

The Honors Envoy

Alfred University's Honors Program Newsletter · 1986-1987

A Note from the Editor:

I'd like to express my appreciation to all those that contributed to the Envoy this year (and especially to those of you who have waited halfway to forever to see it in print).

Have a GREAT summer. It's been well earned and long awaited.

And anyone interested in working on the Envoy next year? Please contact me (871-3241).

THANKS AGAIN

NE-NCHC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Honors on the Macro Level

by Tom Conlon

It was early Saturday morning, September 20. The sun had not risen as I headed the car south, toward Selinsgrove, PA. The fog was swirling through the mountains as the sun was coming up. Back in Alfred everyone else was gearing up for the big Homecoming game. Why, then, was I eating a cold bacon, egg and cheese Biscuit in a parking lot in Mansfield, PA? Honors had called and I, like the Pavlovian dog, was off to the races.

Seriously, though, Honors is not something that ends once you leave the Alfred Valley. There are Honors programs of all shapes and sizes across the country. These programs have formed an association to foster the growth and development of honors programs and to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas between programs. This organization is the National Collegiate Honors Council. The Council is divided up into regions and AU belongs to the Northeast region of the Council. Last Spring I had the great fortune to be elected to the Executive Committee of the Northeast Region (NE-NCHC, for short). The first Exec Committee meeting was called by our President, Ron Dotterer, at his school, Selinsgrove University. Selinsgrove is a very picturesque school nestled in southern Pennsylvania.

Last year I was fortunate enough to be on our own Honors Advisory Committee, where I was able to observe the operation of Honors on a micro level. This meeting in Selinsgrove gave me the opportunity to see how Honors operates on the national level. This macro approach to all that is Honors gave me an overview of the rich, colorful panorama that is Honors. It is an incredibly detailed, involved process.

It is not true that this organization is run by a bunch of old fogeys who have no idea of or concern for what modern Honors students want or need, or by Ph.D's who only want to fatten their curriculum vita or by cultural snobs who divide up their time between their Palm Beach homes and the French Riviera. The NE-NCHC Executive Committee is made up of people of all ages and disciplines who are really concerned about HONORS. These people want to make sure that Honors will "be all that it can be". Ron Dotterer is the president - he's a kindly, friendly, intelligent and hardworking honors director from PA. Tony Whall is the Vice-President, a lit teacher from Salisbury State College. Linda Lockwood of Massachusetts is a bright, bubbly, hardworking scholar who is our Secretary-Treasurer. The two other students on the board with me are Joan Meixner, an Accounting major from Maryland and Tamara Callahan of Massachusetts. These are a few of the board members, but it gives you an idea of the great variety of people who are working round the clock for Honors.

This group really works hard to keep cordial, supportive and cooperative relations between the schools of the Northeast region. At this meeting alone we discussed the businessy, administrative aspects of national Honors. It takes a lot of time, planning and money to coordinate activities in the NE-NCHC and this took up a good portion of the meeting. We also discussed what kinds of programs we could start to enhance the already spectacular Honors experience: things like sleeping bag seminars, trips, speakers, and of course, the NE-NCHC annual convention in April. But the topic that took the lion's share of floor time in the afternoon was the idea of Student Affairs. We established a committee (with Joan Meixner and myself as co-chairs) that will act as a collector of student input/feedback to the NE-NCHC. We want to know what students like/dislike about Honors, what they would like to see, new opportunities that they would like to have and new ideas for seminars. Honors, after all, is for students - to try to give those students who have so much talent an opportunity to make their education a little more complete.

The committee does not seek to improve an Honors program in a particular school, per se, but HONORS in general. After all, despite the fact that we go to different states, we are all "comrades in arms" and one of the goals of the NE-NCHC is to encourage communication among all Honors students. After all, Honors is primarily concerned with the growth of the total person - whether it be on the macro or micro levels.



