

The Ampersand



DiD yOU KnOW...

...The reason that the newsletter is called the Ampersand is because originally, when the college was founded approximately 20 - 23 years ago, that particular alphabetic character (&) was used on transcripts to denote Honors College members."
(kudos to Joey Volpe)



Honors College Monthly NOVEMBER 2004 Issue

NOVEMBER

Lung Cancer Awareness Month

Election Day.....	Tuesday Nov. 2 nd
Intramural Wallyball.....	Wednesday Nov. 3 rd
Intramural Billiards.....	Wednesday Nov. 3 rd
8-Ball Tournament.....	Wednesday Nov. 3 rd
Alternative Spring Break Live Silent Auction....	Thursday Nov. 4 th
Prof. Lippman Lecture.....	Wednesday Nov. 10 th
Veteran's Day.....	Thursday Nov. 11 th
Honors College Luncheon.....	Wednesday Nov. 17 th
Wellness Center's Great American Smokeout..	Thursday Nov. 18 th
Summer Orientation Leader Applications Due....	Friday Nov. 19 th
Thanksgiving Day -No School.....	Thursday Nov. 25 th
Turkey Break - No School.....	Friday Nov. 25 th

18

Weeks to go!

Task #1: Lose Pounds for that stunning Suit or Dress...

A PHOTO FINISH

Tara Brennan



It is the last few weeks of the campaign, and both presidential candidates are doing their best to highlight the shortcomings of their political opposition in an effort to gain critical votes in swing states like Florida, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Taken together, Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania account for 68 of the 99 votes from these tossup states¹. Democratic consultant Greg Haas of Columbus, Ohio, acknowledges the importance of these electoral votes, saying "whoever wins two of those three wins the White House". In Ohio, where 237,000 jobs have been lost since Bush took office, Kerry appears to be slightly leading the polls; in Florida, however, where the economy is relatively strong and the president's brother is governor,

GENOCIDE IN DARFUR – WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY?

Saifullah M. Siddiqui

The world's worst humanitarian crisis is unfolding in Sudan's western region of Darfur, the United Nations has declared. Displacing over 1.5 million people and claiming some 70,000 lives, the dire situation in the largest country in Africa can no longer be ignored. But that is exactly what is happening in America. The worst humanitarian crisis known to man is going largely unnoticed. And as noted by the esteemed Professor Lippman of UIC, who will be appearing in the Honors College on the 10th of November to discuss the intricacies of this issue, "this is an issue that Honors College students should embrace."

The three and a half million people living in the Darfur region, geographically isolated and neglected by the central government in Khartoum, have been adversely affected by conflict since the early 1980s. The relatively peaceful equilibrium between its ethnic groups has been destroyed by environmental degradation - the spread of the desert and the effects of the Sahel drought - coupled with the "divide-and-rule tactics" of the central government and the influx of modern weaponry. Outside access to the region is now so tightly controlled



that detailed information about the current plight of the indigenous people is increasingly difficult to obtain.

The hostilities began early in 2003 when rebel groups targeted and attacked Sudanese government installations. The attacks were launched on the grounds that the government in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, has been ignoring the local black African population in favour of the nomadic Arab tribes in the region. There has been a history of tension between the three mostly Arab and nomadic ethnic groups of Fur, Zagawa, and Massaleet. Darfur, which translates to “land of the Fur,” now finds itself besieged by two rebel groups: the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). The rebel groups fighting the government have been linked to an ousted senior opposition member of Sudanese politics, Hassan At-Turabi.

The government has also engaged in the violent conflict. It has also acknowledged that it organizes self-defence militias to protect villages. However, refugees claim that after air raids by Sudanese military aircrafts on villages the officials believes house rebel forces, the Janjaweed, another belligerent faction in the conflict, pillage and plunder the village, slaughtering men, raping women, and looting the inhabitants of whatever they may have. Refugees further claim that the Janjaweed is operating in collaboration with the Sudanese Army and government; however, the Sudanese government denies this saying it has no control over the Janjaweed, whom the President of Sudan has called “gangsters and thieves.”

The U.S. congress, the U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, and human rights groups around the world are declaring that open genocide is occurring in Darfur. If such is the case, then the United Nations is obligated to intervene and to bring the unspeakable atrocities to a halt. After visits by the U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan and U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, there is considerable pressure on the Sudanese government to take stronger and more decisive action. After strong international pressure and the threat of sanctions, the government promised to disarm the Janjaweed. But there is little evidence of this so far. After much prompting by the United States and its allies, the United Nations has threatened to impose sanctions on Sudan’s oil sector. China and other nations, however, have resisted this notion pressing that Sudan should be able to find its own solution. Currently, there is no deadline for the Sudanese government to take action but the United Nations is seized on the situation and is issuing monthly reports on the Darfur Crisis.

Approximately 1.5 million people have fled their homes and reports cite that 70,000 civilians have been killed. Abandoning their destroyed villages and farms, refugees flock to camps set up in Darfur’s major towns where there are severe shortages of drinking water, food supplies, and other necessities. The Janjaweed militia often perambulates the perimeters of these destitute encampments and has been known to kill men or women that venture too far in search of firewood, water, or food.

Humanitarian efforts have been faced with a variety of obstacles including the Darfur rainy season that renders many areas inaccessible. The government itself has been implicated in cases where humanitarian organizations have been restricted from entering refugee areas. The neighbouring nation of Chad has also voiced concern of the possibility that the conflict may gradually spill over into its territory. There are already over 200,000 Sudanese refugees populating the harsh, bleak lands that serve as the 600-kilometer border between Chad and Sudan.

Aid groups have coalesced upon the catastrophe that is Darfur but have charged the government with impeding their work by demanding visas and using other bureaucratic mechanisms to restrict access to the torn region. The Sudanese government now reports that restrictions now have been removed. Humanitarian efforts are also faced with insufficient funds to deal with the magnitude of this calamity.

Fighting seems to continue unabated despite a ceasefire agreement signed between the rebels and the government forces in April. The African Union has deployed some 300 troops to the region in an effort to provide security, however this is proving difficult given their very limited mandate. The Sudanese government has agreed to allow this force to grow to 3000 but it resists granting them any more power than their currently limited role.

While the harrowing events unfold in Africa, we, students of UIC’s Honors College, must remain seized on the issue. It is an established fact that the USA has a significant presence overseas. The number and variety of operations conducted under the colors of its flag are rarely comprehended or understood by its people. As a group representing the best and brightest of our generation, we must strive to show that America, not just its administration, has an interest in the events beyond America’s borders. Given our remarkable diversity and cultured background, thinking about and discussing the more important issues of the world together would not only unify us as a privileged and progressive group, but as common inhabitants of this planet.

