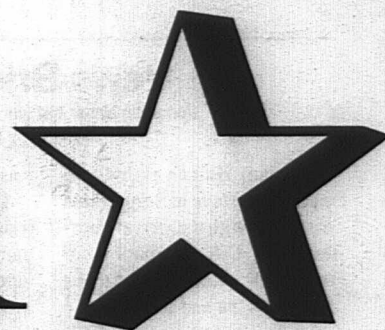


THE HOUGHTON STAR

Volume 91.9
February 14, 1997



LOCAL EVENTS

Feb. 15

*Trail talk: "The History of Taughannock Falls," 1 p.m., meet at head of trail on Rt 89, FREE, (607)387-7041

Feb. 15-16

*Buffalo City Ballet, "Firebird/ Mixed Repertoire," Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m., Rockwell Hall, BSC, \$8 - \$10

*Star show: "The Universe Tonight," Sat. & Sun. 1 p.m., Sat. 7:30 p.m., RMSC, \$2.50 - \$4, 271-4552

*Laser show: "American Music in Laser Light," 3 p.m., RMSC, \$2 - \$5, 271-4552

Feb. 19

*Lecture: "Completing the Copernican Revolution: The Search for Other Planetary Systems," Dr. David C. Black, 8 p.m., RMSC, \$8.50, 271-4552

Feb. 20

*Star show: "The Universe Tonight," 7:30 p.m., RMSC, \$2.50 - \$4, 271-4552

Feb. 21-23

*Theater: "The Children's Hour," Fri, Sat 8 p.m., Sun 2 p.m., NC, \$6 - \$8, 389-2170

*Star show: "The Universe Tonight," Sat. & Sun. 1 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 7:30 p.m., RMSC, \$2.50 - \$4, 271-4552

Feb. 22

*Trail Talk: "Signs of Life," 1 p.m., head of trail on Rt 89, (607)387-7041

*Laser show: "70s Laser," 10:15 p.m., RMSC, \$5, 271-4552

Feb. 23

*Choral vespers & organ recital, 4:30 p.m., Downtown United Presbyterian Church, Rochester, free will offering, 325-400

KEY:

BSC = Buffalo State College, Performing Arts Center
NC = Nazareth College, Rochester

RMSC = Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester

QUOTATION OF THE WEEK

"Eat a live toad the first thing in the morning, and nothing worse will happen to you the rest of the day."

-- Unknown (but thanks to *The Wheaton Record*)

"Daniel" Visits Chapel

Jon Makay

"In your honor, Christ, This Play of Daniel was written at Beauvais, when we were young." This was the introduction to the 12th century play, "Daniel and the Lions", which was recently performed in Wesley Chapel.

The other four stops along the short tour were Albuquerque, N.M., Los Angeles, Calif., Rochester, N.Y., and Calgary, Alberta.

Sung in Latin, the play was given by the Ensemble for Early Music (EEM). The group was founded in 1974 by Frederick Renz, a pioneer in the early medieval music/drama genre.

The cast of "Daniel and the Lions" consisted of a mixture

of colourful, enriching, and extremely talented persons. It was a cast of males playing all roles, female roles included.

The EEM performs music from the 10th-14th centuries, which grew from music and liturgy within church services.

Being adept at all forms of music and music-drama from the 12th to the 18th centuries, Mr. Renz is able to maximize his position as producer and director of "Daniel and the Lions". Along with the EEM, Frederick Renz has also led the New York's Grand Bande to preeminence in its field.

The EEM sprung from the ashes of the legendary New York Pro Musica which dis-

banded in 1974. It tours annually the U.S. and the world for 24 years. The Ensemble has performed in Athens, Brisbane, Charleston, Cracow, Jerusalem, Paris and Rome.

The EEM is in residence at New York's Cathedral of Saint John the Divine's, where it presents an annual subscription series before sold-out audiences.

The performers are from all over the States, drawn to New York with the dream of singing and acting. The cast also consists of an array of religious backgrounds and holdings. Among them are those who claim the name of Christ, those of the Jewish persuasion, and a few with Buddhist leanings.

Emberdaze Introduces Debut Album in Concert

Rhett Stuart

Emberdaze played live in concert on Jan. 25 in Houghton's chapel. Garrison Roberts, lead singer for the alternative Christian rock band, belted and screamed his way through nearly a dozen hard driving songs.

The atmosphere was most eccentric, typifying Emberdaze's spirit of musical bacchanalia. The band, reeling with rhythms and rhymes they had created (or perhaps had created them), never once wavered in the relentless pursuit to entertain.

It was a paramount performance for the amateur group, considering their debut album "Steel Shine To Rust" was waiting in the wings. Now they are an established, self-advertised college musical group.

Never satisfied with useless



Brian Hicks plays a solo during a recent emberdaze concert. (Photo by Rhett Stewart)

stock criticism from fans, the band admittedly craves more in depth impressions from their initiatory evening.

While maintaining an original identity, they branched off throughout the concert in familiar songs by artists such as

U2, Sting, and REM. This stirred the pot in a big way with the fans at stage row crowd surfing (our own adorable Rob Boardman), moshing (not as entertaining without the nosebleeds, fellas), rushing center (con't - see Emb., pg. 2)

Laptop Questions Answered

Adria C. Willett

On Jan. 20, Dean Mannoia, Will Krause, Troy Martin, and Dean Danner held an open forum for students concerning the new Educational Technology Initiative (ETI) involving laptops for students.

Will Krause opened with an update. Last December, the computer department sent proposals concerning the laptop plan to computer manufacturers. They have received ten bids including each company's

hardware and model.

David Mee, Dan Bates, Ken Bates, Cynthia Symmons, Mike Stuber, Patty Smith, and Will Krause form the committee selected to review these bids and models. By mid-February, the committee hopes to announce its choice of companies and the approximate configuration of the plan and cost.

Once the final decision on the actual computer choice is made, next year's freshmen can

purchase them when they come for Welcome Weekend. Current students can also order them, but will not take them home until finals.

"I don't foresee any great increase in aid for students," said Troy Martin. However, he explained the computer and fees will be included in the overall college package and considered "aidable."

(con't -- see Forum, pg. 3)

Senate Report:

Steve Dobrenski

As we approach mid-semester, the Senate is working on several initiatives. The sophomore class has prepared a letter to address lighting on campus, and the Senate has approved its proposal to add street lights to a few locations. A copy of the letter is being sent to Ray Parlett and Dean Danner.

