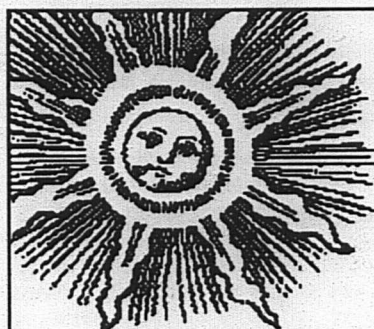




The Houghton Star

Volume 82.15

February 23, 1990

CURRENT ISSUES DAY

On February 20, Houghton College was informed of the need for responsible environmental stewardship and of the actions of two environmental organizations. Dr. David Mahan of the AuSable Institute of Environmental Studies delivered a short lecture on a Christian environmental viewpoint. Wayne Klockner of the Central and Western New York Chapters of the Nature Conservancy spoke about the Conservancy's work. Preceding the speakers was a play by Dr. William Allen entitled *The Trauma-Drama of Gladwin Globe*. Dr. Allen's play presented the issue of environmental decay in an allegorical, often hilariously tongue-in-cheek manner, as a familiar road in the Land of Southern Tears became the scene of major concern.

Between the lectures of Mahan and Klockner, senior Joel Corbin informed the community that efforts are being made to increase Houghton's recycling efforts, minimal if not nonexistent in the past. This news came as a pleasant surprise to many, though a bigger surprise awaited them in the dining hall. . .



Photo by
Heidi
Tange

Taking Responsibility

by Dave Rhenow

STOP, don't throw that paper out. That's the message Joel Corbin of the Houghton College Pilot project hopes to get across to members of the community this year. Corbin and his fellow members of the Trash Task Force Committee want to see a significant drop in the amount of waste the college produces, as well as an increase in the amount of salvaged recyclable materials, in the near future. This goal, however, can only be achieved through the cooperation of every student as well as that of the administration, according to Corbin.

The task force, which is composed of Corbin, Drs.

(continued on page 2)

The Rich Stay Healthy?

by Beth Mitchell

This Current Issues Day lunch will not be forgotten in a hurry. If you went to the dining hall Tuesday afternoon expecting a usual Houghton meal, you were quite mistaken. Everyone was given a piece of colored paper and not told what it was for. As word spread, it turned out that this paper represented currency and determined the meal received. One-fifth of the people received red, which meant that they were poor and received bean soup. The majority (three fifths) were handed green papers and were told they were "just getting by;" they ate rice and corn. Only a lucky one-fifth with white papers were affluent and had their choice of chicken or roast beef.

According to Profs. Cameron Airhart and James Wolfe, this object lesson had many purposes. First and foremost, it was to demonstrate the different financial divisions of the world population. It also illustrated, in a physical way, the current state of global interconnection. Another purpose was to demonstrate how we Americans are unaware of Third World problems. It was to make students aware of how the poorer population sees us and our life style. It was done on Current Issues Day as an example of division of resources.

(continued on page 2)

News

Taking Responsibility

(continued from page 1)

James Wolfe, Sharon Givler, John Garrison, Ange and Rosalyn Samanski, and Tamara Bence, has a definite plan of action. First, it is working with Director of Food Services Al Rehn ("Big Al") toward doing away with styrofoam in the cafeteria and snack shop. Also, the task force hopes to have a pick-up station for paper and glass located somewhere on campus, as well as receptacles for used products located around campus. For example, containers for used plastic detergent bottles will be located in the various laundry rooms.

The bulk of the solution, Corbin noted, will be found in individuals accepting personal responsibility for the waste they create. The average New York State citizen throws out approximately five pounds of trash each day, adding up to a ton per year. By buying recycled/recyclable items, buying products which are not over-packaged, and taking the time to separate the usable from the unusable waste, we could significantly lower this amount and create a lower demand on non-recyclable products.

The Trash Task Force has submitted a request for help in purchasing equipment for processing and storing usable waste. Theoretically, the weekly \$600 price tag for removing garbage from the campus will be significantly lowered. If recyclable paper, cardboard, glass, and aluminum are removed from the trash, this would help foot part of the bill. Also, according to the committee, the recycling station would pay for itself in cost avoidance. It will also, of course, constitute a lower cost to the environment.



Uncle Ledley
Official Star Mascot

Uncle Ledley says:

The Star needs more staff reporters! If you enjoy writing, and are comfortable with deadlines, please contact Dave at extension 210.

Photographers and layout personnel also needed

The Rich Stay Healthy? (continued)

Wolfe felt that students needed to be taught in a very real way about the plight of the Third World countries. He read that the world can be divided up into those three divisions, and Airhart heard that other colleges have done something like this; so they approached Big Al with the idea, and he consented. Once filled in on the different divisions and typical meals of those divisions, Al decided on the menus. All three decided not to announce it ahead; it would work best as a surprise.

