

LHU Honors
Program

The Occasional Word

February/March

2005

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Heather's Obiter Dictum & Thank You Lock Haven</i>	2
<i>Curious George & Studying Abroad...</i>	3
<i>The First Amendment & Strange, But True</i>	4
<i>Strange, But True (cont'd) & A Message from George</i>	5
<i>Life in France & Only in America, for Me</i>	6
<i>Only in America for Me (cont'd) & St. Patty's Day '05</i>	7
<i>The Evolution of an Allegory</i>	8
<i>The Evolution of an Allegory (cont'd)</i>	9
<i>Poetry Corner</i>	10

By Dr. Joseph McGinn

What exactly is honors education? This is a question that I have had many occasions to think about over the course of the last year as a new director. I am still not sure I have a definitive answer. And when I ask honors faculty members or honors students for their view, each one is as likely as not to offer two or three different responses. Slowly, I have come to realize that many people involved in honors education are not completely certain about how to answer this question either. But I am not sure that this is such a bad thing. As a philosopher by temperament and training, I long ago came to believe that not all questions have clear-cut, simple answers. So, when you are dealing with one like this that resists a precise answer, the wisest thing may simply be to inhabit the question itself and by so doing

remain open to new and richer ways of addressing it.

Lately, I have tried to make time to meditate on this question. Here are some of the things I have come away with. Honors education is about passion – a passion for self-consciously encountering, exploring and perhaps even embracing new ideas, beliefs, values, and ways of being in the world. This dimension of honors education has become more and more apparent to me as I have had the chance to meet with honors students to discuss their course augmentation proposals, their capstone project proposals and their proposals for the upcoming National Collegiate Honors Council conferences in Atlantic City and St. Louis. Honors education is also about personal growth – embracing a

chance to step outside your comfort zone by challenging yourself to become a leader. When I think of the leadership training our program offers, the quality of all our leaders, and especially the tremendous sense of ownership that honors students feel for our program, I am both amazed and proud. Finally, and by no means last, honors education is about having

a huge amount of fun and making life-long friends. If you need evidence of this, just walk by the odd Freshman Discussion Group or Activity

Group and listen for the laughter and sense of camaraderie. It is music to an Honors Director's ears!

So, let me invite you to inhabit this question too. What is your view of honors education? I would be interested in hearing your thoughts.



Heather's Obiter Dictum

By Heather Frank

Do you know what happened the day you were born? Not even in the year you were born, just on the day. When you think about this, your birthday is just a small nick on the giant SUV we call life.

I stumbled across this question while I was surfing the Web and of course, the master procrastinator that I am, I had to look into this. I found a website called BrainyHistory.com and spent the next several hours telling everyone what happened on July 3.

Believe it or not, the city of Quebec and I have the same birthday, Quebec's just 376 years older. The exhibition of the first cultivated strawberry,

the opening of the first normal school in the United States, the first crossing of a hot air balloon across the Atlantic Ocean, the driving of the 1st automobile, and the 1st color television broadcast in London all have the same birthday as me.

A lot of significant events in baseball happened on my birthday too. Ty Cobb hit in his 40th straight game, the 1st Sunday game was played at Fenway Park, Lou Gehrig made his "Luckiest Man Alive" speech, the Cleveland Indians purchased Larry Dolby who was the first African American to play in the American League, and Oriole Park, the minor league stadium, burned down in Balti-

more.

The events I share my birthday with go beyond the first time events and the major baseball events. Some of the things on my list are momentous occasions in history. The Battle of Gettysburg ended on my birthday, Idaho was admitted as the 43rd state in the U.S., Puerto Rico's constitution was approved by the United States and the Supreme Court ruled that states do not have to provide funds for abortion.

When you think about it, your birthday is such a miniscule event in the grand scheme of things. Next time you get a few free minutes or need a reason to procrastinate, visit the Brainy History website and see what

"Do you know what happened the day you were born?"

Thank You Lock Haven

By Nicole Deitman

My experiences so far attending Glasgow Caledonian University in Scotland have convinced me completely that anyone that has the opportunity to study abroad should take advantage of it.