Sources: BBC World Service Online, Human Rights Watch Online, New York Times, The New Yorker Magazine

Bush is slightly favored, although the GOP worries that the hurricane crises may reduce voter turnout in the sunny state¹. In short, the 2004 campaign race remains a close one, and the results from the trio of debates have done little to widen the margins.

Historically, many Americans have tuned in to the Presidential debates to gain insight on the political agendas of the candidates, as well as confirm or disprove their impressions of the candidates. This year, 62.5 million people tuned in to the first debate between President Bush and Senator Kerry that focused on foreign policy affairs; 11.5 million to the face-off between Senator Edwards and Vice President Cheney; and 46.7 million to the final debate between President Bush and Senator Kerry, which focused on issues including foreign policy, education, and health care⁴. These numbers show that about 11 million more people watched the second presidential debate of 2004 than that of 2000, and of those viewers, only a little over half favored the incumbent for re-election. Many analysts agree that the results of this close campaign may be influenced by external events: a calamity overseas, a strike on our soil, or even the surfacing of a long sought-after terrorist leader².

In the mean time, however, the Bush campaign continues to reiterate Kerry's waffliness, and cites his voting record in the Senate as proof that the Democratic candidate stands on the "shifting sands of political convenience" to make political decisions². Meanwhile, Kerry supporters insist that the Bush administration has continued to mislead the American people in matters of foreign policy and domestic affairs, and cites statistics of job losses, healthcare disparities, and the growing national debt to show that President Bush simply isn't getting the job done.

The platforms of both parties have been streamlined, with the Republican campaign centering on compassion and values, promising to continue funding the No Child Left Behind act and prescription drug relief for seniors, pledging to decrease the role of government in private life by reducing taxes and supporting small businesses, and continuing to keep America safe by waging an offensive war on terror (see www.georgewbush.com for a more complete description of the Bush agenda). Meanwhile, the Kerry administration promises to restore credibility to the United States, both domestically and abroad, to provide healthcare to all Americans, to eliminate the tax cuts enacted under President Bush, and to reduce the national debt (see www.johnkerry.com for a more complete agenda). So now that the platforms are clear, both candidates are concentrating more on accentuating the negative aspects of the political platforms or dispositions of their oppo-

nents, which often lead to shady comments and statistical manipulations (which are oftentimes inaccurate: check out www.factcheck.org to verify the facts!) that have spiced up the campaign trail. Whether or not these crude attempts to deface the opposition will be effective in convincing the so-called middle-of-the-road voters to vote one way or the other remains to be seen. Don't be swayed by political rhetoric alone: check out the facts.

1. Fournier, Ron. (10/16/04). "Election may hinge on eight key states." www.cnn.com.
2. Fournier, Ron, and Riechmann, Deb. (10/16/04). "Bush, Kerry sling arrows in tossup states." www.cnn.com.
3. Blitzer, Wolf. (3/3/04). "Ad wars." www.cnn.com.
4. Manuel, Marlon. (10/12/04). "More viewers watch debates than did in 2000 campaign." Cox News Service: www.contracostatimes.com.

WHO WILL WIN?

Jyoti Shenai

With the presidential elections just around the corner, the only question that is running through everyone's mind is who will win? Both candidates have battled it out in the three debates carried out this month, with the addition of the Vice Presidential debate. The survey polls have been teetering back and forth between Bush and Kerry by only a slight margin of 1-2%. Even while flipping through the channels on TV, one channel's poll shows Bush winning, while the other shows Kerry winning. Is this election turning into a repeat of the previous election?

With people already entering in their votes under the absentee ballot, Florida has already begun to run into problems. Although currently the problems have not been as critical as in the previous election, in which Florida decided the presidency by just 537 votes. However, unlike the 2000 election, many are beginning to realize how many Americans are not exercising their right to vote. It has become so important not only for the candidates, but for the Americans who did vote, to reach out to those who did not exercise their right to vote. Celebrities such as P. Diddy and Drew Barrymore are encouraging others to go out and vote. "Every vote counts" is the key slogan for this upcoming election. Cameron Diaz and Oprah have also been campaigning.

This election is certainly molding into one of the tightest races ever as more people are urging others to get out there and cast their votes. As of October 4, 2004, the *New York Times* polls show Bush at 48% and Kerry at 47% with a 4% error. The candidates are pretty much running side by side in terms of the polls and it pretty much seems like our question will FINALLY be answered on November 2nd. VOTE!!

The Random

LITTLE COLUMN

Kathy Stachowicz

Here are the things that make me wonder and laugh out loud:

- 1) The UIC sprinklers...they appear to water everything but the grass. There are sprinklers that water garbage cans and benches, but not the grass. And they go off at random, sporadic times. Sometimes I just feel sorry for the sprinklers. They don't work right and then everyone stares at them, including myself. It's pretty amusing watching other people stare at them as well.
- 2) I'm walking to class...and then I will think of something funny that happened the day before, so I start to smile. And then I think, "Oh man...people can see me laughing to myself. They must think I'm nuts."
- 3) The people on the El who talk to themselves...I'm never quite sure if I should just ignore them. And I feel terrible switching seats, but as a college student who frequently takes the El, there are some instances where it has to be done.
- 4) I bump into someone on my way to class whom I think I recognize and I say, "Hey John Doe! Haven't seen you in ages! How are you doing?" "Umm...I'm not John Doe. I don't think I know you," responds the individual. [Awkward silence]

Please share your bizarre, crazy moments and experiences with us. Anything goes. Email kstach1@uic.edu and indicate it's for "The Random Little Column"

Hollywood ASB: The 7th Annual Silent & Live Auction

**Wednesday, November 3
Room 605, CCC**

**Silent Auction:
2:00 P.M.-4:30 P.M.
Live Auction:
5:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.**

Focus on a Fellow: DR. MRINALINI RAO

Jalene Lanter

Most students can remember a specific teacher; either a current professor or one from long ago whose methods of teaching and connection with students was exceptional. These teachers continue to influence their students' decisions about education long after their classes are over. Similar to many students at UIC, Professor Mrinalini "Meena" Rao began her education in a country other than the US – India. The school system there is different in several ways from the US, with students selecting a tract of study near the beginning of high school. Changes in concentration are few and study is narrower. Dr. Rao, choose to focus in the sciences, and received both her bachelors and masters degree from the University of New Delhi in botany. Some may wonder how she came to be a PhD in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics in the College of Medicine. Her divergence was due to a teacher, one whose style of instruction was broader and covered overall mechanisms of biochemistry. Unlike the plant-focused connotations of botany, Dr. Rao was provided with a broader view. She says that this increased instruction was an advantage. She also believes that the school system in America, where students wait to declare a major concentration until college, allows for more exploration that was sometimes overlooked in India. Because of her start at the University of Delhi, she has stayed with the sciences, but is uncertain what her path may have been if she had begun schooling in this country.

