

The Harbinger

Harperharbing@gmail.com

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Spring Job Fair

By **Colline Zaphratos**
Staff Writer

Over 100 employers were at the Harper College Job Fair on Friday, April 12. Recruiters of companies varied from Chipotle to internships with Senator Dan Kotowski to work with the United States Secret Service. Employers had opportunities for everything from people who have no work experience to those with college degrees and more. Any and all were welcome, both Harper students and non-students.

A Harper Student transferring to Loyola, James Naughton, currently an intern with Senator Kotowski, said that his internship was a beneficial addition to his resumé and offered flexibility for his schedule, "I think this is great because I can intern, and I volunteer and go to school." Janie Morrison, District Director for Senator Kotowski added, "I have had a lot of interns go on to work in the Capitol for federal legislators," and that an internship can help open doors for work with many other companies and organizations.

The Secret Service was not able to grant an interview due to company policies, but their brochures indicated many opportunities, ranging from those that require a four year degree, to those that - among other strict qualifications - require only Secret Service training in specific fields.

Shelley Kahles, hiring for Chipotle, had opportunities for those who have never worked, "You don't need any experience to work for Chipotle, we train everybody

See **Job Fair**, page 2



YOLANDA RODRIGUEZ

PARTICIPANTS FROM DIFFERENT SCHOOLS WERE AWARDED WITH LATINO SUMMIT SCHOLARSHIPS.

Vision for a Brighter Future

By **Kory Mulcahey**
Staff Writer

On Friday, April 5, 189 Juniors and Seniors gathered in Building A for the sixteenth annual Harper College Latinos Senior Summit, which involved students from Rolling Meadows High School, Wheeling High School, Barrington High School, Buffalo Grove High School, Elk Grove High School, Schaumburg High School, Hoffman High School, and Palatine High School.

These students came looking to take the next step in their academic careers and the summit provided them an opportunity to look at what is ahead. "These students are looking to go to college and we are trying to motivate them to follow that instinct to go beyond high school so they can come back and speak to future generations," says Juanita Perez Bassler, a Recruiting Specialist from Harper College's Admissions Department, "Hopefully these kids

will chose Harper. They have a lot of choices. We have some really sharp kids here and they can go anywhere."

The day began with a presentation by two high school teachers on the importance of the math and English testing that Harper does for incoming students. Later on, the young students were able to hear from six Harper College Alumnus, including Diana Ramos and Angelica Camacho, who have since graduating gone on to build successful careers for themselves. These two young women, along with four other professionals, talked to these hopeful students about their futures and how Harper College could help them get there.

After hearing from some of Harper's success stories, several staff members from around the campus talked to the kids about the various campus support services, such as Academic Advising, the Job Center, the Financial Aid Office, and the Access and Disability Office. While the students

enjoyed their lunch, nine lucky students, one from each participating school, were awarded with the Latino Summit Scholarships each worth \$500. After lunch, the students were separated into smaller groups and led on a tour of the campus that included presentations from various faculty members in four major fields: fashion design, heating and air conditioning, fire science, and nursing.

The Latino Senior Summit is one of many tools that Harper's Admissions and Recruitment Division use to bring new students in to the school, show them how to succeed, and encourage them to complete their degrees. Harper College knows that the first step on a path to success is the most important one, and they help these kids make that first step a good one. With the support of their teachers, their high schools, and Harper College these students will grow to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Head-Shaving Day

By **Colline Zaphratos**
Staff Writer

What do you get when you combine head-shaving and St. Patrick's Day? You get St. Baldrick's! St. Baldrick's is a charity organization founded in 2000, dedicated to raising money to help fight childhood cancer. Volunteers fundraise by shaving their heads in solidarity with children that have lost their hair due to cancer treatments, and it all started on St. Patrick's Day. In 1999, three New York City executives began using their St. Patrick's Day parties to shave their heads and raise money; more than \$136 million has been raised since.

The Harper College St. Baldrick's Fundraising Event was started by Harper student and Phi Theta Kappa member Cheryl Gistenson, two years ago. The head-shaving and fundraising event occurred in Harper College's A building on Wednesday April 17th. Gistenson feels strongly about this charity, "Little girls [with cancer] see Barbies with hair, and it really does affect them, our hair grows back but theirs may not." The day of the event was busy and full of celebration. Many students shaved their heads, including Harbinger staffer and Harper student Aaron Wagner. "When I first found out about St. Baldrick's I didn't quite know much about it, until I went to the event and saw people shaving their head." After learning about

See **St. Baldricks**, page 8

Top Stories of this Week:



MATT SADLER

HARPER COLLEGE DANCE COMPANY HOST THEIR SHOW "METAMORPHOSIS."



MATT SADLER

STUDENTS SHOW THEIR TALENTS AT HARPER COLLEGE 4TH ANNUAL VARIETY SHOW.

See **Metamorphosis**, page 4

See **Variety Show**, page 4

Comments & Reactions?

Write us a letter about Harper, The Harbinger, or current events and we'll publish it! (anonymously, if you prefer)

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Job Fair

Continued from page 1

from the bottom up. 97% of our managers started off rolling burritos. We're looking for people to grow with the company." In terms of desirable qualities Chipotle looks for in employees, Kahles added, "We're really looking for people that are motivated, ambitious, and want more than just to be the grill-guy or cashier." Harper hosts two job fairs per year, one in Spring and one in Fall. Those looking for help preparing for the next job fair can schedule an appointment with the Harper College Career Center. They offer free services to Harper Students, and

can provide assistance with writing a resumé, building interviewing skills, and much more.

Catherine Fijalkowski, Student Development Specialist in the Career Center, had many tips for those attending job fairs. She says that a mistake job seekers often make is inefficient resumé formatting. "Sometimes it's four pages of irrelevant information," she mentions. Fijalkowski stresses that resúmes should be one page long (two is okay) and should omit personal information such as age, hobbies, a picture, or religious affiliations. The dress code for job fairs is also very important, "Dress for success!" Men and women should wear professional attire; for men she recommends black pants and shoes, a full suit is not

necessary, with a button up shirt; women should wear a blouse with pants or past-knee length skirts.

Fijalkowski also recommends, "Before you approach an employer, do the research, get to know what the company is about and the positions they are hiring for. A lot of employers will be shocked that you took the time." Fijalkowski added that a job fair should be treated as a pre/mini-interview, and that those attending should have a personal sales pitch, "Prepare 3-5 sentences explaining your future goals and major." She says that this is a quick way for an applicant to stand out. She adds that it is also very important to follow-up with employers you meet, "Take their business card and send a Thank

You note," and, in the case of positions being full, "Maintain that relationship in case anything does open up." Beyond help with resumé and cover letter writing, the Career Center offers mock interviews as well, giving job seekers the opportunity to practice their interviewing skills and get helpful feedback. Specialists at the Career Center also offer career information relating to wages, salary outlook, and the day-to-day life of various positions. More information on the Harper College Career Center can be found by calling 847-925-6220, on Facebook 'Harper College Career Center,' and at <http://goforward.harpercollege.edu/services/special/careercenter/>. The next job fair is scheduled to occur in Fall 2013.

Harbinger Wins ICCJA Awards

By Kent McDill
Student Advisor

The Harbinger, Harper College's bi-weekly newspaper, was awarded third place in Overall Excellence among weekly and bi-weekly publications at the recent Illinois Community College Journalism Association Conference in Springfield.

This marks the first time in the last 10 years the Harbinger was selected for an award in Overall Excellence.

Sean Pedersen, a staff writer and Harbinger's business manager, won third place for news coverage for his story about an area man's plan to power Harper College through the use of a specially designed windmills.

The Harbinger is recruiting the staff that will help it win awards next spring. To join, please fill out an application that can be found on the door of the Harbinger office at A367.

young men and women campaigned very hard and should be proud of what they accomplished during this election season. Whether they were elected or not they're all winners.

Democracy in Action

By Kory Mulcahey
Staff Writer

This year student elections were fiercely competitive on two fronts. The most hotly contested race was for Student Trustee, between three highly qualified and motivated young men. Collin Weber took 309 votes (28% of total) while A. J. De Villa came in second with 334 votes (30% of total), but in the end it was Scott

Lietzow whose relentless campaigning helped him come out on top with 469 votes (42% of total). In total, 1133 students voted in the Trustee section of the election. The other neck and neck race in the election was for student Senate President, which also boasted three strong candidates. Devarshi Patel came in third place with a respectable 314 votes (29% of total), while Raul "Pedro" Aguirre came in just ahead at second with

351 votes (32% of total). But it was the veteran Clara Moravec, who served last year as Trustee, who triumphed with a total of 423 votes (39% of total). The race for Student Senate's Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary were all single candidate races. In total, 1,088 people voted in the Student Senate Presidential race. For Vice President, the candidate was Cindy Vargas with an impressive 1,038 votes (100% of total). The Treasurer candidate was Mohena Kaur, who took an equally impressive 1,009 votes (100% of total)

and the Secretary was Cholie Kuciak who took 994 votes (100% of total).