What set Lock Haven apart from all other universities that I looked at was its strong study abroad program and the enthusiasm they have had about it. They really do offer so many choices of locations—more than I found anywhere else and they make the entire process quite easy considering what a big process it is.

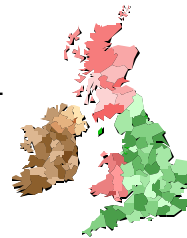
As a freshman, I at-

tended several functions that talked about studying abroad and encouraged everyone who wanted to participate to seriously consider looking into it. I had already decided prior to coming to Lock Haven that I had wanted to study abroad, but everything that I heard in those presentations about studying abroad seemed to be quite true.

It really has been an experience of a lifetime. You meet friends from all over the world so you aren't just experiencing and learning about the country you are staying in. What really has surprised me about my stay here is the fact that I seem to be realizing a lot

about my own country—things that I had never thought of or just really never had to think of.

As a student of Lock Haven I am extremely grateful for this school's active and leading role in study abroad programs. Any student that has the opportunity to study abroad should look into it because, as in my case, it was really a now or never opportunity. Take the time to drop in to the International Office or ask a friend that has studied abroad about their experiences. Studying abroad has been the most fun, exciting, and rewarding experience of my life, and I suspect that I'll never experience anything quite like this year in Scotland.



Curious George

Disclaimer: Do not read this article if you have never seen Shawshank Redemption and wish to see it.

By George Zimmerman

"Hope is a good thing and maybe the best thing; hope never dies" –Andy Dufresne

The Shawshank Redemption, a movie about two men (Andy Dufresne and Red) in a Shawshank prison, is one of the best movies I have ever seen. I say this because I feel that the movie can teach its viewers many things. This movie's most glaring lesson is that hope never dies. Andy has been wrongly convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison; from the moment he sets foot in Shawshank, he carries with him a different outlook on life than the other prisoners. Red, along with the rest of the

inmates, has long given up hope of ever getting out of the prison after being a resident of Shawshank for thirty years but he is inspired after Andy executes a daring escape and makes off with the warden's dirty money. Red had promised Andy that when he got out of prison that he would meet Andy in a little Mexican town by the Gulf of Mexico. This promise helped him maintain hope of getting out of the prison.

Andy's attitude was nothing like the rest of the other prisoners; Red said that he "strolled through the yard like a man without a care in the world." His more upbeat outlook on life even in the direst of circumstances



made his situation much more bearable than others who were in the same situation but had completely different outlooks on their situation.

This movie also showcases a friendship between two men that doesn't involve the typical male subjects, i.e. they didn't spend most of their time talking about sports, the weather, or sex. Typical male friends may not have risked their lives in order to do something nice for their friends as Andy did when he got some beer for everyone who was helping tar the roof. Typical male friends also may not have gone out of their way to show appreciation for what their friend did.

Studying Abroad: Cultural Experience or Psychological Science?

By Raquel Palacio

I'm sitting in my room in a house that belongs to another family. They were nice enough to equip it with a computer and television with cable. We have certain hours when we eat, the same every day. They gave me a key and told me to come and go as I please. On the weekends, they leave all day Saturday and Sunday. It kind of makes me think...

Do they put all this stuff in my room to see what I will do? Do we have scheduled times to eat so they can train me? Do they really not care when I come in and out, or are they keeping track of my daily

and nightly activities? Am I really alone on the weekends? Or are these "families" strategically placed to calculate the life of an "average" American college student?

What is this culture shock they told us all about before we left? It has come to my attention that the Lock Haven Psychology department could be in some sort of agreement with the Study Abroad office. Do they just warn us about Culture Shock so we don't suspect anything? I'm beginning to think so. I'm beginning to think they feed us weird foods and put us in different situations to watch our reactions.

There was once a man

named Pavlov who rang a bell before feeding his dogs to see if he could get them to salivate at the ring of a bell. This kind of experimenting, and many others, would be "immoral" in the United States. But in Europe? Why do we really have certain "feeding" times each day?

All this information and thought has inspired me to do some research of my own. As it turns out, the "University" that I study at is more than half filled with international students. Or should I say "studies"? I will try to uncover as much information as possible. But for now, I must go since this is a school computer and who knows who is reading it!

