

# Chronicling Huntington life for 30 years

During the past 30 years, Huntington College has seen some tremendous changes, both in the campus itself and in the society around it. As editor of the *Huntington Herald-Press*, Mike Perkins has not only witnessed those changes and reported on them, he's also lived them. As an HC alumnus, as an adjunct faculty member, and as a leading local proponent of quality education, Perkins offers a unique perspective on the College's impact on Huntington County.

He says, "Huntington College is a huge part of this community. It's been good for Huntington for a long time, and benefits all of us in a lot of ways. While many cities our size are losing colleges, Huntington College is clearly committed to this community, and is thriving and growing here."

Perkins first began working as an entry-level reporter at the *Herald-Press* in 1968, a year of tremendous national tumult. He started out typing on a manual typewriter on three-foot-long sheets of paper. "I'd literally just rip my story off the top of the typewriter platen, and put it on a spike for the city editor to read," he says.

After a stint in the Navy, Perkins returned to Huntington and the *Herald-Press*, soon discovering that he had found his vocation there. Feeling that there were "serious gaps" in his education, though, Perkins enrolled at Huntington College in 1973 as a part-time student, and took seven years to finish his degree. He says, "The professors there really challenged me, and I learned a tremendous amount. It was a good liberal-arts education."

Beyond classwork lessons, Perkins says Huntington College also taught him a new perspective. "This is a cynical business," he says, "and it's easy to get a jaundiced view of the world. Huntington emphasizes a hopeful worldview, and I appreciate that.

Through the College, I learned to see people as 'children of God' rather than as just statistics or a story, and I try now to relate to them that way."

In 1978, Perkins was promoted to editor of the *Herald-Press*. Since then, he says he's had to retrain himself to do his job three different times, as successive waves of technology changed the communication industry in powerful ways. Today, Perkins turns on his desktop computer each morning and scans up to 100 wire-service stories. Using a series of networked computers

ries. One highlight surely was George Bush's surprise announcement in 1988 that he had selected Huntington native son Dan Quayle to be his running mate on the presidential ticket. A media horde immediately descended on Huntington, and Perkins says he suddenly found himself in "the eye of a national hurricane," being interviewed by dozens of national print and broadcast reporters who wanted to learn more about Quayle and his hometown. Perkins also later had the opportunity to ride on the Quayle campaign press

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to research, write, edit, and design their stories, a *Herald-Press* staff of eight now does the work that required 15 people just a few years ago. Perkins says he anticipates yet another workflow redesign if, or when, the *Herald-Press* opts to install equipment that bypasses the photo-typesetting and plate-making phases altogether.

For Perkins, though, this constant change is part of the job's appeal. "It's just another part of the challenge," he says. "After 30 years, I'm still learning something new every day, and that's not just a cliché."

Over the course of his long career, Perkins has covered many exciting sto-

plane alongside many well-recognized media figures.

"It's an exciting profession, full of unpredictable events," says Perkins, "and I love that. You never know just what your day might bring. News happens, and a big part of my job is reacting to that news."

He recognizes, too, that another important aspect of his influential position is to help set a community agenda. "It's easy for people to become complacent," he says, "and to resist change. I've found over the years, though, that once a goal has been fixed, the people in this community

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

### www.huntington.edu—your window to campus

by Jim Hoffman

Director of Alumni Affairs

Many of our alumni and friends have discovered Huntington College's Web page and are using it regularly. If you haven't yet visited the site, [www.huntington.edu](http://www.huntington.edu) can become your window to campus. Through the wonders of Internet technology and the creative genius of our own John Paff, webmaster and director of public relations, you can daily visit your alma mater and enjoy our beautiful campus and many of the activities taking place.

For those of you who live far from campus or are unable to visit, you can take a "virtual reality tour" of HCV and once again enjoy "walking" around. Interactive panoramas let you look right and left, up and down. With our live Web camera, you can check the current weather, see students going to classes, and enjoy the daily beauty of the setting.

Our Web site will also keep you up to date on late-breaking campus news, sports scores and stats, alumni news, and information about upcoming events.

The marvels of this technology will also allow you to listen in on our chapel services. Basketball games and other

events are also broadcast live by our online radio station.

