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THE COUGAR!
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Harbinger Weekly brings you updates about news and events happening around campus. 
Available on Facebook and YouTube

The Harbinger team converses about local and national topics for the community of Illinois Central College. 
Available on SoundCloud
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Hi there! The Harbinger was a monthly magazine from 2014 - 2017. This semester, we’ve been primarily online, serving the ICC community with multimedia content at ICCHarbinger.com. All student media, including the TV program (Underground TV) and podcast, is now under the umbrella of Harbinger Student Media. But we’re far from ready to kiss the print format goodbye. There’s something special about holding a copy in your hands to flip through between classes. This edition holds highlights from our semester of stories and introduces a certain caped crusader to campus… We wrap ’er up with student art and op-eds. (I’ll be the proud owner of the cover art here in a few days!) We hope you enjoy this edition and join us for the ongoing ride at ICCHarbinger.com.

~Wes
Defining “Harbinger” and its Future

By Wes Brooks | originally published 8/30/18 on iccharbinger.com

The name “Harbinger” has carried the student publication of Illinois Central College for a half-century. It has provided ongoing news and bolstered community. Readers may be wondering what The Harbinger is up to—also, what a harbinger is.

A stalwart Greco-Roman soldier stands aside the bold type in The Harbinger’s first edition from 1967. (Pictured above) Perhaps he is serving as a harbinger himself. Militarily, a harbinger was a scout of sorts. He’d be ahead of the pack, scoping out territory in search of lodgings. This definition stems from Medieval Europe. In more recent times, a harbinger is considered someone or something that is forerunning or foretelling something—like a herald bringing news. If there’s anything these definitions have in common, perhaps it’s that a harbinger is dedicated to serving others. In the case of The Harbinger, the publication serves to voice the happenings of campus life and opinion for ICC students, faculty, and the community—to enrich the ICC experience.

In recent months, The Harbinger has been temporarily absent from the newsstands while undergoing change. It is now reigniting its presence online, as well as in printed form, and is launching new video and audio content this fall. On behalf of the newly formed Harbinger Student Media, we hope to join those who walk through ICC’s halls in the months and years ahead, continuing in the harbinger way.

SEE VIDEO:
Who is Harbinger Student Media? / Harbinger Student Media on YouTube
Board of Trustees Opens Two Positions

By Damien Cross  |  originally published 9/20/18 on iccharbinger.com

There are two seats on the ICC Board of Trustees that are up for election on the April 2, 2019 ballot. Candidates can now pass out petitions to gather the 50 signatures required. The Board of Trustees is responsible for making new policy for the college. These members are there to ensure these policies represent the college’s interests.

Candidate packets for the ICC Board of Trustees Election are now available. A candidate packet is an elaborate resume that is usually broken up into three parts. The packets usually start with a cover letter, leading into a job description profile, and finalized with a resume.

If you are planning on running, candidates must meet these requirements to be considered for a position on the Board:

- Qualified elector/registered voter
- U.S. citizen aged 18 or older
- Resident of Illinois
- Resident of ICC District #514 for at least one year prior to the election on April 2, 2019

In addition to this, you must also file a petition including 50 signatures, a Statement of Candidacy, and a receipt for filing a Statement of Economic Interest from the Tazewell County Clerk. You must file these items with the Secretary of the Board of Trustees between December 10 and 17, 2018.

If you are one of the candidates waiting in line to file petitions as of 8 a.m. on December 10, 2018, or for those petitions received in the mail on that date, a lottery for ballot placement will be held on December 18, 2018, at 9 a.m. in Room L422 on the ICC East Peoria Campus. Be sure to check back with Harbinger Student Media for more news on the election. It’s your voice, your vote that matters.
Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have your voice heard by your peers, to have it possibly change policy to fit the interests of you and those around you? Perhaps you already feel heard, and would like to speak more to that. Whether it is out of concern or admiration, attending a Board of Trustees meeting may be for you! There are lots of topics covered in these meetings. Check the meeting’s agenda below. I will go over a couple of things that stood out.

Mark Matthews, a professor of Agriculture and Industrial Technologies at ICC, went above and beyond to help student, James McKenzie, which, despite his great effort, grades, and determination, lost his internship which was no fault of his own. Mark decided to “think outside the box” and come up with a way to keep James in the program he worked so hard to be a part of. With help from the faculty and Mark, they were able to help James retain his internship and stay on course for graduation. Stories like this happen all the time on campus, and there are lots of caring faculty members actively seeking to make your stay here at ICC all that it can be.

The other point of this meeting I would like to draw some attention to would be the section 6.1, the informational section for Fall enrollment. The Board members (David Cook & Wallace) went over how, even though we started out strong with a higher head count for this semester, we dropped off significantly to an all-time low for enrollment since before 1980. There have been changes like removing the need to speak with an adviser to enroll first. That seems great and reduces another barrier for students, but one that seems to still be relevant is the barrier for FAFSA. This is where I call upon you, the reader, the student, the concerned citizen, the faculty member… we must figure out why many students decide to give up at this crucial point in enrollment. Is it due to something as simple and misguided as shame, the time restrictions put in place, stress, lack of knowledge on how to fill it out, fear of failure, or none of the above and something entirely different? Let us know what you think.
International club hosts trips and events

By Peg Pendell | originally published 9/18/18 on iccharbinger.com

One of a number of student organizations at Illinois Central College is the International Club. They meet weekly to serve the needs and interests of its members. Students need not be born internationally to join, though a total of over 150 international students from over 50 countries attend ICC, according to Dr. Barbara Burton, Director of International Education.

Meetings are held in Room 304A, just around the corner from the large, upstairs student lounge on the third floor in the East Peoria academic building. It is open on a drop-in basis—and offers free coffee. The room is practically a museum, with colorful flags of some 44 nations hanging overhead, and with glass-cased displays of artifacts from around the world. It doubles as a conference room for meetings every Thursday from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m., but is often occupied by students as a place to “hang out.” (Those interested are encouraged to contact student leaders, Neema Mwakatobe or Connor Thompson. Meeting times may vary.)

