

The Ampersand

UIC Honors College

February 2000

Important Upcoming Dates

March 4	Honors College Charity Ball
March 10	Phi Eta Sigma Scholarship Deadline
March 11 - March 19	Spring Break
March 19	Phi Kappa Phi Membership Deadline
March 22	Phi Eta Sigma Induction Ceremony
March 30	Phi Kappa Phi Research Grant Deadline

Dream a Little Dream at the Honors College First Annual Charity Ball!

You can dream *your* little dream on Saturday, March 4th, from 6 p.m. until midnight. This year's Ball will be at the beautiful Midland Hotel (172 West Adams), site of previous Honors Balls. Tickets to the Ball are on sale NOW and are available at the ticket booth in CCC, or from Johnette Foster in the Honors College. They are only \$30 per person and *everyone* is welcome!

This year's Honors College Ball will be a little different. Yes, there will be the usual delicious dinner, and dancing, and the chance to see your fellow students (and some faculty and administration!) all dressed up in their Ball finery.

But this year's Ball will have something extra – all proceeds from ticket sales and fundraising efforts will be donated to the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants wishes to children under the age of 18 with life-threatening illnesses. It is the largest wish-granting charity in the world with 80 chapters across the United States and its territories and 20 international affiliates. Through private donations and the efforts of more than 18,000 volunteers, the Make-A-Wish Foundation has granted wishes to more than 66,000 children in the United States and more than 7,000 in other countries since being founded in 1980. Everything from being an honorary police officer to trips to Disneyland to

meeting sports and movie stars are just some of the wishes that have been granted.

For more information about the Make-A-Wish Foundation, please call the National Office at (800) 722-WISH or visit the Web site at www.wish.org.



Honors College Dean's Honor Roll is OnLine

Don't forget to check out the Fall Semester 1999 Dean's Honor Roll online at the Honors College web page:

<http://www.hc.uic.edu>

Students who earned a perfect 5.00 GPA for the fall 1999 semester are listed on the Honor Roll.

Congratulations to all!



HCAB's Cultural Outings Series

by Boyan Petrovic

HCAB's Cultural Outings Series is back this semester by popular demand. This program represents HCAB's effort to get members of the Honors College and the university at large to take advantage of the world-class fine arts opportunities the city of Chicago has to offer.



This semester, we will be sponsoring three outings. The first will be a trip to Symphony Center to listen to the outstanding **Chicago Symphony Orchestra**. On Tuesday, March 28, we will see Mark Elder conduct the orchestra in Bax's *Spring Fire*, Mozart's *Bassoon Concerto in B-flat Major*, and Elgar's *In the South, Op. 50*. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. The cost for this outing will be \$7.50 for the ticket and money for dinner and CTA transport.

The second outing will be to the **Museum of Contemporary Art** to see "Asi se baila un Son" (How to Dance a Son).

According to the MCA, this piece "celebrates Son Montuno, the Afro-Cuban music and dance form that is the basis of salsa". The performers include Sonny Allen, one of the original Mambo Kings, as well as Gina Benitez and Ivan Rivera of Razz M' Tazz, one of New York's best known Latin dance groups. The performance is Friday, April 7, at 8 p.m. and tickets cost \$15. Participants will also need to bring money for dinner and CTA transport.



The final event will be "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" at **Steppenwolf Theater**. This show will feature the well-known Steppenwolf ensemble member, Gary Sinise. According to Steppenwolf, this show is "the unforgettable story of a mental hospital and its inhabitants. When a brash new inmate arrives, the rigid program of the ward, headed by the tyrannical Nurse Ratched, is thrown up for grabs. In a world where sanity means conformity and following the rules is the only way to survive, **ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST** is a powerful exploration of both the beauty and the danger of being an original". We will be attending the Thursday, April 20, 7:20 p.m. performance of the play. Rush tickets for this outing cost \$19. Participants will also need to bring money for dinner and CTA transport.



For each of the cultural outings, we will meet in the Honors College Lounge in Burnham Hall at 4:45 p.m. to get to meet each other and decide on where the group wants to eat dinner. Then, we'll depart for our destination as a group by 5 p.m. for the box office of the Symphony Center, museum, or theater. Please note that we will be purchasing rush tickets on the day of the show just a few hours before the performance. These reduced price tickets usually require that students have a student I.D. on them and that they pay in *cash*. After buying our tickets we will enjoy a repast at restaurant in the vicinity of the event. Most of the performances begin by 7:30 and end by 10, so in each case we should be back at UIC by 10:30 p.m.