The Senate has welcomed Jason Leininger as the new CAB Commissioner of Finance. Also, transfer student Sarah Hylton was selected as the new Parliamentarian. The Senate appreciates their talents and experience.

Chris McNiven, Cabinet Policy Coordinator, has drafted a proposal concerning WJSL which Senate has recently adopted. After much discussion with Professor Manney, the Senate would like to present the proposal to the Houghton College Radio Corporation. For more information drop by the Senate office.

More recently, the Senate voted for a proposal to create a special fund for student projects. The specifics are still under review, but it is the hope to empower future students and provide funds for student generated ideas.

The Board Committee, with the help of student representatives Christine King and Sarah Buck, completed a survey in January to examine board plan options. The final plan will give students more flexibility with board plan options.

Finally, keep your eyes open for news concerning upcoming student elections. The general election is slated for March 10 so make sure you investigate the issues and the candidates. Remember that your vote is important.

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News Briefs

Jonathan Heller and Jim Roberts

(China) Human rights will take center stage in Beijing this past week with the arrival Tuesday of a U.S. delegation for talks with Chinese officials on human rights and trade.

(New York) New York Governor George Pataki spent Monday night at Albany Medical Center with minor injuries after the Chevy Suburban he was riding in collided with a refrigerated poultry truck.

(United States) Scientists say they will begin human trials early this year on a newly discovered compound that has eliminated flu symptoms in test animals within a day and without side effects.

(New Zealand) Scientists will lead a deep sea expedition off the coast of New Zealand in a quest to photograph the elusive giant squid.

(Florida) \$4.5 million in cash, which a motorist found packed in suitcases, safes, and plastic boxes alongside a road in Lee County, is believed to be linked to a heroin and cocaine ring in central Florida.

(United States) Star Wars returned to the big screen on Jan. 31, nearly 20 years after its first debut.

(United States) After 12 years as a quarterback for the Buffalo Bills, Jim Kelly announced his retirement from professional football.

(Rwanda) Five United Nations officials were gunned down on a road in Rwanda. The cars were clearly marked as U.N. vehicles and officials believe the attack was directed at the U.N..

(Columbia) Guerillas and government troops continue their war on the outskirts of Bogota, the nation's capital. At

least 25 have been killed.

(Ireland) Police have arrested Paul Ward, 32, for the murder of world-renowned Irish reporter Veronica Guerrin.

(Israel) Two Israeli helicopters collided, killing 73 troops.

(Oklahoma) A 15-year-old has been arrested for a series of attacks on an abortion clinic in Tulsa. The attacks began on New Year's Day.

(Alabama) Governor Bob James has refused a request to have a replica of the Ten Commandments and prayer removed from a courtroom in Gadsden and is willing to call out the National Guard to protect it.

(Peru) Three mediators have been sent in to end the hostage crisis at the Japanese embassy in Peru. One of the mediators, Canadian Ambassador Anthony Vincent, was among the original hostages.

(Florida) A train carrying 203 passengers collided with a tractor-trailer near Jacksonville. Only 15 people were injured and none were killed.

(Utica, N.Y.) A. Ray Calhoon, 104, formerly Houghton's oldest alumnus, died Jan. 17 at the Heritage Home. Calhoon attended Houghton Seminary then Houghton College.

Calhoon served in the Army during World War II and worked as a research chemist for Oneida Community Limited and Utica Radiator.

Calhoon served as principal, high school science teacher, and director of secondary education at various schools in the Utica and Saratoga Springs area.

Calhoon published an autobiography called, "Just One in a Million," and he published articles in education journals.

Lawyers Speak to Students

Adria C. Willett

Eight Houghton College alumni lawyers met with students and some faculty members during a recent banquet. The banquet, held on campus, provided a forum for the lawyers to discuss their profession with pre-law students.

Dr. William Doezeema, professor of history and a pre-law advisor, organized the discussion. About 30 students attended the banquet, which was sponsored by Houghton's Alumni Association.

The lawyers present included David Brautigam, solo practice in Houghton; Timothy Harner, general counsel of Upstate Milk Cooperatives, Leroy; Wayne Hill, associate with Saperston & Day, P.C., Rochester; Jamie MacCallum, Richardson & Pullen, P.C.; Thomas Miner, assistant county attorney for Allegany County; David Pullen,



Timothy Harner converses with pre-law students at a recent law banquet. (photo by Katherine Johnson)

Richardson & Pullen, P.C., Fillmore; Rhea Reed, associate professor of accounting and Houghton College attorney; and David White, partner with Sheffer, Murphy, and White, Williamsville.

During a question and answer time, the lawyers advised students in areas such as choosing a law school and combining

Christianity and law.

Doezeema introduced and honored Dr. Katherine Lindley, emerita professor of history. She was involved in setting up the pre-law program, which is based on law school admission expectations and requirements.

White said, "I found that what I had here [at Houghton] prepared me for law school."

Houghton Receives Money from Settlement

Holly A. Lawton

President Chamberlain announced that Houghton College has received an initial distribution of over \$323,000 from the Foundation for New Era Philanthropy bankruptcy settlement.

Dr. Chamberlain said the settlement was developed by the bankruptcy trustee with the assistance of many organizations, including United Response to New Era, a group representing more than 100 organizations that lost funds which New Era founder John G. Bennett Jr. had said would be matched by anonymous donors. Under the settlement, many organizations that received more money than they deposited with New Era have returned the funds, which allegedly came from the deposits of subsequent participants.

Houghton was among more than 30 non-profit corporations to file a lawsuit against Prudential Securities Inc. for its role as an escrow agent of New Era deposits. The suit maintained that Prudential's involvement lent credibility to

Bennett's operation.

According to President Chamberlain, a court agreement was reached combining settlement of the New Era bankruptcy case and the Prudential lawsuit. "The terms of this agreement terminate lawsuits against Prudential, as well as numerous suits that Prudential planned to initiate relating to New Era. Prudential has also agreed to pay the bankruptcy trustee \$18 million—\$16.2 million of which will be added to the amounts distributed to organizations whose deposits with New Era exceeded their returns and \$1.8 million for legal costs," Houghton's president explained.