There are strict GPA requirements to even qualify for these positions, as well as a code of conduct that is expected from every candidate who serves, and the campaigning process is a tough one. Each of these candidates were willing to dedicate large portions of their personal time to support a system they believe in and help their fellow student by working to develop a community here at Harper College. All of these

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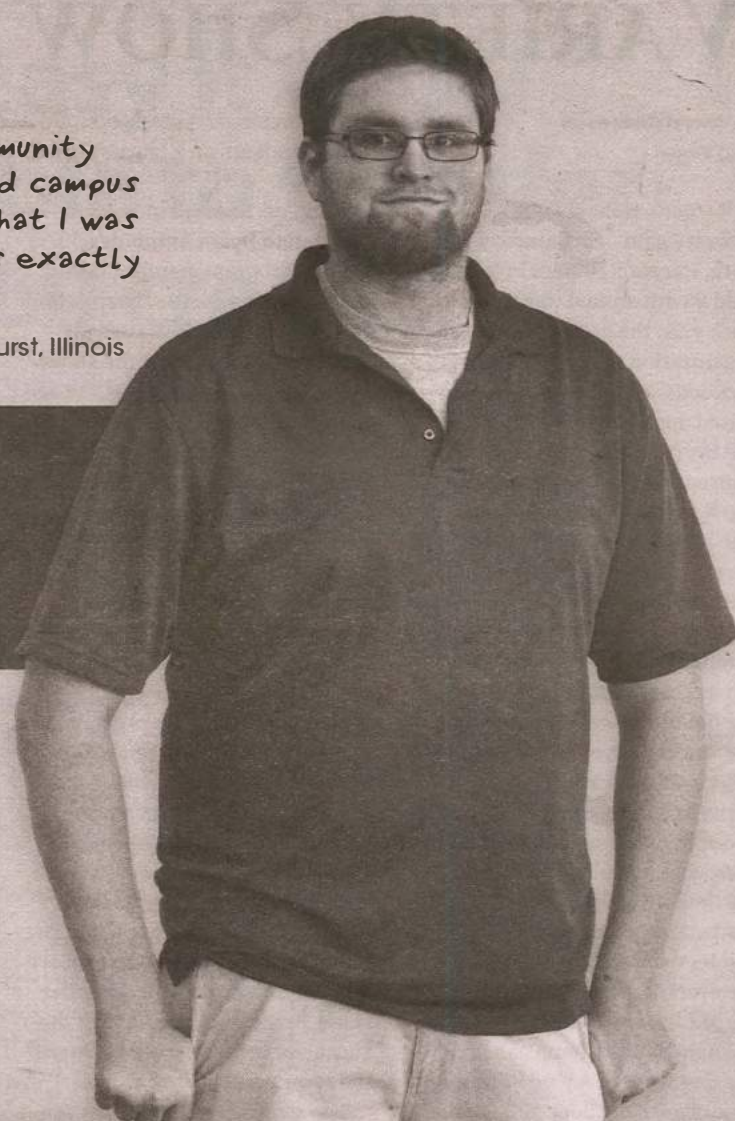
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Metamorphosis at Harper

By Matt Sadler
Photographer

As the curtains go up, hearts beat faster; minds are nervous; and thoughts of all the preparation that led up to this moment on the stage, leads the dancers step by step. Dancers hear "Places everyone!" from the stage crew. As the lights come on and the music starts, all of a sudden, muscle; auditory; and visual memories took over the stage. This group of people, known as the Harper College Dance Company, are not just dancers. They are active in society. They participate in events on and off the soil of Harper College. As dancers, students, and community advocates, their schedules are full! They are also part of the Poms/Dance team and the Spirit Crew. Their main events takes place every year in the Spring, and this year they named their show Metamorphosis. Metamorphosis is defined as a "complete change of form, structure, or substance and a transformation by magic." This is a great title for the event because it was enlightening and inspirational.

Auditions for the Dance Company Spring concert started in early December. Everybody is welcome to join. There are no cuts. The dancers are not judged by their skill level, technique, or style. This gives many more people the opportunity to dance and to express themselves. However, dedication, time, energy, and effort are required. During these auditions, the advisors (Kym Banner and Vicki Summers) took a look at certain things. They look at the overall concept of individuals

like ideas, feelings, and emotions. They consider music choices and styles of dance that members bring to the auditions, as well as costume choices. The advisors and other distinguished members who are a part of the Dance Company to begin taking a look at possible concepts that will make the Spring show entertaining. The choreographers pick music and help develop dance routines. The actual start of real practices takes place at the beginning of every Spring semester in January. For the main

the police/fire departments and the lawyers/doctors of Palatine. As the Fall semester comes to a close, the Dance Company becomes more geared toward the Spring show. Every Spring semester the dancers become more focused and serious. They finish cheering for the basketball team, and as the Spring show gets closer and closer they practice, practice, practice as they try to put on a good show. They go strong from January to April. The advisors I keep referring to (Kym



MATT SADLER

HARPER COLLEGE DANCE COMPANY LINING UP AFTER THEIR SHOW.

show (Metamorphosis), the advisors mix up the dances. They do this by placing dancers of all levels of skill together for all the dances. However, the advisors have the final say on all the music choices, costumes, who goes where in all the routines, and other basic things. Every Fall semester the dancers focus on technique. They start cheering for the basketball team (poms), and they participate in charitable events. There is an annual flag football event called Palatine Bowl, which is between

Banner and Vicki Summers) are very passionate; they have several years of experience, and they have good expertise and knowledge of dance and performance. The choreographers for the show this Spring were: Rajinder Chadha, Rachel Dula, Chrissy Kairelis, Ashley Koeckritz, Victor Lugo, Bridgette Maher, Elena Pizarro, Lisa Rushing, and Stephanie Warner. The names of the rest of the crew were: Russell Badalamenti, Jordan Bennett, Bridgette Darnell, Nelly Diaz, Maria Dirkes, Cindy

Godziszewski, Susan Eunyong Hur, Abbey Koenemann, Ashley Ostrinsky, Maryann Paredes, Daniel Phan, Michelle Rzepecki, Jenny Salkos, Meghan Solan, Milon Trilling, Lauren Veller, Lindsey Veller, and Erin Winecki. Now let's dive into the lives of these special choreographers. The first one is Rajinder Chadha. She started dance in High School, performing and choreographing in Orchestis for four years. This is her third year with the Dance Company. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing and Advertising from Columbia College, and is currently a Zumba and Dance instructor. Rachel Dula is in her third and final year with the group. She graduated from Harper in December 2012 with an Associates in Arts. She plans to attend Illinois State University while studying Publishing. She has been dancing since age six.

Chrissy Kairelis is in her second year with the group, and second year at Harper. She hopes to transfer to a university next Fall, to study Food Science. She has been dancing since she was three years old.

The next member is Ashley Koeckritz. She is finishing up her Associates in Arts, and this is her third year with the group, this year as Co-President. She plans on attending a university after Harper and hopes to keep dance in her life. She is very dedicated.

The only male special choreographer, Victor Lugo, is in his second year at Harper. He is focusing on finishing his prerequisites, while studying for the National League of Nursing Entrance Exam. Some of his hobbies include guitar, volleyball, drawing, writing, and of course, dance. He is very passionate about dance and life.

Up next is Bridgette Maher. She

is in her second year at Harper, and second year in the group. She has been dancing since age four. In High School, she was on Varsity Poms and attended Star Performance Company Dance Camp. At this camp she spent time with choreographers from all over the world. The seventh one is Elena Pizarro. She is in her first year with the group, but has been dancing a long time. She danced at the pre-professional level for five years, before ending her career to pursue education last summer. She specializes in ballet and contemporary and has trained with some amazing mentors like Watmora Casey and Larry Long.

Lisa Rushing is in her fourth year with the group, and she has been President for the last two years. She also has been dancing a long time. She likes poms, hip hop, and jazz, and teaches children these skills. Last but not least, the final member of the special choreographer is Stephanie Warner. This is her second year in the group, and is her second year at Harper. She is hoping to study nursing as soon as she finishes her prerequisites. She has been dancing since age three. She currently performs with the professional company called BoomCrack Dance Company in downtown Chicago. This will be her fourth year attending the Hip Hop International World Championships in Las Vegas. At the age of fourteen, she received second in the USA.

The music stops, and the show concludes the dancers take a moment to breathe. They take their final bow as the audience applauds. With all the preparation, energy, and time spent on their Spring show the Dance Company looks forward to doing it next Spring all over again.