Dr. Rao's research focuses on the hormonal and neurotransmitter regulation of the gastrointestinal tract; the conclusions of which could increase information on multiple intestinal diseases. A significant teacher, her post-doctoral advisor, again influenced this branch of research. After completing her PhD thesis on hormone receptors in the ovaries, Dr. Rao felt the next step was to examine the GI tract. Her post-doctoral advisor had completed research on cholera, which affects the intestines.

Possibly because of the noteworthy mentors she has had in her life, Professor Rao believes it is important to maintain a role in students' lives in addition to her research and administrative positions. She says, "the fundamental reason that a university exists is the faculty and the students." Dr. Rao isn't a mentor because she feels pressured; she mentors out of choice. She thinks that whatever faculty can give they should and she especially loves meeting new young people. With young people Dr. Rao says she is able to watch their path and what influences their development. Dr. Rao was even presented the 2004 Woman of the Year Award by the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Women.

In what little spare time she has, Dr. Rao solves crossword puzzles and cooks, which she considers cathartic. She has even joined a book club that is reading *Crossing California*, a book about the ethnic neighborhoods in Chicago. She feels that Chicago is a navigable city that hosts events for every interest, but she does not enjoy the quickly approaching snow. If students are interested in learning time management skills from Dr. Rao, she says she has no specific advice, but it always helps to be prepared with knowledge about the subject. One of her colleagues once told her that the biggest problem for people with multiple responsibilities is that no breathing space is planned. Time for "catch up" is important especially if something like sickness or family derail a care-fully packed schedule.

HOLLYWOOD COMES TO UIC IN ASB'S 7TH ANNUAL SILENT & LIVE AUCTION

Jenny Yeh

eBay. This word, which would have sounded strange twenty years ago, now uttered brings images of shopping, deals, and excitement to the minds of people all across the country, and even throughout the globe. The great thing about eBay is that it is not a simple click-and-pay commercial shopping site – users get the chance to buy and sell items in an *auction* fashion. Beginning with a low starting price, users have the chance to bid on various items, with the hope of coming away with a steal and outbidding competitors for a hot item. One aspect that is lost via this online process, however, is the excitement of the classic, local auction - the animated jabber of the auctioneer, the intensity and heatedness of bidding by raising signs, and the ability to see the items firsthand. This form of auctioning, however, is far from obsolete. The annual Alternative Spring Break auction that takes place on campus, gives all of us an opportunity to experience both live and silent auctions in person.

This year, *Hollywood ASB: The 7th Annual Silent & Live Auction* will take place all day on Wednesday, November 3 in room 605, CCC. This glitzy, starry, red carpet event will bring Hollywood to life here at UIC as everything from MCAT classes to artwork will be auctioned off. Open to all faculty, students, family, and friends, the silent auction will go from 2:00PM-4:30PM and the live auction from 5:00PM-7:00PM. Featured items include weekend stays at prestigious hotels in downtown Chicago; Kaplan, Princeton Review, and Examcrackers prep courses and materials; DVD players and stereos; artwork; gift certificates for tattoos and free massages; gift cards to Starbucks, Target, Best Buy, and Borders; dinners at Greek Islands, Giordano's, Starfish, and Artopolis; membership to fitness clubs in Chicago; tickets to Blue Man Group, Tony n' Tina's Wedding, The Second City, Chicago Wolves games, Medieval Times, and much, much more. This goldmine of items presents everyone the opportunity to come away with a great deal. Just be prepared to have cash, credit cards, or a checkbook on hand – all items from the *live* auction must be paid for the day of.

The best part is, all proceeds from the auction go towards funding volunteer trips run by Alternative Spring Break every winter and spring break. This opportunity to volunteer, travel, and meet new people all at the same time is open to all students. Good-willed students take a week out of their winter and spring breaks to learn about specific social issues, such as hunger, poverty, homelessness, environmental conservation, and more. This winter, ASB will be sending trips across the country and working with agencies such as Habitat for Humanity/ Frontier Housing, Second Wind Dreams, Turtle Cove Research Station/Gold Head Branch State Park, and Christian Charities to deal with homelessness, seniors, environmental restoration, and youth and poverty, respectively. Applications for participants and site leaders are available now, so apply today and join ASB in its mission of encouraging lifelong social action and volunteerism. Applications may be picked up in Room 380M, CCC, or online at <http://asb.pages.uic.edu/>. Otherwise, simply come out to support Alternative Spring Break at its exciting annual auction

STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

ELIZABETH GOMEZ

Interview by: Jessica Huang



Year: Junior

Major: Accounting

Achievement: 2004 recipient of the Phi Theta Kappa scholarship

What are you going to do with the scholarship money?

The scholarship covers full tuition for one year.

What are your plans for the future?

Education: I will obtain a B.S. in Accounting. I will then pursue becoming a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). I hope to enroll in law school in the fall of 2006. After receiving my J.D., I will obtain a LL.M. (Masters of Law) in taxation.

Career: I want to become a tax attorney. I want to focus my practice in assisting low income taxpayers through not only representation but hopefully tax law changes.

Personal: Travel around Mexico (road trip!!!). Make a difference in the world. Become a female Che Guevara. Finish writing my autobiography (it's a work in progress).

What are your hobbies and interests?

I'm interested in not only becoming aware of injustices that are occurring but also trying to come up with ways that I can make a difference.

I love to read. My favorite authors are Sandra Cisneros, Joseph Conrad, Isabel Allende and Gabriel García Márquez.

I also like to write a lot.

For some weird reason I'm really into taxes. I'm even taking a Sunday class from 9-4 that is all about tax law. I also work for the Midwest Tax Clinic, a Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) that represents low income taxpayers before the Internal Revenue Service in audit, appeals, and collection issues, and federal tax litigation free of charge. During tax season I also work at a tax site as the assistant site manager.

Listening to music, going to concerts, getting introduced to new music. Some of my favorite bands: Hombres G, Lucky Boys Confusion, Reel Big Fish, Swizzle Tree, La Ley, Caifanes/ Jaguares, Ricardo Arjona, 80s music, Alaska y Dinarama, Alejandra Guzman, Aleks Syntek, American Hi-Fi, Ben Folds Five, Blink 182, Café Tacuba, Coldplay, Enanitos Verdes, Heroes del Silencio, Dashboard Confessional, El Tri, Franco de Vita, Inspector, Juanes, 15 Minutes Late, Mana, Mecano, Molotov, Nek, Nirvana, Sin Bandera, Green Day.