He added that the bankruptcy trustee is now pursuing organizations that received more money than they deposited, but have not yet returned the amounts called for in the settlement. "This process may take some time," President Chamberlain noted. "The trustee currently projects that we may receive the next distribution of funds early this summer."

Houghton officials have been told that organizations participating in only the bankruptcy proceedings will receive about 85 percent of their initial deposits. Organizations, such as Houghton, that participated in both the bankruptcy and the lawsuit against Prudential will recover approximately 90 percent, after paying all legal fees.

"This settlement is far better than anyone projected when New Era collapsed in May 1995," Houghton's president remarked. "We are thankful that this case is being concluded without the years of litigation and the loss of assets that appeared probable when New Era first declared bankruptcy. We are grateful that the cooperative efforts of many individuals and organizations made this favorable settlement possible."

Since most of the \$1.5 million Houghton deposited with New Era came from realized gains in the college's endowment, President Chamberlain said that all recovered funds will be returned to the endowment.

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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 5:00 p.m. Wed., and they should be no longer than one typed double spaced page. The editors reserve the right to edit all contributions. The views expressed by the reporters and essayists of this publication are not necessarily in agreement with those of Houghton College.

Emberdaze

(Cont. from page 1)

stage and dancing about like little maniacs. At one point there formed in the corner a trio of "macarena-ing" females. This most likely gave certain band members the heebie-jeebies. The band's photographer was occasionally torn between shooting the

band and shooting hyped stage row fans.

Pleased with the night's outcome, the band retreats back to long hours in dim studios recording, writing and rehearsing. Houghton College has now seen and heard. Emberdaze is here.

WE NEED
SPORTS
WRITERS!
IF YOU ARE
INTERESTED,
CONTACT
THE EDITORS.

Lawrence Gives Recital

Doug Burns

To those who attend Houghton college, the name Nathan Lawrence is synonymous with the violin. Many who do not know him as a friend may recognize him from chapel services, recitals, a past "Spot" appearance, or his picture on the Internet home page. Chances are that if you were to visit the basement of the chapel, he would be there, playing inside one of the practice rooms.

On Jan. 22, Lawrence played in his sixth and final recital at Houghton College. Pianist Adelina Krivosheina, a distinguished accompanist, solo performer, and trusted instructor, assisted Lawrence throughout the recital. Violinist Michael Emery supplied Lawrence's other half in a violin duet. For the two to three hundred people who went, they will understand



when I say I was speechless.

There is a joke about violinists that states, "You have to practice the violin for years just to become bad." Lawrence demonstrated to everyone in the audience that he is a serious violin player. Serious enough to practice four hours a day, every day. He has been practicing and learning the violin for

ten years, and through the inspiration and special teaching of Michael Emery, he has evolved into an excellent solo performer.

Even though he was not especially content with this performance, the crowds were. A few professors confessed that never before had they seen as many people come for a student recital.

Lawrence explained that in the future he hoped to work as a solo performer in an orchestra, or work at getting a contract for the production of a CD. For now, Lawrence is content on working with an honors project, which in fact is aligned with part of his future goal: the production of a CD. He plans on finishing the homemade CD by graduation and releasing it for sale soon after that.

Cummings/Olles Speak in Chapel

Cara Gerhard

For those who attended chapel these words began the journey into the lives, faith and experiences of two distinctly different young women:

"Once upon a time in a nearby place there was a girl who believed that she was not important or valuable. She was not satisfied with who she was and had no respect for herself. Because of this she continually tried to find acceptance and love by doing and being what other people wanted her to be."

This is an excerpt from Senior Julie Cummings account of her Faith Journey. She drew a detailed picture of a girl who struggled with her own identity while desperately searching for the truth of God. This search finally ended when this character realized that all God ever wanted her to be is who He created her to be.

Julie admitted that she was terrified when David Lewis called and asked her to speak, but she realized it was a terrific opportunity. Indeed it was, if the sniffing and silent tears during her speech were any indication of the hearts that she touched.

The journey continued as Junior Katie Olles took the audience on a ride to Texas, the residence of a large family full of youthful life and vigor. This scene of contentedness was suddenly challenged when it was

discovered that Katie's mother had developed several cancerous tumors.

Katie described her heart-wrenching struggle with her mother's illness and the way in which her family dealt with it. It was not until after much questioning of God's reasoning that she was able to see that He had planned out the timing so her family was prepared when her mother finally passed away.

Katie said she was surprised to be asked to speak because she did not feel, at first, that she anything to say. She determined that she "just wanted to concentrate on God's grace and let Him sanctify whatever I said."

She was quite successful. There were very few, who have had the privilege of knowing and loving their mother, that did not leave the service praising God for this great blessing.

This chapel service was valuable because it contained so many messages for different people. One example in Julie's speech applies to all of us as Children of God:

"The God of Biblical faith is the God who meets us at the moments in which, for better or worse we are being most human, most ourselves... What we hunger for perhaps more than anything else is to be known in our full humanness, and yet that is often just what we also fear more than anything else."

Dayspring/ Godspeed Host Chapel

Michele Wingfield

Godspeed and Dayspring, two of Houghton's ministry teams, led worship in chapel with several energetic choruses, powerful dramas, and testimonies by team members on Feb. 3. Kristen Knutsen, of Godspeed, spoke of the wonder of God's grace before the final chorus, "Mercy is Falling."

Dayspring did three skits, sang the "little white box song," and team members Scott Jesmore and Christine Fitzgerald gave testimonies of their summer experience. For the final skit, Dayspring, Godspeed, and Heirborn members joined in "Total Eclipse of the Heart," a dramatization of God's power to break bondages.

Godspeed was formed last October to meet Houghton's need for a band focused on worship and youth. Besides leading worship in chapel and at CLEW services, the band has been taking their music ministry to churches on weekends. In June they will begin their summer music and drama ministry to camps and churches.

Using "musical talent to bring people to God" is the team's vision, says keyboardist/vocalist, Rob Boardman. Mike Tindall, drummer, says they hope to "create interest in



Members of Dayspring and Godspeed minister to the student body during a recent chapel. (Photo by Rhett Stewart.)

Houghton" during the weekend and summer trips. Vocalist Li-ana Weirich is excited about the opportunity to work with youth. Band members also include Will Couch, who plays bass, and Kristen Knutsen with guitarist Ben Coy on vocals.

