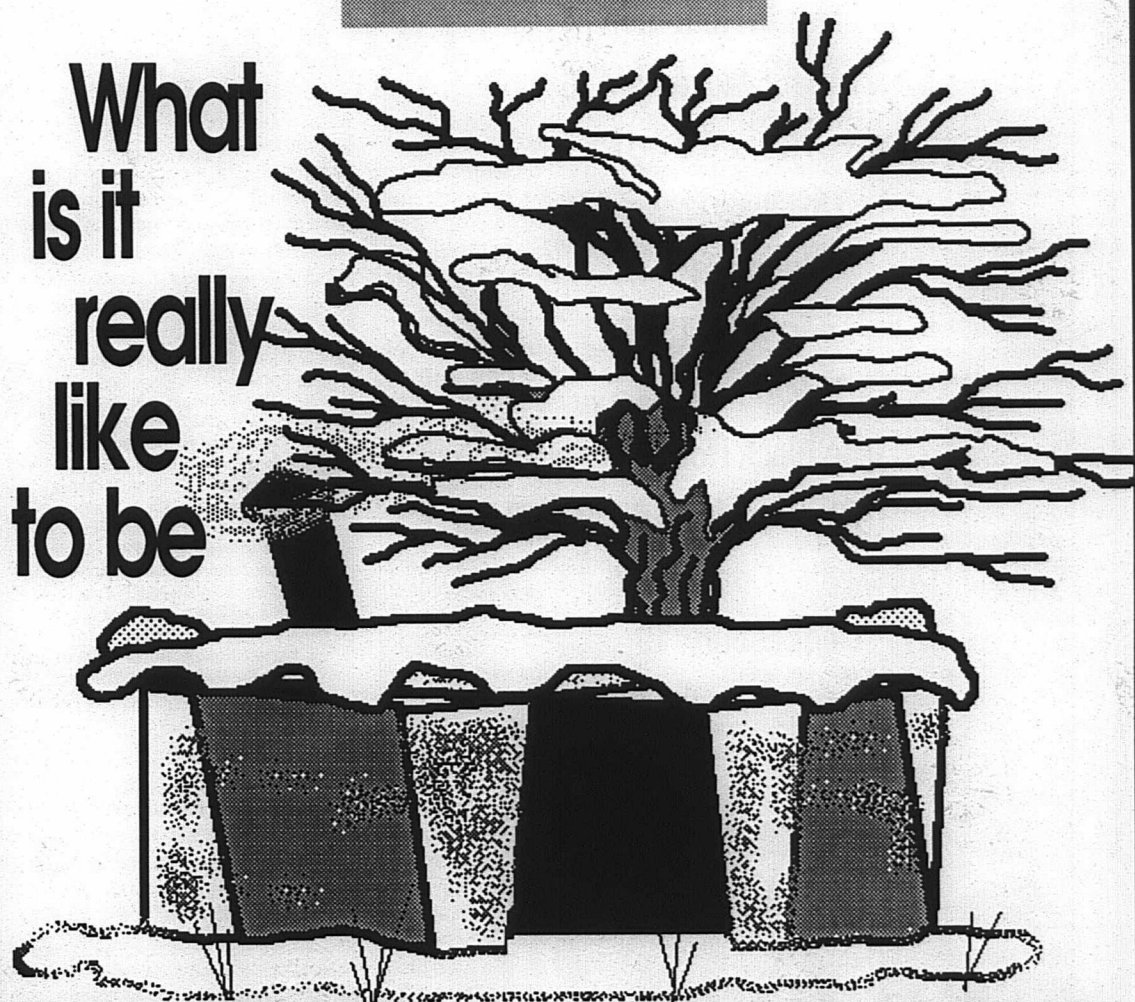


# THE HOUGHTON STAR

DECEMBER 13, 1991 • VOLUME 84.8

*Martha Ayres & Ivan T. Rocha, Editors*

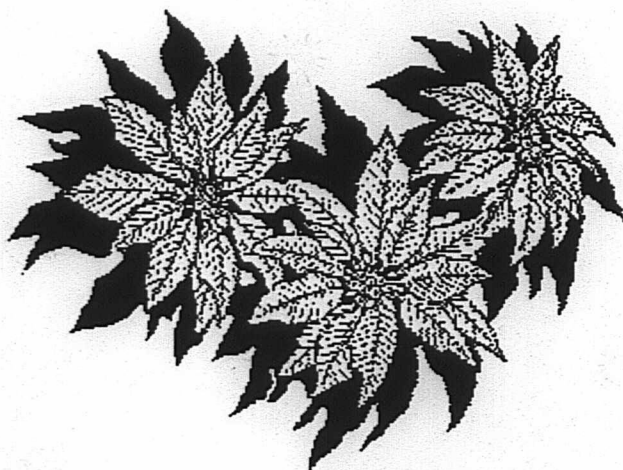
What  
is it  
really  
like  
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## HOMELESS IN HOUGHTON?

# Contents

Editorial	3
Homeless in Houghton	4
Charismatic Movement	6
News	8,9
And In Other News	9
Sports	10
FlipSide	13
MAIL	14
The Black Hole	17
Blackberries	18
Crossword Companion	18
Doonesbury	19



## THE HOUGHTON STAR

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THE HOUGHTON STAR is a bi-weekly student publication; its focus is on events, issues and ideas which significantly affect the Houghton College community. Letters (signed) are encouraged and accepted for publication; however, they must not constitute a personal attack, they must be submitted by noon on Monday, and they should be no longer than two double spaced pages. The editors reserve the right to edit all contributions.



# Systematic Implosion Part II: The Cartoon

by Ivan T. Rocha

And then there was that cartoon. Oh, you know—*Fantasia*! Wasn't it absolutely the most offensive thing you ever saw? Horror of horrors—graphic nudity and violence, cockeyed evolutionary theories, demonic ref-

erences, even Catholic music on the Houghton screen! How could we possibly sit through all that—er—filth, so passively—laughing, even enjoying it—without doing a thing?

Where is Houghton going? What happened to all those life-giving scripture references we bandied about so frequently? You know, the ones about not permitting our minds to dwell on anything that isn't pure, Christian, or just.

It is truly disappointing to see that the film review committee approved such an obviously inappropriate film for Houghton audiences. This and other recent incidents prove just how worldly we as a community are becoming. We are giving in! Just how much are we willing to compromise? What will we be showing next? *Deep Throat*? Forgive me for my

incoherence, but I feel righteously indignant about the degree to which we are allowing obviously worldly influences to color our thinking. What about that proud Wesleyan tradition of personal holiness and puritanism

**Horror of horrors—graphic nudity and violence, cockeyed evolutionary theories, demonic references, even Catholic music on the Houghton screen! How could we possibly sit through all that—er—filth, so passively—laughing, even enjoying it—without doing a thing?**

we tout with such zeal?

But seriously, folks, the only redeeming factor in the entire cartoon was its emphasis on healthful, traditional gender and race relations. In a world where more and more traditional roles are being subverted in favor of unbiblical philosophies, it was refreshing to see a film that supports white, anglo-saxon male dominance in the family structure and puts women where they belong—physically and intellectually inferior child-bearers at the service of men, of course. It is too bad, however, that they had to ruin all those beautiful courtship scenes with all that drinking and debauchery! So pagan!

Gotta wonder too about their

choices in music. Gounod's *Ave Maria* in English as a finale? How can we possibly support the idolatrous worship of the Virgin Mary? And then why Stravinski's *Rites of Spring*? Well, what sort of rites were they? Pagan, of course! More drinking and debauchery, no doubt. Truly disgraceful choices, no?

What about that long sequence about evolution that went with all the pagan Stravinski music (wasn't he a Russian pinko)? It saddens me to see that we are allowing such absolutely wrongheaded thinking to be shown at Houghton. After all, it is obvious that God created everything in six literal days and rested on the seventh. Every good Christian knows that!

Brothers, once again I urge you to stay away from such obviously worldly entertainment! Sing hymns together, if you must do something fun. Wesley would approve.

I exaggerate, you say? I guess you're right, I haven't really thought these issues out for myself. But I always thought everything my parents taught me was absolutely right. Do you mean to say that maybe these views aren't the only right ones? Well, maybe I'll have to think about it—that's hard, let me tell you, it doesn't come very naturally...all that dogmatism, you know.

But, perish the thought, I could become more intelligent, open-minded, and well-informed. Who knows, I might end up reading *Doonesbury* and understanding the humor of its social commentary!

Sigh.

**Do you mean to say that maybe these views aren't the only right ones? Well, maybe I'll have to think about it—that's hard, let me tell you, it doesn't come very naturally...all that dogmatism, you know.**

# What Would It Be Like Really To Be HOMELESS IN HOUGHTON?

*A first-hand account by Michael Evans*

Last Wednesday, I got a call from a friend asking if I would cover a story about the homeless. A few people were going to live in the quad for two nights as part of a sociology project. I agreed to come, not realizing that it would realistically affect my life.

When I arrived, a shanty was being constructed at the big tree in the corner of the quad near the library. Snow had been falling all day and it was clear that the seven students staying out that night were going to be very cold. At first I stood

**Many of us know about the homeless, but few (or more likely none) of us really knows what it means to be uprooted, having no place to go. We all have some sort of support system to fall back on.**

back and observed. A passerby asked them what they were doing. Rich Towers, who organized the project answered, "We're creating awareness about the homeless in America." The passerby replied, "Oh, I already know about the homeless; I'm from Brooklyn."

Many of us know about the home-

less, but few (or more likely none) of us really knows what it means to be uprooted, having no place to go. We all have some sort of support system to fall back on.

Towers, a senior, was assigned to create awareness about a social issue by sociology professor Dr. Jayne Maugans. Said Towers, "I don't want to create a partisan political issue, I just want to create awareness." He described his project as a "silent demonstration" that the homeless exist all over the country.

So, what might it be like to be really homeless in Houghton? In total, twelve Houghton students asked themselves this question and tried to get a glimpse of the answer. Many of them gained a valuable perspective of what it's like to live in a shanty during cold winter nights.

The "homeless" people made a 10 by 10 foot home with walls of wood pallets tied together by rags. The floor was covered with carpet and the walls were insulated with cardboard to keep the wind out. A tarpaulin car covering spanned half of the structure, and the rest was left open. "Birdman" John Hall made an addition on the side so he could live in a "single." Jen Garrison earned her nickname "sleeps on ramp" by building a dwelling on the heated library wheelchair

ramp.

Towers, Hall, Garrison, Keith Lynip, Paul Dagget, Bryan Lynip, and Jim Truesdell discussed how they could reenact homeless living and the details which might make this project more authentic. For instance, they decided that they wouldn't take a shower or change their clothes for the duration of the project. Senior Keith Lynip (nicknamed "Bushman"), commented on how they would not get a true sense of what it means to be homeless because they "always [knew they would] have a place to go." Garrison begged for change all night to get \$1.85 to pay for breakfast. Those involved in the project made an effort to respond in a personal manner to every passerby that seemed curious.

I was personally moved by their

**The "homeless" people made a 10 by 10 foot home with walls of wood pallets tied together by rags. The floor was covered with carpet and the walls were insulated with cardboard to keep the wind out. A tarpaulin car covering spanned half of the structure, and the rest was left open.**

desire to empathize with people who live in this manner. I could not resist the invitation to stay with them overnight in order to get a real sense of what they learned and what might develop during the next two days. Next, I went to my room for a sleeping bag and warm clothes, luxuries that most homeless don't have. When I returned, I found that the remainder of the group had improvised a fireplace in a rusty metal barrel and were standing around it to keep warm. We all joked about our new temporary lifestyle, "All we need now is some alcohol and crack." We sang the song "Freedom" from the movie *Glory* and roasted frozen hot dog buns.



These, along with some change, a magazine, and a plant were brought to us by friends as housewarming gifts.

"The evenings were filled with anxiety when it came time to sleep...I was aware of a sense of survival," said Towers. It took approximately half an hour to find room for everyone in the shanty and to situate ourselves in a way to keep warm. Most of us did not sleep deeply because we were cold and defensive. I wrapped my arms around my body, partly from fear and partly out of the desire to stay warm. There was no room to move. Getting up to go to the bathroom was a nightmare. The ceiling was only three feet above our heads and released small showers of snow every time someone bumped it with their head.

It snowed all night and the temperature remained around 16°F. People constantly told us we were out of our minds for attempting the project in such cold weather, but we never considered canceling because of the weather—we thought it would be more authentic. With the exception of Bryan Lynip, everyone was in the campus center by 6:30 on Thursday morning. Daggett's feet were frozen and some of us were sick. All of us were beginning to feel more aware of what we were doing.

By Thursday morning, as well, misconceptions about our intentions appeared to be common. Academic Dean Clarence Bence mistook our shanty for a practical joke or for some sort of protest against the college. He displayed Bryan's boots to us as we ate breakfast and said, "Tell him he can have these back when all of that stuff is put back where it belongs." He grew compassionate, however, and returned the boots when he was informed of the true nature of the project.

During the day we attended classes and went about our daily routines as usual, with the difference

that we did not shower or change clothes. Signs went up around the shanty during the day giving facts and statistics about the homeless in America. Towers and Keith Lynip studied books on the homeless in the shanty.

By the second evening, we had been the brunt of quite a few jokes. "Get a job and stop mooching off society," was a common response to our presence. Garrison said that before the beginning of the project she thought that since "we're at Houghton, we'll be missing the persecution aspect and the hardship [of rejection] homeless people [suffer]." Passersby rejected her pleas for change and accused her of stealing. Says Garrison, "Just [the fact] that they thought to say that gave the project realism."

Keith Lynip referred to the remarks as "stereotypical responses" to the homeless. In his words, "I almost took it personally even though I wasn't [really] homeless." Keith has spent a summer in New York City primarily working with the real homeless there. He adds, "my self-esteem lowered in those two days—not allowing myself to take a shower and dressing like I did. I felt like I was on the edge of society." The same feeling was shared by several others of the "homeless."

Robert Scharf, the president of the Houghton College chapter of Habitat for Humanity informed us of an alternative program called Habitat for the Homeless in which homeless people are helping to build their own homes. Scharf, Dan Dixon, and Kevin Mann joined Keith Lynip, Towers, and myself for the second, even colder night.

By this time we had obtained a second tarpaulin to make a full roof for the shanty. Once again, we had several visitors, talked around the fire barrel and grew more defensive and cold as we prepared for sleep.

In retrospect, the responses we

got from students and staff during our two days in the quad were often sympathetic, sometimes cold, and usually curious. The project was originally designed to create an awareness of the problem and, according to Daggett, "Just seeing that ugly-looking shanty thing out there got people's attention [and] created awareness." Said Truesdell, "I just kept thinking what a big joke this was because we did not have the sense of hopelessness...it was a big farce...but the intention of the people to bring awareness...was valid."

In an interview after our stay on the quad, Towers, who coordinated the project spoke about some of the issues pertaining to homelessness involved in his decision to embark on this adventure. To him, the middle class tends to oversimplify the issue of homelessness by assuming that it is caused by unemployment alone. While he concedes that in many cases people on the street have made significant choices that ultimately put them there, he does not discount the fact that many of these same choices are reversible. Towers also mentions mental illness as a frequent cause of

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**The lesson that remains with me after this ordeal is that when you personalize a social problem such as this one, it becomes very difficult not to care.**

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unemployment and homelessness and adds chemical dependencies and the current welfare as contributing causes in the problem.

The lesson that remains with me after this ordeal is that when you personalize a social problem such as this one, it becomes very difficult not to care. I realized how deeply I had been affected by the experience when for the next two nights I would wake up in my own bed with my arms defensively wrapped around my body. ☆

# Growth in Charismatic Movement at Houghton Reflects National Trend

by Tom Noyes

**B**oth evangelical and charismatic Christians are speaking up about what appears to be a noticeable change in how American believers are choosing to serve and worship. *Christian Century Magazine* recently published an article that included statistics from the Assemblies of God, the world's largest Pentecostal denomination, citing 340 new churches, 2089 new ministers and 319,000 new converts from 1990. This growth, or perhaps more accurately, this shift in late twentieth century Christianity, is not being ignored by Houghton students and faculty.

Carl Schultz, chair of the division of religion and philosophy at Houghton, addresses the difference between the two schools of Christianity. "A broad definition of a char-

**Carl Schultz, chair of the division of religion and philosophy at Houghton, addresses the difference between the two schools of Christianity. "A broad definition of a charismatic Christian is [one] who believes the gift of tongues is still being given," he says.**

ismatic Christian is [one] who believes the gift of tongues is still being given," he says. Schultz goes on to explain, though, that it is not as easy

as all that. "There's more than one type of charismatic. A charismatic Catholic believes differently than,

**Sharra Durham, another Houghton student, believes the obvious differences between evangelicals and charismatics exist in the atmosphere of worship services.**

say, an Assemblies of God member. Assemblies of God sound like Houghton College in a lot of ways. No drinking, no smoking, etc. Tongues are reserved for holy living. That's a lot different than in some churches where people stand up with a cigarette in one hand and a cocktail in the other."

Houghton student Carlos Gildemeister also finds it necessary to qualify the terms charismatic or Pentecostal. When asked if he's charismatic, he is hesitant to answer. "I don't like saying 'yes' just because of all the negative connotations that go along with it, but yeah, I am. I believe in all the gifts of the Holy Spirit, including tongues, prophecy, and healing." Adds Carlos, "The reason I have trouble with the terms charismatic or Pentecostal is because a lot of people think of pushy, bossy people when they think of charismatics. The kind of people who get in your face

and say, 'You must speak in tongues to be saved.' I don't believe that way."

Sharra Durham, another Houghton student, believes the obvious differences between evangelicals and charismatics exist in the atmosphere of worship services. "A lot of it has to do with atmosphere," says Sharra, whose father is an Assemblies of God minister. "It's more interesting. I have a real problem worshipping here in Houghton's Wesleyan church. It's too structured, too formal." This year, Sharra attends Pioneer Church in Arcade. Three full vans of Houghton students make the trip each Sunday. Last year only one or two cars went.

On the weekend of November 8-10, Sharra and Carlos attended a Pentecostal rally with 15 other Houghton students at the Hilton Inn in Syracuse, New York. The weekend, sponsored by Elim Bible Institute, consisted of lectures and extended worship times which included a full band accompanying the singing and dancing of nearly 400 people. Carlos, who has had the gift of tongues for two years now, says, "I really learned how to worship from the heart over this weekend. There were times when everyone was speaking in tongues, praying in languages the

**Rich goes back to the historical roots of modern day Pentecostalism to explain its attractiveness to today's worshiper. "When there's spiritual complacency, there's a need to get excitement and vigor back into one's spiritual life. Pentecostalism provides for this emotional need. We evangelicals have to take some of the blame for not providing for our members emotionally. In a way, we helped create the charismatic movement."**



devil couldn't understand. It was awesome." Last year, says Carlos, only three Houghton students made the trip to the conference. What's the big attraction?

Mona Minnifield, another Houghton student, responds. "There's more singing in a charismatic service for one thing. It's praise oriented." Her friend, Heather Dale, adds, "The service goes as the Holy Spirit directs. There's no time limit for one thing. Sometimes at my church the pastor doesn't even feel led to give sermon." She pauses. "I love those times." Sharra agrees. "At times the pastor may feel it would be more beneficial to the congregation to have a service of only prayer and singing."

Rich Towers, a senior at Houghton and a licensed ministerial candidate in the Wesleyan church, believes this kind of comment reflects all that is wrong with the charismatic movement. "In this way, it's an anti-intellectual movement," he says. "Ministers have a built-in excuse not to prepare in a scholarly manner."

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So what's to be done at a place like Houghton College where evangelicals and charismatics live and learn about God together? How, for instance, should chapel services work? What about those celebration services that take place in Fancher every Sunday night? Dr. Schultz believes both sides have to make some allowances when it comes to community worship, especially chapel. "We

all need to accept the freer and less formal types of worship as well as the more liturgical and structured."

Carlos believes Dean Bence accomplished something good in the first chapel services of this school year. "Charismatics at Houghton sometimes feel oppressed. Dean Bence cleared the air a little when he spoke about freedom of worship style. Being allowed to raise your hands, for example. People can feel comfortable now." Rich agrees with the idea of freedom of worship style being necessary. "As long as people aren't distracting," he says.

Celebration? Says one student who wishes to remain anonymous, "Hey, it's not for everybody, believe me. I went a few times my freshman year, but I just couldn't get comfortable. A lot of it probably had to do with my evangelical background, but I think at least some of

it had to do with what I saw as some insincere demonstrations by people who weren't living their lives the way their actions portrayed upstairs in Fancher. That bothered me. It seemed like they really wanted to bring attention to themselves." When asked if he thinks insincere worship ever takes place in the Sunday morning service in Wesley Chapel, the speaker smiles. "Yeah, sure. I think it's just that charismatics are more visible and demonstrative, so I make quicker judgments. I just don't like insincerity in worship."

According to reports like the one in *Christian Century Magazine*, Houghton's visible charismatic movement is typical of the times. The positive or negative effects of such a shift seems to be difficult to measure or discern. It obviously depends on who you talk to. ☆

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# DREW

# Political Science to Hire New Faculty for Fall '92

by Joel T. Tate

**P**olitical science majors on campus can look forward to the arrival of a new faculty member next fall. The search process has been underway since October when a committee which includes Dr. Benedict, Professor of Political Science, Dr. Airhart, Head of the History Department, and Dr. Stevenson, Chairman of the Division of History and Social Sciences, was given the authority to receive applications for the position of professor of American Domestic Politics.

Ads have been placed in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, the *American Political Science Newsletter*, and *Christianity Today*, and

letters have been sent across the nation to colleges and interested individuals. The search committee will be receiving applications through January 31, 1992. Already, from a field of some 50 applications received to date, eight to ten applicants have been selected for further consideration at this point. These highly qualified candidates have been contacted. In February the field will be further narrowed to three or four candidates who will be interviewed in March. The committee's final decision will be made in March or early April and the candidate chosen will start teaching September 1, 1992.

Dr. Benedict regrets that the

department's efforts to find a qualified woman or minority for the position have so far been stymied by the lack of such applicants. The committee has not ruled out that possibility, however, and is still actively seeking women and minority candidates.

This addition to the faculty will allow the department to offer a full slate of political science courses in the fall semester of 1992. The political science major is the result of years of effort from students, faculty, and administration, and for many the advent of a full-fledged major could not have come soon enough.

Houghton will be the only Christian college in New York state to offer the major and a student from Northeastern United States interested in majoring in political science at a Christian college will no longer have to choose between Messiah and Gordon. Over twenty students have already declared their intent to major in political science at Houghton with over fifteen registered in the records office. Dr. Benedict looks forward to the time when students will be attracted to Houghton on the merits of the political science major. He would like to see it become one of "the more substantial majors on campus." With the hiring of a new professor, Houghton will be well on its way toward realizing these goals. ☆

## SENATE REPORT

### The Last One

by Stephen Virkler

The last Student Senate meeting of the semester was held on Tuesday, December 10; the items discussed included the food service and Winter Weekend.

According to food service representative Tammy Hill, there will probably be a few changes in the food service for next semester. The sandwich bar may be offered during both lunch and dinner next semester. Also, specialty weeks will be cut down to three days a week. Themes will include

vegetarian, Chinese, German, Mexican, Deli, Pasta, Seafood, and Fast Food.

Campus Activities Board chairperson Phil Ginter, reported that the theme for Winter Weekend Study Break will be "Under the Sea" (*The Little Mermaid*) and that the banquet's theme will be "When You Wish Upon a Star." He also said that this banquet will be semi-formal and that there may be a professional photographer on hand.



# Dr. Paul Young is Named Academic Dean for '92

*From a Houghton College News Release*

**H**oughton College President Daniel Chamberlain has announced the appointment of Dr. Paul Young as the Academic Vice President and Dean of the College for the 1992-1993 academic year. Currently head of the psychology department, Dr. Young graduated from Houghton College in 1976. He received a master's degree from the

University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, in 1978 and began teaching at Houghton College in 1980. In 1984 he earned a PhD in psychology from the University of Alberta. Since he began teaching at Houghton, Young has served on many committees including eight years on the faculty affairs committee, which he chaired for five years, and two years

on the faculty development committee, which he chaired for a year. He was faculty resource person to the college Board of Trustees for two years and is in his second year as faculty vice chairman.

A native of St. John, New Brunswick, Canada, Young is chairman of the board of trustees of the Houghton Wesleyan Church and has sung in the church choir for many years. He is married to the former Deborah Fero. They have three children.

In September, the current Academic Vice President and Dean of the College, Dr. Clarence L. Bence, announced that he will resign the position at the end of the academic year next June. He will remain at Houghton College as the Director of Christian Ministries. Both appointments will take effect July 1, 1992. ☆

## AND IN OTHER NEWS

*By Amy Littlejohn*

•In the former U.S.S.R., rumors have been flying that Gorbachev will resign within weeks, despite the denials of his chief spokesman. The Ukraine and two other republics have ratified a new treaty setting up a "Slavic commonwealth". Gorbachev has called it illegal. Many are worried about the fate of Soviet nuclear weapons, spread out throughout the

now independent republics. It is hoped that, barring anarchy, there will be no cause for anxiety. The Ukraine has more bombs than China, England, or France, although they swear they're not interested in being a nuclear power. However, they're not about to give the weapons to Gorbachev, either. Not actually controlling its own nuclear arsenal also

makes it difficult for Russia to fulfill the START treaty. The breakup of the U.S.S.R. could produce the largest wave of immigration into Western Europe from the East since World War II. Already anxiety and groups on the far right are on the rise in response to the perceived threat.

•Former hostage Terry Anderson is free and coming home for Christmas. Experts predict difficulties in adjusting, although Anderson is in remarkably good physical and mental health. All American hostages are free; only two Germans remain. In Israel, Sheik Obeyd asked that all hostages, meaning himself and other Arabs held prisoner in Israel, be freed. After a week of wrangling over protocol, the second

round of Middle East peace talks is beginning in Washington, D.C. The plan is to discuss major issues such as the fate of the occupied territories, peace treaties between Israel and Arab nations, and Palestinian self-government, although the rumor is that everyone will only stay three days.

•Twelve nations of Western Europe are meeting to agree on a plan for a common currency and foreign policy.

•In South Africa, seventeen people died in a riot following an Inkatha rally in Soweto.

•Kimberly Bergalis, one of only five people known to be infected with the HIV virus by a health care worker, died on Sunday, December 8. sources: CBS news, CNN, and *Newsweek*

# Men's Basketball Shows Dramatic Improvement Over Last Season

by Ron Whiting

**A**s the men's basketball team took the court last Saturday night against Roberts Wesleyan, they faced a team with more game experience this season. Fortunately for Houghton, they had an unimpressive record (2-7), and were as strong as their record showed.

In front of a Houghton dominated crowd, the Highlanders easily handled the Red Raiders 76-55, while shooting 60% from the field. David Binkowski and Darren Berkley led the team in scoring, as they have all season. But the defense and inside game was probably the most impressive aspect of Houghton's game.

The inside attack was led by Scott Fasick as he was clearing the boards all night against Roberts' big men. He was joined by 6'7" freshman Chris Morris. Morris filled in nicely as he gave rests to Fasick and other players.

The defenders who gave a tremendous effort were George Wiedmaier and Brian Adams, forcing many turnovers and constantly pressuring the Roberts guards.

"(Adams) and George are our defensive stoppers," said head coach Steve Brooks. Of Adams he said, "He doesn't score a lot of points, but you know he's going to show up every night."

Other players that have contributed to the team off of the bench have

been Adrian Brice and Mike Kinslow. "We've gotten a lot of help out of Adrian Brice," said Coach Brooks. "Kinslow has gone in there and has made some big play."

With the victory over Roberts, the men have reached a record of 3-2, just two wins away from matching last year's win total.

Said Brooks, "It's always nice to beat Roberts."

In other games this season: Houghton started out their season at the Pitt.-Johnston Tournament splitting a pair of games. In the opener against the host, H.C. went to overtime where they ended up losing by one, 80-79. This shows a lot to Houghton's faithful as Pitt.-Johnston is a NCAA Division II school who grants full scholarships. Their starting line-up had four players over 6'5".

In the consolation game of the journey, Houghton defeated Wildes University 85-75. Their next game came against St. John Fisher, as the host Cardinals downed H.C. 88-83. Fasick had his best game of the season, scoring 18 pts. Fisher, a strong Division III team, is still undefeated at press time.

Houghton then traveled down route 17 to play Elmira College, a Division III school. At halftime, Houghton trailed, 33-25. "We played their tempo in the first half," stated Brooks. A different Houghton team

seemed to take the court after the half, taking over the game and coming out on top, 83-68.

"We showed patience and the team came out and did what the coaches asked them to do, we just slowed down the tempo," Brooks added.

For the season, Binkowski leads the team in scoring with 22.2 ppg and Berkley is close behind with 21.2 ppg.

Coach Brooks added, "We've only had one game where we didn't play well (St. John Fisher). We haven't offensively executed as much as I want them to do." But overall coach Brooks is enjoying this season, "I really like this team."

Houghton is home twice over break and then hits the court January 18th at home at 8 p.m. against District 18 foe Penn State-Behrend. ☆



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DRIVE DRUNK.**



# Houghton Loses Cheerleading Squad

by Richel Richardson

**T**he men's basketball team will have to spur themselves on to victory this season as there will be no cheerleaders to "root them on".

What happened? Why isn't there a squad? Part of the problem stems from a lack of interest during tryouts. Only one of the former cheerleaders would have been returning, and only three new people showed up for the try-out.

One former coach felt that the lack of interest was due to the fact that try-outs fell at a bad time in the semester. Because of the search for a new coach, try-outs were delayed. This gave everyone a chance to see how much work they had to do. Students were facing midterms, and could not dedicate the amount of time needed. "It took up a lot of time," said one former cheerleader, "people just don't realize all that is involved."

Beyond the six to eight hours of practice each week the girls were responsible for running a concession stand before games and during half time, making banners and fliers for the cafeteria, decorating the locker room, and acting as "secret cheerleaders" to the players. Because the cheerleading squad did not have a budget as did the other sports teams, the cheerleaders were forced to raise their own money if they wanted to travel to any away games said a former coach. Senior, and former cheerleader Heather Torrey, feels that the cheerleaders are, "treated like a sports team, but not given the recognition of one." She emphasized that the requirements the cheerleaders have to meet for grades, practices, and even alcohol awareness are the same as any intercollegiate sports team, but that they simply weren't thought of in the same

way and one of the other girls said that she feels this was part of the problem.

Many basketball players offered their thoughts on the situation. They said that they found the cheerleaders distracting, or that they blocked them out because of their concentration levels during the game. While others expressed the concern that the cheerleaders were not well accepted by the student body, and that instead of representing the school, they felt the students were embarrassed by them.

But, some basketball players said that they will really miss the squad because of the things they did such as send notes and candy on game days, and decorating the locker room as well as the having them on the sidelines for encouragement. Many players also questioned the issue of crowd control, and crowd support.

It seems that the coaches were willing, the basketball team appreciative, the crowd responsive, but there just wasn't enough interest and commitment to have a squad. George Wiedmaier reflected the positive supporters when he said, "I thought that cheerleaders can be a wonderful asset to a fun producing environment." ☆

*That the gifts of peace and  
true love may be yours this  
Christmas season are the  
sincere wishes of  
The Houghton Star  
and its editorial staff.*



# Women's B-ball Routs Roberts Raiders

by Nathan Ransil

**T**he Houghton College women's basketball team resoundingly rocked the Raiders of Roberts Wesleyan recently by the score 76-50 to run their record to six wins and one loss.

Head coach Skip Lord was careful not to minimize the outcome of the Roberts game. "They used to be an automatic win, but two years ago they got a new coach who began rebuilding the team with transfers," Lord said. "Last year at their place we had to sink a three pointer at the buzzer to send the game to overtime and eventually win." "They have all last years players back, plus they added two more transfers, and without a doubt this is the best team they have ever had."

Lord was expecting it to come down to the buzzer again, but was pleasantly surprised when Houghton blew away from the Raiders, who were sticking close early on, to cruise to the 26 point win. Lord pointed out that the team's biggest strength is depth, and felt that was the key to Roberts' undoing.

Houghton has ten players who will play in every game. Eight players have scored in double figures, and four times the leading scorer came off the bench. Though the team averages over 67 points a game, the highest individual average is Tricia Atkinson's 12.2, showing the even distribution. Other teams have trouble scouting Houghton, because there is not one or two big guns to

shut down—everyone can score, from inside and outside. The team holds a 35-24 rebounding edge, has seen a marked improvement in free throw percentage which is over 72%.

Prior to beating Roberts, two of their other wins came at Messiah, where they won first place in the tournament. Their only setback was a four point loss perennial powerhouse St. John Fisher.

Houghton's starters are different every game because of the depth of the team giving them the ability to match up in different ways, but the team is led by co-captains Stacia Dagwell and Jill Hughes, fellow senior Laurie Wynn, and juniors Tricia Atkinson, Lori Sheetz and Sheri Doerkson.

Over Christmas the team will travel to Florida to play three Division II schools in what Coach Lord figures to be the toughest games of the season, which he hopes will help prepare the team for tough games in post-season district play. But, for right now he says "We're off to the best start since I've been here, maybe ever, and things are looking positive." ☆

## Equestrian Center Holds Winter Schooling Show

by Jo-Anne Young

**T**hirty-eight riders competed in the December 7 winter schooling show at the Houghton College Equestrian Center, judged by

Mrs. Julie Cleland of Kane, PA. Mrs. Cleland commented, "I am pleased to see that all of the Houghton students riding in the show have a strong foundation of

correct riding techniques, making the classes a pleasure to judge."

Points from the classes were scored accumulated. High score rider with 28 points, winning the grand championship for the show, was Michelle Long, riding her own horse "Nocona." Michelle trained Nocona herself with the guidance of equestrian program instructors Cathy Daggett and Jo-Anne Young.

Reserve champion with 25 points was Katie Owen, riding Houghton College lesson horse

"Percy." Katie is building a remarkable record in her first year of competition, having also placed in her division in the Homecoming Horse Trial and winning reserve championships for the novice division at the October 12 Expressway Hunter-Jumper Show in Rushford, NY.

Lisa Kendrick, riding "Son Dee Singalong" was in hot pursuit of points, ending up just one point behind Katie. Fatigue cost her placing in the last two jumper classes, but her good sportsmanship bounced back with a smile. ☆



# FLIP THOUGHTS

By Kelly Patterson

Well, it's finally here...my first final four. I must say that I would rather skip it and go right to the sugar-free holiday I'm expecting, but my parents and Houghton wouldn't quite go for that. But forget about all that for a moment, because it's time now to sit back, give your enlarged pupils a rest, and just think. Think of deep, green, glossy, entrancing, bowls of...lime jello...and of course, deep thoughts. Yes, *Star* fans, it's the take-off from the SNL excerpt...Houghton's very own "Deep Thoughts".

DEEP THOUGHT #1: My roommate said that a wedding (not her own) brought out some deep thoughts, including this little gem: "If I were a basket, I would like to be hung on a wall."

DEEP THOUGHT #2: If you continuously calculate your expected G.P.A., it will mysteriously begin to

decrease in numerical value.

DEEP THOUGHT #3: When the fire alarm goes off at 2:30 in the morning because someone burnt their 55th bag of popcorn, think: what is more important; sleep or safety?

DEEP THOUGHT #4: This is for those who reside in East Hall: Why are the walls serated? Did Edward Scissorhands paint them or what?

DEEP THOUGHT #5: If you left your laundry in your closet long enough, what are the chances that the dirt would simply chose to leave due to lack of attention?

DEEP THOUGHT #6: Who got obsessed with a number two pencil and took over all the minds of educators, making them think that it was the one, the only, the best, the first, the last, utensil of writing?

DEEP THOUGHT #7: If you hate the picture on your I.D. card, it will

remain intact the rest of your natural life: though you mangle it, pull it, put it through the wash, or intentionally lose it...it will always show up.

DEEP THOUGHT #8: Where did the phrase "Blown to Smitherines" come from? Was there some guy named Smitherines that had a kiss or a bomb or something blown to him?

DEEP THOUGHT #9: Lisa Faw, 21 year old and R.A. extraordinaire said "I used to have deep thoughts, until I came here." One of the many tragic victims of the Houghton Lobotomy Fest of 1990.

DEEP THOUGHT #10: Who is Alex Trebeck and why does he get paid an insane amount of money to read Jeopardy questions in fake foreign accents? (courtesy of Lisa Seidel and others in the R.A. lounge).

So, when the Final Four seems like the Final Forty, put in the sounds of "Mello Yello" by Donovan and just let your ganglion run wild...you'd be surprised how deep you can be. This brings our Houghton's "Deep Thoughts" segment to a close. Tune in next time when we discuss Parodies, the art of Origami, and Ollie North's connection to it all.

'Given enough time I might be able to understand-but not now, God. Not now.' I was looking in the mirror at my reflection and talking on the phone when this plea entered my mind. My mother on the other end, and her voice brought me back to reality.

"And they said that this test they're going to do is specifically to check for cancer. Kel, Kel...what do you think? Do you think it is? You don't, right?" Her emotional state at that moment made me imagine a piece of ice...it could melt or it could stay solid. It was up to me.

"No, mom, I don't." small lie. "It's probably just a weird cyst or something, and they're being overly cautious. You know how they are." They being the doctors, my future professional cohorts, the ones that had my dad's throat in their hands.

The phone hung up, I guess I put it there, and I began to think to myself...of the thought my mother had with cancer, and all the other struggles our family had been through. When would it end? It was two weeks before the test, two weeks before Thanksgiving. Two long weeks to think of the possibilities, 14 days, 336 hours...a long time.

By break I was all nerves. I kept thinking that God really did have a plan for healing in all this, and that my faith really didn't need this kind of test. And in the end, the real test would be positive...negative for cancer, and positive for us. Thanksgiving never took on the same meaning for me as it had this year.

Even in the midst of the celebrating, my mind kept wondering...what if it wasn't good news? What would I have

done? I suppose I would have just heaved the weight of it and tried to bear it. I would have borne that weight needlessly.

One of my favorite verses (I know I say that all the time) is found in Psalm 55:22. It reads "Cast your burden upon the Lord, and he will sustain you..." That's what I needed to do when I first found out about the situation, and throughout life as a whole. Not with just the big, fossilized dinosaur ones, but even the ones that seem insignificant. When the burden is off, it's not only insignificant, it's non-existent. And nobody's back was made to handle life's burdens without God. Merry Christmas to you, my loyal readers of the Flip, and Happy Birthday to our Savior, who carried the weight of the world on his shoulders, and lives to tell about it

# Mail

## Dear Houghton Students:

It is with concern that I write this letter. Several changes have taken place with your food service over the past few months. I truly feel explanations are needed, that for some reason or another may not have been totally explained or understood by our customers.

The board program is based on percentage of attendance. We know that everyone will not eat every meal provided. This is why we base our cost to the students on this percentage of attendance. When students miss a meal we have already taken this missed meal into consideration when figuring your board rate. This year we have been asked to provide carry-out type meals or special meals for many groups and organizations on campus. This takes up much needed management and staff time which would ordinarily be spent in overseeing and enhancing the board program. The board program is the single most important service provided by your food service. We cannot maximize our skills in the board program when we are doing eight to ten other food-related programs for groups of 12 to 20 people per week at no or minimal extra income. A student came to me several days ago asking for sack lunches because they were not going to be here over the weekend. I tried to explain that we cannot do this because we would be making 200 to 300 sack lunches a week for everyone leaving campus for the weekend. Please remember

that we do provide three meals a day seven days a week for all boarders to eat, but again, this is where the percentage of attendance comes in.

We know that everyone will not eat all 21 meals. In anyone eats all 21 meals they are getting a bonus for eating every meal. Once I hear a group of students talking about a school where no one liked the food and that the students started to boycott the cafeteria. I said to tell them not to boycott the cafeteria but to eat as many meals as possible because to do so would bankrupt the cafeteria. That is to say, the percentage of attendance in relation to the percentage budgeted would be too high to sustain without substantial losses.

Another problem we have is that many students feel that if they are not going to eat dinner at the cafeteria, the cafeteria should provide food for them to prepare elsewhere. As an example, let me mention a student organization who came in asking for two pounds of hamburger, four cups of tomato sauce, as well as several other supplies. The first problem with this is that we do not have food supplies in small retail amounts. All of our supplies are packed for institutional use. Now it takes someone to take ten pounds of ground beef, subtract two pounds, open a gallon can of tomato sauce and take out four cups and store the rest in another container, and so forth. Multiply this by eight or ten times per week and you can see both management and staff time taken away from the board pro-

gram.

Again, the food is here, prepared on the cafeteria lines for all to eat. We do not say any time or that much prepared food for 12 to 20 people not eating in the cafeteria. Last Thursday I saw a student putting a loaf of homemade bread in his knapsack and before I could stop him, he took it out of the cafeteria. I later saw him and asked him why he had done so and told him that it was against the rules to take food out of the cafeteria. He said he did not know this. I asked him if he realized what it would cost if 700 or 800 loaves of bread left the cafeteria in one night.

Another problem area that seems to be getting a little worse is paper and some food items being tossed in the cafeteria. Every night after the evening meal we find salt shakers emptied on the tables with pictures drawn in the salt, 12 to 24 trays left on the tables with all the dirty dishes on them, 100 to 150 paper napkins on the floor, banana peels, apple cores, orange peels, and assorted jello, as well as bubble gum ground into the rug. The college Admissions Office and Development Office does an excellent job of recruiting new students and potential college donors. Sometimes I wonder what these potential students and donors think when they walk through the cafeteria after an evening meal on their way to a banquet or reception in the "South End" of the cafeteria.

Several days ago I heard about an incident in South Hall when three students were playing soccer on the top floor and accidentally kicked the ball into one of the sprinklers, which set off the system, dumping 2000 gallons of water on the floor which, in turn flowed down from floor to floor. I truly love each and everyone at Houghton, but I think the time has come to have everyone think about their actions. I truly feel that no one does destructive or negative things. They just sometimes turn out that



way. Sometimes it is just easier to throw a paper or napkins to get someone's attention then to walk over and talk to that person. With busy schedules it is easier to leave your tray on the table for someone else to clean up, or it is quicker to start a game before you reach the out-of-doors or playing field. Working together is what makes Houghton the community it is. In the ten years I have been here I have seen the community pull together in good times and very hard times. This makes me feel proud to be a small part of this community. Please remember, no one is a perfect person but, with people working together and truing hard to do what is right we can, with the Lord's help, have the best possible of everything including love and understanding.

Big Al.

☆☆☆

Dear Martha and Ivan,

Please read the writing on the wall: you will get no peace until *Doonesbury* is replaced.

You have a responsibility to your readers, and most of them do not like *Doonesbury*. I don't. I also know a lot of others who would rather see almost anything else. This foolishness is not helping to build up Houghton; rather, it is tearing it down. If that were the only reason to switch comics, it would be enough.

Martha, I appreciated your explanation of the strips in issue 84.4 (84.5) in response to Munyard's letter. My first comment is that if it needs that much explaining, the writer's basic concept is flawed.

My second comment relates to your somewhat perceptive remark about Boopsie being a "negative stereotype." There are two ways to teach: by negative or by positive reinforcement or example. As far as

I know, positive reinforcement works 100% better than negative. Don't you hate it when you're told, "Don't do that?" Rather than telling us what not to do, give us some good examples to live up to, something to build us up.

Finally, let me offer a suggestion: pick up something like *Peanuts*. I know it's old. But there's a reason it's one of the oldest comic strips still syndicated: cream rises. I overheard several people say they'd rather have *Peanuts*. It would probably be a wise idea to ask all your readers for feedback on what comic strip they would like to see. You already have many opinions.

Sincerely,  
Alan J. Shea

☆☆☆

#### Editors and Others:

Letters from alumni, as I recall, can be extremely annoying. It seems almost pretentious—or at least presumptuous—to assume that residing in the so-called "real world" authorizes us to speak about a place we don't live anymore. Letters from former *Star* editors, I'd warrant, are even worse, because we tend to view the *Star* as eternally our domain, and write ridiculously extensive, rambling epistles to make up for what we left unsaid in our dismal editorials.

Well, this letter probably won't be much different, but I'll try to keep the raw pontificating to a minimum. And I won't use the term "real world"; I've always despised it, it seems to connote that college is Munchkinland.

That aside, from reading this year's *Star* and from numerous campus visits, I've noticed an attitude that seems to be picking up momentum; and it's not cynicism; it seems to be a reactionary response to perceived cynicism, a response which seems to me more cynical than most so-called

cynics.

To wit: it seems like when the editors, columnists, correspondents, or whomever address an issue honestly—meaning, depicting the truth of a matter, including what's unpleasant to hear—they're dismissed as troublesome, rabble-rousing, unspiritual, backslidden, and generally bad cynics.

Far be it from me to denigrate "happy news." I like happy news. Happy news is fun. Happy news is bright and cheery and brings a smile to the face and a quiver to the heart. Most of the time, however, happy news gives only one, very limited, side of the issue—and is therefore a lie.

If the *Star* then were to abandon its probing, honest, multi-sided, and responsible approach, it would cease to fulfill its purpose—at least, the assumption of purpose I labored under in my years as editor. (I mean, no offense, but Houghton already has enough PR publications.) And, for whatever its worth, I'd be very disappointed and take to haunting the office rattling chains and the like.

The attitude, I think, stems from the idea that since Christianity is a religion of hope, of joy, of love and the like (all true), then what is not immediately hopeful and joyful doesn't exist, or at least shouldn't be talked about. Starving millions, blatant hypocrisy, societal degeneration, the serpent within each of us—look the other way, ignore 'em. In this mindset, to address rather than to ignore such issues is seen as a mark of unspiritualness, thinking not on the good, pure, etc.

But wait. For there to be hope—real hope—must there not first be despair? Does hope truly mean anything unless you know what hopelessness is?

I heard several times during my fundamentalist (and still cherished) background, in regards to evangelism, that you "have to get someone

lost before you can get them saved." And it's true: the first step in salvation is coming to the realization that, without the blood of the LORD, I am hopeless. Utterly, totally, completely lost, with no meaning, no purpose, no real life—no hope for transcendence in the present or for any king of future. In short, left to my own resources—my own meager, substanceless, and completely ineffectual devices. Without Christ, I am lost. Drink in the meaning of that word "lost." Too many of us (me too) after years in the Kingdom start to intellectualize words like "lost" and forget the real meaning in the light of our dictionary definitions. If that's cynicism, so be it. I stand with such cynics as Paul of Tarsus.

Once we realize just how hopeless, how lost we are, and how completely helpless we are to alter the situation, the LORD offers us a real hope so joyous and complete it defies mention—you all know what I'm talking about so I'm not going to waste time trying to explain the (as far as mere words go) unexplainable. Out of darkness, we are given light. Out of despair, we are given hope.

That's just one—and the best, I think—example of how despair is almost a prerequisite to hope. Too many times, however, we cut ourselves off from feeling any kind of despair, convinced that in feeling despair we are somehow sinfully refusing to place our faith in the LORD. Consequently, though, when we cut ourselves off from a sense of despair, our sense of hope becomes—more *shallow*, I think.

Example: I despair for friends who don't know the LORD and who stubbornly refuse to open themselves to His hope. Yet in the midst of despair I trust the LORD to open doors and soften hearts and—in His time—make Himself known. It I didn't despair for them—if I didn't let myself know the ghastly fate which awaits them—how could I be convinced of the urgency of their need? And how could I fully appreciate it when the hope arrives?

So come on: allow yourself to reflect on the dismal, horrible conditions of a world without Christ: the wars, the massacred children, the blight of AIDS, the hate which threatens to sweep this country as it's swept so many others—and despair. Then reflect on the One who offers hope, peace to the wars, life to the dying, health to the afflicted, love to the hating—and rejoice. Joy is impossible without despair: anyone can be *happy* (a much shallower emotion); it takes depth to know *joy*. Despair/joy is simultaneously one of the most human and divine experiences in existence. Remember: the supreme human-divine One, the Lord Jesus Christ—wept!

This, I think, is what the editors and others are urging in their calls to humanity. It's what Ivan's trying to do while systematically imploding an airborne castle or three.

But as long as some people equate "humanity" with "fleshly," "worldly," "sinful," and "evil," people will balk at such calls. Ivan's first "implosion" editorial was met with a well-intentioned letter which seemed to imply Ivan was advocating some sort of lifestyle of libertarian license and alluded to Magic Johnson, etc. It seems far more likely that Ivan was encouraging us to place our hope not in our formulas for righteousness but in the righteousness which comes from the LORD alone. Further, he encourages us to allow ourselves to realize that trying to understand the world through another's viewpoint—whether a Plath, a Vonnegut, a Van Gogh, a Mapplethorpe, or a Pink Floyd—is no more sinful than empathy.

And some, of course—through a misunderstanding of art as propaganda/advertising/endorsement rather than expression and comment on one's view of life—will balk at this, which is why in many evangelical circles the arts are still suspect. This, I think, is the root of the whole *Doonesbury* debacle.

(Note: it seemed to me rather obvious and readily apparent that Trudeau was in the editor's words providing

"a...statement about the degeneracy of American society." As such, the comic strips in question endorsed adultery/premarital sex no more than *Macbeth* endorses regicide, *A Christmas Carol* endorses greed and avarice, or II Samuel chapters 11 and 12 endorse adultery and murder. Negative example (B.D. and Boopsie in this case) is an age-old practice, used by the LORD in countless parables—remember the rich fool who went to hell? and the virgins without their lamps? and the seed on bad soil?)

I think, then, that before we can label something in the *Star* (or out, for that matter, as worldly trash, or blatant cynicism, or ungodly pessimism, or whatever, we should take another look. Maybe we're right. Most likely we're wrong.

It's no sin to weep. It is a sin not to comfort those who do.

I guess I didn't keep my promise about keeping the pontificating to a minimum (though I didn't use "real world"), but these are thoughts I've been mulling for some time. I'd love to hear your insight on this; that's, in part, what this publication's for....

Thoughtfully,  
L. David Wheeler '91

## Crossword Answers

S	L	E	D	A	M	E	N	L	E	D	
H	A	V	E	A	U	R	A	A	L	E	
E	D	I	T	S	T	I	B	E	T	A	N
D	E	M	E	A	N	M	I	N	T		
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D	E	N	C	R	E	D	I	T	E	L	
E	N	T	L	O	O	Z	A	R	E		
S	T	B	E	R	A	T	E	V	I	E	
R	E	F	E	R	E	F	E	E	S		
S	L	A	T	P	O	S	T	E	R		
M	A	C	A	D	A	M	I	R	A	T	E
U	T	E	A	G	A	R	E	A	G	E	D
G	E	R	M	E	S	S	L	E	T	S	



# The Black Hole

M. L. TAYLOR

**D**ISCLAIMER: No part of what is stated from here on out is advocated by either Big Al, Pioneer, *The Houghton Star*, its staff, editors, or even the writer. (It's supposed to be funny, so lighten up.)

Here we go. This is it. The dreaded Final Four. Procrastination, deliberation, consternation, alliteration... All specifically designed to completely wreck your life and make you wish you were never stupid enough to put off that final paper 'till now, or read those 700 pages of J. S. Mill, or do that last journal entry, or whatever. You may find that reality is a very elusive concept at this point.

All of this stuff that you loathe and rebuke in the name of Academia will eventually begin to grate on your nervous system like the proverbial fingernail across the chalkboard and make you either want to run naked across the quad screaming "NOOO MOOOORE WIIRE HANGERRRRS!" or jump head first from the sixth floor of Lambein into a vat of live Alaskan King Crabs.

Well, I have discovered a way to reset the old metaphysical values and retain your sanity all in one fell swoop. I like to call it the "Big Al's Atom Bomb Approach."

The first step is to go to Big Al's. Bring your RA with you as this person will play an integral part in the task. Don't bring a lot of money because with this method, you won't need it. Next, order these things: one suicide hot wing with a cup full of extra sauce, a french fry, any type of shake (make it simple to make so you

don't stand around creating any extra anxiety), a spoon, lots 'o salt, and finally a small cup of water.

Ready? Okay, now let us begin. Get your shake and hand it to your RA. You now ask to go into the kitchen. If they won't let you come back, just tell them I sent you. When you get back there, stand beside the grill. Take your glass of water and spill it on the floor. Make sure to tell everyone working there so no one slips and gets hurt. Take your one wing and dip it in the extra sauce. Now place it firmly between your teeth (your molars, not your incisors). Break your french fry in half, accumulate about seven ounces of salt on the broken end of each half (this end holds the salt better) and place each half in each of your nostrils, salted end up. Now very quickly take your cup of suicide sauce in your left hand and chug it, drop the cup and place your hand firmly on the grill, palm down. Have your RA dump the shake down the front (inside) of your shirt (they should have absolutely no problem with this step). Step into the puddle of water that you spilled on the floor. Take the spoon in your right hand and place the end of it in the electrical outlet near the grill and push firmly.

You should find that this method will bring you back to reality quite quickly. Besides, it's much safer than either catching hypothermia coupled with laryngitis from a quad-sprint or Alaskan King Crabs groping your unmentionables.

RECLAIMER: This is MY opinion.

I'm tired of cutting the crud so this will be the last slice for this semester.

To the "Righteous' Rippers": Thank you for littering. Chew on this—Matt. 23:24. Build a commune and hide yourselves from the world. It's easier that way. That's the way Christianity should be: easy. Right? The way I look at it is, *Doonesbury* is a reflection of the world that we should laugh about and it is **just a cartoon**. If your faith is strong enough, this stuff shouldn't bother you or outrage you.

To Dr. Paul Young: Just couldn't wait, could 'ya?

To my editors: That's it! I'm joining the Writers' Guild!

To five other people: It's been a year.

To my "fans:" lighten up or stop picking up a *Star* every other Friday. Think you can handle that? If you want to be heard, have the guts to start giving names, like Eric Runion did. At least *he* was bold enough to challenge my motives firsthand. Most of you are more like me than you'd like to admit. Only, I think that your motives need work.

Finally, to all the rest of you great Houghton folk: A Merry X-mas. (Lighten up, all you "Let's keep the 'Christ' in Christmas" people. For you to need some sort of paltry literal proof of it just reveals your own insecurity about your own faith in Christ's power to gain control of this world. It is Written! It has nothing to do with secularization. Paranoia, maybe... Find something more important to be upset about. There's enough stuff to be upset at out there without you finding more that simply distracts you from the important stuff. Remember, distraction is a favorite toy of The Enemy.) Have a wonderful, safe, joyous and generally funky vacation.

OW!

# Blackberries

by Johnathan Wydylsh

Dear Most Esteemed Dr. Bellwether,

I am a member, a concerned citizen of your flock. I'm peculiar to your flock in that I look like a wolf. That is because I am a wolf. I'm a vegetarian, so don't be alarmed. I gave up mutton because my cholesterol level ran off the chart. It was too easy to catch you, the sport was gone and I wasn't getting any exercise. If you can't eat them, join them, I say. I joined your herd a year or two ago and have hung out along the outskirts of the pasture since that time.

I enjoyed what you were saying. It made sense with all the talk of this Shepherd who takes care of you. It sounded so much better than the ear nipping, rump sniffing day to night nonsense of the pack's monotonous routine. I wanted a place to belong to without having to draw blood to keep that place. Peace, love, joy and understanding—it sounded surreal, but worth a try. I have begun to realize sadly that the difference between you and the pack is that the pack does not give the Shepherd a second thought, and the flock doesn't give him a first thought.

You have found a once-rich pasture and have forgotten others. You sit around on your large woolly rumps and talk about how right you are for not going beyond the confines of this small patch of earth. I don't know if you realize it or not, but the grass is gone and you are eating your own excrement. Sorry if your Bellwethership is offended. Perhaps if you were offended you would do something other than getting self-righteous with the insipid. (I.E. Cartoon strips, come on, wake up! Consider the source.) If you are going to butt up against something find something worth butting.

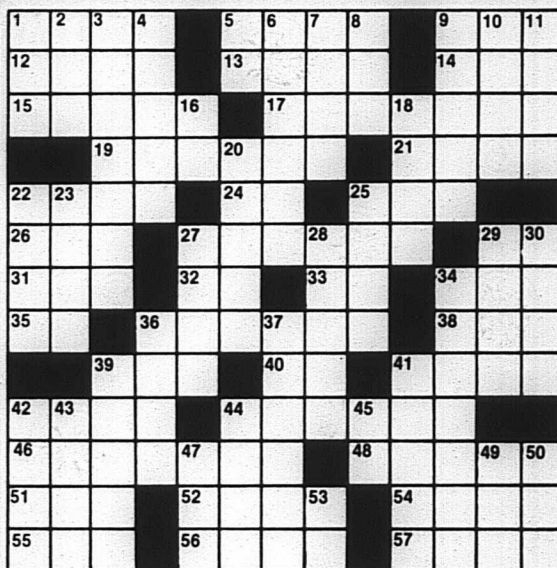
It seems to me as though when the Shepherd called you, you heard "sleep" and have been that way ever since. We are to be as *lamb*s. Not yams! You've buried yourselves in your own fertilizer and are growing sweeter every -D-A-Y.

Because of your shortsightedness you fleece yourselves of the beauty and fullness of this Shepherd-given life you supposedly live. What a difference you could make not only in the pastures but in all the places you deserted years ago.

You invent your own predators, but there is not a wolf for puma worth its fangs that would dare bite into all that lard and fuzz. There is no meat to you.

All I can do is bark, howl, whine, and growl. I have not yet learned to bleat. I'm in no sheep's pasture out here, on the edge happy not to get my paws stinky. All I can ask of you is that instead of always having the right answers, why not begin to ask yourselves a few questions, as I am endeavoring to do. But then again, I'm just a sheep in wolf's clothing.

Sincerely and Respectfully,  
Sam Lupus



## ACROSS

1. Winter vehicle
5. Prayer ending
9. Lead (p.t.)
12. Got
13. Character quality
14. Beer
15. Prepares for publication
17. Tibet citizen
19. Put down
21. Cool taste
22. Affirm
23. Passage for steam
24. Right (abbr.)
25. Transgression
26. Lair
27. Trust
29. Raised railroad
31. Suffix to form adjectives
32. Lol
33. Ounce (abbr.)
34. Plural verb
35. Street (abbr.)
36. Criticize
38. Compete
39. Referee (abbr.)
40. In reference to
41. Dues
42. Narrow strip of wood
44. Placard
46. Stone pavement

48. Mad
51. Indian tribe
52. Marine algae
54. Old
55. Germany (abbr.)
56. Disorderly
57. Allows

## DOWN

1. Fem. pronoun
2. Small boy
3. Obvious
4. Discourage
5. 2-year degree
6. Alteration
7. Ireland (poetic)
8. Catch
9. Basic language
10. Dash
11. Mar
16. Small (abbr.)
18. Give off
20. Mistake
22. Lemon drinks
23. Passage for air
25. Physical dimension
27. Musical staff symbol
28. Lavish excessive love
29. Great Lake
30. Jeans
34. Math mean
36. 2nd Gr. letter
37. Odors
39. Miller
41. Untamed
42. Self-righteous
43. Delayed
45. 7th scale note
47. Water barrier
49. Vietnam offensive
50. Editors (abbr.)
53. Right side (abbr.)

Crossword  
Answers on  
page 16



