: Salinger, Rand, Heller, Orwell, Huxley, Faulkner

-Patrick Andrews

**Sean: "Sleep is the only part of my day I look forward to, and I'm not awake to enjoy it."**

No, I'm not. Okay? I don't even really watch his show very often. I may bear a passing resemblance, but that's just because we're both tall Irish-looking guys. Besides, I'm better-looking than him. Don't know who I'm talking about? Sure you do. Look at the picture above. If you've ever been up late watching NBC, you know.

Conan O'Brien.

My mortal enemy. For the past four years, someone points it out to me. School nurses, people on the street, Greg Herriges in Creative Writing. Everyone mentions it eventually.

"You know, you look like Conan."

No, I don't, damn it! I don't care what Kiel Cross has to say, Executive Editor or not. I look like Sean. And if I sound like him or have his sense of humor, it's because he was Executive

Producer of the Simpsons for years, and that show is the basis for all that I think is funny. As it should be with you.

If this column is coming across as unusually bitter, by the way, it's because I think I have the flu, and I'm trying to lay out this issue of the Harbinger after staring at only these four walls for fourteen hours. That's my job, by the way- I'm the layout editor. See how pretty this issue is? That's because I spent entire days painstakingly laying it out, to the extent that I had to neglect my schoolwork. Okay, I would have neglected my schoolwork anyway, but...

...like I said, I have the flu.

I give up. I quit, okay? I'm Conan. That's right, Conan O'Brien. And if you're interested, you can be my Andy Richter. People know how to pronounce "Conan," at least, instead of seeing "Sean" and pronouncing it "Seen." That gets old, fast.

And "O'Brien?" Sure, I'll take that. I'm sick of juvenile people saying "Kelly? Isn't that a girl's name?" No, it isn't, by the way. It means "Troublesome," which is an understatement of what I'll do to you if you diss my name.

Anyway, I hope you have fun reading the Harbinger this year. Hell, I hope you read the Harbinger period. And if you don't have fun, write letters to the editor. We can get a nice little exchange going. Just don't call me Conan.

It hurts.

Vitals:

Top 5 Bands:

1. The Beatles
2. Pink Floyd
3. Peter Dinklage
4. Willy Porter
5. Radiohead

Top 3 Movies:

1. Gandhi
2. Braveheart
3. Monty Python and the Holy Grail

Favorite Food: Gyros Sandwich

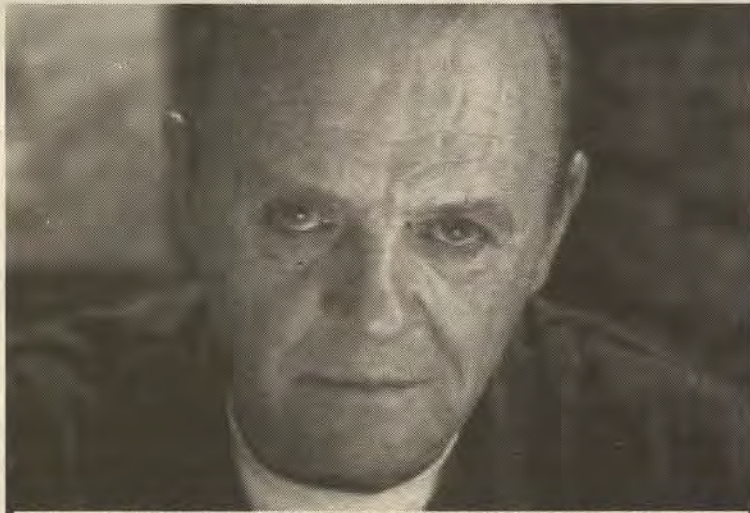


# "Red Dragon" satisfies viewer's hunger for carnage and chianti

By Stephanie  
Wolferman

This film may be boasted as the new Hannibal Lecter flick, but those who look forward to seeing a lot of screen time of our favorite cannibal may be disappointed. Though he does appear, he does not grace us with his presence as much as the other films before it. With a lack of focus on Hannibal, our attention, this time around, is focused on the dragon.