In August, Dayspring's six members returned from eight weeks of youth ministry through music and drama at camps in the Northeast. The team worked as counselors, led worship and seminars, and helped camps with odd jobs as needed. Each member agrees that bonding within the team and interacting with ministry groups from Southern Wesleyan, Indiana Wesleyan, and Bethany Bible College made Dayspring a great experience.

"The summer was tiring and emotional, but it was worthwhile to see the kids respond," says Jill Knutelski.

Scott Jesmore, drama director and a second-year member of Dayspring, says "[You learn] how to deal with teens...and you get attached."

"[I] learned a lot about getting along...forgiving, and compromising," adds Lisa Bush.

Debbie Erickson, a December graduate, led the group. Christine Fitzgerald managed the team's accounts and shared driving "Beeper" (the van) with Avery Munger, who drove 3,000 of the nearly 5,000 miles Dayspring traveled. Avery and Lisa are considering joining Dayspring again this summer.

Olson Challenges Students

Jon Makay

On Feb. 5, the Great Commission plead to us during our usual, casual, mandatory chapel services. The words and commands of Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, Luke 24:46-48, and Acts 1:8 stood there in their in all their array: humble, yet forcefully compelling. Urgency was in their voices, almost tears. Very similar to the voice of their sister Wisdom. Within their musical and snapping appeal was the voice of the children and adults of the world, who have not been told, nor taught the message of love, rec-

onciliation, and the obedience to Messiah. Only those, perhaps, who tired of the burden of that voice, were not moved into the movement of submission and determinedness to some degree. Another being was present at this morning's gathering of worship. He was Scott Olson, the director of volunteer ministries of the Wesleyan church. His saxophone music was pleasing and good. But he played the more important role of being the medium of a higher being this day.

Forum

(cont. from page 1)

The decision has not been made if students will pay for the computers through the college or actually through the computer company.

"Upperclass students who choose not to buy into the program will not be severely disadvantaged," said Dean Mannoia. He added that faculty may expect use of the network and Internet, but it could be done through the existing labs.

Dean Mannoia forsee a paradigm shift in the classroom from faculty teaching to student learning. "We as faculty will have to learn to be collaborate in the learning process," he said. In addition to seminars with visiting software experts, workshops are available to teach faculty how to integrate computer technology into their classroom lectures.

When questioned about the

effects of new costs on incoming students, Dean Mannoia responded, "We don't know how many people are to be affected." He predicts people will see it as an attractive opportunity, but it will not bring dramatic changes.

"We are concerned with equipping students with the skills necessary for a world that is technology oriented," said the dean. He added, "In our minds, the vision is a good one."

Do you have questions about Houghton College's Educational Technology Initiative?

- computer use, software, hardware, etc. - call Technology Services, ext. 287
- academics, courses, curriculum, etc. - call the Academic Dean's Office, ext. 315
- financial aid eligibility - call the Financial Aid Office, ext. 328
- all other student, faculty and staff financial questions - call Vicki Bryant, ext. 322

RD/RDA/RA Life

Liz Nies

If you have never been the RA in a dorm or are not familiar with the details of the job, you may be surprised at the amount of time and work that goes into it. Many times the RAs and RDAs go unrecognized in terms of their abilities to carry a full coarse load as well as oversee the student life on a floor, or as in the case of RDAs, the student life of the entire dorm.

Selections for the '97-'98 year's RDA positions have already been made. In Shenawana, it will be Jason Leininger, in South Hall, Andy Thompson, in East Hall, Melissa Musick, and in Lambein, Jeanie MacCallum. This selection took place 3 weeks ago and was made by the current RD of each dorm, the current RDA, and Tim Nichols in the Student Development Office. According to Leininger, selection was based on an application, an interview conducted with the current RDA, his GPA, and a few essays he had to write on such issues as his spiritual life.

Duties of an RDA are fairly extensive, including the following: The RDA must be the supervisor of the Dorm Council, must be in charge of the front desk operations, be on duty

once a week and attend meetings regularly. Thompson, who has been an RA for two years, forsee the RDA position as "a different type of responsibility." Although many of the duties remain the same as that of the RAs, the RDAs act as a middle man between the RD and the RAs. S/he must help the RD in whatever way possible, doing work the RD may be too busy to do, and being "an RA to the RAs," as Thompson words it. All of the hard work is rewarded through free room and board, a 24-hour open house privilege in their own apartment, room to minister to people's needs at any time. Another duty of the RDA is to conduct interviews with and elect prospective RAs.

RA selection is based on the same process as RDA selection. They must fill out an application and be interviewed. A little different, however, is what is called "Carousel Day," in which all students attempting an RA position must rotate to different rooms of the dorm role playing, and telling about themselves and their lives to a group of prospective RAs while being evaluated. This allows the RDA to observe how the RAs will

work with people and how they will instigate authority.

According to Musick, who has also been an RA, the job is quite an extensive one. RAs must be available to talk with the students on their floor when needed, must be on duty once a week, attend weekly meetings of approximately two hours each, and meet with the RD once every two weeks. They must also uphold dorm rules and the Pledge, and hold floor activities monthly.

RA training takes place during Mayterm and a practicum is held once a week during the first eight weeks of the Fall semester. Musick claims to contribute "fifteen to twenty hours a week" to the responsibilities of being an RA.

Again, the job of an RA does not go unrewarded. RAs get a single paid room, use of an RA kitchen, open RA lounge, and a basic sense of trust from the RD and RDA.

Overall, the job of being an RA or RDA is not an easy one. A large amount of dedication and time must be given to the duties. A moral character is necessary, as well as a responsible and understanding nature.

Integrative Studies Lecture to Address Group Violence

Holly A. Lawton

Violence. You see it every day in the news and on television programs. You become accustomed to it, devoid of feeling.

A particularly moving account of the tribal violence in Rwanda jarred Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Karen Cianci from the reverie and caused her to examine group against group violence. Her findings will be the subject of an Integrative Studies lecture on April 17.

The purpose of this annual lectureship is to address a topic of current popular interest and national importance. The lecture will integrate multiple disciplines, faith and learning, and theory and practice.

The Houghton College Integrative Studies Collegium received external funding for the lectureship and invited faculty members to submit proposals last semester. The Collegium, chaired by Dr. John Van Wicklin, chose Cianci's proposal.