Examples of activities sponsored by the club include the annual International Fair, annual International Film Festival, and “Taste of...” events scattered throughout the year. Out-of-town trips are also sponsored. They’re partially underwritten by the club in order to encourage exposure to the American experience for students who might not otherwise have the opportunity to travel. Two such day trips to St. Louis occurred this year. The first was co-sponsored by the Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship, another group on campus. They went to the City Museum of St. Louis followed by an authentic Mexican dinner. The second trip was a riverboat cruise to the St. Louis Arch on the Tom Sawyer paddle-wheeler. The day was capped off by a sumptuous barbecue dinner at Pappy’s Restaurant.

This year’s International Fair was beautifully documented in a short film by Wesley Brooks (recently brought on as our Managing Editor). It was held in April at the Peoria Campus, utilizing its new and sparkling kitchen facilities for food preparation. In addition to nationally-unique foods, the event also featured music, dance and was capped off by a fashion show. The participants represented various nations in colorful garb. Fair Trade articles from around the world were demonstrated and sold by Global Village, located in Peoria Heights. The Peoria Area World Affairs Council was also represented. They foster civil and diverse discussion about world issues.

Note from Editor: The club is now led by student, Alex Lopez.

Alex: al220a@lab.icc.edu
Neema: nm520@lab.icc.edu

PHOTOS: Wes Brooks

SEE VIDEO:
International Fair, 2018
Harbinger Student Media on YouTube
It’s been asked, does art influence society or does society influence art? Through the last three months being the Arts and Entertainment Editor, I can surely say that both statements are the right answer. Over the past 10 to 12 weeks, I have been culturally enriched, virtually challenged, spooked, inspired, and given back faith in humankind. How vulnerable are the artists that pour their souls into their crafts and put their lives on display for the public. What a treasure it is to witness a painting, a quilt, a dramatic or comedic scene, a graceful leap, or be given professional wisdom from world-renowned artists. I must say, I’ve learned something from each and every person I interviewed, regardless of the background, the age, or the craft. I notice the common thread in all of them and that’s expression of oneself. I hope this journey that I’ve experienced this semester influences you as much as it did me.

-Wil Baker, Arts & Entertainment Editor

Ceramics extraordinaire, Ginger Lukas, opens exhibit

By Wil Baker | originally published 8/31/18 on iccharbinger.com

Ginger Lukas, a 32 year-old Wisconsin native, has a unique style of artistry with ceramics. Her work is filled with different types of everyday items—common things that we see all the time, made into incredible art. She states that there is “so much more” to items than what they’re originally made for. She introduced her exhibit, Interior Architecture, to students and non-students alike on Wednesday, August 22nd at Illinois Central College. Her exploration of the simple to the extraordinary is on display in the upstairs gallery, 336B, of the Academic Building until September 14th.

Lukas is currently a resident at Enos Park Residency for Visual Artists of Springfield, in conjunction with the Springfield Art Association. She creates ceramics and teaches in the community. Lukas’ interest in art started with her mother. They would travel together, gathering materials for projects. She pursued an art career and received a bachelor of fine arts from the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. In 2011, she received her master of fine arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Lukas has traveled and lived in Madison, Chicago, and New York. While in Brooklyn, NY, she landed gigs with American Girl and Macy’s as a prop and home stylist. Her work has been seen internationally.
Hand Works by Trish Williams on Display

By Wil Baker / originally published 9/13/18 on iccharbinger.com

It was a drab Wednesday with a slight overcast, but the lobby of the Performing Arts Center of ICC in East Peoria was bursting with a plethora of colors. Ms. Trish Williams was responsible for this array of magnificent fabric, thread and texture.

Williams introduced her exhibit, P.I.E.C.E.S., on the 29th of August. She said it stands for “Precepts Inspired by Episodes of Creative Expressions of Self.” Upon listening to Williams’ description and history of each piece, she filled the room with a warm, welcoming, family type of atmosphere. Each piece had a story behind it, either by its conception or the fragments of its body from various locations. As she chuckles, Williams regales a story about how she would make paper dolls for her and her sister. She stated that they would color them and that she wanted purses for her dolls. Unbeknownst to her, her sister was selling the dolls.

Williams described her first exposure to this art from her great-grandmother and grandmother. Over the years, she mastered the craft by searching a multitude of avenues: schooling, books, and YouTube.

After absorbing the culture, humor, and character of Ms. Williams and her art, we left the PAC feeling like we had an experience of her life. Trish Williams’ art is up until Friday, September 14th at the Performing Arts Center of ICC in East Peoria. Gallery hours are Monday – Thursday, 9:30am – 7:30pm, and Friday 9:30am – noon.

SEE VIDEO:
Hand Works by Trish Williams - Interview
Harbinger Student Media on YouTube

handworksbytrishwilliams.weebly.com
ArtsAtICC.com
“Lion King” Cast/Crew give Q&A at ICC

By Wil Baker | originally published 10/20/18 on iccharbinger.com

“Nants ingonyama bagithi Baba Sithi uhm ingonyama” is the beginning chant of the song “Circle of Life” by Elton John and Tim Rice, which, if translated from Zulu to English, means, “They say the lion is calling Dad, Say uhm a lion.” This is just one of the songs of many that is performed by the cast and crew of the The Lion King Broadway Musical. 6 members of the 114 traveling entourage stopped by the Performing Arts Center at ICC in East Peoria on Wed., Oct. 10th for a Q&A forum with ICC’s students.

These extraordinary artists of their craft were filled with insight, life lessons, wittiness, and guidance. The panel consisted of Kim Shaw (Tour Company Manager), June Abernathy (Front Light Operator), Ben Lipitz (Pumbaa), Eric Bean Jr. (Ensemble Dancer), Courtney Thomas (Ensemble Dancer), Michael T. Brown (Bassist), and Robert Tye (Guitarist). Students asked questions such as “how does it feel to always be on the road?” Bassist Michael T. Brown answered that you have to have an adventurous spirit; you will have to make adjustments being in hotels. He continued and said, “the flipside is that I’m always on vacation; you know, I’m on a perpetual vacation.”