The First Amendment and the Mansion on the Hill

By Edward Savoy

The question often comes to many decent people of how the First Amendment, the article that contains the root of our peculiarly American democracy, can encompass so much. How can the same article give license to the philosopher, the politician, and the pornographer? How do we reconcile the heinous views that sometimes reach the light under the 1st Amendment's guise with the spirit of the Founding Fathers and the views of the majority?

The simplest way to reconcile the views that we take joy in under the First Amendment with the ones that we reluctantly tolerate under it is to think of the First Amendment as the foundation of a giant mansion. The mansion has many rooms, but no locks or doors; the mansion's resident's are free to wander the mansion's vast premises, but are

not enjoined to visit any one room. Every room has the presumption of equality in the mansion. There are some rooms that are more popular than others and ones that you may not wish to visit or are inhabited by personages less than savory, but it is still within your power to enter any room, should you so

"Every room has the presumption of equality...there are some rooms that are more popular than other and ones you may not wish to visit..."

choose.

In this mansion, Ward Churchill, the controversial Colorado professor, who compared 9-11 victims to "little Adolph Eichman's" has a room. We are free to scorn his room, ignore his room, and abhor his room, but

we are not free to raze it or to block or to barricade it. I do not say that I would recommend people to tread towards that section of the mansion's premises, but nor would I build walls before it and say "None shall pass". The price we pay for freedom is that other people may choose to use it badly; this is an unfortunate price, but since the alternative comes with the heavy tax of tyranny, it is one that we must pay.

If America is, as has often been stated, a city on a hill, then the First Amendment is the mansion on the hill. As there are no doors in the mansion, there are no gates to the city. It is when we put doors and locks on the mansion and bars in front of the city that we will lose what makes this nation unique. May this never happen.

Strange, But True

By Kristin McIntosh

As a Biology/Chemistry major here at Lock Haven, I have come to read many science articles and magazines. These types of scientific literature tend to contain interesting facts and ideas that are not usually thought of, so I thought that I would share some of my favorites for this issue:

? All polar bears are left handed, suggesting a specific pattern of genetic inheritance. Because left-handedness is a dominant trait over right-handedness, the right-handed polar bears were weeded out of their population over time until they ceased to exist at all.

? Brain surgery is done with the patient still awake. The brain does not contain any nerves, therefore it has no sensation. The patient is put to sleep to open the skull, but after a short period of time, the person wakes up to see the operation completed.

? Every person has a unique tongue print, comprised of different papillae (protrusions containing our taste buds).

? Reversing Falls is located in Canada, where the St. John's River flows into the Bay of Fundy at St. John, New Brunswick. The rapids at this juncture flow normally at low tide but backwards at high tide. Between tides, there is a fifteen minute period in which the river is placid and boaters sail by very quickly.

(Continued on page 5)

Strange, But True (cont'd)

(Continued from page 4)

? We are in the middle of an ice age. Ice ages include both cold and warm periods; at the moment we are experiencing a relatively warm span of time known as an "interglacial period." Geologists believe that the warmest part of this period occurred from 1890 through 1945 and that since 1945, things have slowly begun freezing up again.

? A jiffy is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second. Thus the saying, "I will be there in a jiffy."

? There are mirrors on the moon. Astronauts left them so that laser beams could be bounced off of them from Earth. These beams help give us the distance to the moon, give or take a few meters.

? Your thumb is the same length of your nose.

? Bone is stronger, inch for inch, than the steel in skyscrapers. It looks as though the human body's construction once again beats out man-made structures.

? Aspirin has never been approved nor rejected by the FDA. This may make you think twice the next time you go to purchase pain medication.

? Starch is used as a binder in the production of paper. It is the use of a starch coating that controls ink penetration when printing. Cheaper papers do not use as much starch, and this is why your elbows get black when you are leaning over your Sunday paper.

? The first full moon to occur on the winter solstice, December 22nd, happened in 1999. Since a full moon on the winter solstice occurred in conjunction with a lunar perigee (the point in the moon's orbit that is closest to Earth), the moon appeared about 14% larger than it does at apogee (the point in its elliptical orbit that is farthest from the Earth). Since the Earth is also several million miles closer to the sun at that time of the year, sunlight striking the moon was about 7% stronger making it brighter. In places where the weather was clear and there was a snow cover, even car headlights were superfluous.