VARIETY SHOW

By Cheryl Gilstenson
Staff Writer

Harper's Honors Variety Show Does it Again. On Saturday, April 13th, Harper's Honors Program held its 4th annual variety show. Each year, the group chooses an organization to receive the event's proceeds, and this year's event raised approximately \$500 for the Lydia Home. This residence houses wards of the state near the Northwest side of Chicago. The honors program has partnered with the home over the past few years, bringing students there for a game day, organizing a holiday gift-giving drive, and most recently, painting a mural on the building's walls. Many of the performers have been to the home before. Lisa Licari, last year's honors program president, said about her time painting the mural, "It was so much fun, great bonding time!" Lisa was one of over 30 students who performed in one of eighteen different acts throughout the evening. During the show, the M.C.'s, Associate Professor of English Alicia Tomasian and nursing student A.J. de Villa, took an audience of about 100 friends,

family members, professors, and other students on a journey across the globe.

First, we traveled to France to listen to Dylan Antonides, honors program member, perform a Chopin piece. Dylan, who originally joined the roster to help them fill spots for the show, began playing the piano at the age of five. Now 17, Dylan performs regularly throughout the month. Even though the new setting made him slightly nervous, Dylan said he would love to perform again next year. We also tangoed in Spain with an instrumental quartet. Anya Badaldavood, who organized the event, played the cello. Anya put together a similar charity event last year: "I like organizing these concerts because, for so many people, this will be the only place they will get a taste of classical music." Anya's cousin, Romina P. Babakhan, was in the audience with her six-year-old daughter Bronica: "I hope that she will grow up like that, to be an artist," Romina explained. After the show, Bronica enjoyed one of the chocolate covered strawberries in the reception hall.

The strawberries were not the

only thing that was enjoyable, though. Besides various classical pieces, a rich mix of talents entertained the audience. There were two acts that set this year apart from the previous ones. Rosa Maria Ocampo gave a sign language translation of I Just Can't Wait to be King, from The Lion King, and Magician "Magic Mark Presley" Hawkins wowed the crowd with illusions and games of chance in his magic show. As he performed, Magic Mark narrated his show, interacting with the crowd. He talked about dreams of magic butterflies while producing one on stage, and he explained what led him to build a box of cards that turned into a steel ball after collapsing inward on itself. Michael, 12, came to see his sister, Molly Hendrickson, dance with Harper's Hip Hop Dance class, but he got a big surprise when Magic Mark called him onto the stage to assist with a trick. "It was really fun," he said about shuffling three styrofoam cups, one of which hid a four inch spike, around on a table for the magician.

The M.C.'s also gave the entire audience a surprise when one of the scheduled acts didn't show up. A.J., a natural performer, saved the day with an impromptu performance of his own, playing percussion with a cup and singing, Anna

Kendrick's from Pitch Perfect, "Cups (When I'm Gone)." He and his co-M.C. performed the whole night through, by infusing comedy into their dialogue as they introduced all of the acts. Professor Tomasian has been with the show since the beginning, working with a new student co-M.C. each show: "Every year is great. Every year is a little bit different because each co-M.C. brings a new flavor to the show," she said, explaining why she couldn't pick a favorite M.C. She also said that she loves being backstage and figuring out how to introduce each act because it gives her a new appreciation for the talent onstage. And boy, was there talent on stage! There were multiple dances, both choreographed and freestyle. Instructor Julie Haller led her P.E.D 191 Hip Hop Dance class, including Molly and Lisa, in what could best be described as a "creepy dance". The group of nearly 20 students wore all black and performed to a mix of today's, and some old-school, hip hop songs. Hip Hop was also present in a few songs that were sang throughout the night. Harper's Michelle Tompkins and Raven Winfrey sang Rihanna and Nikky Ekko's Stay. There was also an Elvis impersonator, a cover of Carrie Underwood, and Arron Gassion performed an original

piece called "La Dee Dee La Dee Da." Judging by the crowd's reaction, the original dances and songs were the biggest hits. The show ended slightly differently than it normally does. Harper Alumnus, Hubert Marciniac, and his band Go Hang usually play a few songs for the finale, but the singer, Carter Grant, had had dental work done and was in no condition to rock out. Instead, Jaylen Little, Rob Nordi, and Bill Kidera, along with vocalist Saori Tomura, jazzed up the ending with a little Thelonus Monk, Bill Strayhorn, and Freddie Hubbard. Jaylen sat behind the drums, while Rob blew away on his sax. "The best part of the night," Jaylen said in the reception afterwards, "is interacting with the crowd and my fellow musicians."

For most, the best part of the evening was the variety among the acts. No one could choose one favorite performance, and that's how it should be. Audience member, Donna Barber, has been to two of the honors variety shows and she said, "They seem to get better each time." She plans on coming next year, and if you do too, the Honors Program can continue to raise money to help a charity. It may not be the Lydia Home, but rest assured, the money always goes to a great cause!

What It Takes to be a Good Journalist

By Eric Stevenson
Review Editor

On Friday, April 5th, at the Illinois Community College Journalism Association Conference (ICCJA) in Springfield, Illinois, the Harper Harbinger staff had the pleasure of attending an extremely informative speaking session by Jim Ruppert on what exactly it will take to be a journalist in the near future. Mr. Ruppert is currently the Sports Editor for the State-Journal Register, the only local newspaper in Springfield, Illinois. He was a sports writer for fifteen years before being promoted to Sports Editor in May of 1991.

Like most good speakers, Mr. Ruppert immediately informed us of what exactly it will take to be a journalist in the near future: he doesn't know. But what he does know are plenty of facts about the world in the 21st century, and more importantly, he knows the role that social media plays in becoming a good journalist. According to Mr. Ruppert, there is no such thing anymore as ongoing news. Events that happened a few hours ago are already beginning to become stale, thanks to the incredible speed at which social

media allows its followers and users to become updated. Thirty years ago, a local newspaper could run a few articles on one event a few days in a row. It could even be on the same information in some cases. But in today's break-neck-speed world, news has the same amount of staying power as its excitement and novelty allows it to have. Of course, in the cases of extreme events, like enormous natural disasters, the news will hang around for a few weeks or maybe even a few months, but the modern trend is for news to come at everyone like a UFO out of the sky, hover around our heads for us to gawk at for a while, and then race off into the night without leaving behind a trace.

Another lifestyle change that social media has brought to the world of journalism has to do with money. If you want to be a journalist, a large budget should be the thought that is farthest away from your mind. Thanks to smart phones, any journalist can live out of their car. As long as they have food, gas, and an internet connection, they can be just as good of a journalist as the next guy. Most journalists have Twitter accounts, as this is the most convenient way

to give up-to-date information out as quickly as possible. Many journalists, when reporting on a jury case, will have their phones out in the courtroom, tweeting literally every line that is spoken so that their followers can feel like they are actually there. In spite of how amazing this might sound for the average journalist's career, however, Mr. Ruppert still stands on the grounds that credibility beats immediacy every time.

Mr. Ruppert must have sensed some uneasiness in the air after giving us information like that, especially from those who want to be a journalist for a living. Fortunately, he had plenty of advice to put our minds at ease. He gave us five specific skills that we need to be successful in the world of journalism.

The first one is that you need to know exactly what your job entails, which is: writing, reviewing, and interviewing. Make sure you know how to do all three things well. The second is to have a firm understanding of multi-media and shooting video. A lot of people prefer to get their news through visuals, and if you know how to capture those essential seconds in time with a small camera, you

will find yourself at a much bigger advantage than many others. The third one is, of course, to understand social media and just how effective sites like Facebook and Twitter can be to your career. The fourth one is to own and understand devices such as smart phones, tablets, and the like. These pieces of technology are undoubtedly your most valuable resource as a journalist, and you need to know their full potential if you want to be good. And finally, have passion and purpose. With-

out those characteristics, you will find yourself at the bottom of the heap, with hardly anywhere to go.

For aspiring journalists, this session could not have aided them more. Yes, Mr. Ruppert does not know exactly what it will take to become a good journalist in the near future, but with his keen insight on the tools of the trade, as well as the ever-shifting times, he certainly equipped anyone in the room with enough information to take them to the next step on their quest to become a journalist.

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MUSEUM BRINGS LINCOLN BACK TO LIFE

By Larissa Martinez-Szweczyk
Staff Writer

Some members of The Harbinger went down to Springfield, IL, on April 4-5 for the Illinois Community College Journalism Association (ICCJA). On Thursday, The Harbinger members went to visit the Lincoln Museum along with the newspaper members of several other community colleges. There were many attractions at the museum that put the life and world of President Lincoln in a whole new light.