The panel gave advice on how to maintain a good work relationship with employers and co-workers. Eric Bean Jr., a dancer from Las Vegas, originally from Bermuda, stated how: even though employers may have many choices to choose from for employment, know your worth and don’t let someone take advantage of you. Company manager Kim Shaw summed up a work ethic that all potential actors, dancers, vocalists, performers, etc., should have, and that is kindness. She stated that an employer would prefer to work with an employee with less talent but with a good attitude than someone that has great talent and a bad attitude.

Towards the end of this enlightening discussion, the cast and crew came off stage and mingled with the students. They took pictures, asked about their studies and current projects. The Lion King is an inspirational story that the world has cherished for almost 20 years. The personalities of each of the members that came to ICC reflects its life and character.

SEE VIDEO: "Lion King" Cast/Crew in East Peoria, IL at ICC

Harbinger Student Media on YouTube

ArtsAtICC.com
Artist Dan Ossandon Displays “Headspace”

By Wil Baker / originally published 10/3/18 on iccharbinger.com

The front gallery wall of the Performing Arts Center of ICC in East Peoria is filled with different illustrations and screen prints expressed from artist, Dan Ossandon. An array of colors and shapes collectively voice the emotions of Ossandon. This artist gave a talk to the crowd on Wednesday, Sept. 19th, sharing stories on how his work is birthed from different emotions and feelings from how he views people and his daily life.

Ossandon stated that his work is therapeutic for him. He’s glad others enjoy his work. Ossandon named this exhibit Headspace because of certain experiences that he was going through—to either not face them, or to do something about it. Luckily for us, he decided to do something about it through his art. To contact Dan Ossandon: email dano.dro@gmail.com or follow him on Instagram @ dano_dro. The display will be up at the PAC of ICC in East Peoria until October 12th.
"One Man, Two Guvnors"

Bursts at the Seams

By Wil Baker | originally published 10/2/18 on iccharbinger.com

It was the first day of autumn. The night was filled with coolness in Central Illinois, but the Performing Arts Center of ICC in East Peoria was bursting with hot, sizzling, cheeky comedy with a British accent. The high energy and witty stage play, One Man, Two Guvnors, by Richard Bean, had the audience laughing with its humorous monologues and roguish slapstick. It opened on Friday, September 21st and closed on the 30th.

The story is based in Brighton, England in the year 1963. The lead character, Francis, is hired by Roscoe, and then hired by Stanley. He assists them separately. Francis desperately wants to satisfy both employers, but frantically tries to keep the two men from knowing about each other. There are many twists and turns in this storyline, with misleading disguises, an outspoken feminist, a high saturation of sexual content and a desperation for food. This play had everything. Surprisingly, they also asked the audience to volunteer, engaging them in some of the comedic fun. In one performance, an actor accidentally broke a glass while giving a monologue. Nonetheless, the performer carried on as if it were a part of the show, referencing the shattered glass in a burst of amusing improvisation. The audience ate it up. One Man, Two Guvnors is a blend of the old PBS shows: The Benny Hill Show and Are You Being Served with a dash of Fawlty Towers. The jokes and some of the acts are mature for younger audiences, but overall, it was a sheer delight.

SEE VIDEO:
ICC Presents: One Man, Two Guvnors / Harbinger Student Media on YouTube

ArtsAtICC.com
“Something Wicked This Way Comes” at Corn Stock

By Frank Toniny and Wil Baker / originally published 11/6/18 on iccharbinger.com

FRANK: When most people think of Corn Stock, they think of the giant tent that they house performances under. However, they also put on spectacular performances all year round—inside, too, of course. Their most recent production is *Something Wicked This Way Comes*. If that title sounds familiar to you, it would be because you probably read the Ray Bradbury book, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*. The play is a well done adaption of the book and has many lines directly from the text. So if you’re a picky book-lover, like me, that hates when adaptions are nothing like the actual story, you wouldn’t be disappointed.

WIL: Directed by Celeste Wohl, this dark story—filled with thrills, illusions, fantasy, and the power of good over evil—kept us glued to our seats. As the story goes, Cooger & Dark’s Pandemonium Shadow Show, an evil carnival, came to the heartland of America: Green Town, Illinois, to draw and mesmerize the fair people to fear and doom.

The main characters Olga Phelps (Willa) and Grace Blume (Jim) portrayed to the audience the reserved and rebellious minds of 13 year-olds. Jacob Ulhman gave us a dynamic performance as Mr. Dark. He was tattooed all over his body. According to Amanda Foster (makeup artist), it took about 3 hours to tattoo Mr. Dark before every show and rehearsal. Chris Peterlin (Charles Haloway) presented a warm mentor with a fatherly charm. Considering the limited props and the theatre’s round stage, the 56 member cast and crew gave a compelling and extraordinary performance.

FRANK: Unlike most plays, Corn Stock’s plays are blocked in a circular form because there is seating on every side of the theater. This helps to keep the scene moving. You won’t get bored from watching a stiff scene. The actors are well cast and fit their characters incredibly well. Mr. Dark has a great stage presence and makes sure to keep you on the edge of your seat, whether it’s from curiosity or suspense. There was a good amount of audience participation. I got picked out of the crowd by Mr. Dark, so audience members in the front row had to be prepared for a possible stare-down with the antagonist.

Don’t worry if you weren’t able to make this show. Corn Stock is always putting on productions and runs off of word of mouth. Just make sure to keep your ears open and regularly check their website for information on their next performances.