& Continued on Page 6 &

With what organizations are you involved?

Here at UIC I've only been involved with HCAB and very recently the MeSA (Mexican Students de Aztlán). At the college I was attending previously I was the PRIDE Treasurer, Student Government Association Secretary, Phi Theta Kappa Secretary and Math Club Founder/President.

Do you have any tips for other students applying for scholarships?

Plan ahead. Ask for your recommendation letter well in advance. The professor that was going to write my recommendation letter left town for an emergency so I had to find another professor at the last minute.

Make sure your transcript (if you're a transfer student) is correct. One of my professors made a mistake when entering my grade. Luckily, I had obtained an unofficial transcript and was able to spot the error.

Have someone look over everything before you submit the package. I had a friend look over the instructions and check that I had everything that was requested. I also had another friend review the essay and the application to check for typos.

Tell us something cool about yourself!

My hair changes colors with the seasons:

Summer- brown/faded pink

Fall- black/brown

Winter- pink/black

Spring- pink

I don't sleep much. I only need about 3-4 hours a night.

Questions for Elizabeth? Want to nominate someone for Student in the Spotlight? Send an e-mail to spotlighted@hotmail.com!

“GENOCIDE IN OUR TIME: THE POLITICS OF LAW IN DARFUR SUDAN”

Do not miss the chance to hear Professor Lippman explore and probe this topic. This is a unique opportunity to get the insight and commentary of an acclaimed and accomplished political scientist's views on what has been described as “the worst humanitarian crisis in the world” today. You will also get the chance to engage in discussion with the audience. Become informed about our world; attend this unique event!

When: November 10, 2004 at 4:00 p.m.

Where: Honors College Lounge



**UIC THEATRE PRESENTS
“PRISONER’S DILEMMA”**

Kiwon Ko



Theatre Production *The Prisoner’s Dilemma*

By David Edgar

Directed by Jeremy Wechsler

Dates & Times

November 12, 13, 18, 19, 20 at 7:30 p.m.

November 17, 21 at 2:15 p.m.

Location

UIC Theater

1044 W. Harrison St.

Chicago, IL 60607

Price

\$9 UIC Student

\$10 Non UIC student

\$12 UIC Faculty/Staff

\$14 General

Starting with international peace brokers playing simulation games on a university campus, David Edgar’s intensely political play spirals upwards and outward to present a situation of real conflict over bloodily irresolvable life-and-death issues.

The Prisoner’s Dilemma is a rich, deep play that in many ways has the structure and rhythms of a novel. It is a cross between a philosophical play of ideas and a political thriller. It also takes up one of Edgar’s favorite themes, his love of language, but also his understanding of the ways in which it can be used to make war.

The play is carefully structured to combine debate and often brutal action. The play is set in 1989 at a conference with politicians, diplomats and academics discussing contemporary issues. A group of half-a-dozen people is being moderated through a session of role-play based on Game Theory including the famous Prisoner’s Dilemma. This also allows the protagonists to express their own political and moral views. Perhaps the key is the ease with which people are able to deceive each other while remaining totally plausible.

This is a play that will fascinate anybody interested in how wars start and end. It will also analyze where Eastern Europe has got to over the past decade since the end of Communist rule.

Focus on a Fellow:

OUR ONE AND ONLY “LIGHTNING LADY”

DR. MARY ANN COOPER

Kathy Stachowicz



Honors College fellows come from many disciplines. As an Honors College student, I must say that we are very lucky to have Dr. Cooper participate in our mentoring program. Currently, she is a Professor of Emergency Medicine at UIC. In addition, she is internationally known as the leading expert on lightning injuries and injury prevention. Dr. Cooper became affiliated with the Honors College through Project ESTEEM (Enrichment of Science Through Exposure to Experimental Models), a UIC student volunteer organization that she sponsors. Project ESTEEM members teach in Chicago’s children’s shelters making science fun and exciting while attempting to raise the self esteem of the children as well through their successes with the projects. She enthusiastically accepted the invitation to become an Honors College Fellow. In addition to being a Fellow and a sponsor for Project ESTEEM, she teaches the history and philosophy of medicine to GPA students and has been a guest speaker for the Society of Future Physicians.

Walking into her office was inspiring. She has a number of plaques on her wall awarding her stellar expertise, a mass amount of books and beautiful lightning photographs. Dr. Cooper has an undeniable enthusiasm for her profession as an emergency room physician. Her love for her job translates into love for life, which is absolutely contagious. Honors College freshman - this is what you have to look forward to - being paired up with someone like Dr. Cooper your sophomore year until the year you graduate. This is one of the amazing perks of being an Honors College student.

I asked the “Lightning Lady” what advice she would give to pre-professional students or undergraduate students in general. Immediately she responded, “Find yourself a niche.” She received these words of wisdom during her residency. Dr. Cooper found her niche of lightning expertise during those years of residency when she was giving a presentation on electrical burns - someone in the audience asked about the effects of lightning strikes. Dr. Cooper didn’t know the answer, so she did the research. She was the first person to write an organized paper on lightning injuries.

“Follow your dreams and follow your passions,” continued Dr. Cooper. She also advised that students with lots of AP credit take the extra time in college and not graduate in less than the usual time. “Now is when you have the enthusiasm, energy, and time. Find the best teachers in whatever field, take courses outside your major particularly in things that may become a basis for other interests as you grow and mature, study abroad,” the lightning expert said. Usually the undergraduate years are a time of fewer burdens and commitments compared to later in life when a person may have financial commitments, a family to care for and more demands on their time which preclude them from having the time to pursue other interests.

I asked Dr. Cooper what her favorite part of being an HC Fellow was and what it meant to work with HC students. She immediately responded, “Seeing such enthusiasm for life and learning, imagination and optimism, an excitement for life and fun.” I have to say that she illustrated those very traits. It is an absolute honor to have Dr. Cooper as part of our Honors College team.

Check out Dr. Cooper’s website:

<http://www.uic.edu/labs/lightninginjury/>

Interested in joining Project ESTEEM? Email: kstach1@uic.edu

NOTICE



UIC proudly announces Ana Petrovic as the Lincoln Academy Student Laureate award winner for 2004. Each year an outstanding senior from UIC is awarded the Student Lincoln Academy Medallion and thereby becomes a Student Laureate of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois.