Those students who are interested in participating should e-mail **Boyan Petrovic** at bpetro1@uic.edu to sign up. Please be advised that the number of participants in each of the cultural outings is capped at 25, so sign up early if you want to be assured a spot in the program.

Stay Informed:

Check Your E-Mail!

Don't forget to check your e-mail regularly! We frequently send out important information to all Honors College students. While not all of it may apply directly to you, we often send out information about scholarships, job opportunities, events, course changes, and the like.

Additionally, we will send mail to your UIC e-mail address, so you need to check that account. We are not responsible for maintaining any other e-mail addresses you may have. However, you are free to forward your UIC e-mail to another address.

Do You Have Your Honors College ID Sticker?



If you haven't already done so, please stop by the Honors College front desk and pick up your Spring 2000 semester Honors College sticker for your UIC ID card. It is important that you have this sticker affixed to your ID, as it identifies you as an Honors College student.

Keep Us Up to Date!

In order for us to maintain accurate records, please inform us if you change your address, phone number, or major. There are "Change of Information" forms in the literature rack in the lobby of the Honors College.

Additionally, if you are taking a semester off from school for any reason, but plan to re-enroll or graduate, please let us know so we do not remove you from our database. Please inform Honors College Office Manager Johnette Foster of your status. She may be reached via e-mail at: jfoster@uic.edu

Commuter Woes: Let's Find Ways to Get Involved!

by Tara Mythri Raghavan

Imagine missing your bus, getting drenched in mud, and reaching class late. Then you realize that this is only the start of your perfectly horrible day. Welcome to the world of an average commuter. After three and a half years being a spokesperson of this group, I can safely say that although commuting has some perks, it also has many problems associated with it. Although I am happy that I do not have to worry about the nutritional value of my meals or how often my laundry gets done, I am disgruntled with how early I need to get up to get to school. I also do not appreciate the lack of travel discounts for college students. As a Metra passenger, it often irritates me that high school students receive discounted fares and poor college students don't.

After waiting for the U-Pass for three years, I feel compelled to say that I hope that in the next one hundred years, UIC finally succumbs to this plan. I have resorted to walking in order to save money and time. These problems, though substantial, do not prevent us from enjoying campus life, however.

Along with the whole problem of having to get up early to take earlier trains or warm up cars, commuters are also unable to stay later on campus. Most commuters try to get off campus as early as possible so as to avoid bad weather, traffic, and being late for work, preventing them from enjoying all the night activities that UIC has to offer. Thus, when people complain how this campus is dead after six in the night, no one is at fault. I myself have often left after hours meetings early to catch the 6:40 train. My reasoning is that the next train is after another hour and gets me home too late to get anything done.

Having gone here for over three years, I say with dismay that commuter options are limited by our own problems. Thus, it is perhaps time for commuters to come up with more activities during school hours. The Honors College provides luncheons and socials for students to interact with each other and faculty during the day. Nevertheless, many students complain that the times for these programs are not very feasible given their need to be in class or home early on Fridays. The Honors College Advisory Board also has put together some interesting cultural programs and yet commuters are often last to participate in such activities.

As a member of the Board and Activities Chair, I am always trying to find ways to get both commuters and residents involved in projects. After much consideration, I believe that it is time for commuters to let me know what they want. If you have any ideas for future activities or just want to comment about the lack of opportunities on campus, e-mail me at tragh1@uic.edu. Perhaps we can make some headway on these problems.

Power Tutoring to the Rescue!

by Vidhya Viswanathan

You sit down at the desk and prepare to take an exam that is worth around 20% of your total grade. As you look at the test, you suddenly realize that whatever you studied the night before is useless. The test seems like it is written in a foreign language, and by now, you're pretty sure that passing might be impossible, let alone obtaining a fairly good grade. You chide yourself for getting behind in the class, for falling asleep during lectures, for putting things off until the last minute. And you say to yourself, "Why didn't I get help earlier, when I could have actually have done something to prevent this?" Then, you realize that while you were talking to yourself, the time on the test had elapsed, and now you only have about ten minutes to finish. The inner voice inside you screams as you slowly work your way through the test.