For one thing, there were two little theatres that showed something about his life and about that time period. The first show was called "Ghosts in the Library". It was created by the same people

who work on animations on the rides at Disney World. That was clearly evident as scenes played out around the actor behind the glass. As he looked at items around the library, things or people came out of them to tell him their story. He talks about how he fought at Vicksburg and died carrying the star-spangled banner that has come to mean so much to everyone throughout history, especially recently. As he talks, he puts on a Union uniform. Then a battlefield scene starts to gradually appear around him, including an American flag. The kicker comes when the scene takes over, and he disappears. Then the whole stage goes black, and still there is no actor. There must really be ghosts in the library. The

other show, known as "Lincoln's Eyes," was on life as Lincoln would have seen it, another entertaining and informative piece.

There are also exhibits throughout the museum. One of them includes personal letters and pictures of the Lincolns, including his famous stovepipe hat. That hat, however, has gained some controversy before it finally settled in the museum. The only proof that this particular hat truly belonged to Lincoln was a farmer's word that the President had given it to him. There was no way to verify that the hat was actually Lincoln's. Eventually, the museum decided to take the hat anyway.

Another exhibit was a look at Lincoln's life through his presidency. There are political cartoons

of him from both the North and the South. There is a scene where his son is dying in his room, and all the people are made of wax to look lifelike.

There are also photos from the beginning of his presidency to the end, showing how much the stress had taken its toll on him. In that same area, there are uniforms from both sides of the Civil War. The exhibit continues through to a scene of what his family life would have been like with his sons. As the exhibit draws towards the end, there is the infamous theatre scene where you can see John Wilkes Booth sneaking into the President's box. The final walk-through scene is of Lincoln's coffin, decorated with huge black drapes in a grand looking room.

Throughout all the exhibits, there are wax statues that look as real as you can get without being a live human being. There is one of the whole Lincoln family and some soldiers, as well as Frederick Douglass. In one of the exhibits, there is even a wax scene of a family getting torn apart by slavery. They look so life-like that if you weren't looking close at them, you would take them for actual human beings.

Overall, the Lincoln Museum brings the legacy of Lincoln to life and to the view of the public, allowing them to share in his journey from lawyer to one of the best presidents this country has seen. If you are ever in Springfield, it is the way to go. Or you may need to make plans to travel there anyway.

Good Food All Around!

By Jennifer Cowell
Copy-Editor

What do Japanese food, American food, and Indian food all have in common? Ordinarily, not too much, but all of these and several others were all types that were served at the International Club's buffet on Thursday, April 4 in room A238, beginning at 3:30 and went until 4:45.

It was a joyful time as all the members of the International Club that were able to attend, hailing from a myriad of countries, gathered together for the last time this semester. The event began with a few moments for everyone to file in and socialize, then kicked off with a small concert given by some of Harper's own musicians. Playing for the group was a percussionist on the bells, a violinist, and a pianist. They played a short song of their own choosing. Once the introduction was over, the moment came for which everybody was waiting: time to eat! There was quite a spread, including

sushi, fried chicken, steamed Japanese soy beans, otherwise known as edamame, chicken fried rice, a fresh fruit mix, and dhokla, which is an Indian dish made primarily from gram flour. One of the unique qualities of edamame is that you cannot eat the skin. Instead, you need to pop the pod open to eat the beans inside. But don't press too hard, or else there will be a mess as opposed to a delicious side dish! Lastly, for dessert, there was also cinnamon bread, various types of cookies, and Pocky Stick, a tasty Japanese biscuit dipped in either chocolate or strawberry. To drink, the students had the choice of either Coke or Sierra Mist.

The rest of the time, the students had a chance to just sit and talk with their multi-cultural friends. These students have certainly come a long way since the beginning of the semester, where many were still getting used to the style of the club and learning each other's cultural differences. A few people were taking pictures to remember the event. Near the

end, ESL Professors Alice Roberts and Ellen Fisher presented the attendees their certificates for being part of the club for this semester. It was a marked achievement to have completed this. Finally, it was time to say goodbye. But not before the group photo! As has become tradition for the club, they took the time to gather everyone with their certificates proudly displayed for a group picture. Most of these pictures, along with the other ones taken to commemorate events the students are part of, go up on the club's Facebook page.

It has been a good year for the students attending International Club, also known as Conversation Café. They have had the chance to do all sorts of fun things, including having a Lunar New Year's celebration, listening to a Harper police officer tell about his job, learning about Bulgaria and Cameroon as the students from these nations gave presentations, playing board games, and having a rocking beach party. The time to join has long since passed, but there is always next semester! Don't miss a chance to meet new friends, and enjoy lots of intercultural fun!



PROFESSOR ALICE ROBERTS

STUDENTS PERFORMING AT THE INTERNATIONAL CLUB



PROFESSOR ALICE ROBERTS

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EVENTS CALENDER

April						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
22	23 Lauren Cohan from AMC's hit series <i>The Walking Dead</i> 7:00 PM Performing Arts Center	24 ITALIAN AMERICAN RECONCILIATION 8:00 PM Drama Lab Theatre	25 FREE Concert Series: Harper Music Student Performances 12:30PM Performing Arts Center ITALIAN AMERICAN RECONCILIATION 8:00 PM Drama Lab Theatre	26	27 College & Career Expo 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Building Z Harper Jazz Faculty and Guests in Concert Performing Arts Center	28 Illinois Shotokan Karate presents the Illinois State Karate Championship 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM Wellness and Sports Center, Gym
		May				
29	30 Guitar Ensemble Concert 7:30 PM Performing Arts Center	1 Annual Student Jury Fashion Show 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM Wojcik Conference Center Richard Hell, Musician and Author: Go Now 7:00 PM J Theatre Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Lab Band Concert 7:30 PM Performing Arts Center	2 FREE Thursday Concert Series: Harper Music Student Performances 12:30 PM Performing Arts Center Wind Symphony and Chamber Winds Concert 7:30 PM Performing Arts Center	3 Lighten Up, It's Only Unemployment DIFFERENT EVERY TIME! 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Harper Professional Center, Suite 15S Spring Concert Choir and SPECTRA Concert 7:30 PM Performing Arts Center	4 Inspire U Event 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Wojcik Conference Center	5

An evening of moderated Q&A with

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7 PM

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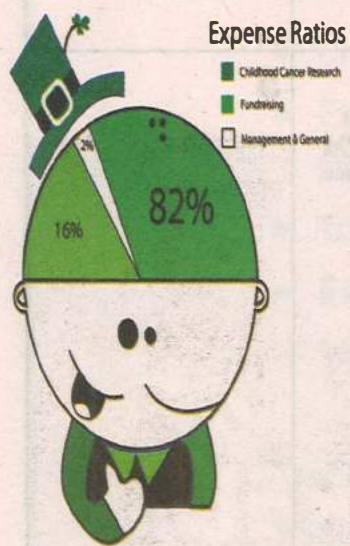
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 Harper College

HARPER COLLEGE HOSTS ST. BALDRICK DAY

Continued from page 1

the mission of the St. Baldrick's foundation two years ago, Wagner added, "My grandpa passed away from cancer, and that led me to understanding someone who had a family member or friend with cancer." Aaron has shaved his head every year, and this year was no different. When asked if he was nervous at all about his head-shaving, Wagner said "It's something I was scared of, but I was willing to take the chance; it's



AARON WAGNER

HOW THE FOUNDATION USES THEIR EXPENSES.

only hair."

Two professional barbers were on-site to conduct the shaving. One of them, Paige Nilson, said, "I've known people that have died of cancer, so this is something I can give back to, to show my appreciation for them, and honor them." Nilson felt strongly about this charity, "With all the drastic

events going on in the world, it's important for every group to get out there and show what they care for." Her time and work was donated, and she plans on coming back next year, "I just want to give back with my talent; this is making a difference."

Every few minutes, cheering erupted from the stage area; another volunteer had shaved their head. Harper student Rachael Schwartz had never shaved her head before, "It's for a good cause, I know it'll grow back." Schwartz was one of many that were inspired to contribute the day-of. Harper student and Barber Coordinator Hanan Aquil originally planned on only cutting several inches off, but made the decision to fully shave her head "I was inspired when I saw two other girls shave their head and I was very motivated, I was nervous but I came to my senses, it's just hair." Aquil felt it was liberating, "Everyone has an emotional attachment to their hair, and it helps to shed that." Right after her hair had been shaved, Aquil said, "This is refreshing! It feels weightless. I was inspired by Amanda Yamamae, Rachael Schwartz and Shayde Fischer." Everyone around Aquil agreed, "Girls can be beautiful bald. Think of all the little girls that lose their hair and think they're ugly. This is something we get to experience; we take it for granted. I don't need the extra hair to feel beautiful. I'm really happy I did this."