To see upcoming events at Corn Stock, visit www.cornstocktheatre.com or call 676 2196.
I must say that, when it was proposed that I cover this performance, I wasn’t enthused. Yes, I understood that I’m the Arts and Entertainment Editor, but I had never been to a ballet, nor did it interest me. I came to the theatre with all the discomfort and intolerance of someone ready to leave at the intermission—until I saw the first performer step out on the stage. My rugged and boorish behavior somehow melted away. Those graceful and genteel beings transformed the stage of the Performing Arts Center of ICC in East Peoria into a whimsical world of bliss. The Central Illinois Ballet’s performance of The Phantom of the Opera swept me in an emotional rollercoaster of delight.

I didn’t understand why Rebekah von Rathonyi (Artistic Director) stated, “If you want to laugh, laugh, and if you want to cry, cry, during the performance.” After absorbing all the different energies from that platform, I completely understood why. The dexterity of each dancer from the youngest to the oldest, female and male alike, pulled feelings out of me that I couldn’t explain.

With its 105 cast and crew from the Central Illinois Ballet, the historic story of The Phantom of the Opera received a standing ovation on its opening night. I give countless stars to this dance company. I’m thankful to have experienced such culture. The Phantom of the Opera is a story of drama, humor, and fantasy.

To see more performances from Central Illinois Ballet, visit www.ciballet.com.
It felt like a night out at Carnegie Hall with the Hard Bop Jazz Band “Night and Day” spectacular performance at ICC Lecture / Recital Hall 127F on Tuesday, November 26th. They played many of the jazz greats from Duke Ellington to the recent work by Stevie Wonder. The room was filled with exuberant sounds of music from each instrument. The audience gave applauds of appreciation in return.


The Hard Bop Jazz Band certainly made a statement that night. The only thing that was lacking was a dance floor. Kudos to every member of Hard Bop Jazz Band and thank you to Mr. Larry Harms. To see the schedule for future performances, visit ArtsAtICC.com.
Movie Review:  
“David Lynch: The Art Life”  
(2016)

By Noah Peterlin  
originally published 11/14/18  
on iccharbinger.com

Director(s): Rick Barnes, Olivia Neergaard-Holm, Jon Nguyen  
Actor(s): David Lynch  
Genre: Documentary, Biography  
Runtime: 88 minutes  
Country: United States, Denmark  
Language: English

“You drink coffee, you smoke cigarettes, and you paint, and that’s it” is how David Lynch would describe the art life, a world where artists take their creativity and do whatever they please, albeit, whether good or bad. In the case of David Lynch, this documentary perfectly exemplifies who he is and why he is a genius in his craft. However, this film doesn’t discuss his film work but instead his work as a painter and what led up to it.

The documentary, directed by Rick Barnes, Olivia Neergaard-Holm and Jon Nguyen, presents these spectacles and his home life in sort of his eye. His paintings are shown as he waves his fluorescent hand over the rough edges of fabric or white sheets of paper. They show him making mistakes most artists do until they get it right. They reveal it even in unconventional ways of filming a documentary in forms of its clunky, intriguing choice of instrumentals or how it switches to black and white within many of the shots. It’s almost as if these shots were taking inspiration from Lynch’s old shorts that he made during the early years of his existence.

But what really struck me most is the sheer amount of back-story you learn of Lynch. It isn’t much in the short runtime we’re given, but it feels as if we get a sense of who he was as an individual and where inspiration came from early on. His mother probably had the most influence on his career and where he wanted to go. The way he discusses her is that of an honest, golden child of the family. He’s honest, but warming. Sticks to facts, but keeps them from being overly-sensitive and never dehumanizing.

The Art Life perfectly shows a director willing to continue his oddness in the wake of cinemagoers who are more fascinated in superhero clichés and bland effects. To him, he doesn’t care. Just as long as he has his coffee, his cigarettes and that he paints, that’s pretty much it for him.

Grade: A
Cougar Sports Fall Recap

By Alex Staab | originally published 11/26/18 on iccharbinger.com

It was yet another busy fall sports season for the ICC Cougars, and there’s plenty to catch up on.

Women’s Volleyball | Final Record (21-20)
The ICC Women’s Volleyball team hit a rough patch to start the year, going (3-10) in their first 13 matches of the season. However, they rebounded, going on a five-match win streak to improve to (8-10).

With a three-set win over Wabash Valley on September 23rd, the Cougars went from seven games under to an even .500 winning percentage at (11-11).

For the most part, there were no true losing streaks the rest of the way, outside of a three-match skid in mid-October.

The Cougars will graduate eight sophomores: Maddie Malinowski, Sam Garcia, Amanda Pratt, Jackie Beaver, Mary O’Brien, Jess Norris, Haley Peterson, and Courtney Oeder.

O’Brien led the team in kills with 455. Oeder was within a hundred at 314 kills. Maddie McCunn led the team in assists with 722. Norris had a baker’s dozen in blocks. Norris’ 43 service aces also led the team.

The Cougars had their season come to an end in the District Championship, dropping the match to Lincoln Land, three sets to none.

Women’s Soccer | Final Record (11-5)
The ICC Women’s Soccer team got off to a strong start and kept that pace up.

Behind the efforts of one of the country’s top goal scorers in Izzy Mitra, the Cougars won all but one of their first five games, only allowing 1.4 goals per game over that stretch. Those five games featured two shutouts, 11-0 against Scott and 7-0 against John Wood.

One stat that certainly catches the eye is the fact that the Cougars never went on any sort of losing stretch over the entire course of the season.

Mitra would wind up having the team’s lead in goals by 14. Her 26 total goals on the year were good enough for 12th in the country, although she was as high as fourth.

The Cougars will lose seven sophomores to graduation. The season ended with a 5-1 loss to Southwestern Illinois on October 27th.

Men’s Soccer | Final Record (10-4-3)
The ICC Men’s Soccer team got off to a solid start, not losing a game until their fifth of the season.

The solid start was followed by a fairly brief winless stretch before the Cougars returned to their winning ways, going on a five-game win streak in the middle of the schedule. ICC loses a significant number headed into next season, graduating a grand total of nine seniors.

The Cougars didn’t have a player score double figures in goals, but one player did get as close as you can get, that being Layee Kromah. Kromah finished the 2018 season with a total of nine goals, a team high.

