

## HONORS

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Cooper said. "The best professors at the University teach here."

Honors College classes are small, even for freshmen, which gives students an opportunity to get to know their professors, said Honors College student Meri Li.

"Professors listen to the students," Li said. "Since my professors got to know me, they listen to what I have to say."

Li said the intellectual relationships she developed with her professors helped her convince the Honors College to include Asian literature in the core curriculum.

Elena Bayliss said the demanding Honors College core courses helped her sharpen her research and writing skills.

"The skills I learned made upper-division classes much easier," Bayliss said. "I've had quite a few 400-level courses that were easier than my core courses."

Despite the skills they have learned, many Honors College students approach their thesis project with apprehension, and some students choose to leave the college before their senior year.

"I think everyone in the college has been tempted to leave because of the thesis," Li said. "There are a lot of expectations by all the Honors College students and faculty to do an outstanding job on the thesis, and it stresses every senior."

Henry Alley, acting director of the Honors College, said most students decide during their junior year whether they will stay in the college.

"Students must submit their application to take the senior thesis seminar during the third term of their junior year," Alley said. "This gets the student thinking about their project and stops senior-year thesis crunch."

Alley said students deciding to leave the college must complete the University's regular core requirements before graduation.

Although many students have mixed emotions about their thesis project, most of them enjoy the process once they begin, Frank said.

"Students truly enjoy the intellectual challenge, and they become passionately committed to their topic," Frank said.

Bayliss said her thesis topic has been a "lot of



Photo by Kim Nguyen

Patricia Larkin is part of a class in which Honors College students prepare for their senior thesis.

fascinating work."

Her topic focuses on the relationship between feminism and Russian Orthodox Christianity in a underground journal published in Russia during the 1980s.

Grossman, who frantically searched for a thesis topic the night before it was due, finally chose a subject. Her thesis project examines the influence of TV talk shows on the 1992 presidential election. She said she is enjoying working closely with her faculty adviser.

"Professor (Alan) Stavitsky from the journalism school has been holding my hand throughout this project," Grossman said. "You don't do this project alone, but you alone are responsible for any factual errors."

Grossman said she has recovered from the stress of choosing her topic, but she is now worried about the oral defense of her thesis.

"You do all that work on your project, and then you stand up in front of your committee and get reamed," Grossman said. "I'll be a white-knuckled student, but I'll also enjoy it."

## SCUBA

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I tolerated the cold with more ease than I did the taunts of those with drysuits, who seemed to forget that one slice from the knife of a jealous wetsuit-wearer could send icy sea water gushing into the innards of their protective drysuits.

However, my purpose was not to maim those more fortunate than me, but rather to map the underwater site I was exploring.

First on the agenda was a 100-foot descent. We had to drop a rope attached to a tire rim to the silt bottom for the other divers to follow.

It was my diving partner's job to slowly lower this 50-pound rim.

Either drawn to the darker depths below by some evil force, or just due to Marty's fumbling fingers, the weight streaked down like a torpedo — with Marty attached as an unwilling passenger.

I simply floated at the surface, watched the bubbles vanish, and contemplated the beginning of an interesting day.

Equipped with a compass and a writing slate, I began mapping with my other partner, Penny, until the two of us became entangled in a problem, or more precisely, a net.

Interesting things, these salmon nets — set forth by eager boatmen hoping to catch their living. I finally understood the effectiveness of these devices and how literally transparent and invisible they can be underwater.

Several salmon were trapped in the net, and they were breathing more and more slowly as the minutes passed.

In an attempt to make Greenpeace shine with pride, we tried to free one of the live salmon. Disengaging the fish proved complicated, though, because the net was tangled in its teeth and gills.

Once freed, the salmon swam back into the net, more afraid of us than anything else. Penny and I abandoned our mission when we noticed that the salmon boat was pursuing us and our bubble trails.

After our failed mission to free the fish hostages, we found that adventures awaited us on dry land.

Mark, a young, ambitious Divemaster, took a bet with our devious and vengeful instructor.

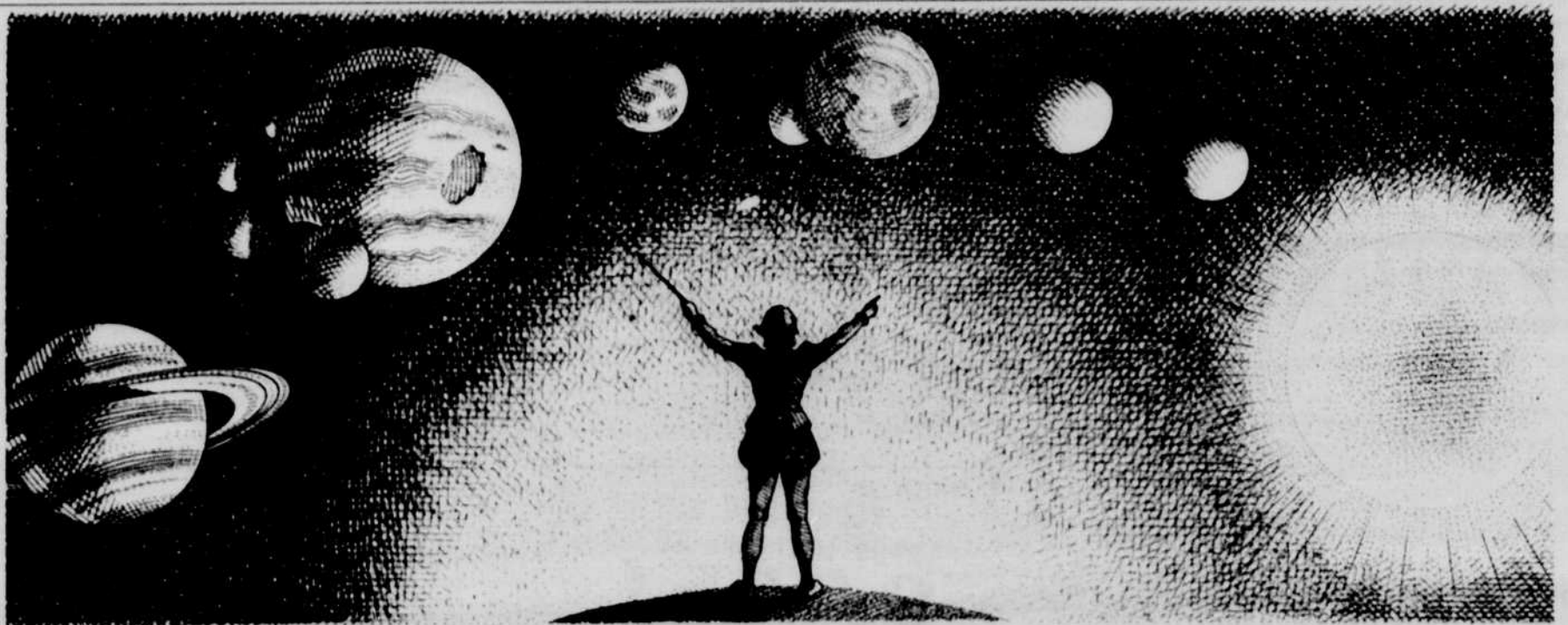
He lost.

Mark's cruel punishment, but one he performed quite well, was to sing "Beat It," "The Good Ship Lollipop" and "Wild Thing" at a karaoke bar.

But it wasn't just his voice that was featured.

Women were putting dollar bills in the lone piece of nylon that attempted to cover his body — his blue Speedo.

I'm sure that Hoodsport, Wash., desperately awaits our return.



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