The film is about an FBI agent named Will Graham, Edward Norton, who catches Hannibal Lecter at the beginning of the film and has never recovered from their encounter. He then goes to Dr. Lecter, Anthony Hopkins, in order to profile the tooth fairy, a serial killer on the loose that Norton is forced to help capture after he has retired from the bureau. We follow the trail of evidence from the perspective of the FBI agents, but we are also introduced to the man behind the teeth. The killer



Join me for dinner: 'Red Dragon' won't leave you hungry.

Photo from reddragon.com

in the film is murdering families in order to set them free.

The film is filled with a top notch cast that deliver on all levels. Ralph Fiennes is very effective as Francis Dolarhyde, otherwise known as the Tooth Fairy; he makes the character full of layers and it is interesting to

watch. His portrayal of Dolarhyde is vulnerable at some points and at others, he is a monster. He is great at switching between the lost boy and the insane killer he doesn't wish to be. He is joined by Emily Watson playing his blind love interest, Harvey Keitel as the

FBI agent who gets Norton back on the case, and Philip Seymour Hoffman as a snoopy reporter.

Edward Norton heads the cast as the ex-FBI agent who is on the tooth fairy's tail and Anthony Hopkins again joins as Hannibal Lecter. The exchanges between Norton's Graham and Hopkins' Lecter are fun to watch because you can see Lecter sizing him up. Throughout the film, each actor is effective in his or her own way and brings depth to each one of the characters.

The plot is delivered with suspense that builds as each new fact is revealed. It is a complicated story, but it is one that works. The terror is heightened by an excellent score by Danny Elfman.

Also surprising is the direction by Brett Ratner, who is best known for his Rush Hour films. He surprises by showing that he can direct a drama with style. He does have a way of creating

many interesting shots.

Yet, it is a film that does have a major fault. The problem with this film is that it cheats with its ending. It has a twist ending that doesn't quite belong in the picture. First of all, the ending is cliché, since the writer can't leave alone the horror film staple of the twist ending to prove our assumptions false. It ruins the film since it doesn't add up and we have no clue why it is there. I guess it is tacked on just to show that there is no stopping the dragon.

Despite the disappointing ending, Red Dragon is an enjoyable film experience. It is intense finding out about the dragon and it is fun watching Norton figuring out the clues. It isn't as good as Silence of the Lambs, but it is a welcome change to the tone presented in Hannibal. The scares may have been higher in Silence, but this film does pack a lot of punch.

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## ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## CONCERTS IN THE QUAD:

## Free Entertainment at Harper College

As Americans, it is vital for us to practice the art of enthroning those that entertain. "Foul!" you cry. "You idolater! Bad form, Peter Banning!" I proclaim that it is but the practice of mundane tradition.

Who am I to advocate the downfall of tradition? I say that we must hold those that entertain high above us. It is in our contract.

Americans are promised the right to free speech so long as it is not preceded

by free thought. We must continue to enthrone and enshrine those slightly above (or below, in some instances) normal, or the terrorists win.

Before one reaches the plateau of complacency and ideal-sacrifice we refer to as middle adulthood, it is imperative that we live one massive, frantic, disorganized party of narcissistic self-indulgence, an undocumented continuous event where day and night blur and faces all mold into one

expressionless mask.

On a less exaggerated (and, arguably less entertaining) level, my fellow students, I give you:

**The Point!**

This next section is dedicated to those that have performed, played, sung, or in any other way entertained Harper students, both collectively and individually, throughout the Program Board "Concert in the Quad" series.

Interestingly enough, only one of these events was actually held in the Quad. These performers have provided us with, if nothing else, respite from the incessant droning of voices, the hands pulling us in every direction.

In one way or another, they have touched us, saved us, helped us, or just provided a little background music on our walk to class. Whatever the case may be, they have caught our attention with a

word, note, chord, joke, beat, or gesture, and, if only for a second, have owned a small piece of every one of us.

For any information regarding these performers, or future events, please contact the Harper Program Board, a student run organization that sets up concerts, lectures, and invariably, any event to grace the Harper College campus.

**Meisha Herron** by Patrick Andrews

Meisha Herron received her first guitar from a music store that was going out of business. At the age of 11, she first began writing music.

Meisha attended Columbia college until 1994, when she graduated, studying music, poetry, and business. She felt that if she were to actively pursue a career in music, that she would have to read up on all aspects of it.