The Cougars’ season ended with a 3-0 loss at St. Louis Community College on November 3rd.

Check upcoming games at www.icc.edu/athletics
Fall is upon us at ICC along with busy streets and crosswalks. A longtime danger for students, the crosswalk on 1 College Drive coming from parking lot B, is the most dangerous on the campus. Even though there are stop signs, traffic does not always stop before entering the crosswalk. Although not many stories about accidents circulate around campus, the dangers are still present. Thankfully, no student has ever lost their life at the crosswalk.

There are flashing stop signs as well as pedestrian crossing signs at the crosswalk. However, traffic does not have to stop unless there is a pedestrian in the crosswalk. This makes for a very dangerous situation. All students must exercise extreme caution when using this crosswalk. Remember the basics like looking both ways, and listen for approaching vehicles that may be speeding towards you. Practice safety and remind others that may not be paying attention. Let us make this a student team effort to keep each other safe!
HARBINGER
STUDENT MEDIA
PRESENTS

THE COUGAR
A meteor crashes to Earth...
...By Illinois Central College

The radiation envelopes a nearby cougar, and the cougar's attributes are absorbed into the meteor... ...its strength, speed, and sight.

College basketball star Jarell Williams comes upon the meteor and is struck by its radiation!

The radiation is absorbed into his body, and he takes on the powers of the cougar. As the strength and speed of the cougar are absorbed, Jarell is transformed and...

...A hero is born!

At the 2018 basketball finals, Jarell is suddenly accosted by a mysterious, glowing female!

"Hello Cougar..."

"I'm Cheer Girl!"

"Uh Oh"

The Cougar!

Hey! Cougar!

We hope you enjoyed the first installment of "The Cougar!" Let us know if you would like to see his further adventures by writing us at: Michael.Vadis@ICC.edu

To be continued...
Pioneer of Peoria:
Ray Becker

By David Prim | originally published on 11/14/18 on iccharbinger.com

Ray Becker is a man who was involved with the very first ICC buildings constructed in East Peoria, Illinois. This story begins 70 years ago when Mr. Becker was a junior in high school.

He was the only child remaining at home while his brothers served in World War II. Mr. Becker had a paper route and became the school janitor at the age of 14, when the previous janitor died, leaving the job vacant. There was no time for sports like the other high school kids. He had a full-time summer job working construction jobs. Then, as a junior in high school, Mr. Becker approached the school board, hoping for credits to graduate early, creating the first work release program in Peoria.

During his first concrete job, he bid for 200 houses and was successful. It took two years to complete his contract. He bought his first car, a 1949 Ford convertible.

Becker then bought his own brother out of his business when his brother relocated to California. I see this as no small feat of accomplishment for a high school teenager. This was clearly an early display of character—his determination and drive to work. This will become the foundation that makes a local legend, who defines the cultural greatness of a community and city.

I was astounded by the museum that sits adjacent to his office, where his secretary of 40 years had turned her office into the museum it is today. She had converted her office into the museum by collecting and documenting achievements and major events.
Mr. Becker became a board member at Eureka College during some of its darkest days. President Reagan’s brother was also on the board. A relationship was born between Mr. Becker and Ronald Reagan, who was attending the college. They became good friends in college and Mr. Becker became an advisor, traveling to the White House to give updates and advise President Reagan. Knowing the kind of drive and brass tacks it took to get to where he was, you can now feel Mr. Becker’s hand involved looking back on that presidency, and the growth of those facilities. When President Reagan passed away, Becker was invited to the funeral, and has stayed in touch with the former President’s family through the years.

Today there is a Becker Street in Peoria and in Bartonville. Mr. Becker has pulled the most permits ever in Peoria required for construction. He has built over 200 homes on the south side of town, and the twin towers in downtown Peoria alongside the Becker building. He’s built around 82 nursing homes nationwide and has a construction company in Phoenix, Arizona. Mr. Becker has decided to retire and rest. He is a devoted Catholic, never missing mass. “9,000 days and counting,” he says. For 33 years he would ‘snowbird’ to Florida. Though his health has left him blind in the left eye from arthritis, Mr. Becker exercises daily and remains happy and motivated with the love of his wife. He walks with a cane but enjoys his freedom to do it all on his own, whether it is going to mass everyday around 11:30 am or stopping by his office to finish packing up his desk for retirement. Mr. Becker retires without any regrets, and his 70 years of accomplishments are that which define what it means to be an American, and a pioneer of a community and town in Peoria.
Environmental Challenges for ICC and Central IL

By Dylan Simpson, Guest Contributor / originally published 10/11/18 on iccharbinger.com

Illinois Central College promotes itself as a green campus, but is it? The answer is yes; it uses sustainable practices such as getting its energy from renewable sources like solar, water, biomass, and geothermal. They are also an avid promoter of recycling. To back that, 90% of the North Campus was constructed from recycled materials. Illinois Central College also looks after it’s students through sustainable practices. They strategically built the windows on campus to maximize the daylight and views to the outside. Studies have shown that the human body responds better to natural light, which causes higher performance from students and staff.

The Student Association for the Environment, SAFE Club, is currently working to improve the campus even more. Illinois Central College has provided all the materials to recycle, and the SAFE Club is currently working with outside sources to make the discarding process more eco-friendly and sustainable. Also, a large number of students don’t actively recycle and just throw everything in the trash. This is a major problem we are currently facing.

ICC has provided the students with the right materials to recycle. However, they aren’t actively influencing students to recycle. I asked Robert Lawrence, the head of the SAFE Club, what the starting step is to help our campus. He said that, “We need to make recycling posters to put them up everywhere.” He believes that this advocacy will help influence more students to recycle.

The efforts by Illinois Central College and its students is awesome, but sadly we are also facing problems from outside forces.

The biggest force that we are facing here in Central Illinois is pollution. The Edwards Station power plant in Bartonville is the main cause of this problem.