? A raisin dropped in a glass of fresh champagne will bounce up and down continually from the bottom of the glass to the top. This is because the carbonation in the drink gets pockets of air stuck in the wrinkles of the raisin, which is light enough to be raised by this air. When the raisin reaches the surface of the champagne, the bubbles pop, and the raisin sinks back to the bottom, starting the cycle over.

? Females have approximately 500 more genes than males do, and because of this are protected from genetically inherited diseases such as color blindness and hemophilia.

? You can see a candle flame from 50 Kilometers on a clear, dark night. You can hear the tick of a watch from six meters in very quiet conditions. You can taste one gram of salt in 500 liters of water. You can detect one drop of perfume diffused throughout a three-room apartment. You can detect the wing of a bee falling on your cheek from a height of one centimeter.

The next time you go home for break, or are stuck on a blind date with nothing to say, think back to this article and you will easily impress your friends and family with these useless scientific facts. Besides, most people are interested to know that their thumb is the same length as their nose.

A Message from George:

Kristin McIntosh and I would like to publicly thank Laura Kennedy, Keri Schmid, Jess Sanford, and Kim Johnston for their help in creating new Admissions presentation boards that were used at the March 19, 2005 Admissions Open House. These presentation boards look wonderful and we could not have made them without the help of these four individuals. Thanks again, Laura, Keri, Jess, and Kim.

Life in France

By Krystal Bush

Being in France for the past six months has taught me a lot and changed my perspective on many things. I have a new haircut, a new wardrobe, a new language. Basically EVERYTHING is different here as far as daily life goes. I am also learning not only how to be a student in a foreign country but also how to be a teacher here.

One of the greatest and most challenging experiences I have during my stay in France is teaching at a high school, working with students between the ages of 15 and 22. That's right! Some of my students are older than I am. They are studying in an Economic Business course that uses only English, or they are preparing to enter the highest level of universities in France, *Les Grandes Ecoles*. Not only do I teach English, but it is essential that I know French, because I am asked countless times each day "What is the English word for..." You can fill in the blank with any French

word you know. I am sure you all know much more than you may think: lion, en route, Internet, bus, machine, terrible, cool, table...the list goes on and on. They are all the same words, just with different pronunciations.

Being "away from home" for a lengthy period of time can be really great. You meet people from around the world, you experience new traditions, and you can spend a lot of money and justify it by saying that you may never see this or that ever again so you must buy it now. In France, you get to open your Christmas gifts on Christmas Eve after having an enormous dinner. But you can forget driving around to see Christmas lights. There are hardly any. I did get to play in the Mediterranean Sea, however. I found it was a good exchange! Or you can head to the Alps for some real skiing.

"One of the greatest and most challenging experiences I have during my stay in France is teaching at a high school, working with students between the ages of 15 and 22"

This semester I am taking French Business and Economics. If you struggle with the required Economics courses at LHU, I can assure you it is much more difficult when you study it in a foreign language. I find every day that French uses very long and complicated words to say very simple things. In my class last week, for example, I had no idea what to make of a sentence that was on a handout. When I asked my professor what it meant, while struggling to pronounce the multiple words, she told me "oh that just means 'a farm'."

I now have only 3 months before returning to LHU. My family tells me everyone is going to laugh at my accent when I come back, but that I should lose it quickly. I may lose my accent, but I will never lose all my memories and experiences of being abroad. It is something that every student should benefit from while at LHU. See you all soon!

Only In America, for Me

(This is a response/counter-point article to Edward Savoy's previous month's article Only in America)

By Adam Styborski

Repeatedly, I have heard phrases like "only in America," or "that's the American way," or "that's [American] politics for you." These are used in tandem with various ideas to convey sarcasm, disbelief, lack of faith, arrogance, close-mindedness, citizenship, and many other concepts. But, startlingly, the use of

these catch-phrases is, at best, a strong statement deduced from multiple examples, or, at worst, a bias opinion without formal evidence.

Only in America do we assume to know truth without witnessing it ourselves (we choose to believe or disbelieve "news" as it is reported).