When I sat down with her on September 5, 2002, shortly after her concert in the Quad, both she and percussionist Keith emphasized the fact that showbiz is a compound word. The first, show,

meaning the actual onstage production; the second, business, meaning all "behind the scenes" work that may seem unimportant, but actually enables the show to go on.

After graduating, she began playing guitar at coffee houses around Chicago. She played blues on 37th and State Street until the city cracked down and many of the street corner musicians retreated to the subway system.

Meisha got a permit for about \$10 and began playing alone in the subways.

"I found that I could make more money playing by myself

down there than I ever made playing with other people, because they take all the quarters. They split the dollars even but the big money is in the quarters."

It was there in the subway, that Michael Nejman, who was then Coordinator of Student Activities, happened to be walking by when he heard Meisha's voice. He stopped, gave her \$1, and his business card. It was through Michael that she landed her first professional gig.

For information regarding Meisha's music or shows, visit her website: [www.geocities.com/bsharpcmusic](http://www.geocities.com/bsharpcmusic).



Above: Meisha Herron's voice echos about the Quad

Below: Sarah Lentz and those ivory keys.  
Photos by Patrick Andrews

**Lunch with Sarah Lentz** by Patrick Andrews

On September 18, 2002, the Harper College cafeteria served roasted chicken and egg rolls. They were exquisite. However, in addition to the usual slice of pizza, bagel, or brownie that most students call lunch, we were privileged enough to taste (metaphorically) something much more healthy and ultimately more satisfying. Sarah Lentz, smiling politely, performed opposite the cafeteria doors as the noon crowd of hunger-stricken teenagers rushed about.

To clear up any confusion that may have arisen due to false

advertising, Sarah does not sound anything like Jewel. Swapping guitar for those good old ivory keys (that means piano), and soprano vocals for something a bit more soothing, Sarah's unique musical styling is comparable to that of Ben Folds (in large part due to her skill in piano performance - simply incomparable.)

I, for one, was ecstatic to have my attention geared towards something with a little more heart than, say, "Days of Our Lives" (see any of last year's issues of The Harbinger for details) and was among the few that sat near Sarah, along

with the Program Board (who gave an arm and a leg and an advance warning for rain to make this concert happen.)

The crowd, however, unaccustomed to mid-meal entertainment, was, to say the least, rather timid to join in and celebrate the festive occasion. However, Sarah's stage presence, as the presence of a good performer, broke the ice and had spectators on their feet by concert's end. The fact that the customers in line to buy food could not help but turn their heads and smile while hearing the echo of Sarah's voice should give testament to the effect she had.



Sarah Lentz flew in from New York, played a magnificent concert, and left. But her echo remains etched in my head as one of the most heartwarming, insightful new artists I have heard, period. Her debut CD, "No Going Home", and follow

up album, "Everything's Alright" (just released in June) are both beautiful works of art. I strongly recommend visiting her website, [www.sarahlantz.com](http://www.sarahlantz.com), for information on Sarah, her music, and upcoming concert information.



# Your mission, if you choose to accept it: laugh

By Hobbs Behrouzi

Three words came to mind before attending the MiSSION iMPROVable program on Wednesday, October 2, 2002: *Funny, Group, and Real.*

However, the three words quickly changed after the show had ended. The three words turned into Genius, Off-my-seat hilarious, and One. Improvisational acting has always been those first three words to many people.

But having seen MiSSION iMPOVable shows why and how the words changed. The genius put into their different skits kept everyone interested and alive. I found myself asking, "What on earth can they do to top what they just did?" And that's just the thing. They top everything without letting you forget what had just happened. Each agent's attitude and charisma was felt and endured by every single member of the audience. They made everyone want to be part of the show. No subject was too far-

etched for the agents and they tackled anything the audience wanted. Knowing their confidence in being able to act through every suggestion made the entire show that much funnier. I haven't laughed so hard at a live performance in all my life. Now the word, one, represents the group's mind. Instead of acting on an individual basis, they work as a one-group mind.

This is in regards to what style of improvisation they use: Long Form Improvisation. According to the MiSSION iMPOVable website, long form is commonly used to explore the group mind.