Barber Dora Garcia also contributed her time, "This is for a good cause, I told my mom and she almost cried. My uncle just

recently passed away from lung cancer." This is an event Garcia would like to volunteer for again, and remarked that volunteers weren't very nervous about shaving their heads "They all seem pretty excited, and it's to raise awareness."

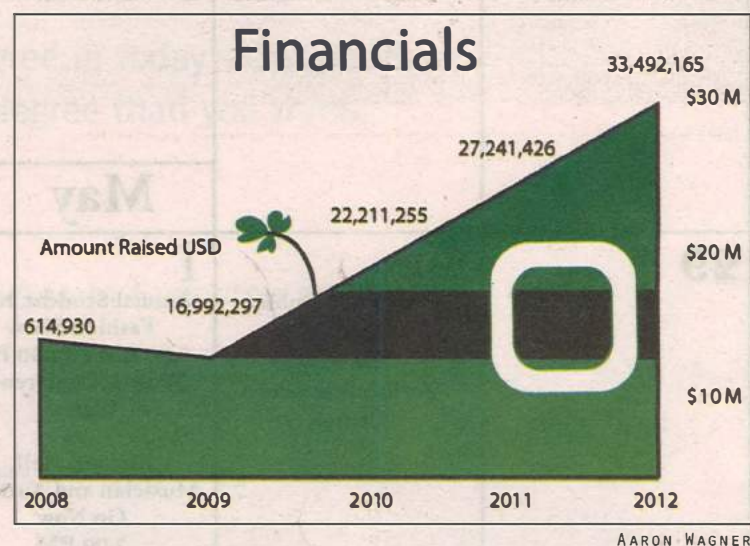
Professor John Garcia, who is also the overseer of the Harper College Phi Theta Kappa chapter, explained that there are many ways students can get involved if they would like to organize their own charity events. "If a student wanted to organize a charity event, it sort of depends whether they want to do it as part of a group like Phi Theta Kappa or not. If you wanted to do it as part of Phi Theta Kappa, you'd bring it up at a meeting and then we'd go about planning the event. Normally the person who came up with the idea would be the person in charge, but others would of course help." Garcia mentioned that there are also many other opportunities for charity work at Harper, "There are a lot of clubs and organizations at Harper that do charity work. Phi Theta Kappa and Honors probably do the most, with perhaps the exception of the Human Services club."

Cheryl Gistenson was very happy with how the event was going, "It's going wonderfully! I hope it's become an annual event at this point." Gistenson also added, "Even though the event is over, we are still taking donations for St. Baldrick's through the end of the year." Inquiries about volunteering with future Harper College St. Baldrick's fundraisers can be made by e-mailing Cheryl Gisten-

son at cbeth137@yahoo.com, or e-mailing Harper College's Phi Theta Kappa chapter at ptk@mail.harpercollege.edu. The event has passed as of this issue's printing, but Gistenson is planning several smaller events to occur through the end of the year at Harper. Donations can also be made online

at <http://www.stbaldricks.org/events/mypage/6421/2012/> or by visiting www.stbaldricks.org and searching 'Harper College'.

Mention this article at Supercuts, 1021 West Dundee Road, Arlington Heights, IL for a discount and haircut with volunteer stylist and barber, Paige Nilson.



AARON WAGNER

AMOUNT OF DONATIONS RAISED SINCE 2008.

Harper College Leadership and Success

By Hanan Aquil
Staff Writer

As Tom Peters once said, "Leaders do not create more followers, they create more leaders." We can view student leadership as a student setting an example and graduating from Harper College as well as a student who involve themselves in clubs and organizations. At Harper, we see a growth in student leadership. Within the last three years, student graduation more than doubled from 2,200 to 4,300. Dr. Ender attributes the increasing graduation rate to student involvement and student leadership.

Dr. Ender has noted that students who are in leadership positions in clubs and organizations are most likely to graduate Harper and transfer to a four-year college. Dr. Ender remarks, "Students affiliated in college tend to finish and persist." Student leaders are connected to the college, involving themselves in student organizations that advocate on behalf of all students. Student leaders in Harper clubs and organizations have a chance to grow as individuals as well as make Harper a better place for all students.

What makes these students so successful at Harper? Dr. Ender has listed personal discipline- like consistently showing up to class and group meetings, personal gut, and persistence as key ingredients for successful student leaders. Students can easily drop classes and quit clubs; however student leaders truck through

the struggles of college and grow from the experience. As Dr. Ender has stated, "Most of life is about showing up and not giving up." Dr. Ender can attest to the need for discipline and persistence; he went from smoking three packs of cigarettes a day to running a marathon in nine months. Small steps lead to big steps; once you start believing in yourself, anything is possible. For student leaders, we see that in their desire for personal growth and success in college.

Traditionally, every leader has had a mentor in their life. Student leaders turn to their advisors for support. Upon discussing the advisors, Dr. Ender has noticed that, essentially, the advisor's job is to help students find a balance between school and clubs.

As Dr. Ender phrased it, advisors cut through the "red tape" and provide access to the organizations' resources to student leaders. In his eyes, advisors are invaluable.

With so many students that attend Harper, Dr. Ender has an ongoing lunch program with leaders of all the clubs and organizations as a way to get to know the students body. He also hosts a spring picnic for student leaders to recognize them for their contribution to Harper. For students interested in becoming a leader, Harper has a leadership program that provides seminars for students to improve in leadership skills. If interested, contact Ernie Kimlin in the Student Activities Office in building A, room A336.

To the student body, Dr. Ender wants to say "I hope you finish. If you finish, you'll be successful."

GOSPEL MUSIC: A GREAT NIGHT TO CELEBRATE AT PEACE ART CENTER

By Esteban Dola Cruz
Staff Writer

Gospel music is a tradition in the U.S.; we can trace its roots back to the 1700's when West Africans slaves were introduced into the Christian faith in the United States. They used music and faith to help ease the transition of life in the United States. One Book One Harper presented an event called, "A Joyful Noise Gospel Concert" on April 17, 2013, at the Performing Arts Center here on campus. The concert was about faith, hope, journey, and love. The concert was from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Mrs. Ju' Lisa Bell sang a song called "Lift Every Voice and Sing". A keyboardist helped her with the performance. The song along with the performance was amazing. Broadview Baptist Chapel Choir followed Mrs. Ju' Lisa Bell with an extraordinary presentation of three gospel songs. Their opening song was "Who is the King of Glory" Broadview Baptist Chapel Choir sang classic gospel songs. One characteristic of gospel music is the use of call and reaction and this was no exception. The

audience really enjoyed to the music, and the crowd participated the whole time by clapping and singing along with the music. The leader of Broadview Baptist Chapel Choir was very dynamic. He moved on the stage and tried to engage with the people in the auditorium all at the same time. One thing about gospel music is that it moves you. As soon as you heard the first note, you will start to clap and sing the songs. After Broadview Baptist Chapel Choir finished with their act, there was a break of fifteen minutes. Outside the auditorium the organizers set up a table with coffee and desserts. After the break it was time for Wheaton College Gospel Choir to put their talent to work that night too. Wheaton College Gospel Choir sang more contemporary songs, on the other hand Broadview Baptist Chapel Choir was more classic. Their first song was "I Am Sold Out". The director of Wheaton College Gospel Choir, Mrs. Tanya Egle, was the spirit of the gospel music that night. She sang with her heart and engaged with the audience the whole time. In conclusion the show was excel-

lent with a very positive audience. The soloist and the two choirs did their best to engage with everyone participating that night. Broadview Baptist Gospel Choir's musicians were amazing and very professional. It was a four piece band that included drums, electric guitar, bass and keyboard. On the other hand, Wheaton College gospel Choir had a three piece band, and they were very professional too. Their musicians played drums, keyboard, and bass. The auditorium was almost full and the audience participated the whole time. For a concert hosted in the middle of the week with a storm going on outside, it did very well. The auditorium was almost full with people that were ready to praise the Lord through gospel music. As the director of Wheaton College Choir said that night, "It is all about God". An old gentleman was shouting the whole time "There is nobody like Jesus! There is nobody like Jesus!" and the audience responded very positively to his statement. We cannot deny that it was an amazing night and that gospel music was displayed in an amazingly powerful way.

