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\* THE HONORS ENVOY \*

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## REGIONAL CONFERENCE AT TRENTON PLANNED

by Richard Landsdowne

Notices were recently distributed concerning the upcoming Regional Honors Conference at Trenton State College in New Jersey. The theme of the conference will be creativity and innovation in Honors education. Those students who have any interest in attending the conference should see Belle for the conference program. The students who register to go must pay a fee of \$40 to cover expenses during the conference, scheduled for Thursday, March 28 through Sunday, March 31.

For those who do attend, the conference will offer more than seminars on the meanings and direction of Honors education. There will be mini-courses on such subjects as artificial intelligence, bioethics, and creativity. On Saturday evening, three movies will be offered for attending students and staff, and the activities on Sunday morning will include an historical field trip to Trenton concerning the American Revolution.

Again, those interested should see Belle about the program. The deadline for signing up is Thursday, February 28. For those going, the van will depart from Alfred on Thursday evening.

## LOOKING BEHIND THE SECRETARY'S DESK

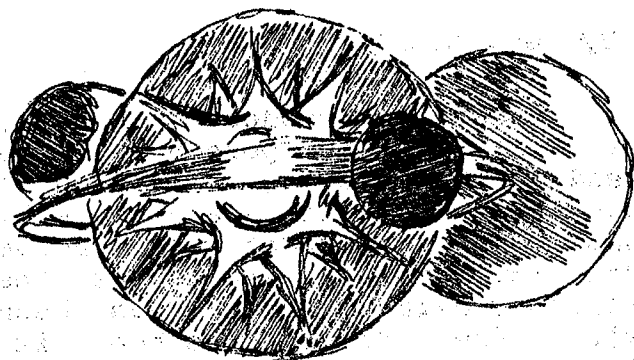
by Teri Gluck

Imagine a wonderfully warm, extremely helpful person - always ready with a glowing smile and a positive attitude - and you will have just thought of Belle Hopkins, the secretary for the Honors Program. Belle has been with the Program since its inception nearly two years ago. Being aware of the growth in the program already, Belle looks forward to the changes that will occur as the program progresses. She feels more comfortable with the program now than at its beginning.

Belle works primarily with Larry Greil; she does, however, have brief contact with the Honors professors. Aside from her work at the university, Belle leads a very interesting life. Perhaps the most interesting thing about her is that she rises at 4:30 each morning to milk her dairy goats, which she raises as a hobby. Just recently on Belle's 60-acre farm, a goat delivered two kids. Belle resides in Genesee, Pa., a half-hour commute each day and evening during the summer months.

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The secretary lives with her husband, a geology professor, and her two sons, one of whom is a freshman in college. Belle has lived in New Jersey, Illinois, North Carolina, Florida, Texas, Pennsylvania and Virginia, and if you are wondering how she came to Alfred, Belle will tell you that it looked like a place where things were going on. Next time you have something to return to Belle at the Science Center Room 411, why not stop in to visit? How could you not when Belle says the kids are the best part of the Honors Program?



#### SLEEPING BAG SEMINAR ANNOUNCED

The Susquehanna University Honors Program in Selinsgrove, Pa., is the sponsor of a seminar concerning the accident at the Three-Mile Island nuclear power facility. The seminar will revolve around a tour of the Three-Mile Island facility, as well as a panel discussion on "The Future of Nuclear Energy." The panel will include representatives from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Pennsylvania Power and Light Company, and a consumer group.

The registration fee, which includes all meals, is \$25. Contact the Honors Office (x2212), if you are interested in attending or desire more information.

#### EDITORIAL: HONORS AT A CROSSROADS

by Joseph Keddle

The Honors Program at Alfred University has come a long way. What began as the seedling of an idea has blossomed into an active program. The fruit, however, has not yet reached maturity. Before I discuss what maturity might bring the program, I will review what has so far developed.

Dr. Larry Greil, professor of sociology, started the cogs turning in the fall of 1981. Greil, who has been the program's director since its inception, formed the advisory committee and served as its chairman. Mrs. Belle Hopkins has also faithfully served as the Honors Secretary since the program's beginning. Planning continued for two years before the first Honors students arrived on campus.