The group will use one suggestion as a jumping point to disappear into a world of characters and support. Everyone vibes off of one another and ends up making the show funnier than it should be. High noon in Building A, and everyone didn't know what to expect. Then the "Mission Impossible" theme kicked in and one by one the agents were

introduced. Dennis O'Toole as Agent Train, Lloyd Ahlquist as Agent Snake Eyes, Aaron Krebs as Agent Hurricane, Ryan Kiessling as Agent Falcon, and Jeff Durand as Agent Masquerade. With their simple black ties, white shirts, black pants, and agent-like sunglasses, these guys live, breathe, and eat what they do. "This is my job and I love doing it," said Lloyd Ahlquist (Agent Snake Eyes).

The show started out with the audience receiving cards with numbers in them. An agent will walk around with "The Bomb," a round bucket made to look like bomb, at various times during the show and will pull a number out. Once the number is pulled, the audience member must hold up the card and yell, "I have a mission. Do you

choose to accept it?" An agent will come up, open the envelope and read off the next segment. The show is a lot like "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" where they take suggestions from the entire audience. One of the best segments by far was the Slide Show, where they called on Robbie, a Harper student, to participate. Agent Masquerade and Agent Falcon were set up as two, dumb jock, "aw dude" hosts while Agents, Snake Eyes, Hurricane, and Robbie were outside, not allowed to hear

what was going on. Then Masquerade and Falcon asked the audience suggestions on somewhere you would go for vacation and what you would do at that place all while doing what dumb, aw dude jocks would do: Pointless observations, discoveries, and noises (They nailed it all on the head). The first suggestion was Las Vegas and the activities suggested were: getting beat up by the mob, going to a strip joint, eating at a buffet, robbing a casino, and skinny dipping. After the suggestions were recorded, the other agents were called back and our two hosts would act out clicking a slide projector while the four assumed awkward positions. The two hosts would apply the suggestions on what they did to what the Agents looked like they were doing. The picture shows a "slide" of the three at the strip joint.

I spent some time with the newest member, Dennis O'Toole (Agent Train) right after the show and he was so kind to talk about the show. O'Toole is a native from Chicago and had been with MiSSION iMPROVable for 2 weeks before the Harper show. He graduated from and teaches at Second City here in Chicago. I asked him whether it is approval from the audience that determines a good show or is it something else. O'Toole said, "Its how we felt inside about it. If we went out and know we did a great job and felt comfortable about the performance, then it was a good show."

I also caught up to the rest of them while they were getting ready to head for Tulsa for the NACA Conference (National

Association for Campus Activities). I had expressed the pleasure I had watching them and they were just as personable back stage as they are on stage. I asked them if they always wanted to be comedians their whole life, which I have learned is like calling someone on poms, a cheerleader. I responded with, "So you guys were the class clowns?" Ryan Kiessling turned and said, "No, we were the ones that made fun of the class clowns."

The group minus O'Toole met each other at the University of Massachusetts 7 years ago. Lloyd Ahlquist (Agent Snake Eyes) says, "The energetic chemistry clicked well with all of us." After 2 years in Massachusetts, they decided to move to Chicago where they attended Second City and Improv Olympic, which is known as the Mecca of Improv according to the agents. They had a regular show at Improv Olympic and now they tour the country performing at colleges and conventions. Aaron Krebs (Agent Hurricane) mentioned how they love coming to Harper and that they can't wait to come back. He is also soon moving to California to promote the troop and look into putting the show into T.V. format and/or possibly opening a theater. Harper wishes him and MiSSION iMPROVable the best of luck. They are also looking for more people to join their troop so hit up their website to get more info on them and what they do. WWW.MiSSIONiMPROVable.com. This article will not detonate in 5 seconds.



Jumping out of Really Cool Places???

Mission ImPROVable strikes a pose after their performance in the Concert-in-the-Quad series.