This coal plant’s emissions include dangerous pollutants like sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, carbon dioxide and mercury. All of which are toxic to humans, and all of which are in the air you breathe every day. Thanks to Edwards Station, these chemicals cause respiratory problems and can lead to damage in the nervous systems and vital organs. Edwards also pollutes more than 5 million gallons of water each day, which is affecting people along the river, aquatic life and the agriculture along the Illinois River. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency put out a data report from 2010 that showed the pollution from the Edwards plant contributed annually to: 110 Asthma Attacks, 7 Premature Deaths, 10 Heart Attacks, 4 Incidences of Chronic Bronchitis, and 7 Asthma ER Visits. Since 2010, emissions have risen and so have the amount of health problems in the surrounding areas.
If you are feeling alone, overwhelmed, anxious, or nervous, you are not alone. I happen to battle depression. Many college students today also suffer from depression. Though most clinical depression is a chemical imbalance, there is a social depression that is as real as the sky is blue.

The mounting pressure from society on political correctness and individual moralities has infected the character of the youngest members of American societies. As students strive to enrich their knowledge and skills by continuing their education, this experience becomes more of a paradigm of survival. This mindset of survival strips away the authentic character of the student who has entered the college environment unprepared emotionally. This infection has a major impact on the student who suffers from depression already. And if a student is not already suffering from depression, the environment of college can surely instigate a level of depression. However, it is not the college or the college environment that contributes to the depression directly; it is the preceding experiences, as that environment was subject to multiple institutional influences that have produced ‘accumulative trauma’ by an inconsistency of emotional readiness. This kind of trauma is a bunch of little trauma compiling into a mountain of trauma.

Luckily, our SAFE Club is teaming up with Peoria’s Sierra Club to tackle this problem. The Sierra Club is an environmental group that is fighting for us. They are pushing to shut the plant down, and they are also working to find potential jobs for the current workers at the plant. They want to have jobs lined up for all the workers, so they won’t be unemployed once the plant closes its doors for good.

I believe that these two groups can truly make a change for the better by finding a more eco-friendly way for Illinois Central College students to recycle, and by getting the pollution out of the air we breathe. They are pushing more sustainable ideas and bettering Central Illinois for us. For updates on these projects, check out the Sierra Club’s website at sierraclub.org and the SAFE Club’s website at iccsafe.weebly.com, or stop by a SAFE Club meeting any Friday at 1:00 pm on the East Peoria Campus, room 318E.

Dylan Simpson is a member of SAFE Club, the Student Association for the Environment at ICC.
A typical student who suffers from depression goes undetected until treatment or a reaction occurs, identifying the behaviors associated with depression.

While at college, the best way to combat depression is to avoid isolation and become involved in group events, projects, or support groups. It is true that there is strength in numbers. It is also true that every student is a valuable asset to themselves first before anyone else. So, getting that ‘A’ and not missing classes is top of the priority list as that is the first step in putting yourself first. Not only does combating depression together give us strength, but when the work at school is getting done with positive results, the battle of depression is being fought to win the war in a way that provides the tools for a lifetime. Personal experiences can be very different person-to-person. Each conversation with a new person can be uplifting. Isolation can be easily conquered by just simply saying “hi” to someone in passing. It is a good way to practice. So, give it a try!

Fall was approaching with dreams and passions that were burning deeply inside of me. The thought of finally getting to complete my education was thrilling yet terrifying. As I started my path at Illinois Central College, I had no idea the magnitude for which I was about to encounter. While choosing my classes, I stumbled on a class that was related to film. My first instinct, honestly, was, how hard can a film class be? I believe I even joked about it being a “fluff” class. A fluff class is defined as an easy class. I had no idea how powerful that class was going to end up being. The irony of it all was that it just wasn’t the class itself that was going to hold so much passion, but the instructor herself.

You see, I wasn’t your average college student. I had been diagnosed with Vulvar Cancer shortly after I enrolled. Cancer within itself is always a struggle, but being a full-time student, running two businesses at home and dealing with what would come, would soon serve as my stepping stone to what I now call the unstoppable.

Professor Jennifer Richrath has so much compassion and heart for her students’ success. Her drive to go above and beyond with spreading her knowledge about film and the aspects of what makes a great film is beyond measure. Her undying need to make a personal connection with me during her class made me feel safe. It made me understand that there are people out there that truly want to help in anyway. For many reasons, Jennifer was my rock, my strength, my push for success with education. She showed me that, despite all odds, I can overcome anything, and nothing is too big to defeat me. It’s like she was the medicine to my kryptonite which I call my cancer. There were healing properties within her teaching. Learning about film techniques and lighting was truly cool but learning that there was a type of film called Film Noir was simply breathtaking to me. Somehow, I was able to take that desire within the film and apply it to my life. You see, it wasn’t what the film was about, but the love, the depth found a way to live inside of me. The life that grew within, made me stronger, made me want to fight even harder, as my end goal has always been Bradley University. Despite what many doctors told me, despite test results and despite what was supposed to be inevitable, not only did I push through that, I conquered my uphill battle for the first time with Vulvar Cancer by semester’s end.
Fast-forwarding to the following spring semester, I kept in touch with Jennifer. She was still my backbone, my go-to person, even though I didn’t get to see her as much. I held her beliefs and her strength inside me, knowing she wanted to see me succeed. I never forgot as the cancer came creeping back again, but this time deadlier. I knew the odds were greater when it came to my losing the battle. I slipped through my classes but came back twice as strong during the 16 weeks summer courses. Many people around me often told me, “you got this,” or, I will pray for you. But, time and time again, my brain reverted to those films and my instructor. The heated feeling that I got every single time almost felt like it was the driving force to beat cancer altogether. Medicine can do wonders, but the mental power that strikes within, I believe is even stronger. I don’t believe for one second that the burning desire to succeed didn’t play a pivotal part in my healing. I don’t believe for one minute that my instructor’s push wasn’t one reason that I kept fighting. I believe that what lies within her, was passed onto me and to this day, I live to succeed.