Every college student, no matter how smart, faces a course that stupefies him or her. A lot of the time, the student fails to seek help for the class until just around test time. As a result, he or she has about a week to cover material that spans three or four weeks. When a student finds themselves in trouble, they often refuse to get help, feeling that doing so would make them feel idiotic. Usually, the end result is what we see above. Often, students wonder where they can go to get the help they need in the subject areas that absolutely confuse them. The Honors College has solved this dilemma by introducing a tutoring program called **Power Tutoring**.

Power Tutoring is a way for students who understand a certain subject to help other students who do not feel as confident in that particular area. The students who tutor are Honors College students who have already taken the course and have earned an A or a B in that class. As a result, they can relate to the students who are taking the course and help guide them in learning the material. The tutors, obviously, are not professors, but they do provide an important service to students by giving them a place to turn to when a certain subject becomes too difficult.

Contrary to what many believe, the tutoring program is not merely for Honors College students. Rather, it is for all UIC students who want to get ahead or keep afloat in their classes. The tutoring program is a service that runs from Monday-Friday, 9 - 4 in the Honors College Conference Room. Different tutors teach different subjects at different times, and a schedule can be picked up at the Honors College; you can also view it online on the Honors College web page at: www.hc.uic.edu.

College courses can be difficult at times. So if you ever feel as if you're drowning in a class, just remember these words, "Never fear, **Power Tutoring** is here."

For more information on Honors College tutoring, e-mail Vidhya at: vviswal@uic.edu

The Truth Behind Medical School Interviews

by Ashish Sud

Many pre-medical students fear the medical school application process. However, once through the extensive paperwork and loopholes, we await the final decisions of the medical school committees. Finally the day comes: we get the infamous letter with an interview call! As the interview date comes closer, apprehension is common. Starting with the MCAT's and proceeding all the way through June, a constant cloud of doubt hangs over your future. But, UIC has tremendous resources available to help the pre-medical student with the application process. However, the area that we seem to lack here is helping students with interview training strategies. This would be extremely helpful, as many students fear the day they should actually be most confident on.

As a graduating senior, I will be entering medical school next year. Given the opportunity to write for the *Amper-sand*, I would like to tell you about my interview experiences. To start off, I was just as apprehensive as the next student before the interview. However, as I soon found out, confidence is what the interviewer is most interested in seeing.

Interviews have been classified into several categories by many authorities. Common ones include the 'easy,' the 'disinterested,' the 'psychological,' and the feared 'stress' interview. I've encountered the stress, the easy, and the disinterested. It is very important to proceed with a strategy once you find out what your interviewer is going to do to you.

There are definite strategies to approach each type of interview. The disinterested interviewer is actually trying to learn more about you without telling you what to talk about. They want to know what's important to you in your life. Be prepared beforehand by writing down things you want to talk about. The easy interview should also be taken this way by preparing a list of things you want to highlight about yourself. The psychological interview is one where you are asked either obscure questions or questions about morality. They are not necessarily looking for a correct answer here but want to see your stress level and how confidently you can defend your answer. And then there is the feared stress interview. Here, the interviewer can be cold, rude, or even just make you angry. The interviewer is looking for how well you can respond to the levels of stress you will face as a resident and as a future physician. It is essential to keep your calm and answer the questions as confidently as possible. At the end, most interviewers like this will acknowledge that they were trying to place you "in the hot seat."

HCAB Sponsors "Open Mic" Session

by Mona Oberoi

The Honors College Advisory Board hosted its first ever 'Open Mic' Session on Tuesday, February 8.

The purpose of this session was to encourage Honors College students to voice their concerns regarding any issue.

"HCAB is a student governance, and we're here to represent the student body.

This session allowed students' voices and opinions to be heard so that they can be brought up to administration, allowing any appropriate action to be taken," stated HCAB co-President **Rajeev Garg**.

The session was held in the Honors College student lounge at 5:30 p.m., and only students were present during the session. The absence of faculty and deans encouraged students to be upfront with their concerns. In addition to this, allowing students to address the board without stating their name preserved the confidentiality of each student. During this relaxed environment, issues varying from the appropriate behavior of students in the lounge, the obtaining of the U-pass, extension of library hours, to the cleanliness of the restroom facilities were addressed.

"Hopefully, something valuable will come of this session," stated Honors College student **Jeff Meglin**.

"The session was very valuable to people who went, but not enough non-board members were present." The minimal attendance was a bit disappointing to HCAB members. Another Open Mic Session will be held in the future in hopes of greater attendance by Honors College students.

The Open Mic Session is just one example of improvements the Students' Rights Committee, a sub-committee of HCAB, hopes to implement. "Once we decide which issue seems to trouble Honors College students the most, we will put all our efforts into taking action on that particular issue. We will do everything possible to get the issue resolved," stated Chair of the Students' Rights Committee, **Boyan Petrovic**.

To reiterate, the purpose of HCAB is to represent the Honors College student body. These Open Mic Sessions are a great time to express issues that need to be addressed. Stay tuned for information on the next Open Mic Session. If you have any immediate concerns or wish to further inquire about the HCAB Students' Rights Committee, feel free to e-mail **Boyan Petrovic** at bpetro1@uic.edu



Hungry? Try These Restaurants

by Cherie Ryoo

“Gee, where and what should I eat?” is a question we all ask ourselves hundreds of times throughout our lives...the never-ending question. Well, Chicago, as we all know, offers hundreds of places to choose from. Like many students on the UIC campus, I like to try new things out, so I’ve visited a couple of restaurants around the Chicago area. Here’s what I thought of them:

Atwood Café

Located at 1 W. Washington St.(at State Street) in the classy Burnham Hotel (across from Old Navy), it is in a prime spot for the many shoppers in this district. When I first stepped inside, I was struck by the surroundings. This place is COOL. Instead of the normal table and chair seating, Atwood has couches, plush chairs, and small tables, ideal for a small lunch or cup of tea and dessert. It also provides a fantastic setting for a late dinner date. In other words, it is your all-purpose setting for any kind of meal gathering you could wish for.

The café is described as serving American comfort food and café cuisine. From the decent-sized menu, one can choose the “bowl of the day,” several side dishes, and several entrees, among which are a pot pie, which changes daily, pasta selections, and even steak. I was intrigued by something called orrechiette, (“little ears” pasta) and duly ordered it, along with mashed potatoes. It turned out to be an extremely well-prepared pasta dish, in a rather generous serving. Soft focaccia and other types of bread were served with shallot butter along with the meal, and the mashed potatoes were done to a creamy, garlicky perfection. To finish, we ordered a pear sorbet, which was freshly made and quite pleasing to our satiated palates. Moderately expensive, this restaurant is well worth the trip down State Street.

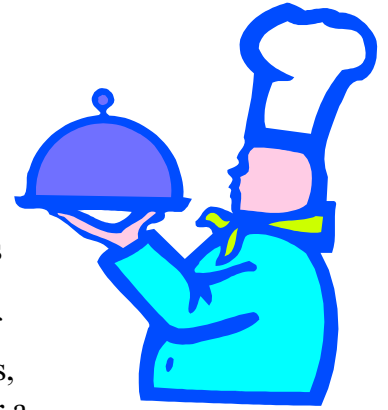
Lino’s Ristorante

To choose one restaurant from all the Italian restaurants in Chicago is quite a task. I attempted to pick one anyway, and finally flipped a coin. Lino’s is located at 222 W. Ontario, in the corner of a building. You must go up a small narrow hallway, which opens up into a bar. Once you pass the bar, you’re met by a friendly host and quaint but interesting, surroundings. The décor put me in mind of an Italian country inn, with bottles of wine, baskets, and whatnot hanging from the ceiling, along with green-checkered tablecloths gracing the tables. We were promptly seated, and almost attacked by the serving staff. Enthusiastic, eager, and lively, they seemed quite pleased to see us and everyone else that arrived.

The menu was quite extensive, and there were also quite a few daily specials chalked up on boards on the walls. Unless you know Italian, though, you’re better off asking the waiter about the specials. Like most restaurants, we were served bread, but unlike most, this bread came with dipping oil with a lot of red peppers ground into it. This was a very different, and a very good taste. I ordered gnocchi, which was served with a meat sauce. It came in a very generous portion, which I was not able to finish.

Although the entrees were excellent, it did not compare to the many home-made desserts that the restaurant prepares. As soon as I asked about dessert, the waiter whizzed off and promptly returned, rolling a cart laden with tarts, cakes, and pies. I was able to choose what I wished, and another waiter performed a little show by squirting fruit syrups on the plate in a dizzying design and placed my tart right in the middle. The clear plastic bottles the syrups were squirted out of did ruin the spectacle a little bit, but it certainly didn’t ruin the taste.