Ana Petrovic, a spring 2005 graduate of UIC, is an English major and a member of UIC's Guaranteed Professional Program Admission (GPPA) initiative law program. She is planning a legal career focusing on ensuring fairness in our legal system. Throughout her career at UIC, Ana has played a crucial role as the leader of our Mock Trial team, which ranked 11th in the nation at the close of the 2004 season. She has also published on the web her research into Chicago's Gang Loitering Ordinance. In addition, Ana served as a volunteer researcher at the John Marshall Law School legal clinic, where she worked with law students and faculty on preparing a clemency petition. Ana's dedication to ensuring fair legal procedures for all, combined with her ability to lead and motivate others and her extensive research background give her an exceptional foundation for her future as a lawyer, law professor and agent of change.

Ana is a member of the Honors College and a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. Ana also serves as a student fellow at UIC's International Center on Responses to Social Catastrophes.

The Thirtieth Student Laureate Award Ceremony will be held on Saturday, November 6, 2004 in the House of Representatives Old State Capitol Building, in Springfield, Illinois. Each recipient will receive the Student Laureate Medallion, a certificate of achievement and a check for \$150.

WHERE TO EAT

Judy Liu



- Maki sushi:** A roll of sushi rice (rice seasoned with sweet rice-wine vinegar) and a layer of seaweed, filled with seafood (cooked or raw) and/or vegetables.
- Nigiri sushi:** A "finger roll" hand-pressed mound of sushi rice with a dab of wasabi and a slice of raw fish, shellfish, or other ingredient placed on top.

For great sushi, there are many Japanese restaurants downtown, but few that aren't too fancy or expensive. With walls covered by pictures of smiling customers, **House of Sushi and Noodles** offers a relaxed setting to enjoy all-you-can-eat maki. However, this isn't a sushi "buffet" like Todai where customers get in line and fill up their plates. \$10.95 per person covers miso soup, string bean tempura, and as many specialty maki rolls as you can finish, ordered two rolls at a time. For about an extra \$10, you can upgrade to the Sushi Deluxe option, which adds shrimp tempura, a salad, nigiri sushi, and a dragon roll to your plate. You can also bring friends who don't eat sushi. They can enjoy the "and Noodles" part, with menu options to order a-la-carte.

House of Sushi and Noodles is located on the corner of Belmont, Lincoln, and Ashland Avenues, with entrances on both Belmont and Lincoln. From UIC, take the Blue Line to Division, and then take the northbound CTA Bus #19 Ashland (on the corner of Division and Ashland) until Belmont & Ashland/Lincoln (about a 40 minute commute). Try to avoid driving since street parking is difficult. But otherwise, enjoy!

House of Sushi and Noodles

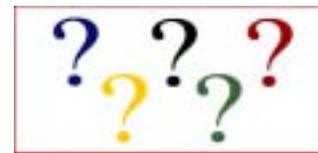
1610 W. Belmont Ave.

773-935-9110

Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 11:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.
Fri. and Sat. 11:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Sun. 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.



“DEAR ZINA...”



Dear Zina,

I really don't like my current major but am scared to change it because of my parents. I'm scared if I change majors, they will stop supporting me or something. What should I do?

-Anonymous

Dearest Anonymous,

In situations like this one, I always go for the “Honesty is the Best Policy” rule. Sit your parents down, and tell them exactly how you feel. Explain to them that you're not into your major, as a result, you will not do well in those classes because there is a lack of motivation and incentive. If they begin to understand that you may do poorly in school because you don't like the course subjects, maybe they will then in fact encourage you to study something you like. However, I would suggest compromising with them to a certain extent. For example, if you have your heart set on studying photography, yet your parents disapprove, make photography a minor or something more of a hobby, and try taking some other concrete classes in addition to those that you absolutely love. Then, with a little bit of cooperation and negotiation, it may turn out to be a win-win situation. After all, they are your parents and only want what's best for you, but at the same time they want you to be happy. Tell them what makes you happy. The worst that could happen is a little argument, but remember to keep your cool and if you treat them like adults then they'll do the same with you.

Dear Zina,

What do you do when you are already sort of dating two people and then a new phone number texts you asking you to hang out and you agree thinking that it is one of the original two people. Then you call the number only to find out that inadvertently you have agreed to hang out with a third, different person, and now have a list of three boys. How can I make the list return to two people without hurting the third's feelings or letting him know that I thought he was someone else?

-“The Girl with a Waiting List”

To “The Girl with a Waiting List”,

Before I answer the question of how to get rid of the third boy toy so you only have to deal with two of them, I'm going to suggest that you to stop being so sneaky and unfaithful and decide on only ONE of them. That is usually how relationships work - a person commits to another without playing around behind his/her back. This isn't an Honors 105 class where you have to be put on a waiting list until Dean Williams finally emails you and lets you into the class. Ok, so back to the question at hand, now that I've given you a moral guilt trip. The easiest and quickest way to tell boy #3 to hit the road is by simply telling him the truth. Let him know that you're not going to be able to keep the plans you made because you've got a lot going on in your life at the moment and that it isn't the right time for you to possibly dive into a new relationship. I know it's hard to do, but when you've put yourself in a position like that, there aren't many alternatives. If he's understanding enough, I'm sure he won't be *too* heartbroken and move on to the next fish in the sea. Nonetheless, I would really suggest narrowing this lengthy list down to one!

Zina,

I'm having a hard time studying in the dorms. The people on my floors are SO LOUD! I hate them! I'm sure commuters can relate to me...family gets in the way, tv, email...I just can't seem to focus! Any suggestions?

-“Desperately Seeking Productive Study Time”

“Desperately Seeking Productive Study Time,”

This is a common problem that young, ambitious, and studious college students encounter often. However, don't think that this is a good enough excuse to get out of studying for your next chemistry exam. What you need to do is find a quiet and comfortable alternative other than the dorms. The first suggestion I can give is the library. There are quiet study areas

on every floor, and they're open until 10:00 pm each night. Another quiet and fairly isolated study place is the Quiet Study Room, located in Room B-11 on the lower level of Burnham Hall. This room is available to all Honors College members. It's open 24-hours a day and can only be entered by swiping your I-Card at the door. In order to code your I-Card and gain access to the Quiet Study Room, go to the front desk of the Honors College. I would also recommend keeping a lookout for any quiet lounges around campus and in the CCC. There are also a number of lounges in the dorms on several of the floors that often are vacant. If all else fails, I hear the laundry rooms are pretty desolate, if you don't mind the sound of tumbling clothes in a washer or drier. Think about it this way: you'll be killing two birds with one stone. Good luck and don't give up!

Send all questions, comments and concerns to zalkaf1@uic.edu. Feel free to send any questions you want advice about for the next month's Ampersand edition.

Stay tuned for next month's edition where a controversial question about student-professor intimate relationships is answered!