By all accounts, I should be dead right now. I had a time clock ticking away. But the love of film and the push from my instructor was enough to keep me going even up until this point currently. One important fact is that I didn’t just beat cancer once, not even twice but three times since her class. Now, I am coming to a very bittersweet close to Illinois Central College as I only have two semesters left, not counting the current one. Although I am excited to embark on my journey at Bradley University, I will never be able to forget Professor Jennifer Richrath, who teaches Film 110, and teaches how to live through what were the darkest hours of my life.

As I end this submission, I look back as to what started out as just another class, and ended up being a lifelong lesson of power, hope, and well, simply amazing heart that all came from one human being, Professor Jennifer Richrath.

Did you know that ICC has a student government? Learn how you can get involved and help shape life on campus!

Contact: Student Life, 303A, at (309) 694-5201
"Landfill Waste at Illinois Central College"
Will Jacobs

"Kombaba"
Rhiannon E. Frank

"Twilight No. 2"
Will Jacobs

Logan Wolpert
“I’d Spend All Nine Lives With You”

Madison Schwindenhammer
Students have a GPA to uphold and that means accepting the assignments given to them, as well as studying intensely for tests and quizzes. In recent years, there’s been a “silent” uproar on the idea of student participation being graded on taking up a decent percentage of the final grade. But is it doing anyone any good?

This whole debate started during a Psychology class (We won’t disclose which to protect the teacher/s involved in those classes). The teacher tried pushing the students to answer the question they had asked them. Whether it was that they didn’t know the answer or they did but were too scared to, no one was speaking up. The teacher then picked a random student to answer (which he didn’t answer correctly). To any random student, this would be considered not very important. However, there is something going on here.

In every classroom, teachers are given the reigns of being the wise masters to their young apprentices, just like Yensid was to Mickey Mouse in the Fantasia segment The Sorcerer’s Apprentice. They’re there to make you feel appreciated and give you a sense that you’re there for a purpose and that you have a purpose and that you’ll give said purpose to the next individual in your walk of life. However, this is sadly not always the case here at ICC.

The biggest challenge that students face at ICC is the lack of motivation given by many of the teachers here. Now, that’s not to say every teacher at ICC is unmotivated to teach. But it’s the teachers that you hear negatively in little snickers that give you the sense that maybe there’s a lack of support thrown to their students.

Let’s give a proper example. Freshmen year, there was a math teacher that required students to participate under every question and would be vocal of her displeasure in them giving the wrong answer. If one were to be a teacher that gives the proper guidance and encouragement to students, then one would know that you would give courtesy to them, give them 5-10 seconds to respond (later rephrase said question to help them better understand what you’re going for) and not be vocally rude to them. If they were to be, then the majority of the classes will more than likely feel very negatively towards their rhetoric and ultimately might switch classes or even drop out of it altogether.

Now, some might be wondering, how does an example of a poorly taught class have to do with student participation being graded? Well, that’s the thing: it does! In any peripheral viewing of how a class is run by said teacher, one can find whether the teacher’s holding it together or not. If the teacher appears to be high-strung and ready for the day, with a sense of pride and readiness to his/her work, then the students will want to participate. However, if they’re rude, clumsy in their preparation and sound a bit negative to the class itself, then there’s no chance that students will be open to wanting to participate.

So, with this in mind, why grade participation? Well, this was what News Editor, Damien Cross, and Harbinger contributor, Noah Peterlin, attempted to find out when they asked teachers and students around campus. The results can be found through a video on Facebook and YouTube.
How do students endure the challenge?

I’d approach anyone along my path through ICC’s halls. My question to students was: How do you overcome challenges, stay inspired and motivated? You see, this isn’t like seeing how many students are aware of mathematical formulations for quantum mechanics. It’s seeing how individuals deal with the things every student—every human—deals with: namely, the hurdles—the things we have to endure, get through, and rise above. Everyone you pass in the hallway has been dealt a hand in life. No hand is exempt from challenges (except the folks who’ve fooled you by sweeping their pain under the rug). Everyone has been dealt a challenge—whether a trivial difficulty or a tragedy.

Several students I talked to opened up to Harbinger Student Media, sharing their perspective on what gets them up each morning to tackle the day. Elizabeth Kerr’s motivation is found in her pursuit of a “dream job” to teach elementary students. She’s inspired by the classroom and wants to “influence young minds.” The foremost struggle on Elizabeth’s mind is scheduling—the juggle of coursework, getting good grades, finding time for academic support—which all comes with pressure. She seemed to be taking it in stride. Lauren Wilson, on the other hand, spoke candidly of her struggle to stay motivated amidst exhaustion.

She said she is trying to keep her “stress level at a normal level.” I asked, “What’s a normal level?” She paused and replied, “Not wanting to cry every day.” She chuckled. For Lauren, the pressure of others’ demands of her, such as “parents, professors, other schools” and “employers,” is mounting. She’s inspired by her faith and “the thought of helping people.” She hopes to improve life for others with her fascination for other cultures, especially Hispanic people. As far as the stress goes, she says, “It’ll all be okay.” She adds, “I need people to tell me that all the time, so I want to tell other people that.”

I’m reminded of when I once heard someone say that the college experience is like drinking from a fire hose. The typical stress of college is just a part of the package. It’s a struggle for those who are considered in good health, let alone for those with a health issue.

Dylan Simpson, who wrote Environmental Challenges for ICC and Central IL (see page 24), had walking pneumonia from August until mid-October. He felt worn down. He reflects: “I just wanted to give up at some point. Obviously, you can’t. You’re a full-time college student. You can’t stop. You gotta keep going even when you don’t want to because you know that your future holds in what you do today, here and now.”

Dylan finds encouragement in his family. He wants to set a good example for his 7 year-old brother who looks up to him “like crazy.” Dylan adds, “When things get hard, know that it might get harder, but it’s like a mountain—you’ll reach the peak of the badness and it will come back down to good. It will always level out and things will always get better no matter how bad it gets. Keep pushing on.”