Originally, Airhart and Wolfe expected that some might be upset, but, once informed of the purpose, would be more understanding. Interesting discussions were hoped to be accomplished from it. Big Al, on the other hand, expecting more of a negative reaction, decided to include the options of salad bar, cereal, fruits, and desserts. All meals were nutritious, unlike many Third World countries' standard meals.

Students' response varied. When asked their reactions, the typical answer was, "This is stupid," or "I'm paying for this garbage while they get chicken!" Those with negative responses posed that simply posting informative signs, or informing students that the red or green meals were what they were eating but in reality having an actual meal, would have been enough to get the point across. These negative reactions came from affluent as well as poor and middle participants.

In spite of these responses, some viewed the meal as a good lesson that everyone needed to learn. The point was well made, and participants were forced into being made aware of the real situation that is taken too much for granted. One worker, in spite of the fact that she had food thrown at her, said that she considered the meal a good idea, and that even if it only changed the way one or two students think, it was well worth it. On the whole, several students felt it was definitely unfair, and should have been handled in a different way; or as Melissa Fisher put it, "Ahhhhh! * * *!"

The money not spent on the poorer meals went to pay for the chicken and roast beef, exactly how it is in the real world. Also, the amount paid by each student for the one meal was still less than it would cost to get salad in a restaurant.

In conclusion, a point stated by many was that there was always a way to get around it [the system]. Many students in all economic divisions ate salad and cereal, while the more creative ones tore white pieces off the signs. Airhart even expressed surprise that no ambitious entrepreneurs started a black market of sorts. There were also quite a few affluent students who shared their meals with those less fortunate. Several people thank Mark Deeter for sharing some of his five pieces of roast beef. . .

Senate Report

by Stephen Virkler



At the third Student Senate meeting of the semester (January 20) topics discussed included reports from the Board Plan and Academic Affairs Committees, and meeting dates for the rest of the semester.

Senate approved a proposal to send a letter to the administration and the athletic committee suggesting that athletic teams should be given a three-year warning before they are canceled. The purpose of this measure would be to give incoming student athletes the chance to play the sport they planned on playing, instead of finding out after they get here that it has been canceled. The recent incident in which field hockey was nearly eliminated from Houghton spurred this measure.

According to Board Plan committee representative Mary Biglow, this committee is going to "construct a survey to see how many students would want to change to a 15-meal plan (15 meals a week). Pros and cons of this measure will be included in this survey, said Biglow.

Kristi Duliba, Academic Affairs Committee representative, reported that *Russian History* (340-234) has been deleted and two new courses, *Russia and the USSR: History and Politics* and *East Asia: History and Politics* have been added to the history and social sciences division. Duliba also said that *Sports Officiating* and *Advanced Lifesaving* have been dropped, while *Lifeguard Instructor* has been added to the education and recreation division. Also, *Readings in Psychology on Modern and Ancient Israel* (Spring 1991, 1 credit hour) and *Psychology of Ancient and Modern Israel* (Mayterm 1991, 2 credit hours) have been approved and will be taught by Professor John VanWicklin and Dr. Michael Lastoria.

Senate President Thom Fenner announced the Senate's meeting dates for the rest of the semester: February 27, March 23 and 27, and April 10 and 24.



Diversity in the Spirit: Perspectives on Buffalo Churches

As part of Black History Month, several students participated in worship services in four predominantly black Buffalo churches. The *Star* has asked three of these students to include their reactions to this experience in tonight's issue.

One thing I noticed about church in Buffalo is that the people didn't attend out of habit or because it was "the right thing to do" on a Sunday. People come to worship and get involved in the service. The people were warm and friendly to me and all of the Houghton students, inviting us to come back any time. I hope that there can be more trips to Buffalo churches during the rest of my years at Houghton.

Bill Hinman

My experience at the Free Spirit Missionary Baptist Church in Buffalo was enjoyable and rewarding. Everyone made me feel very welcome. The very vocal enthusiasm during the service was not disconcerting at all, since I come from a charismatic tradition anyway. What did bother me was that those expressions of agreement continued at the same loud volume through the sermon. I'm used to a bit of that at home, but not quite so much, and I found it distracting. I was pleased to see that they so readily got their young people involved in singing and scripture reading. My biggest problem was remembering that I was a participant, a worshipper, instead of a detached spectator, perhaps waiting to be entertained by a play. I had to concentrate on praising

God myself, rather than listening to everyone else do it in a different way.

Brad Wilber

"Shout the Devil Down with Praise" was the intriguing sermon title at the February 11 service at the Prince of Peace Temple Church of God in Christ. Unlike most denominational churches, this inner-city church spent at least 1 1/2-2 hours in worship and praise before the one-hour sermon. People were not afraid to physically express their praise to God: the majority sang with all their heart and clapped ardently to the rhythm of each song. Some people danced or shouted "Amen" to encourage the pastor to keep preaching on, although they were a minority. One question that I pondered was this: are any of these people going through the motions of worshipping God in physical expression like many denominational Christians do in their pious silence and their formal worship?