THE SMALL WONDER OF GREEK TOWN

Saleb Jabedi

Life is full of wonderful surprises. Such surprises can range from finding that special toy in the cereal box all the way to winning the lottery. Through such surprises, many learn to appreciate how simple things, such as a toy or winning ticket, can help illuminate the seemingly routine schedules that people encounter everyday. These unexpected events in the course of life make individuals more cheerful and optimistic. Last Saturday, on a chilly, dark, and windy night, I decided to go check out a local pizza restaurant in Greek Town. Despite the fact that I had no company with me to go to the restaurant, I decided to go anyway for the sake of doing something to help distract my mind from the studying I was doing for upcoming exams.

According to the weatherman, it was supposed to snow that night. So I zipped up my heavy black coat, which was over my green sweater, and put a hood over my head. I was prepared for the worst. As I stepped outside the residence hall, I was bombarded by strong winds pushing me back and forth, along with numerous yellow and orange leaves trying to sweep me off my feet. It was a dark night and no one was on Halsted as I walked down the street. I could barely see as winds pierced my eyes. But I finally reached the Giordano's pizza restaurant I had intended to go to.

The waiter at the waiting desk told me with a serious looking face and sarcastic tone, "Sorry sir, but we only assign tables to parties of two or more." I was shocked but decided that this was not my day and started to turn back. But then the waiter suddenly smiled and said he was joking as he led me to my table. I started to laugh to myself and thought, "Oh wow, what a day."

It seemed as if the whole restaurant was full that night. I felt as if the eyes of the families and groups of young adults were secretly looking at me and thinking, "Oh, I see that this individual is eating alone, alas what a pity." However, I tried not to think too much. As I sat down, I realized that right in front of me was a large television showing a baseball game between the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox. I am not a baseball buff and very rarely do I find time to watch baseball games. In addition, I have not been to a baseball game in over 10 years. However, that night I had dinner with Derek Jeter of the NY Yankees along with his fellow teammates and competitive Boston Red Sox members.

The restaurant I had entered was full of talk and various sounds, yet the only thing I seemed to pay attention to was the game. After I had eaten, I waited about an extra half hour before deciding to leave. Derek Jeter and friends had gone to commercial, and around 8:00 p.m. I thanked them for a night of food and wonderful entertainment, and bid them farewell. As I took my few leftovers with me in a styrofoam bin, and headed out into the blistering winds and dark night, I had a smile on my face. My boring Saturday full of work and studying had turned into a night of entertainment and relaxation. Entering the restaurant that night, I was nervous and shy, but leaving the restaurant I was in high spirits. This was an amazing night for me. Despite the rough weather and work, I had received a special surprise that night, and it was front row seats to a wonderful and unique baseball game.

News from the Office of Special Scholarship Programs

Merage Institute Fellows Program

The Merage Institute for the American Dream is dedicated to promoting opportunities for immigrants to achieve their American Dream. Selected students will be awarded \$10,000 stipends each year for two years. Stipends may be used for fostering education, studying abroad, securing mentors, and supporting internship opportunities.

Applicants must be full-time senior students, and immigrants to the United States. They must also be US citizens or residents. If candidates are not yet citizens, they must indicate their intent on becoming a citizen in the scholarship application. Candidates will be selected based on demonstrated academic achievement, leadership, creativity, and consistent ethical behavior.

UIC may only nominate 3 applicants each year. Applications are available through the Office of Special Scholarships. The UIC application deadline is November 15, 2004. The national application deadline is December 15, 2004.

Goldwater, NSF or NDSEG Fellowship

Are you a sophomore or junior interested in pursuing a career in mathematics, science, or engineering and currently conducting research? Or are you a graduating senior or first year graduate student considering earning a PhD in math, science, engineering or a social science? If so, you should consider applying for the Goldwater, NSF or NDSEG fellowship.

Goldwater

The Goldwater Scholarship is awarded annually to outstanding sophomores and juniors interested in pursuing a career in science, math or engineering. Each scholarship covers eligible expenses for tuition, fees, books and room/board up to a maximum of \$7,500 annually. Sophomores are eligible for up to two years of funding.

Regarding eligibility, candidates must be full time sophomores or juniors at the time of application, be interested in a research career in science, math or engineering, be a U.S. citizen, natural or resident alien, and have a GPA of 3.7 or above. Students planning on medical studies alone are not eligible. Students pursuing the MD/PhD can be candidates. Due to the competitive nature of the UIC selection process, strong candidates should have at least 3 months of science/engineering research experience.

For more specific information, you may access the Goldwater website at www.act.org/goldwater. Candidates must be nominated by UIC and may not apply directly. The UIC Goldwater application deadline is November 12, 2004. The national application date is February 1, 2005.

The candidate must be a U.S. citizen, national or permanent resident. The applicant must also be a senior or graduate student with fewer than 20 graduate hours, have an outstanding GRE, and have a GPA of at least a 3.7. The national deadline is November 17th-December 10th depending on your field of study.

NDSEG - National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship Program

The National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship Program awards over 100 fellowships each year to graduate students in the fields of science and engineering. Fellows may choose any accredited institution of higher education in the United States offering doctoral degrees in science or engineering. The tenure of the award is 36 months cumulatively, beginning in the fall of the year the fellowship is awarded. The evaluation of candidates will be based on all available evidence of ability, including academic records, recommendations regarding each applicant's qualifications, and the score obtained on the GRE. <http://www.asee.org/resources/fellowships/ndseg/>

The award includes full payment of tuition and required fees. In addition, fellows receive a stipend to cover related living expenses; in 2005-2006 this stipend will be \$30,500. The fellowship will also pay for minimum health insurance coverage offered through the institution up to a total value of \$1,000. Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or national, have demonstrated ability and special aptitude for advanced training in science and engineering (please see website for a list of eligible fields). Applicants must have their bachelor's degree by fall of 2005. Preference is given to applicants who have completed one year or less of graduate study. The deadline is January 7, 2005.

Applications are encouraged from women, persons with disabilities, and members of ethnic and racial minority groups (including African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, and Hispanic or Latino persons) that historically have been underrepresented in science and engineering fields.

The Office of Special Scholarship Programs (SSP) coordinates the selection of scholarship awards and offers assistance to students applying for these or other awards. For more information contact us at 312-355-2477 or ssp@uic.edu.

Office of Special Scholarship Programs
703 S. Morgan Street (M/C 115)
104 Grant Hall
Chicago, Illinois 60607-7025
312-355-2477 (phone)

“WHEN FIVE YEARS PASS”

Emiranda Carcani

Looking for something to pass the time? Well, try attending a play once in a while. For those of you wondering where you could go and catch a short play; well, look no farther than the UIC theatre. This academic year the UIC theatre is showing four remarkable productions, with the first one being *When Five Years Pass* by Spain’s Federico García Lorca, translated and directed by Luigi Salerni. Not having been to many plays myself, I thought it would be interesting to attend a performance, so I did. Overall I came out with certain mixed emotions, neither good nor bad. What does that leave me with? Well, I don’t know. You be the judge.