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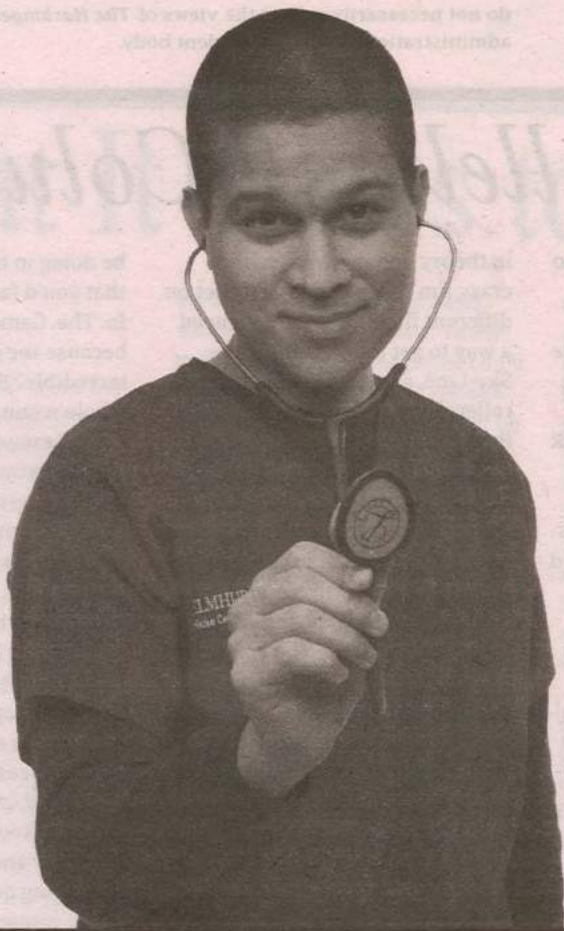
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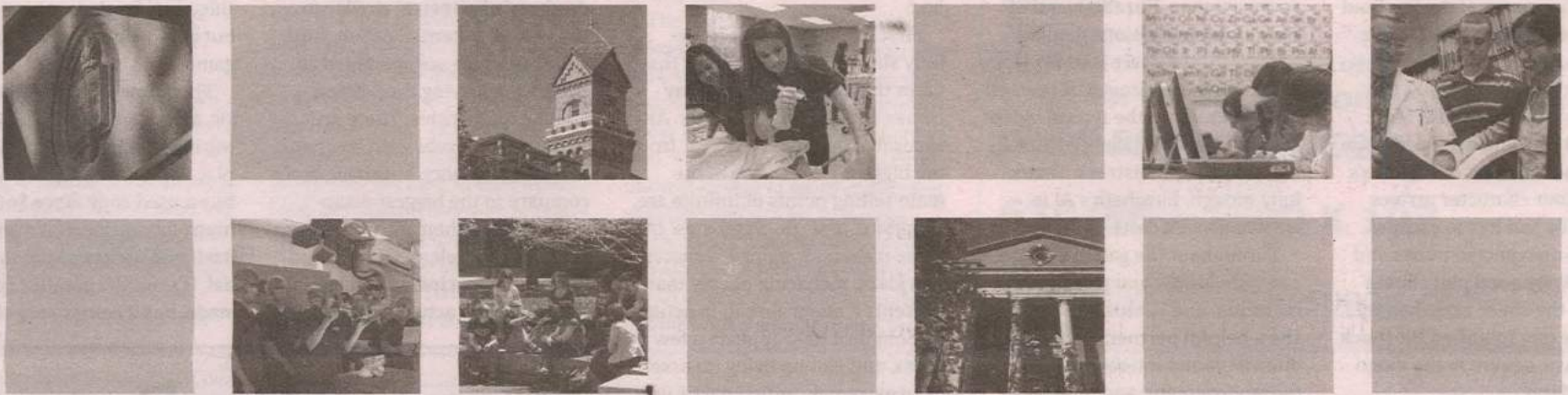
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Bioshock Infinite: *Hallelujah Columbia*

By **Celine Zaphitaros**
Staff Writer

Hallelujah! Hallelujah for one of the most anticipated sequels in video game history, and "hallelujah" is certainly one word to describe Bioshock Infinite! Infinite is the third installment in the Bioshock series. Bioshock 1 (2007), set in an underwater dystopian city named 'Rapture', is a loose satire of Ayn Rand's political philosophy and Bioshock 2 is an almost direct sequel to the first. Bioshock Infinite, however, takes us to the skies--literally.

Before delving into the world of Infinite, let me give some context to the Bioshock brand. Bioshock (1), set in 1960, takes place in a gorgeous art-deco underwater city that was founded as a utopian city, where citizens would be free from the 'long arm of the law' and where free market would thrive. As always, there's much more to the story, but essentially, the city turns into a hell-hole. Mass riots, civil war, and drug addiction cripple and kill most of Rapture's citizens. Your character arrives accidentally and has to escape. There are unexpected twists and turns, like any good plot should have, and the sheer eerie beauty of Rapture has solidified Bioshock 1 as a classic oeuvre in the video game medium.

Infinite take us skyward, to a jaw-droppingly gorgeous flying city among the clouds named 'Columbia.' Set in 1912, the aesthetics of the game mimic early American cities, along with fervent religious

fanaticism. The citizens of Columbia pray to Benjamin Franklin and others of the founding fathers; Columbia is the United States as a Church. Racism is rampant, to the extent that John Wilkes Booth is hailed as a hero for having killed Lincoln.

The racism makes for some very uncomfortable and historically relevant scenes, but this only adds to the realism and darkness of Infinite's mood. Immediately, this game is funny, sad, creepy, and did I mention how beautiful it is? In my two decade long love affair with video games, I have never been so blown away by the stunning beauty of a game's world. Each frame, each way you look in this game could be printed and hung like a painting.

Your character, Booker Dewitt, is tasked with accompanying a young woman, Elizabeth, out of the city. Many feminist gamers, such as myself, were initially wary of Elizabeth's character. It seemed all too similar to the typical video game trope of a male hero 'rescuing' a damsel in distress. Thankfully though, Elizabeth's AI is extremely well done.

Throughout the game, Elizabeth can often throw you money, ammunition, and health. Not only is she a helpful partner, but she can often be found interacting with the environment, and not statically following you. Elizabeth feels real, tough, and is a compelling character.

Let me sum up the good, no, amazing. This game has one of the best introductions I have ever

seen. I don't want to give away too much because it's worth it to be surprised, but it is chilling. The voice acting is impeccable, and the actors clearly put in a lot of work; this authenticity makes Infinite even more immersive. In Bioshock 1 and 2, you had Plasmids, which are basically magic powers; in Bioshock Infinite, you have Vigors. The Vigors are very well done, and the effects of the 'magic powers' you are given are extremely creative. You can kill an opponent by swarming them with crows, you can sweep enemies away in a tidal wave, and more. The art direction and production is outstanding, every inch of the world of Columbia has obviously been meticulously designed and refined by talented artists. On paper, this game should be the best game ever made, but unfortunately, there's also a lot of bad.

First of all, this game is awfully short; even for a gamer that takes their time, the gameplay comes out to about 13 hours. An excusable quality, but it's far from the biggest issue. Two of the main selling points of Infinite are 'Songbird' and the 'Sky-Lines.' In game trailers, Songbird is shown as a giant, menacing enemy that presents a major threat; in actuality Songbird only appears a few times, and end up being an asset, in an extremely anticlimactic way. This horrible, beautiful, terrifying enemy is reduced to being a passing character, and because it was a major marketing tool (Songbird is sold as a statue) this is 'Infinite' disappointing. The Sky-Lines are,

in theory and in game trailers, crazy fun. Since this is a city set on different floating 'pods' you need a way to get around. Enter the Sky-Line, a metal track inspired by rollercoasters that allows you to fly across the city.

The major flaw that keeps the Sky-Lines from being fun are the game levels; each level is in one 'section' of the city, so you end up riding around in circles, and not flying across the city as implied in the game previews. The enemies in the game were also a major selling point; very creatively developed 'baddies' for you to fight. However, some of the coolest enemies only appear a couple of times. Enemies that could have been implemented throughout this entire world only show up once or twice. T

his is a waste of very creatively designed opponents, similar to the wasted potential of Songbird. Other enemies are spammed at the player, leaving the combat stale and repetitive. There are more minor issues with weapons, and sound quality, but those don't compare to the biggest disappointment of them all. Gameplay trailers were released before Infinite, purportedly showing future players actual things they'd

be doing in the game, and enemies that you'd face. None of this is In. The Game. Buying Infinite because the gameplay trailer was incredible? Save your money, that whole scene doesn't exist. Now, I could excuse this to a certain extent, but you are shown Vigors/magic powers, that don't even exist in the game! This is unethical. On the other hand, for gamers that haven't seen gameplay trailers, this isn't an issue.

The story is amazing, that's one thing I won't review. Please avoid any and all spoilers, it's so worth it. Trying to explain the story while not revealing anything is quite hard, but all I'll say is that it's full of twists and well written. The story and ending will leave you asking questions and debating fellow gamers for a long time to come. To conclude, as a hardcore Bioshock fan, I give this a 4/10, but as a general lover of video games, this is a 10/10.

This game is and will be a classic, and anyone with even a passing interest in video games should play Bioshock Infinite. But wait to buy a used copy, since \$60 is too much for a game that oversells itself and wastes so much potential. It's not the greatest game ever made, but it comes very close.

Olympus Never Falls

By **Eric Stevenson**
Review Editor

Not as long as Gerald Butler is in town, at least. As if starring in such movies as "300" and "Law Abiding Citizen" wasn't enough to currently secure him as America's true certifiable badass, Butler takes his tough guy persona to a whole new level with this bullet-fest of a film.

The premise is simple enough: Korean terrorists are angry over America's involvement in the Korean War, apparently leaving Korea desolate and starving, so they decide to return the favor in spades. The leader of this vengeance pack is Kang Yeonsak (played with slithering subtlety by Rick Yune) who leads an army of guerilla soldiers in an assault on the White House. What ensues is an hour and a half tornado of bullets, death, fear, martial arts, bullets, blood, and bullets.

Ninety percent of all this commotion comes from the hands of Gerald Butler, of course. Without giving too much away, his official role is that of a government agent who is trying to redeem himself due to a semi-avoidable tragedy that is semi his fault. But the audience hardly has any time to think

of that event or that angle of the plot, thanks to his Terminator-ish spree of slaughter and domination that lasts throughout most of the movie.

Fortunately, this doesn't take away from the movie in any way. It is one long and unending adrenaline rush that lets up ever so slightly in order to introduce another character that we don't particularly care about get shot without warning. And then we go right back to watching Gerald Butler with a lot of guns (and bullets) take out some more bad guys.

Like some movies that rely too much on action, the elements that go into making a good movie are sometimes watered down. The acting is the first element that comes to mind.

The movie certainly has enough stars...Aaron Eckhart is perfect as the president of the United States, if not for only appearance's sake... but the proper reactions to a terrorist attack and an impending national nuclear meltdown are simply not present. The director of the Secret Service (played by Angela Bassett) reacts to the White House attacks with the same amount of excitement as a teenager doing the dishes. The Speaker of the House (Morgan

Freeman) doesn't seem to let even a nuclear threat get under his skin, as the viewers can't get as much as an eyebrow raise from him. Almost every scene involving these two feels completely underacted. Perhaps I have an ignorant understanding of subtle acting, but I know that I personally would have an entirely different reaction to a foreigner invading the national symbol of American security and freedom.

"Olympus Has Fallen" is great if you don't eat popcorn during a film (besides being not able to concentrate, you might feel queasy after seeing death number 368) and are looking for a crazy good time. It's a classic good guy versus bad guy action flick that will leave everyone on a high. Some might not appreciate that high. T

hey might be disappointed, expecting a movie heavy with political commentary and implied solutions to its problems. Of course politics are included in a movie like this, but it primarily seeks to show you just how much chaos you can endure at the hands of bullets flying around like a mutant swarm of hornets. Oh, and there are a LOT of bullets.

7/10

Dinosaurs Return

By **Larissa Martinez-Szewczyk**
Staff Writer

"Jurassic Park 3D" roars into theaters for its 20th anniversary. The Steven Spielberg-directed film that made its mark in the special effects department when it first came out in 1993 has returned to the big screen, this time in 3D. Of course, if you want to watch it in regular 2D, there is that option as well. IMAX 3D is also available for those that want the full experience of the movie. The movie is rated PG-13. There are a few scenes where you see the T. Rex eat people or smaller dinosaurs where blood is involved, but otherwise there is a strategically placed leaf or branch that covers the gore the majority of the time.

Having never seen the original "Jurassic Park," I didn't know what to expect or what was going to happen. All I knew about it was that it was a famous movie and that there were dinosaurs trying to kill people, which is about as basic as you can get with the plot of the movie. John Hammond is the creator of the soon to be best theme park/zoo in the world, Jurassic Park, where he has managed to create real, living dinosaurs from the blood found in mosquitoes trapped in amber. After a few introductory scenes, the movie begins to get underway as a greedy employee causes some of the security to stop functioning, which leads to all hell breaking loose in the park. The dinosaurs are released from their pens and set free upon the visiting pale-

ontologists, mathematician, and Hammond's own grandchildren. There were times in the plot where I could guess what was going to happen next, but overall, it kept me guessing and intrigued. It will get your heart pounding from the first sign of things going wrong and keep it racing all the way through the film.

The dinosaurs were just amazing. They looked as if they had just come out of a special effects studio from today. They looked real, especially the T. Rex. Even the ones that got up close and personal to the characters looked just as real as the animated ones, not just like some fake-looking prop. The roars of the massive killing machine send chills down your spine. Now imagine that huge thing right in front of your face.

Unfortunately, there really was no use for the 3D. Nothing popped out or was thrown at the audience like in a typical 3D movie, which was a bit disappointing. If you are going to remake a movie into 3D, please add a few scenes where it makes buying the 3D ticket worthwhile. The only scene that really made the 3D worth it was at the end when the banner in the Visiting Center falls down and ripples beautifully in front of the T. Rex as it roars. Though I was a bit disappointed that no T. Rex or Velociraptor jumped out of the screen at me, the idea behind it and originality of it was wonderful, and it was still a well-made film, with or without the 3D.

9/10

22 APRIL 2013

Looking for a Sports Writer

By Kent McDill
Student-Advisor



On April 5, the Harbinger received a third place award in Overall Excellence from the Illinois Community College Journalism

Association in Division I, which is for all schools that publish weekly or bi-weekly. This is the first time in the past six years the Harbinger has received an award for Overall Excellence.

But what struck me about the ICCJA Awards ceremony, which

was held in Springfield, was the number of awards given out to sports writers and photographers each year. In my six years as the Harbinger advisor, we have only had two people willing to dedicate their time to covering sports at Harper. That bothers me from two standpoints:

I have been a sportswriter my entire career. I still cover the Chicago Bulls for nba.com and Yahoo Sports. As a writer, it is a fun topic. As a sports fan, it is an easy topic to get excited about. I am sure there are many students at Harper College who enjoy watching and talking about sports.

Harper College, meanwhile, has a tremendous athletics depart-

ment, and has won national Junior College titles in track and field, wrestling and cross country in my time on campus. And yet, we do not cover the topic because no one wants to write the stories.

If you like sports and like to write, you can have a career in sports writing. While newspapers are struggling to survive, sports coverage will always be there. Sports coverage is often the motor that drives newspaper revenues.

There are also very well-respected web sites that are looking for young writers. True, you will start out getting paid for web hits rather than with a salary, but a quality story will drive traffic. And if you have experience as a sports

writer, you will be more likely to move into a salaried position.

We are developing our staff for the 2013-14 academic year. I would love to have a sports writer in place to cover the fall sports at Harper. Our summer plans call for a couple of meetings to discuss coverage, and it would be great to have someone dedicated to filling out the sports pages.

If you have an interest, stop by A67 and fill out an application. Meet our staff. Or contact me at KMcdill@aol.com. Looking forward to submitting your work for awards at the ICCJA Conference next spring.

Kent McDill

PEOPLE VERSUS MACHINE

By Cheryl Gistenson
Staff Writer



Think about your recent trips to a store or the mall. How many times have you heard, "Sorry, we don't carry that in store,

but if you go to our website..."? What's the point of having brick and mortar stores if they no longer sell products in them? I don't know about you, but I want to see the product, hold it, know that it's durable... (I may also be stubborn about this because I don't have an easy time shopping online, but that's for a whole other article.) This issue leads me to wonder, however, if the technology boom is more of a help or a hindrance, and how it's changed our way of life. Of course, this is a very broad question: on which types of technology are we focusing, and effects on what? I'm going to look at the effects of the Internet and devices like smart phones and tablets on our lifestyle and our social world.

Similar to the store situation, you don't have to leave your house to interact with others. And like the store scenario, I think this, for the most part, is a bad thing. I believe when you don't interact face to face with other people, there is a mental separation from reality. No, I'm not trying to say that we're all going crazy, but I am suggesting that people feel less accountable for their interactions and behaviors when everything is through a screen. People seem less inhibited, due to the disconnect between them and the person on the other end of that screen.

For example, take cyber-bullying. The sport of bullying is ancient, but bullies are stepping onto a very different playing field today. Before, a note may have been passed around school, or a rumor birthed at the company's water cooler. The effects of these could still have the potential to severely

damage the recipient, but at least the harm only went as far as the clique at school or a department within your office. But now, this new cyber-bullying can reach the ends of the world and in a matter of mere seconds. It also doesn't help that technology gives us new tools to increase the harm: camera phones, Photoshop programs, and the convenient large connection through social sites like Facebook and Instagram.