The Honors Class of 1987, entering as freshman in the fall of 1983, contained the program's first students. These students, numbering twenty-one, were enrolled in the university's first Honors Seminar. Dr. Greil taught this course which was known as "American Odysseys." During the spring semester of that academic year, Dr. Paul Strong taught a seminar on art and literature entitled "Symbolic Worlds." Also that year, the Honors Program planned its first "Culture Cruises." The Cruises were actually trips to area points of interest such as the GeVa and Eastman Theaters. Students also attended the National Honors Conference in Philadelphia and the Regional Conference in Amherst, Mass.

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With the arrival of a new academic year in the fall of 1984 came a new freshman honors class of about 25. The fall semester offered two seminars to accommodate the expanded program size. Trips to local wineries and to the Margaret Strong Museum highlighted the fall semester. That fall saw the arrival of the Honors newsletter. The Honors Envoy was first published in October, 1984. An honors student was hired on work-study to assist with its production.

This present semester has two more seminar offerings. There are some upcoming conferences and outings planned. My question is: How will the program develop and what will be its future role on campus?

The answer to this question depends primarily on student input and interest. Presumably, there will be two more seminars in the fall for the sophomores and incoming freshman; juniors will then begin their private study. The program may certainly develop beyond this, though, if the students so desire. Ideally, the Honors Program could coordinate activities that would involve and service the entire university community. Or, the program could continue as it is with the seminars being its primary focus. I prefer that the program become more than the sponsor of special classes for a few interested students. Without involvement beyond coursework, the program is in danger of becoming elitist and stagnant. I would like the program to involve its members in activities and projects outside of the seminars. Below I have outlined some projects which may be considered.

Debates: Perhaps some debates between faculty members could be organized in conjunction with the Liberal Arts College's debates. Or better yet, students

could hold a public debate in which they themselves examine a particular issue.

Speakers: The Honors Program could invite a distinguished speaker to campus to address an issue of interest to the university community.

Honors Convocation: The Program might want to offer special recognition to a chosen student at the university's annual Honors Convocation. It seems reasonable that an honors program would want to bestow honor upon an outstanding student for his academic achievement. This student could also be a guest of honor at the end-of-the-year dinner already planned by the Honors Program.

Sesquicentennial: Alfred University is celebrating its 150th birthday next year. Perhaps some students could work with the sesquicentennial committee in planning and coordinating the celebration. The Program might also sponsor a special project on its own. Have any ideas? Let us know!

Conference: It is certainly possible to serve as hosts to an Honors Conference in Alfred. The rural setting would uniquely flavor the weekend. Our conference could show Honors Students of other universities the many things in Alfred that make it so special.

The sky is the limit! If any of these ideas spark your interest, please contact Dr. Greil or Belle Hopkins. Committees could form immediately. More importantly, why not talk to other Honors Students? Student involvement is vital to a quality program. Honors needs you, as you need it.

## HONORS CHIT-CHAT

Students are reminded of the outing to Belle's farm on Sunday, March 24. Two university station wagons will leave from the physical plant parking lot at 1:00 p.m. and will return no later than 6:00 p.m. Because of Belle's hospitality, it should be an enjoyable afternoon. Thanks Belle!

Thanks is also extended to Drs. Davis, Sass, and Straus for their participation as seminar teachers last fall. Welcome to Drs. Greiff and Robinson as faculty for this semester. May it be another successful term for the Honors Program!

Films for Dr. Louis Greiff's seminar, "Fiction into Film," are open free to all students. They are shown Mondays at 4 p.m. in 114 Seidlin and then again at 8 p.m. in Science Center 247 (Room Lecture Hall).

February 25	Apocalypse Now
March 18	The Virgin and the Gypsy
April 8	One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
April 22	The French Lieutenant's Woman

Students in Dr. Straus' "Thinking" seminar ended the semester right - with a party, of course! A dozen students gathered in the Commons Building to celebrate a successful semester. Thanks are extended to Nola Kennedy and Ed Milliken, who helped plan the gathering.

Honors Director Larry Greil moderated a debate co-sponsored by the Department of Social Sciences and PASS. The debate, held on Wednesday, January 30, was entitled "Cults: Deprogramming or Reprogramming, Healthy or Harmful?". A former Moonie, Chris Carlson, opposed the scholar Dr. David Bromley. In addition to the Director, the debate was well-attended by those related to the Honors Program. Six Honors students were noticed in the audience as well as the two professors who taught seminars last semester - Drs. Davis and Straus.

Elections were recently held to choose two student members of the Honors Advisory Committee. Judy Pasciak and Bob Sullivan vacated their positions at the end of the fall semester. Newly elected to the committee are Joe Keddie and Tony Sapienza.



Illustrations by M. Walther