The production was somewhat of a dreamplay – it had a mixture of dream and reality entangled into a one hour and 45 minute performance. It was a story about a young boy who by either force or choice (I’m not quite sure which one) chose to marry his fiancée once five years passed. The story then continues with the young man eventually finding out that his beloved fiancée had given her love to a football player and had no intention of returning with the young man, who remained nameless throughout the presentation. As the story unfolds between these torn lovers, a few characters are introduced in no particular order. As the play continued to evolve, it became harder for me to follow. It wasn’t until after the play was over that I discussed it with my friends and the plot became somewhat clearer.

My suggestion is that a short summary of the play should be included in the pamphlet handed out to the audience as they make their way to their seats. Having an idea of what to expect may make it easier for some individuals to follow along. In my opinion, this production was definitely somewhat abstract, with no real order of events, and a mix of reality and fantasy. Overall, it went better than expected for my first time at the UIC theatre. Did I like it? Yes! Would I watch it again? No, at least not without having read a cliff note version of the play.

Would I recommend a UIC theatre production to anyone else? Yes! I think everything is worth trying out at least once, and the UIC theatre has three more productions coming up: *The Prisoner’s Dilemma* by David Edgar, *We won’t pay! We won’t pay!* by David Fo, and *The Cripple of Irishmann* by Martin McDonagh. We have many talented performers at UIC, and as fellow students I think we should show our support for the performing arts by attending theatre productions, choral performances, etc. For more information, check out their website: www.uic.edu/depts/adpa/

PUNK SHOW: AN INSIDE STORY

Elizabeth Gomez



On October 14th, I went to see 15 Minutes Late, Plain White Ts, Army of Freshmen and Lucky Boys Confusion. As I sat outside of House of Blues waiting for the doors open, I began thinking about my first punk show. I was so excited, yet so unprepared. Now that I am a veteran concertgoer, I have some tips to enhance your experience.

Let’s start with your apparel. Do not wear your favorite clothing. There is a high probability it will get ruined. At the end of the show, not only will it be drenched in your own sweat, but also in other people’s sweat and various beverages that get thrown around. Also, do not wear a white shirt. I learned this the hard way. The lead singer of Army of Freshmen decided to give me some water in the middle of their set. Let’s just say he “accidentally” missed my mouth. In addition, do not wear the shirt of the band you are going to see. You will be pointed and laughed at. If it’s fall, winter, or spring, wear a hoodie. You do not want to lug around a coat for five hours. Also make sure you wear a belt. When there are hundreds of people around you jumping up and down, your pants will inevitably start to go down. At this past show, even with a belt, someone’s zipper got caught in my back pocket. I’ll leave the rest to your imagination. Not a good experience.

Now let’s go to arrival and line waiting. My friend Sara and I are a bit “special.” We get there around three hours before doors open. Getting there early has lots of advantages. You are going to be at the front of every show, you will meet other fans, and you also have the opportunity to talk to the band. It also has a few downfalls. You have to endure the weather and you will probably get hungry. This is why you have to use your resources, mine is called Ernesto. He will bring you food, temporary jackets, and anything else needed. Unfortunately, you can’t have him, you have to find your own. Also, it is very important that you don’t make enemies while you’re in line. They WILL find you inside.

Now to the actual show. You will be pushed, squished, stepped on, pulled, screamed at, and smashed. You are bound to get hurt. Think of those as battle scars. So sing at the top of your lungs, take pictures (there are always ways to sneak cameras in) and most of all, make sure you have fun!



LITTLE FISH MAKES BIG SPLASH

Vivas Kaul and Kevin Go

It seems that the fishes rule the box office aquarium these days. Surfing the recent success wave of Disney's blockbuster hit, *Finding Nemo*, Dreamworks creates its own personal fish tank with the new movie, *Shark Tale*. At first glance the movie appears to appeal to an audience of 12 years and younger. Additionally one might think that this may resemble a *Finding Nemo* rehash. That is what we first thought, but we are happy to report otherwise.

Our story begins with a seemingly empty coral reef save for two ominous shadows passing overhead. As they disappear into the distance, a lone fish emerges on the big Times Square-esque screen. Yes, we did say Times Square-esque, because the fish is none other than news correspondent Katie Current (voiced by Katie Couric from NBC's *Today Show*) and the reef is none other than New York City underwater, complete with a bustling downtown district with the surrounding projects. Focusing on the projects, we meet one of the heroes, Oscar (voiced by Will Smith), who is on his way to work at the Whale Wash. At the Whale Wash, we meet Oscar's best friend Angie, who has a 'slight' romantic interest in him bordering on obsession (voiced by Renée Zellweger, *Jerry Maguire*), Skyes his blowfish boss (voiced by Martin Scorsese), and Sykes' jellyfish henchmen Ernie (voiced by Ziggy Marley) and Bernie (voiced by Doug E. Doug *Cool Runnings*). Underneath Oscar's easygoing, tongue cleaning façade, we quickly learn the terrible truth about Mr. Sykes' dealings with the shark mafia as well as Oscar's \$5000 debt to Mr. Sykes. In a heartwarming moment after his beating from Ernie and Bernie, the audience is privy to Oscar's backstory and his subsequent desire to be somebody, which is something that every movie-goer can relate to. Not long after Oscar's wooing by the beautiful Lola (voiced by Angelina Jolie *Lara Croft*:

Tomb Raider) and one very misguided bet do we find Oscar bound and gagged to a rock in the middle of the open ocean, surrounded by none other than Ernie and Bernie. At this point, the story shifts and gives a view from the top...of the food chain that is. Here we meet Don Lino (voiced by Robert De Niro *Taxi Driver*) and his two sons, the vicious Frankie (voiced by Michael Imperioli *The Sopranos*) and the very offbeat vegetarian, Lenny (voiced by Jack Black *School of Rock*). Needless to say Lenny's vegetarian tendencies do not find favor with his father, and cast him as the black sheep of the shark community. In an act of desperation, Don Lino forces Frankie to "show Lenny the ropes," whereupon Lenny is asked kill a fish, in this case, Oscar. It is this chance meeting coupled with Oscar's need for fame and Lenny's need to get away from his family that sparks an unusual friendship which is the life of this movie.