But on the other hand, the new connections and capabilities we encounter through today's devices and the Internet have brought the world closer. Like I said above, media can be shared across the world in a matter of seconds, and there are plenty of reasons why this is a good thing. Family members can connect visually, in real-time with loved ones in other countries, and it no longer costs an arm and a leg. With things like Facetime, Skype, and digital phone services, it's now the norm to call up a spouse in France or a cousin in Iran. One of the biggest benefits to using many of these programs is the video call, through which special occasions aren't missed, such as a grandparent watching the grandchildren walking for the first time. The capabilities of visual communication seems endless. You can use Instagram to share a photo that you've just snapped with your phone. You could simply use the phone to text the photo. We can feel connected and a part of the lives of those we can't be near.

However, through many of the recent tragic events our world has experienced, we can see how the instant bombardment of visual media can not only harm loved ones, but it can create a feeling of intrusion to those subject in the photos and videos. Nowadays, when a disaster occurs, whether it be brought on by humans or nature, the world can see a play-by-play account of it merely minutes after it has started; there is always a camera phone nearby. Immediately after the bombs exploded at the Boston Marathon finish line, pictures of bloodied limbs were

popping up on our screens. The news had videos of the explosions on a continuous loop. Thankfully, the majority of us are still of the mindset that this display is disrespectful and harmful.

Also, by posting photos and info on social media, things can get pretty muddled up. For instance, soon after the news began to report on the school shooting in Connecticut, death threats against Ryan Lanza were flying all over cyberspace. But shortly after his name had been released, the police announced he is the brother of the suspected shooter, that Adam Lanza had been carrying his brother's ID when he entered the school. At the same time, it was the same information system that notified the parents and community members and kept them updated on the events.

By now, it's clear that it is nearly impossible to determine whether or not our use of technology is for better or worse. Yet, it is also clear that it is our use of the technology that brings about the negative or positive results, and we need to start asking why we use technology the way we do, and how we can optimize its positive effects on our society and

lifestyle. Indeed, there are countless benefits, such as convenient shopping and deal-getting sites, educational tools, etc. With such a plethora of information out there, we just need to fact-check, review multiple sources, and come to our own conclusions. Don't use social media to spread nasty pictures and negative thoughts. But instead, create and use resources that promote productivity, such as the Facebook page Harper Serves Forward, which connects Harper students to various service opportunities on campus and in our neighborhoods. The bottom line is that we can dictate the effects of our resources through our intentions and actions. We need to be the responsible ones and not blame technology itself for our behavior.

Next time, call a friend instead of text; humans need direct interaction to maintain our emotions and bonds, so go to the grocery store every once in a while instead of using Peapod, and the next time you need to figure out how much tip to leave, use your brain instead of your phone's EZ tip calculator. We don't want to become so dependent on these tools that we become an idiocracy.

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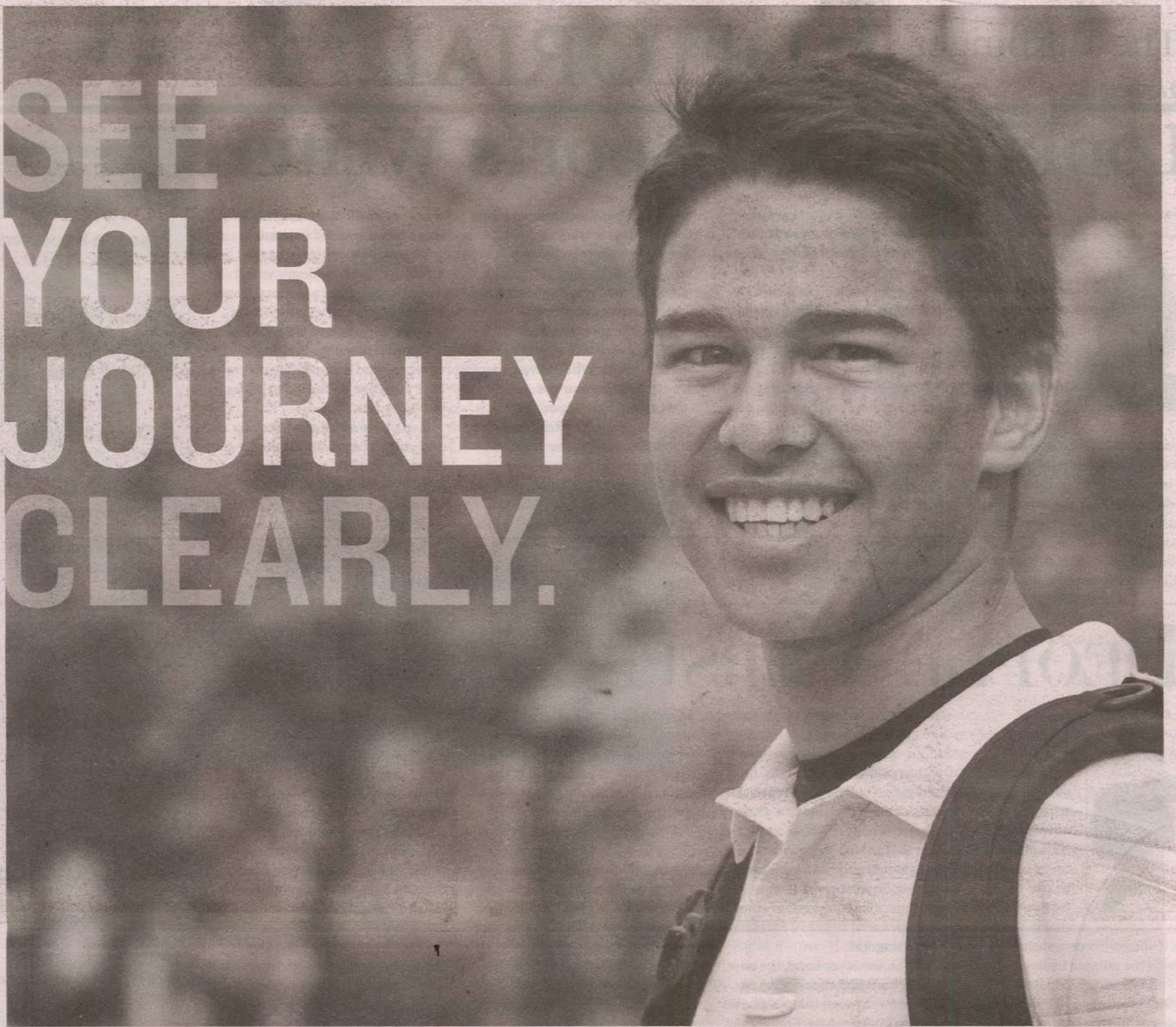
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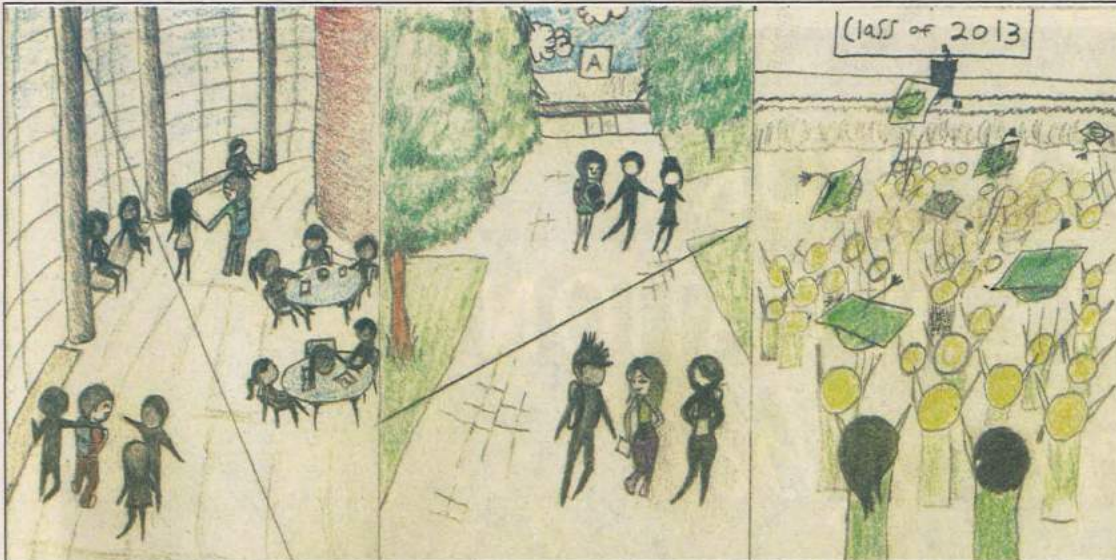
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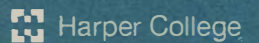
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