We, of course, want our alumni to visit campus in person as often as possible. However, [www.huntington.edu](http://www.huntington.edu) will allow you to visit campus as often as you like.

Our Web site also gives you an easy way to keep your alma mater up to date on happenings in your life. The Class Notes section allows you to post address changes, birth announcements, career changes, awards and other recognition, retirement announcements, and other announcements directly to our alumni Web site. Or you can e-mail us the information. My e-mail address is [jhoffman@huntington.edu](mailto:jhoffman@huntington.edu).

The Internet makes it so easy to communicate with the Alumni Office. Please don't hesitate to contact us to request information or other kinds of assistance. We love to hear from you!

For some of us "old timers," it is hard to realize that all this is at our fingertips. Your alma mater is just a mouse click away. Please keep in touch! ■



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really respond and come together to meet it." He cites an ambitious United Way annual campaign and improvements in the public schools as good examples of this.

Even with all his many varied experiences, however, this veteran editor says, "One of the biggest stories of my career has been the transformation of Huntington College during the last two decades, both physically and in terms of its attitude toward the future. There is an increasing confidence in town that Huntington College is going to realize everybody's best hopes for it, and I'm thrilled to be able to report that.

"With so much pain and inhumanity in the news world, it's wonderful to be able to tell readers about the good things happening at Huntington College."

Perkins and his wife, Jan, have four children. Quinn lives in Chicago, Jeffrey is in Indianapolis, daughter Alison is a student at the University of Michigan, and Brendan is a senior at Huntington North High School. ■

## Lance and Fishel's *Xtreme Faith* receives wide distribution

An HC trustee and a former dean of the college have coauthored a devotional book for teens that will soon see massive distribution among American youth.

Larry Lance is executive director of Fort Wayne Area Youth for Christ, a 1980 graduate of HC and a member of its board of trustees. Lance teamed up with Kent Fishel—former dean of students at the college and founder of and evangelist for Fort Wayne-based Discipleship, Inc.—to write *Xtreme Faith*.

"We discovered that kids were having trouble with the concept of faith—with what faith is," Lance says. "This is a very challenging way of taking them to the next level in their faith lives."

*Xtreme Faith* is a 30-day devotion comprising four sections: What is Faith?, Growing in Faith, Sharing Your Faith, and Tests and Trials of Your Faith. The cycle of readings includes a daily lesson from each of these four areas.

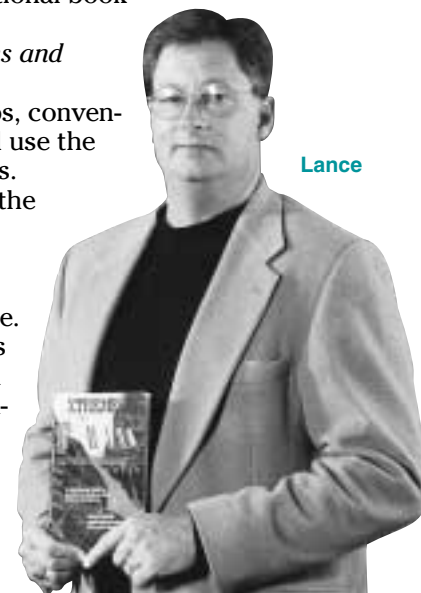
The book will see print in a variety of formats, all produced by the New York-based American Bible Society (ABS). The contents of the devotional book were published in May as the opening of *Xtreme Faith: A Contemporary English Version New Testament With Psalms and Proverbs*. The print run? A fantastic 100,000 copies!

This piece is currently available for use in youth camps, conventions, and Bible-study groups. HC's admissions team will use the volume as a gift for prospective students visiting campus.

"The beautiful part is that our book is combined with the scriptures, and that all those copies will get into kids' hands," Lance says.

There's more. ABS also will produce 100,000 copies of the devotional book as marketing tool for its product line. And, the society will provide, at no charge, 35,000 copies of the Bible (old and new testaments) containing the full text of *Xtreme Faith* for Youth For Christ's DC/LA convention in July 2000.

What's also gratifying is that ABS has adopted the *Xtreme Faith* concept for upcoming publications. "A series will likely follow, each title a takeoff on the original: *Xtreme Love*, *Xtreme Courage*, *Xtreme Hope*, and so on," Lance says. ■



Lance