The first thing that the typical moviegoer will probably notice in any movie is the visuals. *Shark Tale* being computer generated delivers quite well in this aspect. Everything from Times Square and Whale Wash to the characters themselves is perfectly integrated to create the stunning visuals used in the movie. As with all of its animated films, Dreamworks strives to make the characters as humanlike as possible. This type of character development makes the plot much more believable and the setting much more appropriate. This leads us to the plot. The plot is simple in its basic nature. This simplicity is what allows the movie to not only make sense but also be fun for all ages. A ranging spectrum from children that can barely read all the way to adults can relate to the problems of our fine finned friends. Underlying all of these technical aspects are themes that anyone of us can relate to, the most important of which are the ideas of self identity and societal norms. Oscar's need for a place in society is something we humans encounter and struggle with from childhood to adulthood. In Lenny's case, his place in society is well defined, but it is this very definition that he struggles against. This is yet again another example of something that we, the viewers, can relate to.

Overall the movie was quite an enjoyable experience. Now it is quite possible that the critics may have over analyzed this movie and may have taken the fun out of it with our description. We would like to assure all of you that that is not our intention. We are merely present to wet your appetite for new and upcoming cinema. In conclusion, unlike Ebert and Roper, who only use half of their appendages, we use both of our thumbs. On a scale of 0-4 thumbs, we give *Shark Tale* a very hearty 4 thumbs up.



HOROSCOPE

Kristin Toranzo

LIBRA (SEPT. 23 TO OCT. 22)

Don't be your usual "worry-wart" self this month! Remember that you don't have to have every little aspect of your day perfect! Have fun and take a little time for yourself to indulge in something fun, like hiking outdoors or spending time with an old friend.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23 TO NOV. 21)

Oh Scorpio! Someone will be coming your way asking to borrow some type of monetary means! Be strong and don't give in... they will not be back to return what was "borrowed." If you do give in, by the 29th demand that IOU's COD's by next month!

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22 TO DEC. 21)

This month, those high-risk investments will pay off. Whether it be love, academic or work related, a big reward is coming your way... be sure not to take advantage, because it will be as easily lost as it was found!

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22 TO JAN. 19)

Share your sensitive side this month... write a warm email to a friend or coworker, or take your Mom out to lunch. You are feeling extra bubbly this month so spread the wealth!

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 TO FEB. 18)

Time with friends is a must this month. Let out all that pent up stress with a massage or a huge chocolate brownie! The best way to relieve this tension is with your closest friends!

PISCES (FEB.19 TO MARCH 20)

Love is headed your way! Single? Plan on meeting an unexpected love interest soon. Attached? This is the month to show that special someone how much you really care. A romantic outing is just what you both need.

ARIES (MARCH 21 TO APRIL 19)

This month is a good month for productive writing. Gather up that old journal you have been longing to catch up on and write away! If you document those ideas and thoughts now, you will be able to go back and reflect on them later... when they will be needed!

TAURUS (APRIL 20 TO MAY 20)

This month is a time for you to take the leap and go for that one thing you have been longing to do! Love interest? Ask them out! Promotion at work? Go for it! You know what you need to do to accomplish this goal, so get up the courage and do it!

GEMINI (MAY 21 TO JUNE 20) Aggravations are headed your way this month, but that's okay! You can handle it! Just remember that the grass isn't always greener on the other side! Keep you head up high, because a change of luck is coming your way towards the end of the month!

CANCER (JUNE 21 TO JULY 22)

Your domestic side will shine early this month - either through an urge to re-decorate your living space or through the urge to bake cookies for the entire family! Don't be embarrassed to let the inner (honest) Martha out!

LEO (JULY 23 TO AUG. 22)

Troubles at work take their toll on you this month. Best way to unwind and take your mind off things? Go home and spend time with the fam. After time spent with the parents, work will seem benign.

VIRGO (AUG. 23 TO SEPT. 22)

That unexpected good grade or wage increase is headed your way! Enjoy your profits and celebrate with a night out on the town! Have fun and enjoy your luck!

SO LONG, FAREWELL...

Jonathan Huang

As the 2004 season of baseball is coming to an end, what will we, as fans of Chicago sports, have to say, primarily about the Cubs? With their dismal performance this year, can we continue to appreciate and give them as much credit as we once did? Can we possibly forgive them for shooting down our hopes for a World Series title, and move on?

Personally, I have never really found watching sports to be all that interesting. I would rather be part of the action. Something about the Cubs several years back caught my attention. Whether it was the home run race between Mark McGuire and Sammy Sosa or the division title in 2003, I became hooked. Since then I have devoted countless hours watching the TV and even spent sleepless nights looking up statistics of games that I have missed. Though I'm sure I could have used that time more wisely, I don't regret it because the Cubs have brought me excitement and something to look forward to on those long days of school.

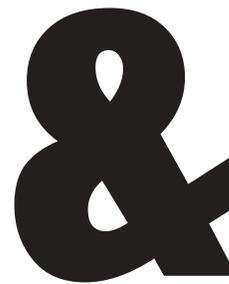
I remember vividly when I first heard that the Cubs could potentially play in the World Series. I dismissed the thought immediately, seeing as how the Cubs haven't played in those championship games since the end of World War II. As they defeated team after team, creating memories upon memories, I became ever more hopeful. Remember when they cruised along a 12-game road trip, going 8-4? But sad to say, they couldn't beat the weak teams like Cincinnati at home. Remember the two games where Cubs were leading and needed just one more strike for victory? Somehow, somehow, the opposing team was able to tie the game in the 9th inning, and score the winning run innings later. Though I was disappointed, I told myself that the Cubs would make up for it next year.

So when this year's baseball season started, I was anticipating something great, possibly a World Series title or at least some spectacular games. But I guess I shouldn't have hoped for so much. I was only going to let myself down. Through the years, the saying has always been "wait till next year." We all thought the true "next year" had come. However, many long nights had me lying on my bed



in dismal shock. The reality came forth. This team was not good enough. "Next year" was not this year. We could only hope it would come over the next year or two. Looking back, how could I have expected a team that hadn't won at all for 96 years to suddenly snap the drought?

Day in and day out, I see numerous people on campus wearing Cubs apparel. But when I see these students, the thought that I might be in the midst of fellow Cubs followers does not cross my mind anymore. What typically goes through my head instead are questions of what they still see in this team. Are they just wearing those hats and t-shirts to jump on the bandwagon? Do they really think that they have a chance next year? This team was no champion: players kept arguing with umpires, complaining about calls, trying to find excuses to defend their poor performance. The anger even extended to the broadcast booth, as players were unhappy with some of analyst Steve Stone's comments. The Cubs need to get their act together. They need to seek to improve and play solely for the love of the game, forgetting about trivial matters. Maybe someday, I'll be back in the stands, cheering for them. But for now Cubs, it's farewell.



Do you have any questions, concerns, comments? Do you want to submit an article? Feel free to email us at ampersanduic@yahoo.com.