I liked the way that the minister used the phrase, "you don't understand me" to hold the audience's attention. His use of countless Scripture passages reminded me of John Wesley's sermons.

Rick Ives

And in Other News. . .

by John Chong and Ken Cole

Europe

The situation in Germany and the rest of Europe is, if you could describe it in two words, moving rapidly; so rapidly, in fact, that almost no one in the world knows what kind of moves to anticipate from any of the other players in the game. As German reunification becomes imminent and the hands of world leaders (especially those in the Communist bloc) are forced by a buildup of various pressures, change has become not only possible, but unstoppable.

Only two weeks ago, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl proposed a monetary union with East Germany; it was official policy in one week. Nervousness runs high, however—As East Germany links with the West, goods and competition for Easterners and their depressed economy will be enormous, and the West may have a hard time swallowing the weak economy of the East. (Picture Mexico, Honduras and Haiti joining the United States and the ensuing implications for unemployment compensation, taxes, and social security). Add to these complications the fact that East Germans have no real experience operating within a free market.

In addition, almost every European country is nervous at the prospect of a unified, independent German nation-state; experiences such as two World Wars are not easily forgotten. It is for this reason that Europeans, especially the Soviets, are urging that an independent and neutral Germany be avoided—devoid of responsibility and ties with either NATO or Warsaw Pact forces, German actions would not require accountability to either side, and this could cause much volatility in the long run. Consequently, failing East German ties with the Warsaw Pact, the USSR is encouraging them to join NATO(!) As of Monday, however, East German premier Modrow

still opposes NATO membership for a unified Germany. In a situation where change is a weekly and even daily occurrence, however, it is extremely difficult for anyone to speculate what may happen next.

South Africa

The patriot of the South African anti-apartheid movement, Nelson Mandela was released after 27 years in prison. To many black South Africans, and to some whites, he is the only hope for an end of the violence and chaos plaguing this country.

But can he deliver? There is much expected of him. He must first unite the fractious and violent elements of the African National Congress and then work out an agreeable compromise with President deKlerk that will satisfy both sides. This is not an easy task. President deKlerk, for his part, must convince the white populace that negotiation is the only reasonable option, and then work with Mandela and the ANC.

There seems to be real progress in South Africa. Mandela has been released, and the ANC's national executive committee announced that it will send a delegation to meet with deKlerk. Mandela, however, is still keeping up the "heat" on the apartheid government; according to Mandela, "Now is the time to intensify the struggle." His words have alarmed some whites, especially with his call for the nationalization of companies, appeal for continued Western sanctions, and open salute to the South African Communist Party.

It seems apparent that Mandela is stressing reconciliation and discipline within the black community. He has chided blacks on the level of crime and violence in black townships and has called for healing for those who have collaborated with the apartheid regime in the past. Even in his rhetoric toward the

whites, he has made conciliatory gestures, such as "Whites are fellow South Africans." He is still strongly advocating "one person, one vote," but when asked if he is willing to ease demands, he responded "Compromise must be made in every issue."

In the euphoria over the release of Mandela, expectations are high and any disappointment may result in violence. Both sides must formulate a course of action soon, because at the moment there is no set course for the future of South Africa.

(Acknowledgements due to UPI and Time)



Student Senate Proposes Candidacy Amendment

The following addition to the Student Senate Constitution has been proposed in order to give students more input in the Student Senate Cabinet elections. A voice-vote will be taken in an upcoming chapel for your approval. Please read and consider this proposal carefully, so you will be prepared to voice your opinion.

In the event that a candidate for any Senate Cabinet position runs unopposed, a yes/no vote is required in order to ensure the confidence of the student body. A simple majority vote is needed. If a "no" majority vote is cast, the candidate must forfeit the position.

The Student Senate Cabinet is then responsible for finding other candidates for that position. In addition, the original candidate then has the opportunity to run against these new candidates.



by Chris Daniels

In keeping with the usual updates, the "Partners Make it Possible" Phonathon has had a tremendous two weeks of student callers, raising funds to be applied toward student scholarships.

Bill Burrichter was the top caller with 75 calls completed in one night (and thus the winner of brunch for two at the Olde Library), while the Music Education Club was the top calling team and the winner of a Big Al Pizza Bash for their participating members.



Calling continues this week as staff,

faculty, and community members congregate to work toward this year's Phonathon goal, which has passed the halfway mark of \$275,000. The callers are working hard to raise student aid, so please keep them in your prayers as they call. Again, your partnership is essential.

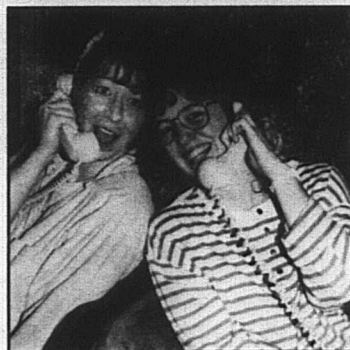


Photo by Chris Daniels

Paris Evening Planned

by David Wheeler

Juniors and seniors will spend "An Evening in Paris" on March 30, when the Community Room of the Houghton Wesleyan Church will become the site of the 1990 Junior-Senior Banquet. The banquet will begin at 7:30 p.m., lasting until 12:00. From 12:00 through the following morning, the gym will be reserved and activities will take place throughout the night, followed by an early-morning brunch.