Only in America do we generalize about the voting pat-

terns of portions of the population without warrant or due evidence (this is called stereotyping or profiling).

Only in America do we generalize the performance of the economy to the current president, no matter how recently elected, without considering the timeframe that true economic development takes (long term

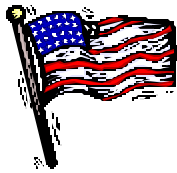
(Continued on page 7)

Only in America, for Me (cont'd)

(Continued from page 6)

economic development goes far beyond just stocks going up and down).

Only in America do we absolve those who teach of being responsible to be fair and just in their material, and not provide any form of bias and commentary alongside, excepting if we agree with their views (opinions are always unjustified, whether we agree or not).



Only in America can we express outrage at varying opinions of individuals who we may or may not have voted or elected

(Pennsylvanians vote on those who represent Pennsylvania and should cast-off the opinions of those who do not represent Pennsylvania).

Only in America do we excuse indifference and vagueness as appreciation of moral variety while condemning another's steadfast moral resolve if we do not agree with it (Is the ability to make a decision and stand behind it better than the inability to make a decision if it may be harmful?)

If you assume these previous statements are self-evident, you are wrong. If you assume that are truths to be up-

held, you are wrong. If you disagree with these statements, you have every entitlement to be in disagreement. But if you choose to state them on your own, be aware that your statements are only as justified as mine. Make your own decisions, but carefully weigh each piece of evidence that you find along the way.

I find great distaste with many facets of "the American way," but I choose to accept the impurities and find my own way, without harkening to an anachronistic overturn and restructuring of everything that has been America from the very beginning, whether we believe that or not.

St. Patty's Day '05

By Patrick Long

I recently had an amazing opportunity to experience St. Patrick's Day to the fullest. My 2005 St. Patty's Day took place in Dublin, Ireland and it'll never be forgotten.

When I decided to study abroad, Ireland was the first trip that came to mind. I never imagined that not only would I get to Ireland, but I'd get to Dublin on March 17th. It is a common saying all across the world that "everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day" and I strongly believe this. People everywhere can get together and celebrate no matter what nationality. St. Patty's Day is a celebration that takes place all over the world and what really matters is that you are with friends and have a mind set to have a good time. I had an amazing time last year celebrat-

ing with friends at "546" in good ol' Lock Haven, and this year I was lucky enough to spend it in Ireland.

We arrived in Dublin on Tuesday the 15th, checked into our hostel, and on Wednesday we went sight-seeing all day. We were very fortunate to have great weather over the 3 days. Four friends and I started our St. Patrick's Day with a beautiful church service at Mary Immaculate Church in northern Dublin. From there we made our way to the city centre to see the famous "St. Patrick's Day Festival Parade," which was about two hours long and not once was there a dull moment. After the parade, the five of us went to the renowned Temple Bar area and had a nice lunch and just took in the atmosphere. The Temple Bar is an area right on the River Liffey in the city centre of Dublin and it is only about 1 block by 1

block. There was no possible way that any more people could have been there because it was absolutely packed with people from everywhere. I would have to say that the majority were American tourists, but probably most countries were represented.

We stayed in the Temple Bar vicinity from 4:00pm to 2:00am just celebrating and socializing with all the partakers on this memorable day. Around 3:00am, the five of us made our way back to the hostel, grabbed our luggage, and headed to the Dublin International Airport for our 6:30am flight back to Liverpool.

What an amazing experience and it is definitely one that I will remember for the rest of my life. I was in Dublin, Ireland on March 17th, 2005 and for that I feel extremely lucky. I'm very confident that everyone back at LHU had a good time on March 17th and I wish everyone well.

The Evolution of an Allegory

By Ryan Landino

Ever since I have been a freshman, I have wanted to do an Honors Capstone Project. When I wanted to plan mine, I wanted it to be something that I could have fun, but also could provide me with a worthy challenge. A Communication Studies major doesn't really lend itself to a breeding ground for a lot of ideas for quantitative research, so that really wasn't a way I wanted to go. An aspiring minister also has an obstacle—how can I capstone an undergraduate education that precedes a Masters in Divinity?