Jada Alphonse is facing the challenge of completing college and being financially stable. “I don’t tell myself that it’s hard,” she says. “It’s something that you just gotta get over and, boom, everything is going to fall into place.” Daydreaming helps her through. “Imagining that big picture at the end always helps to say, okay, right now, going through this is worth it just to get to that.” With a smile, she conveyed what keeps her motivated: “Someday, I’m probably gonna get to help a lot of people.”

This is a subject worth revisiting. I’ve only scratched the surface here. The student body has much more to say. Maybe you’d like to share your story. Reach out to us at Harbinger Student Media! We’re never alone. We’re in this thing together, one step at a time.

PHOTO: Wes Brooks

SEE INTERVIEWS: Harbinger Student Media on YouTube
It’s everywhere: and it sells:

Protests and allegations of paid protesters, Antifa, Southern Poverty Law Center, “Rules for Radicals,” the infamous "Elevator Confrontation," heckling in restaurants, wannabe marching immigrant invasions (as opposed to would-be immigrants), flaring tempers, candidates and campaigns and calls for contributions...

We gobble it up. It catches the headlines, it hits the front covers of magazines, it grabs our passing attention on The Almost-Big Screen, and it colors our increasingly expanding election campaigns.

But is “it” a right, a privilege, an intrusion, mere rudeness, or useful? Is it evolving human consciousness and social behavior, or an alternative to all-out rioting and wars?

Yes... All of the above, when viewing all and every persuasion. (But who is it useful to, and for what purposes, and are those purposes ever legitimate?) We love it or we hate it, we are fascinated or revolted by it, we debate where to set limits on “it.” But it’s here. It’s a very present part of our lives. And it sells... and sells...and sells...

So, what is “it”? In a nutshell, it is adult bullying, aggression, and manipulation.

Some might say that bullying, aggression, and manipulation will only stop when we either stand up on our hind legs and demand it to stop, take action to force it to stop, or find another ally or allies who will demand, distract, threaten, or counter-aggress on our behalf—same as the childhood playground bully who demands lunch money. Same as international relations, warfare, or threats of warfare.

This semester, October 31st was celebrated as an excuse for celebrating all that is Almost-Evil: but it is also the anniversary of The Protestant Reformation, which in turn was an artifact of the Gutenberg printing press. As a culture that is increasingly split at the same time it is increasingly unified, we value our differences of opinion and our personal needs to express those opinions—often at the expense, loss, discomfort, inconvenience, and even sometimes the injury of others. So, where do we set limits? Where does it end?

Are confrontations that impinge on the rights of others really only “free speech”? And is the definition itself political and one-sided? Seriously, the definitions already exist in local, state, and federal laws. It’s the media coverage of the events and the enforcement of those laws that are currently subject to such a large wobble-factor. It turns out that this enforcement and coverage, in turn, are motivated and manipulated by the forces of economics and social psychology. Even when we already know right from wrong, it becomes a matter of what we can get away with. Humans are imperfect beings—our internal consciences need a little outside help in the form of a healthy fear of consequences, even as adults... or wannabe “adults.” That would include peer-outcome for bad behavior.

Or more importantly, we need to perceive greater reward for reinforcing doing what we already know is right than getting by with what we already know is wrong. Reward, social scientists tell us, is more powerful than punishment or fear of punishment.

The challenge, then—How can we as social humans, at this time and place, make it more rewarding to not hurt other people, to be “civil,” than to aggress and bully and manipulate for our own individual or collective advantage, whether under the guise of pursuing our own “rights” or otherwise?

Hey, that ain’t going to be any fun...

And there’s the rub—That’s exactly the problem. If we’re getting our jollies from the power trips of dominating, torturing, generally hurting or exploiting others “because we can,” or from getting peer admiration and entertainment from doing so, we’re not exactly going to be shamed into changing our behavior. On that base a level, we need to begin to master the art of shifting the payoffs. That in itself can be a big subject, but we need to make it our new buzzword and focus.
September 22, 2018 – A fire alarm at Campus Housing was activated due to food left on a hot stove inside an apartment. Smoke triggered the sprinkler system, resulting in water damage to the apartment and two adjoining apartments. Firefighters from EPFD also responded to the scene.

October 2, 2018 – An ICC police officer observed a male student using a vaping device on the East Peoria Campus, which is a violation of college regulations. A subsequent investigation determined that the student was in possession of 3.9 grams of marijuana and drug paraphernalia (pipe). They were confiscated and the student was issued a Regulation Violation ticket.

October 10, 2018 – Campus Police officers responded to a call of a subject smoking marijuana at Campus Housing. The subject and trace amounts of cannabis were located. The subject was issued a Regulation Violation ticket.

October 12, 2018 – Campus Police officers responded to a call of an intoxicated student in a class at the Peoria Campus. Officers removed the student from the class and referred him to the Dean of Students.

October 13, 2018 – During a traffic stop on the East Peoria Campus, an ICC police officer discovered that a passenger in the vehicle had an active warrant on file for his arrest on a charge of driving with a revoked driver’s license. The male was arrested and transported to county jail.

October 22, 2018 – Campus Police officers intervened into a verbal domestic dispute in a parking lot on the East Peoria Campus. A male non-student had followed a female to campus and attempted to confront her in her car. Officers removed the male from Campus and notified him he was banned from ICC property.

October 30, 2018 – Campus Police officers responded to a call of a subject yelling and acting erratically at the bus stop on the East Peoria Campus. However, the subject had left the area prior to the officer’s arrival. The complainant was advised to notify Campus Police if the subject was seen again.

Campus Safety Tips:

As the season for severe winter weather nears, the college community is encouraged to review the Emergency Response Guide for safety information (https://icc.edu/emergency-guide/severe-weather-and-natural-disasters/). Notice of a decision to close or delay opening the college will be communicated to students and employees via the ICC Alerts System to your phone, text, and email, as well as posted on the ICC website, and Facebook and Twitter pages.

Visit ICCHarbinger.com for monthly Police Reports, courtesy of our police team at ICC.
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