Lino’s dishes are not too expensive for college students to afford, and the restaurant is a good place to spend a late Friday night dinner with family or friends.



Some Thoughts to Motivate You

by Vijay Khiani

“You cannot reach your goals unless you first stretch your imagination.”

“It is impossible to love someone, if you don't love yourself.”

“Don't ask yourself what the world needs; Ask yourself what makes you come alive. And then go and do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.”

— Harold Whitman

“A friend is one to whom one may pour out all the contents of one's heart, chaff and grain together, knowing that the gentlest of hands will take and sift it, keep what is worth keeping, and with a breath of kindness blow the rest away.”

— Arabian Proverb

“Much of our successes and disappointments in life center on our attitude, Whether we think we can achieve something, or we think we can't. Therefore, let's reach for the stars and travel to new places; In our minds and hearts - growing, changing, And making a positive contribution to society and to other people's lives!”

“No matter what the weather is like, let your mood be all right.”

“I may never see tomorrow. There's no written guarantee. And things that happened yesterday belong to history. I cannot change the future, I cannot change the past, I have just the present moment, I must treat it as my last. I must use this moment wisely, for it soon will pass away and be lost to me forever, as part of yesterday. I must exercise compassion, help the fallen to their feet, be a friend unto the friendless, make an empty life complete. The unkind things I do today may never be undone, and friendships that I fail to win may never more be won. I may not have another chance on bended knee to pray. And thank God with humble heart for giving me this day.”

— Author Unknown

“In any moment of decision, The best thing you can do is the right thing. The worst thing you can do is nothing.”

— Theodore Roosevelt

Black Facts

by Jessica Wilson

In recognition of Black History Month, here are some interesting facts about some prominent African-Americans:

Do you know Mae Jemison? Did you know Dr. Jemison graduated from Chicago's own Morgan Park High School (my alma mater) in the class of 1973? Mae Jemison, who earned a Bachelor's of Science in Chemical Engineering and a Bachelors of Arts in African American Studies, earned her Ph.D. degree from Cornell University. She went on to become the first black woman in space. Source: www.lib.lsu.edu/lib/chem/display/jemison.html

Do you know W.E.B. DuBois? Did you know DuBois' full name is William Edward Burghardt DuBois? W.E.B. DuBois was the first black man to express the concept of Pan-Africanism—that is, that Black people have common interests and should work jointly to overcome prejudice. He was also the first black person to receive a Ph.D. degree at Harvard University. Source: www.worldbook.com

Do you know Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, Cynthia Wesley, and Addie Mae Collins? Probably not. They were the four young black girls in the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama that were preparing their Sunday School lessons when a bomb brought the book of their lives to a close. The bomb was a result of segregationists' anger over the ruling that schools should be integrated. Source: www.useekufind.com/peace/summary.htm

Do you know Afeni Shakur? Yes, you guessed right. She is the mother of the famous rapper and actor, Tupac Shakur (June 1971-September 1996). She was a member of the Black Panther Party, who was arrested for charges of conspiracy in a New York City bombing plot. It was while she was in jail that her celebrated and much-loved son Tupac Amaru Shakur was born. Did you know that “Tupac Amaru” was an Incan warrior, whose name means “Shining Serpent” and “Shakur” means “Thankful to God” in Arabic. Tupac was shot 4 times on September 7, 1996, with 2 of the bullets being fatal. Source: www.tupacshakur.com

Do you know Louis Farrakhan? Did you know that he was born Louis Eugene Walcott on May 11, 1933 in New York City? He adopted the name Louis Haleem Abdul Farrakhan in 1966. He is more popularly known as the National Representative of the Nation of Islam, a religious union promoting self-development and self-improvement. The Nation of Islam is known for helping to make gang peace pacts in many cities. He also made a call for a Million Man March, which took place on October 16, 1995, at which time over two million men stood in Washington, D.C. to declare that they were ready to stand up and take on their responsibilities. The Saviour's Day Convention is scheduled for Sunday, February 27, 2000 at 7 PM at the United Center, where he will be the keynote speaker. Source: www.worldbook.com/fun/aajourney/html/bh093.html

Black history has affected and impacted everyone in some way. Expand your mind through learning about Black heritage. There is richness in Black culture that should be recognized in February and everyday of the year.