I discovered that one of my most difficult pieces of writing I ever tried to undertake was a one page statement of faith—describing all of *what* I believed in. What I realized was that I did not have a statement that described *why* I believe.

This is how I can upon the idea of writing a spiritual allegory, a novel, a symbolic adventure that takes a main character through all of the key elements that Christianity consists of. That of course comes with the challenge of trying to figure out what Christianity is.

I have written large works before, things that can be called novels, and have found challenge, solitude, and growth in developing them. This however, is by far my most challenging work I have ever undertaken. The symbols of the story permeates levels that are literal, figurative, spiritual, and personal. If the description of a tree does not match the theme of the growth

of the main character, then the tree doesn't fit.

To practice the oral defense of such a project, I have signed on to co-present on a panel about religion with Adam Styborski and George Zimmerman at this semester's regional Honors Conference.

Next semester, I hope that my proposal is accepted to present this at the National Honors Conference in St. Louis, Missouri.



The following excerpt is a passage from my Capstone Project, called *Nous' Mountain: An Allegory of the Christian Faith*. To create something similar as to what John Bunyan accomplished with *Pilgrim's Progress*, and also what Nathaniel Hawthorne achieved with "Young Goodman Brown," creative liberty had to be taken to draw out the themes necessary for the story's portrayal of the themes.

* * *

"You are not gonna make it, Thomas Nous. To this mountain of yours. You are heading out into the wild unknown where no traveler goes, where no farmer lives, where no hermit dwells. Even if Shiloh, this radical preacher with his book and his sermons, doesn't kill you himself, the elements will: thirst, wolves, the cold, the labyrinth of hills and vales, falling from a climb face, stumbling into a dark pit where no one shall find you.

"And what happens when you reach the peak? You will get up there, look around

and not know what at all to do. Then you will have to turn around and face those same dangers all over again on the journey home! What is the purpose of going to that mountain? There is no reason!"

Nous stopped rolling his shirts into his back. "I go with Shiloh in the morning. This is something I must do. I-I cannot go one more—not one more—day without seeking... I can't explain it. All that I know is that I must...or..."

The woman rolled her eyes. "Or what?"

Nous turned to her with sad eyes. "I don't know."

The woman scoffed. "You are unbelievable. Can you not understand that if you go, then you will die?"

"Then I will die," Nous spat. "But I might die knowing the truth about a fuller life. If only for a moment, I could have the truth. Don't you think that would be worth everything? Don't you think finding the truth would be worth giving everything away for?"

"What truth are you referring to?" the woman challenged. "What good does this truth do if you're dead? What are you going to do with it if you can't come back and share it with your friends? No one will know that you have it, only you. It serves no purpose."

Nous leaned forward over the bed and hung his head. He took a long moment to slow his breathing. He knew it when his face was turning red, and he grew embarrassed whenever his emotions were

(Continued on page 9)

The Evolution of an Allegory (cont'd)

(Continued from page 8)

put on display. He suddenly felt the woman's hands run smoothly over his shoulders. He couldn't deny that her warm caress felt good.

"Thomas, you are driving yourself insane. You are being driven to the end of the world by some kind of, I don't know, guilt. Ignore it. You know I loved Angela too. But she is gone now. That doesn't mean your life is gone too. You can start a new one. You can move on."

Thomas turned away, putting his back to her. He tried to speak softly. "Sarah, you do not understand. I saw Angela pray by night, heard her speak of great people she met at church. I saw how she lifted her chin in times of struggle, how her joy was always greater than mine in good times. She had a power, a spark, something that made me want to be more...more like her. She made me want to reach out to her and share that power in a new life with her."

Nous sighed, plopping down in a wooden chair; his weight made the chair creak. His shoulders sagged, his weariness evident in his voice. "I must know. I must know if Angela's new life is only a god that sits on his throne atop a mountain in the clouds while we fool around in doubt and darkness. I must know if he has truly detached himself from this world. I must know why he hasn't been revealed to me. I must know the answer. I must seek the truth before I reject it."

Sarah turned on him with a groan and turned to the window. She looked out to the

rain falling in the darkness outside. "You do not make any sense. What do you want? God? To find Angela in heaven? Salvation, perhaps?"