Photo by Hobbs Behrouzi

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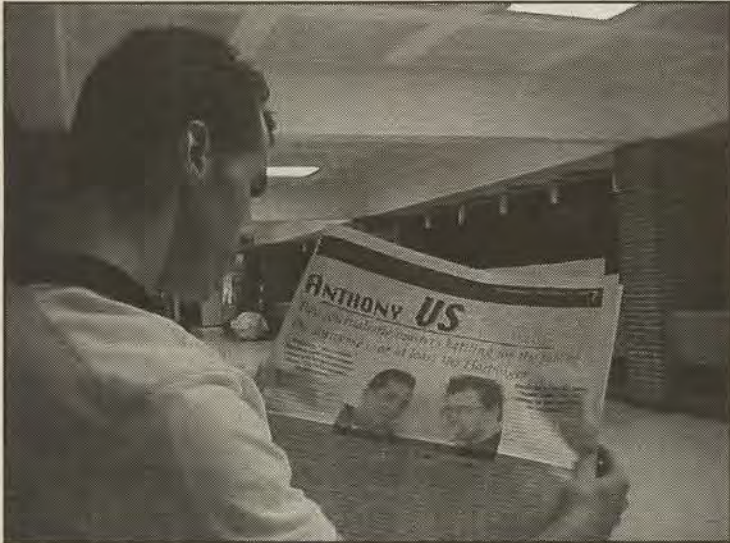
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# the BACK PAGE

THANKS FOR READING! BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR NEXT ISSUE, COMING TO YOU ON OCTOBER 28, 2002!



## Will there ever be a rainbow?

By Anthony McGinn

The majority of Harbinger readers were surprised about the ridiculously large size of our first issue. Although it is the Harbinger's intent to cover the entire Harper campus, I never meant it to be literal.

An old girlfriend of mine has been spreading rumors around campus that the hugeness of the paper is trying to overcompensate for my very very small vocabulary.

Let me assure you, the size of my vocabulary is well above average.

The reason the last issue was so large was because I had been misinformed that October is National Glaucoma Awareness month. We at the Harbinger sympathize and advocate for all those who suffer from Glaucoma and feel they have every right to read our paper as much as individuals with normal vision.

I want to apologize to anyone who suffered a personal injury from trying to turn a page. If you fell victim to a paper cut, may God be with you.

I also need to apologize to the Green Peace organization for the astronomical amount of trees I am responsible for killing. My bad.

### Teacher Strike:

These are scary times on the Harper Campus. In the 37 year

history of this school, no one has seen such a life altering situation as the strike.

Don't get me wrong, I have no objections to a nice 3 day vacation, but anything longer than that is not worth the anxiety.

The picket line itself made me sick. Watching teachers who I admire and aspire to become reduced to holding a sign pleading for unity can be so humbling.

I don't know how Harper managed to get itself into this situation, but here's hoping there is a quick resolution.

While the teachers have stopped working, the Harbinger will continue to be the pulse of this campus, providing the public with news you will not find anywhere else.

I realize the threat that this could be the last time you read the Harbinger this semester. In that case I hope you have enjoyed all of our adventures together.

If you haven't learned anything from my column, please know this:

Hollywood and mainstream radio stations are leading youth down a moral sewer. Let them know that there is more to the world around them than what four corporate executives choose to show to show them.

## CONCERT IN THE QUAD CONTINUED FROM LAST PAGE Viva Venezuela, viva Concert-in-the-Quad, viva la musica de Irene Farrera

It was warmer than usual two weeks ago, but maybe it's because Irene Farrera brought a little Latin American with her. All the way from Venezuela with her album "Serenada" in tow, Farrera brought a little spice to lunchtime at Harper, while simultaneously reminding me how inadequate my Spanish is.

Her four-person combo, which included herself, a bassist, guitarist, and a percussionist, showed talent, energy, and range. They threw out songs both traditional and original, all with foot-tapping-hand-clapping rhythms and eye-blurring guitar licks. Farrera's distinctive, throaty voice went well with her unique performance style, which included vibrant movements, facial expressions, and- get this- hopping down off-stage to dance with members of the audience.

Her backup band was amazing as well. Her percussionist, with shaven head and beatnik sun-

glasses, was able to get more sound out of a wooden box than most people can out of a full drum set, while also doing things with maracas and cowbells than I never thought possible. Her tall, lanky bassist looked comically similar to the slim electric stand-up he was playing, while his fingers flew over the strings with graceful ease. And her guitarist, the stoic man-in-black, pulled off stunts with the guitar that would make most people's hands lock up.

In fact, just about the only disappointing thing about this concert was the turnout. Come on, guys- just because there isn't food doesn't mean you won't come away with something. Farrera went on to play the next day at the World Music Festival in Chicago, where people were paying good money to see her.

The Concert-in-the-Quad series is proving to be an enriching experience... for anyone that shows up.



**NOW! 60%  
SMALLER THAN LAST  
MONTH'S ISSUE!  
AND HALF THE FAT, TOO!**