Past banquets have traditionally been held off-campus, generally in Buffalo, and interest has

waned considerably over the years. Usually, the only attraction was the meal. That will not be the case this year, coordinator Miriam Danielson stated, explaining that actor Curt Cloninger (who appeared in chapel last year) will be performing during the banquet. Interested students can also be part of the evening's entertainment; auditions will take place after spring break.

Contact Miriam Danielson for information about costs.



Class Competitions Scheduled

by Kevin Fuller

The 1990 Houghton College Winter Weekend is scheduled to be held from February 27 to February 28. The weekend will include a number of athletic and skilled events in which representatives from each of the classes will compete against one another.

Students will be offered the opportunity to compete in games such as Pictionary, ping-pong, pool, Dutch Blitz, chess, and foosball. Badminton, racquetball, basketball, volleyball, swimming events, and skiing (if the weather is agreeable) will be available for the more athletically inclined. "The Junior and Freshman classes have proven to be the most active in terms of signing up for events," said Doug Periera, who is in charge of pool and foosball for the Junior class. "The other two classes still have some open slots yet to be filled."

The class who wins the overall competition will be presented with the Bruce Wilson Memorial Trophy. Bruce Wilson was a student at Houghton from 1975 to 1976 who passed away after his sophomore year. The Wilson family has funded the trophy in memory of Bruce, who was very active in intramural sports.

"The award used to be utilized regularly for class competitions, which was previously referred to as the King's tournament," explained Intramural Supervisor Brian Beck. "The trophy has not been awarded in several years due to a lapse in the class competitions."

Classes are gearing up to face one another in various sports this weekend, and hopefully, new life will be provided to class competitions to come.



Arts

Choir Concerts Scheduled

submitted by the Public Information Offices

The Houghton College Choir will be performing a concert of sacred music at 5:00 p.m. on February 25 at St. Paul's Cathedral, 128 Pearl Street, Buffalo. The program, celebrating 20th-century music, will feature an Easter Cantata by Daniel Pinkham.

Conducted by B. Jean Reigles, professor of voice, the 42-member College Choir will go on its annual tour March 3-11, traveling through New York City, Philadelphia, and New Jersey. The choir also performs throughout western New York during the year at churches and choir festivals.

Reigles, a professor at Houghton since 1975, also conducts the women's choir and the Chamber Singers, who perform at the annual Madrigal Dinners at Christmas. She has led the College Choir for three years and is currently working on her doctorate in choral conducting at Texas Tech. University.

Admission for the concert is \$5.00, students and senior citizens, \$3.00.

Twentieth Century Creations The Fine Arts Festival

by Deborah Carr

When the phrases "20th-century" and "music" come together, responses are varied. "Interesting," "bizarre," "dissonance" and "rock and roll" are just a few of the catch words students associate with 20th century music. The Fine Arts Festival on February 22-23 and March 1-2 will give students a chance to reevaluate their perceptions of twentieth century music.

In chapel, on the dates mentioned above, students and faculty will present selections from 20th century composers such as Shostakovich, Vaughan Williams, Stravinsky and Debussy. Dr. Harold McNiel, organizer of this year's festival, stated that works selected for these performances mainly reflect traditional styles. Students need not fear that the festival will be an odd collection of esoteric music that only the composer could understand.

The premier performance of "Celebration Toccata" by Dr. William Allen, Houghton's composer-in-residence, will be played by Dr. Susan Klotzbach. Dr. Allende described this piece as "optimistic . . . it isn't terribly far out." Another piece, "Alter Panels," commissioned by the Houghton College Choir; features composer Jeffery Hoover, a Ph.D. candidate at Texas Tech. Univer-

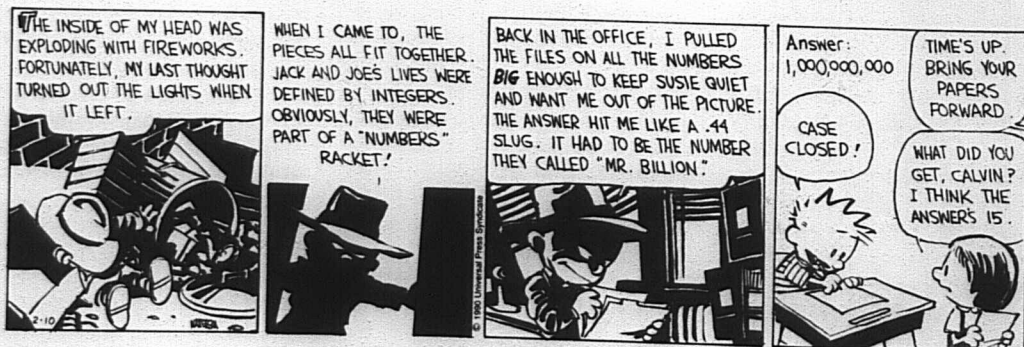
sity.

As a part of the festival, evening concerts are scheduled for Thursday, February 22 and Friday, February 23; Thursday evening's program will be a student and faculty recital of 20th century pieces. Friday evening's concert features the First Continental Army Band Brass Quintet, stationed in Virginia. It is the oldest performing group in the United States, dating back to the Revolutionary War. Primarily a ceremonial band, this group of highly trained performers presents impressive and enjoyable concerts.

When asked what they hope students will gain from this experience, the music faculty agreed that familiarity with a variety of musical styles is an important part of cultural awareness. Dr. Allen suggested that through the presentation of 20th century music, we see creativity as an ongoing process. He commented, "[We] can't revere the past and just leave it that way." People in every age express the need to be able to create art in new ways; to be unique. The Fine Arts Festival presents an opportunity for the student body to explore a part of that creativity. Come; listen to and evaluate what your era has to say.

Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



Sports

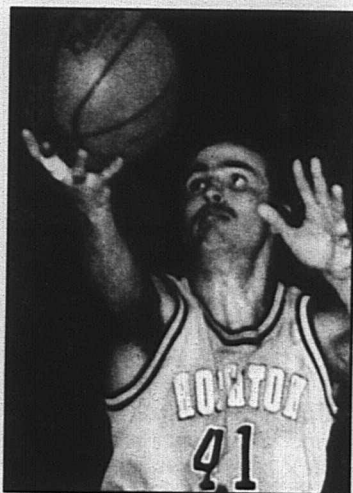
Bink Tops 1000

by Kevin Fuller

David Binkowski became the newest Houghton basketball player to score over one thousand points for the Highlanders last Tuesday evening, as Houghton defeated Pitt-Brad 75-64.

"I needed nine points to reach the thousand mark," said Binkowski, who leads the team in scoring for the season. "I scored eight in the first half, and my first basket in the second half put me over the top."

Binkowski, a sophomore guard, is one of the youngest players ever to reach this level in only his second year.



No. 41 Dave Binkowski in action last year.

Photo by Laura Grace

Houghton Falls to Roberts

by Dave MacMillan

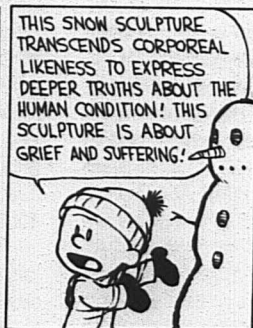
The Highlander men traveled to Roberts Wesleyan on February 10 and returned with a 97-70 loss.

Houghton played a flat first half on their way to a 15-point halftime deficit. The Highlanders started quickly after the intermission, however, with Tom Kirschner's three-point play at the 16:50 mark bringing Houghton to within three points. Roberts then quickly pulled away and was never threatened again.

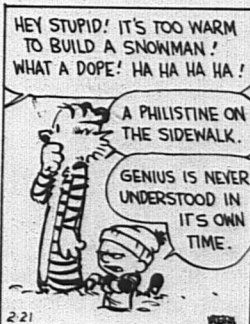
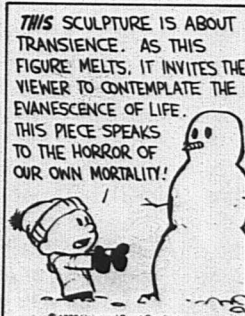
Six Roberts players scored in double figures, led by Kyle Lidge's 19 points. Dave Binkowski led Houghton with 33 points.

Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



ONE LOOK AT THE TORTURED COUNTENANCE OF THIS FIGURE CONFIRMS THAT THE ARTIST HAS DRUNK DEEPLY FROM THE CUP OF LIFE! THIS WORK SHALL ENDURE AND INSPIRE FUTURE GENERATIONS!



Opinion

Dear Sir:

The amount of radiation to which a person is exposed is measured in millirems. The average amount of background radiation commonly received by people in New York State is approximately 350 millirem/year. In comparison, under New York regulations, a maximum permitted exposure rate for the whole body to an individual in the general public from a low-level radioactive waste disposal facility is 25 millirems per year. The New York State Siting Commission is confident that it is possible to build a facility that will result in *zero exposure* to the public.

Dr. Arthur Upton, former head of the National Cancer Institute, and Dr. Roslyn Yallow, Nobel Laureate for her work on cancer research, have testified to the Commission that low-level radioactive waste can be safely disposed without danger to the community involved. This view is representative of the overwhelming majority of the medical and scientific community.

The engineered facility and other features of the site will be monitored before, during and after operation of the facility. This will ensure early detection of any problems and corrective action before there is any contamination of the surrounding area. The Low-Level Radioactive Waste Interagency Working Group's recommendations would provide local involvement in the monitoring program through a host area Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission.

A carefully selected combination of environmental features and engineered barriers makes it technologically achievable to isolate the low-level radioactive waste for time periods required for the bulk of the radioactive wastes to decay. During the first 100 years after closure of the facility over 99% of the radioac-

tivity in the waste will have decayed to zero.

The Siting Commission welcomes questions and comments from the public at any time. We can be reached by calling toll-free at 1-800-441-2401.

Sincerely,
Angelo F. Orazio
Chairman

AN OPEN LETTER TO HOUGHTON COLLEGE STUDENTS

Yesterday in church we sang my class hymn, "My Hope is in the Lord." It brought back memories of Houghton, of classmates, and of the many times we sang this hymn. It especially brought back memories of the last time we sang it together upon our return from Skip weekend. We were so hopeful (some would say idealistic) in our determination to improve things. We each had chosen a career, some had jobs, many were looking for jobs—and yet no matter our career choice, we had a common thread in our love of God.

It soon will be 17 years since we last sang our hymn together, yet the bond of God's love is still there. There have been disappointments in careers, in relationships and in what life has given us. Our idealism has no doubt been tempered by experience and some of the goals we had set will never be reached. As we have allowed God to lead us, new goals have replaced some of our earlier ambitions. At times we almost seem weighed down by responsibilities of jobs, homes, spouses, and children. But this one thing I know, our hope is still in the Lord. The older I get, the more precious that hope becomes.

So you, the current students of Houghton College—I want you to know that hope. My four years at Houghton helped that hope mature within me. When you graduate from Houghton, I trust you will take a fine education with you. But more im-

portantly, I hope you will take the eternal hope in God. This hope will not disappoint, rust or become obsolete. For me He died, for me He lives, an everlasting light and life He freely gives. Take the Hope with you.

Judith Stanley Bender
Class of '73

Dear Editor Dave,

Thank you for last week's editorial, "What, Me, White?" I feel that your transition from "all are one" to "we are gloriously different" is significant, and I'm glad that Black History Month is worthwhile to you now. But I feel that there is still something fundamentally wrong with the need for such event.

The problem is that it is truly needed. We are a nation with a large population of blacks; to neglect their history is to neglect the history of the entire nation. Yet it's painfully obvious that beyond programs such as Black History Month there is little recognition of our black heritage. Our schools continue to teach a white history, literature and art—only special topics touch on the contributions and issues surrounding our black citizens. It's as though some hope to fill the void (and ease their consciences) by having a month devoted to a subject that is so inadequately covered within the basic curriculum.

I await the day when Black History Month is as meaningless a concept as White Awareness Week . . . or when the White Citizen's Council is as outdated as Black Power. Let's not forget that while yes, progress has been made in bringing whites and blacks together, there are still many walls which divide us.

Eric Brown

"I await the day when Black History Month is as meaningless a concept as White Awareness Week."

Rant:

Gay Men Swim

by Mark Shiner

I am glad that I am not gay. Why am I glad for this? Is it because I believe Scripture condemns homosexuality? Is it because I believe homosexuality to be a neurosis? Is it because I personally find it offensive?

No.

I am glad that I am not a homosexual because you would hate me.

I visited my best friend at Haverford again this weekend. As we walked around campus, I was confronted with the propaganda of a gay rights organization: pink triangles, strategically hung on numerous walls and doors, each bearing an inscription that reminded me of the obvious: that gays were people too. "Gay men take chemistry class." Another: "Gay men ride bicycles." Still another: "Gay men swim."

It saddened me, in a lot of ways, to read these signs. Why? It reminded me that, even in as inclusive a place as Haverford, homosexuals were still thought of as somehow inhuman. And I realized that if homosexuals still had to fight for acceptance at liberal Haverford, they were pretty much doomed at reactionary Houghton. For here we don't merely have a societal justification for homophobia: we have a religious justification! We can trot out our Bible verses and construct a wall around the Kingdom of God that no homosexual could ever get through. That wall is surely going up right now within many of you, even as you read this. I dare you, just for a minute, to tear it down.

Listen: As one of Houghton's token liberals (don't believe it? Watch: the Bible contains the Word of God) I have felt an incredible amount of pressure to not

What's Next?

by Jenna Gieser



For the past ten years East Hall has been the heartbeat of Houghton College. From 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, East Hall desk has been the place to go for food, comics, apple fritters on Wednesday, and cheerful conversation (or a shoulder to cry on). All of these necessities for college life, plus a few of the more aesthetic additions such as live plants in the lounge, did not come to East Hall through evolutionary processes. They are part of East Hall life because Kathie Brennenman is part of East Hall life. This part of life may be ending.

A suggestion has been made, and it is quickly becoming more than just a suggestion, that an "Information Desk" be created in the Campus Center and that East Hall desk be open at night, as the other dorm's desks are, instead of from 6:30 a.m. to 1:15 a.m. And what about Kathie? Everyone's mom away from home would be moved to the Campus Center.

If this is news to you, you aren't the only one who has been unaware. East Hall residents were not asked, or even told, about the changes that

were being considered until they were well underway. If you are thinking that this really does not concern you, consider where you go during the day if you need an egg for cooking, you sleep past breakfast, or you want to see what Calvin and Hobbes have been up to. If these seem like trivial things to you, look at it from a different perspective. Houghton is located in the middle of nowhere. The Admissions Offices have been relocated to their own building. There is a sign as you drive into Houghton pointing to where things are, and Houghton is known for its friendly students and faculty; there is always someone around who can give directions. East Hall Desk is also a uniqueness. Very few, if any, other Christian colleges have a desk that is generally open. It adds a personal touch to the campus.

Does Houghton need an "Information Center?" Is this just an unnecessary display of professionalism at "a college in the country?" And one more question: Why have students not been involved in the evaluation of this suggestion?

Speak out, to not acknowledge that I am different from the mainstream, to bury my convictions that the whole Evangelical thing is a convenient, though flimsy, myth. And if writing this rather uncontroversial column is difficult for me, imagine what it must be like for the person who is now struggling with his or her sexual orientation. Although I'm not personally aware of anyone who is thus struggling, I am quite convinced that it is happening here.

Perhaps at some time in the future Houghton will become a place so burned by the divine light that it will be able to accept people who are different. It's certainly some-

thing I'd love to see. I doubt that we'll ever get rid of all the hatred—maybe the gays and lesbians who are here now and who will come in the future will never be affirmed enough by the Houghton community to come out in public and affirm their own sexuality. But at least those of us who believe that Jesus has come to liberate all people can look forward to seeing someday anonymous pink triangles around campus, challenging us to love all of our brothers and sisters.

"Gay men eat at Big Al's."

"Gay men have to go to chapel."

"Gay men love Jesus."

*A slumber did my spirit seal;
I had no human fears:
She seemed a thing that could
not feel
The touch of earthly years.*

*No motion has she now, no
force;
She neither hears nor sees;
Rolled round in earth's diurnal
course,
With rocks, and stones, and
trees.*

[Wordsworth]

My thoughts of Beaver Perkins rebound between these two poles of human vitality and human dissolution. While alive she seemed more full of life than most anyone I had met—and her vitality infected me. I still nourish myself from that. Now that she has been dead for almost two years, I can feel her "force" upon me diminishing. I hate that. I move between hope that the second stanza will not be so, and the deep-drawn suspicion that it is so.

Occasionally I seek to adopt the attitude towards her death that Lucretius sought for his own when he declared:

"Consider how that past ages of eternal time before our birth were no concern of ours. This is a mirror which nature holds up to us of future time after our death [Lucretius, *On the Nature of Things*]."

More often, though, I shrink from that much resignation. Instead, I continue my struggle to keep her alive in my memory. Fortunately for me, Beaver and in that way we make ourselves forever fully alive. As Lifton put it,

"It is important to talk about death because death is so integral to life... Suppressing our relationship to death is a form of numbing which spreads to other areas and tends to limit our capacity for feeling in general and therefore our vitality."

She is dead; we are alive. But since she died, we more calmly "feel the touch of earthly years." We need this, and we remain grateful for those years that we had.

Brian Sayers



Valda (Beaver) Perkins

Photo by Don Tremblay

Dear Editor:

I would like to give a public "thank you" to all of the students involved with the recent production of *Our Town*. Rarely in my thirty years' experience have I had the privilege of working with such a devoted group of students. The spirit of cooperation, encouragement and support was extremely high, and I am sure this contributed to the success of the play. Thornton Wilder's message is profound and this cast very effectively captured his vision and conveyed it to the audiences. I personally have been profoundly impacted by these outstanding students, and I want to pay tribute to them and to what they have accomplished.

Sincerely and gratefully,
Bruce Brenneman

Dear Management,

What happened to my chicken for Tuesday's lunch? I'm all for poverty consciousness, but I have certain reservations about your lesson.

1) The difference between the poor in the third world and your lunch experiment is that I paid for more than rice (I know at least one person who benefited from this arrangement).

2) The lesson was not accurate. An accurate lesson would be to give an excessive banquet for a small portion of the student body, and give a couple loaves and peanut butter to split among everyone else (I give Mike Tullio full credit for this idea; he also suggested serving the peanut butter without a knife).

3) What does this have to do with the environment issue? The destruction of the environment has to do with overproduction, opulence, and wastefulness. A proper experiment, then, would be to back up the garbage for a couple of days, let it collect outside the dishroom, then serve everything in those styrofoam bowls I ate rice out of on Tuesday. Then, make a clean sweep—rid ourselves of the styrofoam, switch to cloth napkins, and grind up the excess food into fertilizer. I'm all for the environment; just let me have my chicken and eat it too.

Brennan Smith

CONTEST

Standing Up for Peace

Why have some people risked their jobs, their homes, their families and



even prison to take a stand for peace? This is *your* chance to find out. The Standing Up for Peace Contest invites you to talk face to face with someone who has refused to fight in war, pay taxes for war, or build weapons for war, and then to express what you think and feel about what you heard through writing, art or music.

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To enter, send for the Standing Up for Peace Contest booklet, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960 (914) 358-4601.

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Recently there was a letter to the *Star* that told tales of woe about those students who are Houghton College security guards. The article also told of the various problems that these "Security Guards" are faced with. As I recall, these people had to deal with the same problems that other students on campus also had to deal with, that being "insurance payments." If these so-called security guards are subject to the same problems that all other students are faced with, why then are they able to park in those "RESTRICTED" parking zones, and why are they able to park without the proper identification sticker while NOT receiving the proper tickets. Is this ethical, or is it just a ploy to abuse their position? Who is going to ticket the cars of the student security officers (I'll leave you to answer that question on your own)? It seems to me that if these poor and mistreated servants are just like us, then why don't we (those who own cars) remove our parking stickers and park where we please—after all, we are just like those faithful servants who also have insurance payments. Maybe these officers of justice should be just like us, and not be able to abuse the position which they have. If it is just a job then why do they have so many privileges that we do not?

Chris Morris

To the Security Department:

Please take the money you daily collect for tickets and fix, not fill, all the potholes. My wife almost had her baby just driving to the gym.

Thanks,

Andy Walz

To start: good job, fellas, the majority of us appreciate and support your efforts. For those of you who do not like my style of support, that's too bad, and I really do not owe you an apology. Before the

CFH [Cheer For Houghton] signs appeared, all of you "who prayed that God would direct your words" were not to be found. Once someone with the authority said something, you jumped on the bandwagon.

As for the coward who wrote the letter to the Dean, I want to meet you and read the Bible you do. Because nowhere in my Bible does it say that it is "unchristianlike behavior" to cheer against the other team.

As for us being a Christian college, and creating a Christian atmosphere, I believe that you can tell the difference. If you can not tell the difference between us cheering for "the hanging of the ref," and a secular school yelling four-letter words and using profanity, I plead with you—get in touch with reality. There comes a point where you have to tie your Christianity into reality: and I hope that you will before you enter the "real world" and make a mockery out of other Christians.

I'll sign my name,

Squit

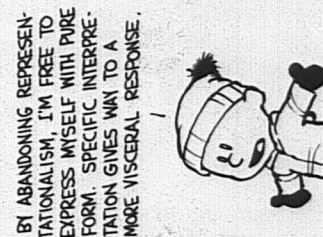
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Editorial

When I began tossing around ideas for this week's editorial, I was dismayed to find there were none; I was dry again. Recalling November 10's editorial ("Why Not?") and how much fun I had writing it, I thought I might bring the populace (by no particular demand) "Why Not II." I could fill it with ponderables like "Why do Houghton students like to gripe so much?" "Why do people feel the need to bash in the outside wall of the Star office by throwing themselves and each other against it?" and "Why doesn't everybody *please* leave Dan Quayle alone?" But I ran out of questions before I ran out of space; and I didn't want to end with

"Why aren't we closer?" again, although nobody's given me an answer yet.

I did start thinking about something last week, however, after listening to a song by Adrian Snell (an ultra-obscure Christian musician; I've heard of him and I'm sure his family has, too) called "Hey That's Me There in the Corner." The song's persona is a destitute, lost soul in the midst of happy, active Christians. When I was listening to it, images of the bell tower and the dining hall windows flashed through my mind.

While in high school, I saw Houghton (replace previous word

with any other Christian college, if you wish) as a mecca at which strong, "together" spiritual giants gathered for further sharpening of their swords. We would emerge from these halls better prepared to minister to the dying world without.

It never occurred to me that there were dying worlds within.

The lyrics to Snell's song are below. While you're reading it, please be aware that this song's persona is very real—probably at the next table, or across the hall. Realize that there are more worlds dying here than we realize.

And do something.

HEY THAT'S ME THERE IN THE CORNER

by Adrian Snell

Hey that's me there in the corner, my head upon my hands,
Or maybe I'm the one who's trying to smile.
And I'm the one reflected in the mirror on the wall
Looking sad, but I'll be all right.
I'll be all right. I'll be all right.
I'll be all right—I'll be all right in a while. . .

Here I'm staring through the window at the rooftops
and the lights
Thinking anywhere's the best place I could be,
And I'm the one who's sitting at the table all alone
Looking tired, but I'll be all right.
I'll be all right. I'll be all right.
I'll be all right—just wait and see.

Hey Glory Hallejuah—there's a lot of people singing
And I think I get the message about really being free
And all this holding hands and saying you're gonna
love each other
And all this talk of Jesus
But you didn't talk to me.
You didn't talk to me.

Hey that's me there by the doorway; I've already said
goodbye.
Or is that me there looking back just one more time?
And the one that's kicking stones and walking in the
rain
Looking lost? But I'll be all right.
I'll be all right. I'll be all right.
I'll be all right. . .
By tomorrow I'll be fine. . .

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