"I don't know, Sarah. A new beginning maybe. To see where this spark of curiosity, this spiritual intrigue, will take me. Something so fleeting before my eyes that I am afraid...that...."

"What?"

Nous squared up with Sarah. "I am afraid it will slip away."

Sarah slid a wooden chair up next to him. She took his hand in hers and held it at her chest. "Afraid what will slip away, Thomas? Can you not say what it is? Can you not say what you want out of traveling with a stranger into the wild? Are you not chasing some inkling in your mind? Some paranoid feeling?"

Nous smiled, life filling his lungs. He shook his head in wonderment, his eyes meeting Sarah straight on. "It's not paranoia. And it's not in my mind."

Sarah slowly caressed his face with her warm hand. The other she held with his firmly. "Why don't you just stay here, with me? I know you want to. You know I will be able to take care of you."

"I-I-I can't, Sarah," Thomas uttered. "My life was growing with Angela. She challenged me in ways no one else could. Now that she is gone, I feel as if there is no way I can grow. I feel that all my worth is fading."

"Thomas, poor Thomas," Sarah soothed. Nous felt both her hands come to his face, gently pulling his face towards her. His eyes ran over her full red lips, her long brown hair. His eyes darted over her exposed shoulders and revealed cleavage showing from her flowing dress. "You're just in mourning. You need someone to mourn with you. To share your pain. To bear it with you. I am here for you. I am here to help you. In any way I can."



Nous turned away, his eyes distantly gazing upon the floor. He nodded. "Stay here.' Right where I stand. Like some rock along a steady stream that likes the water on its face. Even trees, their roots stuck in one place for all of their lives, still choose to grow taller."

Sarah leaned in closer, almost to his ear. "We can grow, as a couple. Just you and me. Don't leave our relationship for dead."

Nous blinked, sighing. "If I do not grow, I feel I will die."

"You will die...if you go."

Nous shook his head. "Then I will die moving forward, falling to my knees, knowing I had not a single ounce of strength left for my weary limbs. To give all that I have in the end. Is that not life? Is that not seeking the truest life?"

"That would depend on your definition of 'truth.'"

Nous' face tensed, his eyes resolute. "'Truth.' It is not my definition to create, only to discover."

April/May Submissions!

The first call deadline for April/May submissions will be **Friday, April 15th**

Lock Haven University Honors Program
Lock Haven University
Lock Haven, PA 17745

LHU HONORS PROGRAM

Phone: (570) 893-2053

We're on the Web!
www.lhup.edu/honors

**Poetry Corner:
featuring Justine Jones**

Love's Shining Moments

The sun was shining, the warm breeze blew,
The day proved to be something lovely and new.
I looked up above, towards the rising sun,
Felt its warm, glowing rays, soft and fun.
I looked to my left, and then wore a grin,
For there was my baby, safe and home again.
I ran to him quickly, my arms spread wide,
My joy and emotion were not easy to hide.
I held him close, my eyes filled with tears
He whispered, Baby it seems like it was years.
No matter the distance that separates us,
Our love only grows stronger so remember thus.
Please show me a smile, it will warm my heart
Your smile's meant love, right from the start.

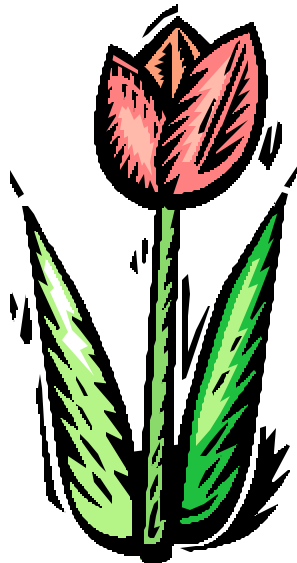
Contributors

Editors

Danielle Reichenbach

Contributors

Dr. Joseph McGinn
Heather Frank
Nicole Deitman



George Zimmerman
Raquel Palacio
Edward Savoy
Kristin McIntosh
Krystal Bush
Adam Styborski
Patrick Long

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed by students in the Occasional Word do not necessarily reflect those of the University Honors Program or those of Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania.