

# The Ampersand

UIC Honors College

March 1998

## Important Dates

March 7	<i>Honors College Ball LaStrada's Top of the Plaza - 6 p.m. - Midnight</i>
March 14 - 20	<i>Spring Break - No classes</i>
March 20	<i>Phi Kappa Phi Research Grant Application Deadline</i>
March 23	<i>Phi Eta Sigma Scholarship Applica- tion Deadline</i>
March 30	<i>Fall 1998 Timetable Distribution begins</i>
April 2	<i>Spring Luncheon</i>

## *A Message From the Dean*

I would like to thank all the members of the Honors College's extended family who sent me get well cards and flowers while I was in the hospital. These warm wishes gave me new energy and contributed to my recovery by brightening my days. I also thank Deans Jeff Lewis and Janet Madia and other members of the staff for their professionalism, their dedication and their "manning" of the College during my absence. I have reason to feel great about our institution.

I have asked the Office of Access and Equity to organize for us at the Honors College a workshop to increase our sensitivity to gender, race and disability discrimination. Needless to say, the issue is critical. Collectively and individually, we must strive to foster in the Honors College quarters the environment most propitious to study and civility. You will receive an invitation by e-mail after your return from the spring break. Everyone is invited and should attend. In the meantime, have a good vacation.

*Dean Kaba*

## **First Honors College Social a Success**

*by Julie Murphy*

If you weren't around the Honors College Friday, February 20, you missed a momentous occasion: our first social. The purpose of this event is to provide an atmosphere where Honors College students, staff, and faculty can meet and socialize on an informal level. And from the response we received, it seems this social is a welcome opportunity.

Two special guests attended our social, Philosophy Professor **Neal Grossman**, and Assistant to the Dean **Jennifer Kosco** of the Honors College staff. Although many students may have met either Jennifer or Professor Grossman before, perhaps at the Honors College or in a class, few have had the occasion to socialize with them outside of a formal setting. Because of our small size, the Honors College can afford to be a friendly and inviting environment within this large university where faculty and students know one another by face and name. And the social is a perfect opportunity for us to accomplish this goal.

We plan to continue these socials in the future, making them a monthly event. The next one is tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 24, again from 3:00-5:00. If there are any comments or feedback regarding the social, times, or suggestions for faculty to invite, please contact **Roopa Chakkappan** at [rchakk1@uic.edu](mailto:rchakk1@uic.edu). Mark your calendar and hope to see you there.

## **Fall Registration Coming Soon**

Registration for Fall 1998 classes begins April 13th. Watch for your registration materials, which will be mailed Monday, March 23rd. There will be more information about Honors courses, etc. in the next Ampersand

And, as always, don't forget to register for HON 222 (Honors Activity).

# Greg Jones Wins Prestigious Engineering Award

**Greg Jones** (sophomore, Bioengineering) was recently recognized at the 1998 Black Engineer of the Year Awards Conference held in Baltimore the weekend of February 27<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup>. Greg was the only college student to receive a Special Recognition Award. Other honorees in this category included engineers from NASA, Motorola, Texas Instruments, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the Air Force.



“It felt gratifying and exhilarating to be on stage with so many role models. I was honored to be in such distinguished company. I’ve also been motivated to work

even harder in my classes,” said a euphoric Greg the Monday after the conference.

While at the conference, Greg attended several workshops and seminars, which gave him an opportunity to learn more about the engineering field. He was also offered several internships and networking opportunities.

Before entering UIC in the fall of 1996, Greg served in the U.S. Navy. He passed with high marks the rigorous Naval Nuclear Power School, and served aboard the submarine USS Olympia. He also graduated from the Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training Program, ranking first in his class of 270.

Congratulations, Greg!

Watch for photos of the Honors College Ball in the next issue of *The Ampersand* and on the Honors College web page: <http://www.hc.uic.edu>

## Mother Ganga

by Goud Maragani

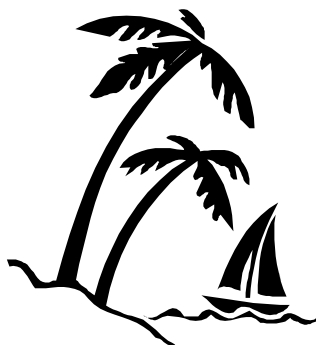
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As I sit here and bathe my sins away  
 Could it be true, Mother Ganga,  
 that this is you?  
 Could it be that your essence is this awful stench?  
 Is it possible that the waters running from Shiva’s head could be so brown;  
 when the purest waters of the world are clear  
 Perhaps our sins have changed your complexion  
 Perhaps we have forgotten how to treat our mother  
 We have forgotten to revere her, and  
 take care of her in her old age  
 Hopefully you still love us,  
 as all mothers love their children  
 Hopefully you will be patient,  
 and give us time to change our ways  
 But if we do not change, please remind us of our duties to you  
 Ravish our towns and cities with your adulterated waters  
 Destroy our crops and cattle  
 Punish us, for we are your children  
 and sometimes children need to be reminded of their duties  
 But above all: love us, for we are all yours,  
 and submit to your demands

## Top Ten Spring Break Hot Spots

by Tanja Pemicki & Nadia Jafri

For those of us lucky enough to leave the area for spring break, here is a list of hot spots.



10. L.A. - Don’t you enjoy smog?
9. Cancun - Party with all the drunk high-schoolers.
8. Fort Lauderdale - Party with all the drunk college students.
7. Palm Springs - Party with all the drunk rich retirees.
6. Seattle - To counter the effects of caffeine withdrawal after midterms.
5. Las Vegas - Visit Monte Carlo, Egypt, New York, Hollywood, the Roman Empire, and Paradise all in one city.
4. Dallas - Did you realize Texas was another country?
3. Sioux Falls, South Dakota - Feel like being alone? *Is there anyone in South Dakota?*
2. Anchorage, Alaska - In case you missed “Titanic”.
1. Urbana-Champaign - Enjoy the corn fields of our sister down south.

# Help Out and Stay Active at the Same Time!

by Mona Lala

For those of you who are athletic and enjoy being with children, do I have a volunteer experience for you! It's run by Nike (yes, the shoe company) and it's called Participate in the Lives of America's Youth, otherwise known as **P.L.A.Y. Corps**. This program is all about helping kids get involved with sports, especially those kids who do not have the opportunity to participate in organized sports at school due to school budget cuts or the inability to get to a safe recreation center. Nike believes that it is very important to get kids involved with athletics at a young age, because statistics have shown that those children that don't get involved with sports early on may never try them. Did you know that there is only a 10% chance that a girl will join a sport if she hasn't done so by age 12?

This program's mission is not only to get kids active, but also to provide them with mentors. The coaches give them athletic guidance as well as direction in developing goals and morals. The coaches are heroes to these kids. I don't think there is a better opportunity available to college students than to be a mentor to a child while interacting with them in an athletic setting.

So, now you probably want to know what type of commitment Nike wants from you, right? If you are accepted to the program, you are expected to invest 80-100 hours during the season with the kids that you are coaching. Besides this commitment, Nike would like their coaches to be a mentor, role model, and a friend to those they coach. Many of the kids are from poverty stricken neighborhoods and unstable homes, so they need more than advice in sports. Dedication to the program is a must.

The returns from the program are also very attractive. Besides the satisfaction of helping kids, Nike understands that college students juggle many activities, classes, and jobs, so they try to compensate their coaches by providing them with a \$500.00 scholarship at the completion of the 80-100 hour commitment.

Some of our very own Honors College students have participated in the program. **Comi Sasson** and **Madhav Rao** were coaches for the fall season, so if you get a chance, ask them about it. I will be participating in the program for the spring season. This program is very worthwhile, and is very easy to set up. If you would like more information about the application process and what is involved, call the P.L.A.Y Corps at (800) 929-PLAY. Go play and have some fun and do something worthwhile - all at the same time!



# The HCAB Constitution

by Ankush Goel

As I am sure many of you know, the Honors College Advisory Board (HCAB) is an elected board which represents Honors College students. HCAB is a group which plans activities for students, acts as a liaison between students and university administration, and also provides a student representative to the Honors Council. Many students do not realize this, but HCAB has a constitution by which it abides.

This document has not been changed since HCAB's inception, more than ten years ago. Over the past few years, the board has been working to update the constitution. There are several amendments that have been proposed:

1. The vice-president of the board will serve as the chair of the Honors College Ball;
2. The election process will be moved back two weeks;
3. The ball committee will be formally written into the constitution; and
4. The most senior member of the Board will serve as the the historian and senior advisor to the board.

These changes must be approved by a 2/3 majority of the Honors College students who vote during elections. At this year's HCAB elections it is important that all of you vote, not only for the members of the board, but also for or against the amendments of the constitution. We will also field any suggestions that you might have concerning the constitution

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please contact me, Ankush Goel, HCAB President at [agoel1@uic.edu](mailto:agoel1@uic.edu).

# London Bound

The following Honors College students have been selected as participants in this year's Great Cities London Study Abroad program:

**Ankush Goel** (sophomore, Biochemistry), **Abeer Khouri** (freshman, Biological Sciences), **Pauline Padrul** (junior, Psychology), **Michelle Prestidge** (junior, Psychology/English), **Erika Sandstrom** (senior, English/Education), **Puneet Shroff** (sophomore, Chemistry/Political Science), and **Bernard Walke** (junior, German/English).

The group will depart Chicago on May 9th, and will spend four weeks in London and will live in a residential neighborhood in student flats. While in London, students will study various urban issues and compare and contrast them with some of the same in Chicago.

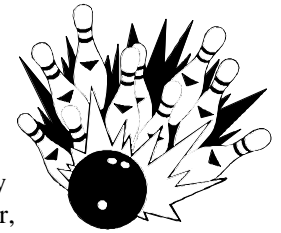
As they say across the Pond, "Cheerio!"



# Pure Naked Aggression

by Eric Yang

On the night of February 11th, 1998, the residents from both of the Honors Floors at Commons West engaged in a savage war for superiority. The unique fashion of this brutal competition broke the stereotypical way that Honors students would usually test each other's wits. The usual events might be facing off in academic decathlons, quiz bowls, calculator games, and other intellectual activities. On this particular evening, a far different and more accurate method of finding out who was truly the best took place. That night, the Honors Floors residents played a sport which determined one's true capabilities in life. They went bowling.



Organized by Honors Floors R.A.s **Matthew Steward** and **Danielle Brandstetter**, the bowling contest



*The mounting tension shows as the score is carefully monitored.*

had the purpose of simply bonding the two floors by having a fun, friendly, floor activity that both floors could participate in. However, political, economic, social, and racial tensions between the first and second floor were already running high hours before the game. **David Limsui** of the first floor felt that his group would open a can of whoop-[expletive] on the second floor. **Kevin Kahley** of the second floor, whose father has a spot in the National College Bowling Hall of Fame, stated "I feel that our team is definitely going to win. It's in our genes."

The two teams, with a roster of ten brave souls each, were to hold their standoff at the CCC Bowling Alley at 6:30 P.M. As the bowling began, each team took up two lanes, to expedite the scoring process. Soon the alley was filled with the sounds of pins being knocked silly. While some players scored victoriously with a strike or spare, some

less fortunate players would see their bowling balls take the trip down Gutter Street or see the course of the ball deviate from its ideal path, taking down only one or two pins.

At first, the atmosphere was "light-hearted and friendly" as first floor resident **Sigismund Lee** put it, but toward the end of the ten frames, when the scores were beginning to even up, the tension began to mount. Heckling of both sides was heard when rival team members would fail in one of their bowling endeavors, and as the scores began to increase, there was greater incentive to bowl better and vanquish the opposing forces. Some of the bowlers who were skillful or lucky enough to achieve a strike. First floor bowler **Laura Bucher** attempted to accurately describe the emotion of accomplishing such a magnificent feat: "As I grab the ball, lift it to my face, step forward, arch back, take a look at the pins, I thrust my body and bend down into the motion, and I take the ball back, let it go, and as it hits the ground, I fall back in awe as it consumes all the pins. It's like I've just witnessed a grand Creation of some sort."

**Kareem Nagra** of the second floor, described the feeling when hitting the ultimate bowling high: "After you see the ball head towards the head pin, and you think to yourself it can't happen, it can't happen, and then you hear the pins go CRASH! And you think to yourself, YES! The adrenaline rushes to your brain, you jump for joy, your teammates cheer, and you're on top of the world! Oh God, I need a tissue." Kareem was later overcome with tears. Truly a result of pure naked aggression in such a raw and intense sport.

For ten long frames, the battle continued with rival bowlers eyeing each other with malevolent intentions as they began their bowling approach. At last, as the scores were all gathered, the average of each team was calculated. It turned out to be a victory for the **SECOND FLOOR**. Having an average score of 105, they had beaten the first floor by 10 points.

This friendly, yet war-like competition was an experience that one would never forget. Honors Floor residents bonded, stronger friendships were forged, and people found out more about other peoples' bowling abilities. The highest scorers of the match were **Kunal Thakker**, **Ruben Koshy**, and myself.

In closing, Ruben, who achieved the second highest score of the two teams, stated the significance of bowling after reflecting upon the contest: "Bowling is a metaphor for life itself. It can be so orderly and predictable and you can hit everything head on, or it can be utter chaos and you can end up in the gutter."



*Kunal Thakkar, Ruben Koshy, and Eric Yang display their winning form.*



# The “Timmy” Chronicles

by Puneet Shroff

The past month has definitely been a wild one for the residents of the first floor of Commons West. A few, harmless mice found their way into the residence halls and somehow managed to bring about the spectacle, appropriately titled the “Mousehunt” by one resident. These creatures, who some exaggerated to be rats, were the unwitting victims of a rodent witch-hunt. Some residents went so far as to carefully check every inch of the first floor of Commons West. The fate of one such mouse, who became known as “Little Timmy,” and his story are described in the following trace of events. None of the names, except one, have been changed.

**January 27<sup>th</sup>, a little before 8:00 p.m.:** A typical, quiet Tuesday evening. I was just being kicked out of my friends **Amit Kalra** and **Rajeev Garg**’s room when I noticed something extremely small scurry out of their room through the door. Startled, I screamed. Upon reporting my description of what I had thought I had just seen, Amit and Rajeev were extremely quick to pass off what I had seen as a figment of my imagination, going so far as to call me “crazy.” Even as I quickly spread the word that there were mice on the loose, most were skeptical to take my words seriously. **Laura Bucher**, another sensible resident like myself, quickly acted on the devastating news she had just received. She began to tell everyone about a past, up close and personal experience she had with a mouse who left droppings on her pillow while she was deep in slumber. She was quick to clean up the floor in her often-messy triple. I was so impressed with her mobilization that I convinced her to help investigate my room. Yet the rodent in question was nowhere to be found.

**January 27<sup>th</sup>, about fifteen minutes later: Doug Nowak**, another resident of the floor, was quick to fuel the talk of a mouse being an unwelcome guest. He rather vociferously recounted that a “rat” came up to him while he

was eating his sausage pizza and watching TV. (He did not, however, tell us whether or not the “rat” shared his carnivorous pizza preference or was a vegetarian). My roommate, **Chirag Dholakia** was quick to mobilize a group of people and soon became known as the leader of the “Rat Patrol.” Within minutes, the Patrol had begun its extensive search in Doug and Ruben’s room. Laura had bravely

positioned herself on the table, in an attempt to entice the rodent with her hunk of Kraft cheese. Chirag’s Patrol apparel was perhaps the most interesting – shorts, no socks, working boots, and his thermal winter gloves.

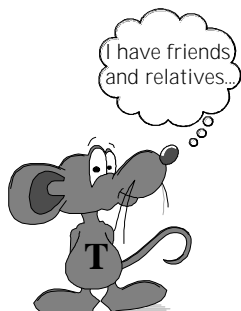
Being the resourceful person I am, I stood outside the door and had blocked off the slit of the door using a box and a garbage can. At any rate, every inch of the room was searched at least twice, yet Timmy (the name affectionately given to him by **Chris Wyckoff**, who had the pleasure of living with the elusive rodent during Christmas break) had escaped our eyes yet again.

**January 27<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 p.m.:** Every floor member was now aware of Timmy’s presence on the floor, with the exception of our senior resident, **Nadia Jafri**, who was blissfully unaware of the unfolding drama, as she had gone home due to illness. No one had seen Timmy in almost half-an-hour, which obviously left the matter unsettled. Everyone was now convinced that Timmy was hiding out in Nadia’s room. Although many of us were still unhappy that a rodent was living with us, we attempted to return to our normal duties of studying. In order to bury my head in my books (and to get away from our unwelcome guest), I went to the fifth floor study lounge and hoped that Timmy had ridden the elevator to another floor.

**January 27<sup>th</sup>, 9:45 p.m.:** Overwhelmed with the rodent situation, I could barely keep my mind on my studies. In fear that I would miss some exciting turn of events, I returned to the first floor somewhat disappointed to learn that Timmy had not yet turned up. As some residents of the floor gossiped about the situation, a loud screech came from the room of **Danielle Brandstetter**, our Resident Assistant. The Rat Patrol quickly sprang into action at this distressed emergency call. Before I knew it, there were six students in Danielle’s room, chasing Timmy and plotting ways to capture him. Within ten minutes, Timmy was caught by an upside-down garbage. Smarter than your average mouse, Timmy was no fool. As the Patrol attempted to get the rodent into a plastic bag, Timmy used his cunning and agility to escape his “prison” when the garbage can was slightly raised. By now, many residents had gathered outside Danielle’s door to listen to the latest dramatic developments as they unfolded.

**January 27<sup>th</sup>, 10:20 p.m.:** Two brilliant residents, **Ruben Koshy** and **James Abraham**, managed to scoop poor little Timmy back into the garbage can, putting an end to the fun and games of the evening. Timmy was quickly transferred to a bag and was then prepared to be released in the cold outdoors. It was decided that several members of the Rat Patrol and I would escort Timmy out of Commons West to freedom. It was at this point that the chain of events turned tragic...for Timmy. An anonymous member of the Rat Patrol accidentally (*or so he claims*) killed the poor rodent in an attempt to scare him away from the UIC residence halls forever.

Timmy, R.I.P.



Timmy, before his untimely demise

# Who Needs Florida?

by Nadia Z. Jafri and Tanja Petnicki

Anyone can go to Florida or Cancun for spring break. No imagination required there. You are different. You are creative. You crave adventure in your own backyard. To help you fulfill your quest, we have put together a suggested day-by-day itinerary so you can spend a fun-filled spring break right here at UIC. Enjoy - and don't forget to send a postcard!

**Friday, March 13th** - Do research for FILM 101 by watching "Candy Man".

**Saturday, March 14th** - Use yesterday's notes to do independent study for Honors credit by walking through SES and re-enacting the scenes from "Candy Man".

**Sunday, March 15th** - Visit the spot where Bill Clinton landed at the baseball field, south of SES, for the 96 Democratic National Convention. Hold a vigil in the hopes that the Monica Lewinsky scandal will leave Clinton's oh-so pristine presidency unblemished.

**Monday, March 16th** - Revel in the majesty of UIC's very own contribution to the Chicago skyline by wind-surfing around UH. As you glide, don't forget to compare UH's architecture, built on a theme of brutalism, with that of the Metropolitan Correctional Center. Didn't we say UIC felt like a jail?

**Tuesday, March 17th** - After you vote, enjoy a night of fine dining at UIC's Center Cafe, where you can savor yesterday's lemon pepper chicken in today's zesty chicken noodle soup.

**Wednesday, March 18th** - Feel like a night on-the-town? UIC's own Excalibur is a few steps away in the form of the new and improved Inner Circle. Wow your friends by "shaking your bootie" right here on campus!

**Thursday, March 19th** - Time to hit the books, at least for a little while. Head on over to UIC's Richard J. Daley library where you can spend endless hours searching for that book you have been looking for the past three semesters. Of course, UICCAT continuously tells you the book is "on-shelf". Remember to pack a lunch; this might take a while.

**Friday, March 20th** - Feeling adventurous? After waiting countless hours for the Taylor Street campus shuttle, take a harrowing trip over to UIC's West Side enjoying the sights on the way. Conclude the trip by playing on the double helix staircase in MBRB.

**Saturday, March 21st** - Solve the great mystery of UIC. What exactly is ECSW?

**Sunday, March 22nd** - Experience the great outdoors within the confines of UIC. Explore every nook and cranny of BSB. Pack your camping gear, you might be there for a few days.

Enjoy your spring break at UIC, the heart of Illinois in Chicago! It's beautiful this time of year.

# Dem Bones

Junior Anthropology major **Rudyard Sadleir** accompanied noted University of Chicago paleontologist Paul Sereno on a four month expedition late last year to the African nation of Niger.

Sadleir was a member of a team that discovered bones from a dinosaur that had been previously unknown by scientists. Some of these bones, discovered in the Sahara, weighed in at 1,400 pounds each.

# Honors College T-Shirts On Sale Now!

Get your honors college t-shirt! Available from any HCAB member, or in the Honors College main office (103 Burnham Hall), this one-of-a-kind designer (Honors College student **Togay Atac**) addition to your wardrobe will make you the envy of anyone on campus.

You can check out the unique and eye-catching design below and in more detail on the Honors College web page at:

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

For the low cost of only \$10 for a lg or x-lg. and \$12 for xx-lg., they are not only attractive but inexpensive. And girls, the xxl's make great pj's!!

