

## ETA SIGMA PHI

### 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Latin Prose Composition Contest (2007)

*To be written as an examination, under supervision, within a maximum of three hours. The contestant is permitted to use an English-Latin lexicon (e.g., Cassell's) but no other helps. The only identification on the contest paper should be the contestant's pen name; please write on every other line of the paper provided.*

*The following passage decrying music piracy comes from the website of the Recording Industry Association of America. A few modern technical terms have been provided below. They are taken from John C. Traupman's Conversational Latin for Oral Proficiency and Carolus Egger's Lexicon Recentis Latinitatis.*

#### *Old as the Barbary Coast, New as the Internet<sup>1</sup>*

No black flags with skull and crossbones, no cutlasses, cannons, or daggers identify today's pirates. You can't see them coming; there's no warning shot across your bow. Yet rest assured the pirates are out there because today there is plenty of gold (and platinum<sup>2</sup> and diamonds) to be had. Today's pirates operate not on the high seas but on the Internet, in illegal CD<sup>3</sup> factories, distribution centers, and on the street. The pirate's credo is still the same--why pay for it when it's so easy to steal? The credo is as wrong as it ever was. Stealing is still illegal, unethical, and all too frequent in today's digital<sup>4</sup> age. That is why the Recording<sup>5</sup> Industry Association of America continues to fight music piracy.

"Piracy" generally refers to the illegal duplication and distribution of sound recordings. There are four specific categories of music piracy: pirate recordings, counterfeit recordings, bootleg recordings, and on-line<sup>6</sup> recordings.

Many do not understand the significant negative impact of piracy on the music industry. Though it would appear that record<sup>7</sup> companies are still making their money and that artists are still getting rich, these impressions are mere fallacies. Each sale by a pirate represents a lost legitimate sale, thereby depriving not only the record company of profits, but also the artist, producer, songwriter, publisher, retailer, ... and the list goes on. The consumer is the ultimate victim, as pirated product is generally poorly manufactured and does not include the superior sound quality, art work, and insert information included in legitimate product.

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<sup>1</sup> **interete, -is** (n.) = internet

<sup>2</sup> **platinum, -i** (nt.) = platinum

<sup>3</sup> **compactus discus, -i** (m.) = CD

<sup>4</sup> **digitalis, -e** (adj.) = digital

<sup>5</sup> **incido, -ere (in magnetophonio)** = to record; the corresponding noun would be **incisio, -onis** f.)

<sup>6</sup> **directe colligatus, -a, -um** = on-line

<sup>7</sup> **orbis phonographicus** (m.) = record; **phonographicus, -a, -um** would be the corresponding adjective