REVIEWS

There are some excellent movies out right now that will please anyone's fancy. If you are into comedy "Crocodile Dundee" and "Outrageous Fortune" are very funny. I realize "Crocodile Dundee" has about expired in the theaters, but it is still worth mentioning, because you can rent it when it comes out on video. This movie was good clean fun, something you could take your grandmother to. Paul Hogan plays Crocodile Dundee. You may remember Paul as Australia's tourist sponsor with his "G'day mate". Anyway, an American female journalist travels to the Australian outback to meet Crocodile Dundee. She wants to write a story on how he survived a crocodile attack, which is said to have taken half his leg off, then traveled on one leg back to civilization. It, at first appears that Dundee is the biggest fake in the world, but as the movie rolls on, particularly after he has been invited to New York City, we see that Dundee is all that everyone says he is and more.

The other comedy, "Outrageous Fortune", starring Bette Midler, from Ruthless People, and Shelley Long from the T.V. show "Cheers", form a great comedy team. The two are total opposites, Shelley a fine Shakespearean actress, and Bette an off-beat porn queen. Together they track down a common lover who is supposed to have died. But they know better. They want to find out which one he really loves. The movie is filled with twists, adventure, and most importantly, comedy. This movie is quite good, but you must keep in mind that it stars Bette Midler, so it goes without saying that it is not one to take your grandchildren to.

For those who prefer a suspense-filled murder movie with romance intertwined, your best bet is "Black Widow". I am not going to recommend this movie too highly, because I think the plot could have easily been done on T.V. The acting was fair, but certainly not an Oscar winning performance. The story entails a woman who marries very rich men, and then after a few months, poisons them. She's usually miles away at the time, and changes her identity after each husband so she is never suspected.

Two movies for those of us who desire adventure are "Platoon", and "Lethal Weapon". I know "Platoon" has gotten a lot of good press, but it really is not, in my opinion, that great a movie. The story revolves around the character played by Charles Sheen, Martin Sheen's son and Emilio Estevez's brother. Charles Sheen comes into Vietnam and the adventure starts there. A little fragging goes on and a lot of drugs. Apparently the drugs are right on line for this period (1968), but there was in reality, during this time period, much more fragging than was shown. Fraggings, by the way, is when the peons in a unit decide to kill their superior and make it look like he was killed by the Viet Cong. The movie also seemed to lack something important. I think that something was a specific direction for it to

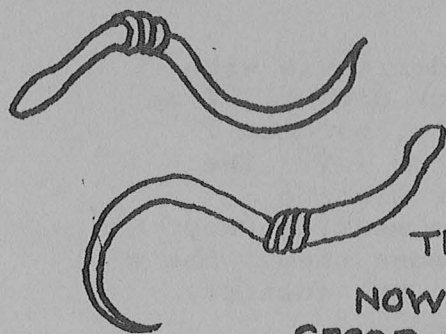
follow. But maybe this adds instead of subtracts from the movie because there was nowhere to go or any specified direction while one served in Vietnam.

The best movie out there though is "Lethal Weapon", which has a pretty good plot and two excellent stars. Mel Gibson, from the Mad Max series, another guy, whose name escapes me (he played the father in the "Color Purple"). Mel Gibson is a copy with a death wish. He can't cope with his wife dying so he contemplates suicide. The two stars team up to stop an ex-Vietnam mercenary group from smuggling in dope. Thank goodness Mel Gibson is an ex special forces specialist. It's amazing how these things work out. The movie has the comic relief necessary to make the exciting or dramatic moments more shocking. You come out of the movie with a good feeling, -- that it was, for once, well worth the five dollars you spent to get in.

CHRISTOPHER MOORE

(plus one more from the editor...)

AND NOW -- ON AN ALFRED SIDEWALK NEAR YOU, IT'S



THE WORMS

THEY SEEM TO HAVE COME FROM
NOWHERE, WRAPPED IN GELATINOUS
SECRETIONS. WHOLE ... IN PIECES...
MATING SHAMELESSLY BEFORE YOUR EYES.

THERE'S NO
WAY TO AVOID
THEM!!!

NO WAY
TO DESTROY
THEM!!!

THEY MAY BE THE
WORST THREAT TO
COLLEGIATE SERENITY
SINCE THE MEYERS' FLY.

(ALFRED CLOUD)



HAVE A
GREAT
SUMMER --
EVERYBODY

AND READ HALF
A BOOK IF YOU
GET THE CHANCE!