Her lecture will focus on the Rwandan violence, the Old Testament conquest of the city of

Ai recorded in the book of Joshua, and the systematic annihilation of one group of chimpanzees by another group in Tanzania's Gombe Reserve. Cianci will explore biological issues, including animal and human nature, as well as theological issues, such as divinely-sanctioned violence.

Two other faculty members, representing different disciplines, will respond to the lecture. Communication Professor Dr. Doug Gaerte will discuss the media and how it influences our view of violence. Religion Professor Dr. Carl Schultz will talk about the Biblical context of holy war.

Following the presentations, there will be time for audience participation and interaction with the speakers. Cianci, Van Wicklin and members of the Collegium hope this subject will stimulate thought and inspire dialogue.

Faculty are encouraged to incorporate the topic in classroom sessions leading up to the lecture. For more information, contact Cianci or Van Wicklin.

Outpost: BRAZZAVILLE, CONGO

Sounds. An important part of life here at our home.

The hammer and anvil sound of steel-wheeled wheelbarrows crossing railroad tracks at 5 a.m. with loads of fresh French bread for market... The early morning sweep sweep swish of brooms on cement, on dirt, cleaning courtyards, streets, and foot paths for a new day.

The doorbell. A friend, a patient, a beggar, waiting outside the gate, shifts weight from one sandled foot to the other... The scraping of metal on concrete as the gate opens into our courtyard.

"Balai, balai" a broom vendor passes by, holding his handiwork over his shoulder... The trudge trudge of recruits in boots running, chanting military songs... The beep beep rattle rattle of Toyota taxis rounding the corner.

Roosters, chickens, chicks scritch-scratching in dry leaves... Lizards scurrying across the window screen... Birds with a new song... Children laughing, playing, crying, chasing the chickens.

A machete chopping wood, clearing land.

Sticks being thrown at the mango tree, a soft thump, the scurry of children's feet running to claim fallen treasure... The shake shimmy shake of the pa-

paya tree as a passerby climbs and claims the yet unripe fruit... A melange of three or four languages being spoken, sung, shouted at once.

Empty LP gas bottles being rolled to the filling station along the bumpy dirt road. A kick from a flip-flopped foot every now and again.

The excited song of passengers drifts in and out over the thunder of the Express Train for Pointe Noire, finally under way... The POP POP of guns fired into the air discouraging fare-dodgers from jumping on the train.

The crackling of a fire burning a rubbish heap or clearing a garden across the way.

The gentle incessant thump thump of the neighbor woman pounding manioc roots into a powdery paste... The shrill sorrowful cry of a woman in mourning, wailing her way home from the hospital, spreading the sad news... Voices in song accompanied by hand made rhythm instruments from the house church across the alley.

The drone of electric fans... Dogs barking apathetically, howling, whining in the night, tormented by flies, maggots, on open sores on tattered ears... A baby crying in the night... Rain, mangos, safu, falling BANG!

on the tin roof... Our louvered windows rattling in rhythm with the heavy thump-thump of flat cars loaded with tropical hardwood trunks as wide as a man is tall.

Another day has come and gone. Have the sounds we've made made a difference here at our outpost? How 'bout at yours?

In His Service,
Joe & Becky (Jones) '88,
Olivia, Claire & Isabelle Harvey
Brazzaville, Congo

Jennifer Lytle

When SGA Vice-President Becky Tanner received a phone call over Christmas break, the Rochester chapter of the American Red Cross was desperate for blood. Their blood bank was almost wiped out, a very dangerous position during the holidays. Traditionally, SGA has sponsored a blood drive late in the semester. Becky, however, jumped into action when she heard of the urgent situation in Rochester.

On Tuesday, Jan. 21, SGA sponsored an emergency blood drive to help supply the Rochester American Red Cross with blood. Held in East Hall Lounge because of the continuing renovations to the Campus Center basement, it was a great success. One hundred and eighty

students, faculty, staff, and community members contributed their help, time, and most importantly, their blood. Fifty-nine pints were donated, exceeding the goal of 50-55. Of the donors, fourteen donated for the first time.

SGA would like to thank all those who took this opportunity to give blood. As the advertisements say, you are giving the gift of life. In addition, SGA would like to offer special thanks to all those who helped in organizing this blood drive.

For anyone who missed this chance to give, do not fret. Another blood drive is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9. Mark your calendars and watch for more details!

Don't Forget Your Valentine
Friday, February 14th

Flowers, Cards, Stuffed Animals, & more at...

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20s Club on Campus

Liz Niles

A coffeehouse sponsored by CAB took place at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 4. The theme was Manhattan in 1925. The music style portrayed the atmosphere of a downtown club in the twenties and consisted mainly of classical jazz.

The performers wore formal attire which would have been the style seen at such clubs during this time period. Garrison

Roberts, Jeff Klino, Dan Robinson and Ben Coy played the piano, bass, trumpet and saxophone. A variety of singers performed as well.

Coffee, tea and punch were served as well as real pastries from an Italian restaurant in Rochester. Although crowded, the time was enjoyed and the audience stayed until after 11.

Kristin Edwards, a member

of CAB, was in charge of last semester's coffeehouses as well as this semester's upcoming coffeehouses. There will be four more this semester, according to Edwards. On Feb. 18, the band Joshua Judges Ruth will be playing, and Feb. 25 will be a retro Seventies evening with open microphone. On March 4, a Minneapolis band, "Lounge Fly," will be performing.

KATHIE'S COOKING CORNER

Kathie Brenneman



(Photo by Rhett Stewart)

Since quite a few of you have liked cheese dip day at the Info Center and asked how to make it, I'll give you the recipe. You'll need:

a standard sized box of light or regular Velveeta Cheese
one jar of Pace picante sauce,
I use medium for the dip I make
cumin, cilantro

Cut the cheese into cubes or strips and put into large microwave dish. Microwave until cheese is almost melted, stirring frequently. You can add odds and ends of cheese you have. I used some cheddar and mozzarella also. Pour in the picante sauce and stir well until blended. Add 1/2 teaspoon to 1 teaspoon cumin and

either dry or fresh chopped cilantro.

If you are going to serve this right away, put in crockpot on low. Otherside, you can refrigerate and use later. It will take 2 hours or so if cold to heat in a crockpot.

Serve with tortilla chips, fresh broccoli, celery, carrot sticks, green and red pepper strips or crusty bread. A tasty treat!

Restaurant bulletin: Jac-N-Mary's has reopened after being closed the month of January.

For all you who love maple syrup and pancakes, Maple Tree Inn opens Thursday morning for the season. It will close around mid-April. This restaurant is a local treasure and if you like maple syrup, you must make the effort to go to this cozy restaurant. Maple syrup is made on the premises. Directions are at the Info Center... a 20 minute trip from campus.

Vocation: Some Personal Reflections

Duane Saufley, Ph.D., professor of physics and earth science

Because it is difficult to argue with personal experience, I will share that. My first vocational advice came from my father when I asked him what I should select to study in high school. "Take the hardest courses you can get." In high school I worked on all of my courses but enjoyed most the challenges of science and math. At the same time, I was challenged by a number of young pastors (youth leaders) to dedicate my life for God's service. Unfortunately for me, this challenge was always implied to be "pastor" or "evangelist" so, to be obedient to a perceived call, I considered this as I entered college. I received my undergraduate education as a commuter to a state university majoring in mathematics and physics and after four years became a "teacher" and not a "preacher. I also began walking the road of life with Barbara and now together we must find "vocation." After teaching high school for a couple of years and obtaining a masters degree from Cornell University, I was headed for a teaching position in my famil-

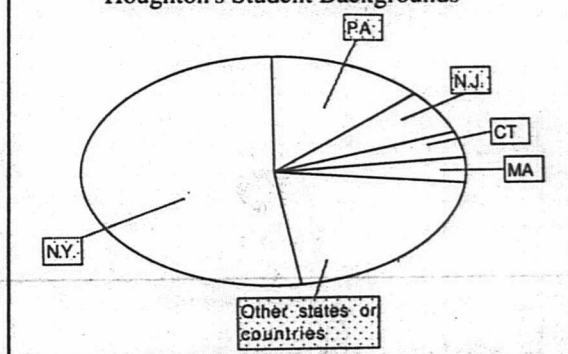
iar territory - public schools and state colleges. Through circumstances beyond my control or rational plans (this would take several paragraphs to tell), I became a faculty member at a place of which I had heard only remotely, Houghton College. During the intervening years Houghton - college and community - has been "vocation" for Barbara and me.

So, what is vocation? Quantum mechanics and relativity are not the important messages of life although they may occupy much of my time and extend from my official title. The important message of life is love, love as in a mutual relationship that purposely, willingly, and creatively accepts, cares for, and promotes the other. The common experience of all people is relationship - parent, child, husband, wife, best friend, casual acquaintance. We bring to our relationships different levels of involvement, interest, care, and personal commitment. Those I care about most involve my "heart" (the real me) most deeply. The more deeply I care

about a relationship, the more deeply I am "heartbroken" over its failure. Relationships are broken in two ways. Death takes away from us cherished relationships, but many times our more painful and persistent anguish comes because the one we desire to love (and love us) willfully chooses to reject us and walk away. All of us have experienced this in some way and this experience is a parable to help us understand the broken heart of God that occurs when we reject the relationship He desires to have with us. God so loved us - that is the message. Vocation is simply the way we tell the message.

If we are willing to become agents of the King to proclaim His good news of love, I am convinced that He will order our lives in exciting and satisfying ways that far exceed our feeble plans. Barbara and I often marvel at the lives we have lived, the things we have learned and enjoyed, and the fulfillment of situations that from our humble origins we could never have dreamed.

Houghton's Student Backgrounds



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Are you a senior? Consider writing a SENIOR ESSAY for the last issue of the Star. Let us know if you would like to contribute.

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11 a.m. Worship

6 p.m. Evening worship

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Call Lois Wing at x328.

See Prof Wing -- AB 112 -- for transport or information

Winter Weekend Update

Karin Francis & Lauren Knoll

Everyone who thinks there is nothing to do in Houghton on the weekends... THINK AGAIN! Winter Weekend '97 is here and it is gonna be out of this world! In actuality it is taking place all week with class competitions, free food, great music, entertainment, and stuff to do all weekend.

Intramural class competitions kick off the week with the championship games on Saturday, Feb. 15. Friday night

groove to the tunes after the Artist Series at The Planet Party Coffeehouse - 10 p.m. in the AB atrium...FREE FOOD (desserts and coffee), and live entertainment. "BOB" is coming from Indiana University of Pennsylvania to make this one party you do not want to miss!

Saturday, the class intramural championships determine the winners. The women's basketball team plays Carlow College at 3 p.m. Know how to

dunk? Try your hand in the dunk competition at half-time.

Who is Sadie Hawkins? Well, whoever she is, she has made it possible for all you ladies to ask a guy to be your date to the Intergalactic Gala, Saturday night at 7 p.m.

Finally, finish the fabulous weekend with the SPOT, hosted by some of the best and funniest guys on campus, at 10 p.m. in the chapel! Don't miss out on the weekend of activities!



Editor's Mail Bag

Excuse Me God, But Why Am I American?

Jessica Filkins

Dear *Star* editors and the Houghton community,
Regarding "Celebration Still Growing" *Star* 1/24:

We are thankful to God for mercifully allowing us to be involved in His ministry in Celebration. I want to compliment the *Star* reporter, who interviewed us about Celebration, for her understanding and gracious spirit. No doubt due to my inexperience with interviews, I gave the wrong impression on a couple of matters that I hope to clear up.

First, it is not our impression that Celebration is growing. I think attendance has remained fairly constant for several years. (We try not to be concerned about the size of the group.)

Second, Wendy and I share the responsibility for leading Celebration with my folks Jake and Shirley Jacobson, along with Tim and Kathy Trezise, Kathy Christensen, Greg Bish, Laurie Smalley, and Jeff Holcomb.

Third, my reference to I Corinthians 14 as a model could easily be misunderstood if one were to examine the chapter. It describes a gathering very unlike Celebration. My reference was intended to focus on verse 26: "When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation..." We do want everyone to have an opportunity to minister to others, whether it be to an individual or to a group, as the Holy Spirit leads. This is why Cel-

ebration is set up so anyone can share, read a scripture, present a prayer request, give testimony, pray, or request a song.

Finally, the reference to legalism could sound as if I think I "have it all together." In fact, I have an on-going struggle with legalism. Whenever I sin (which is frequently), my inclination is to conclude that now I need to earn my way back to God. I mistakenly think that if I could just do better for God, He would be happy with me again. I've chased that carrot many, many times. This was the problem addressed by Paul in Galatians 3. The people started with the Spirit, but were persuaded to switch to human effort and to observing the law, hence "legalism." I want Celebration to provide an opportunity for God to open the eyes of our hearts so that we may know the hope to which He has called us. I want us to receive His power in our inner being so that we can grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. The song "Mercy is falling" has such a simple lyric, and yet it contains a difficult challenge for me: am I willing to receive His mercy or will I insist on trying to earn His favor?

I hope this will be helpful to anyone who may have misunderstood the Celebration article.
Sincerely,
Rob Jacobson

To Houghton,

Hey! You may not know it or wish to acknowledge it, but there are jockeys at Houghton College. We sit next to you in class, live in your dorms, and may even be serving in the ROTC. We hear all the jokes you tell. (What do you call a family of horse-racers? Jockeyshorts!... Yeah, real funny.) These insults are like bullets that graze us. They hurt. We don't know what bred this unbridled resentment. The last thing we want to do is stir up trouble, but all the horsing-around at our expense really mounts up. All we want is a stable environment. I'm willing to bet the mare of Buffalo, who has jockey ancestry, wouldn't appreciate this foaling around. We are no different from you, besides being half your height. Sure we may be giddy up to a point, but that's no excuse to brand us as freaks. In conclusion I'd like to take the words from the late Thomas Equinus and say: "Canter we all just git along?"
Mane withheld by request



Dear Editor,

I'm Lou, a 26 year old first time offender here at the Hendry Correctional Work Camp. I have no family or friends and it sure gets lonely in here! It would really make me happy if I could make some friends through your newspaper. If anyone wishes to write, I'll answer all letters!

Sincerely,

William Triplett #890923
Work Camp, Box 2113
Hendry Correctional Inst.
12551 Wainwright Drive
Immokalee, Florida 34142

Culture shock. Very fascinating words for anyone who has ever experienced a foreign culture. According to my own personal definition, culture shock is the heart pounding, gut wrenching, and brain stressing experience of adapting to a culture different from one's own.

In 1986 my parents moved to Spain. I was ten years old, and being a missionary was exciting stuff. Crowded buses, nude beaches, and food that stared back at you from your dinner plate. Different, but not brain stressing, heart pounding, or gut wrenching. Mom and Dad took care of the worrying part.

As the years passed, my American culture took a back seat to Spain and its people. I listened to Spanish music, ate Spanish food, wore Spanish clothes, and thought with a Spanish mind. America made me uncomfortable, as did its culture, people, and opinions.

Culture shock had become a reality, not just some abstract

concept my parents discussed over dinner with other Americans. When confronted with such oddities as baseball games, malls, McDonalds, and wearing stockings in 100 degree weather, my tendency was to break out in a cold sweat and run the other way.

When my acceptance letter from Houghton College arrived in the mail, I felt like a French aristocrat receiving an invitation to tea with Madame La Guillotine. Packing my bags and boarding a plane for New York would mean saying goodbye to friends I had known since fifth grade. Just thinking about it made my heart pound, my brain stress, and my stomach do cartwheels. Culture shock.

I became a bitter person, rotten with the hatred and sorrow of supposed rejection. God had cheated and deserted me when I needed Him most. In America, the cars were big, the food boring and processed, the people obnoxious and shallow, and their cloths not at all European.

My body was in the United States, but I had left a vital organ in Spain. My heart.

As much as I would like to say that everything is now fine and dandy, I can't. There are times when I would kill for some real coffee and a sidewalk cafe. The ache of missing Spain has not disappeared as everyone told me it would. Frankly, I do not enjoy being American.

To cope with this pain I have learned to surround myself with those from other cultures. My friends have spent their lives in places such as Africa, the Philippines, Barbados, Japan, Haiti, Guam, Ecuador, Brazil, and Hong Kong. I thank God for the friends He has given me. Together we have laughed, cried, and dared to dream. Someday I will appreciate my American heritage. Until then, God's promise from Isaiah 49:16 will be my comfort and source of strength.

"I will not forget you. I have carved you into the palms of My hands."

Tax Filing: The Telefile Way

If you want to learn how you can file your taxes between ordering a pizza and going to pick it up, keep reading. The IRS has created a new program to allow you to do just that.

The IRS developed TeleFile in order to take advantage of new technologies. You can now file your taxes over your telephone. It is the fastest and easiest way to file your tax return.

There is no paperwork or math involved. All you have to do is call the special toll-free number and input the correct

numbers as instructed by the voice prompts. The computer handles all the calculations. In under ten minutes, your income taxes will be filed and you can go get that pizza. Your refund will come faster than if you file through the traditional paper method. You may also select the Direct Deposit option so your refund can be deposited into your checking or savings account. Now you do not have to wait for the mail carrier to deliver your refund check.

You can use TeleFile if your

tax package comes with the big TeleFile logo on the front cover. We all want our refunds fast and this is the way to do it. TeleFile is easy and saves your valuable time. If you are a college student who receives financial aid, just give your financial aid office a copy of your signed TeleFile worksheet with your conformation number as proof of filing your taxes. TeleFile is just another way that you can utilize today's technology to make your life easier.

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All majors welcome!

Parents' Discovery Night at Houghton Academy

Find out about Houghton Academy's academics, its ministry, and the option of Christian education.

When: February 24, and March 10

Time: 7:00pm

Where: Rosemary Tysinger Auditorium at Houghton Academy

Who: Parents of students who will be in grades 6-12 in '97-'98 school year

Scheduled events for the night include a tour of the academy's facilities, a panel discussion with both teachers and parents of current students and refreshments to close out the evening.

To RSVP or for more information call Houghton Academy at 567-8115.



Her Coin: Global Neighbors I. Our Inheritance

L.J. Arensen

Christianity is a religion which destroys isolationism, a religion which calls our fellow human beings neighbors, a religion whose Messiah radically associated himself with oppressed and suffering humanity. Christ placed responsibility upon our shoulders, a mantle we cannot shrug off. How we treat our fellow human beings, he states in Matthew 25, is how we treat God. However, we American Christians are remarkably reluctant to accept any sort of responsibility beyond that pertaining to our present physical actions. But this is simply not enough: we are part of a religion which speaks of a vast community, a mysterious entity called the church.

We are told to recall wit-

nesses, saints from our past. We are part of a heritage, and we bear responsibility for the failures as well as the successes of our ancestors. As the editors of *Inheriting Our Mother's Gardens* write: "We all have an inheritance, whether we have claimed it or not."

I am Christian, western, and American. I must acknowledge the responsibility I bear as a part of these multiple heritages. We cannot continue on without knowing our past, regardless of how shameful that past may be. For instance, a western Christian who promotes missions has a responsibility to recognize the often appalling history of missions. Past Christian practice towards unbelievers was often

extreme--Jews and Moslems were enemies of the faith, infidels; the medieval crusades stand as a horrendous monument to one Christian form of interaction with other cultures. For centuries, Christianity preferred swords to ploughshares. During the Reformation, the Anabaptists were slaughtered by Protestants and Catholics alike--one of their radical suggestions being that Christians should not be taking up swords to settle their differences. Moving forwards in history, we find the most vigorous period of Western missionary efforts corresponded with Western colonial expansion: the "Gospel" often came hand in hand with racism, domination and destruc-

tion of indigenous cultures. Christian triumphalism reigned. That many indigenous churches around the world have chosen to retain Christianity at all is nothing short of a miracle.

The faith I claim has repeatedly turned a blind eye or actively participated in the oppression and death of thousands upon thousands of our fellow human beings; the culture I claim has done the same. One may insist that all nations/religions/cultures have committed atrocities, and therefore we need not feel too badly. However, the universality of wickedness is not an escape hatch God seems to embrace. We cannot build a future without knowing and owning the responsibility

of our often horrific heritages. I must tread with the greatest humility; if I am told that I am an oppressor, I must stop and listen, for all too often this accusation has been true. For me to dismiss, ignore, or refuse to listen would mean continuing a great and sinful part of our legacy. If we are to enter the global dialogue of our time, sacred and secular--if we are to hear and speak with our neighbors, we must stop playing dumb. We must stop ignoring our heritage: in our lives, in our churches, and in our nation.

Note: Etty Hillesum's memoir is correctly entitled *An Interrupted Life*, not *An Unexpected Life*.

Women's Soccer Works Off-Season

Erin Warren

After winning the conference championship, losing to Green Mountain in the regional tournament, and having a two month recuperation period, the Highlander Varsity soccer women are joining forces with the undefeated JV women and are tying up their dusty indoors again.

With the loss of five seniors, the women's soccer team is working twice a week in their two hour sessions to repair the missing links of the chain bonded 1st season. Junior and

future captain Christy Curtis states, "We're really going to miss them. The team will never be the same. Beside being strong players, they were good leaders and good friends. It will take a lot of practice and hard work to try and replace them." When senior Becca Outt was asked how she feels now that the season is over, she jokingly added, "It's the end of the world as we know it."

The women will be hosting an indoor tournament March 1

with schools such as Roberts Wesleyan and Pitt-Brad. After this the women will be striving to fulfill their vigorous summer workouts in preparation for next year's season. This is a time for the team to bond without the pressures of school, and it is a time to welcome and get to know the new recruits. Last year, freshman Andrea Potteiger was one of those recruits. She says, "Although the triple sessions were hard work there was a real enjoyment in learning about the game and about each other."

The Vagrant Within

Matthew Essery

I am majoring in biology, and I spend many long hours reading science texts and journal articles concerning past and current theories which aim to describe reality. The assumption made by any honorable scientist is, "If a new theory (when tried and tested) describes reality more completely than the old theory then it must be accepted and the old must be rejected." The flow of ideas and empirical data is so immense that the science community is constantly on its toes critiquing ideas, rejecting old ideas for new ones, or reaffirming old ideas.

This flexible, truth seeking attitude should be encouraged in all disciplines, but why is it that so often this idea is not applied to Christianity? Recent history has revealed too often a dogmatic, inflexible attitude towards change. "Christians are close minded" is a phrase that I have heard innumerable times, but often is the truth. Just mention the words "evolution," "liberal," or "relativity" in anything less than a condemning tone and one of two things may occur. Either a hair raising silence will ensue and the conversation will awkwardly change to a more palatable sub-



(Photo by Rhett Stewart)

ject, or a barrage of well rehearsed dogmas and apologies will ravage the conversation. Whether out of pride or discomfort people generally do not like to change their minds. It is a very humbling experience for someone to confront the idea that they may have been wrong most of their lives. So, instead of suffering the humiliation of admitting that they were wrong, an unbreakable dogma may be formulated and used as a machine gun to destroy any idea that is uncomfortable. This defensive nature is not a healthy one for cultivating truth, deep relationships, flexibility or love.

Ideas, theologies, and theories are all tools, created by humans, which we use to understand what is real. These tools should not be so intimately linked to our selves that it hurts to give them up when a better

tool is presented to us.

Let me use gravity as an example. Before the equation $F=ma$ was ever thought of, the truth remained that on Earth elevated objects have a tendency to fall towards the Earth. When mathematicians and physicists came along to show how their formulas were more useful than the belief that gravity was magic, reality did not change (objects still fell towards the earth), but rather the description of reality changed. If a more accurate description of gravity were to be proposed, then $F=ma$ would quickly be outdated in favor of the better description.

My point is that when it comes to understanding God, the world and ourselves, there is no way that wisdom and knowledge will be increased if we cling so tightly to our own ideas that we cannot let them go for better ones.

Here are three steps to not being an overbearing, distasteful, insensitive Christian.

1. When you encounter new (and even weird) ideas, actually consider them.
2. If they are plausible, research them.
3. If they describe reality more accurately than your beliefs do, accept them.

THE STAR NEEDS WRITERS!! IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN GAINING EXPERIENCE WRITING WITH US, CONTACT THE EDITORS.

Are you interested in getting involved in the *Star*, *Boulder*, or *Lanthorn*?

These positions are available:

STAR: Editor-in-chief, managing editor, layout/photo editor (pending approval) and business manager

Qualifications: Each officer must have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5. The Editor-in Chief must have worked for the publication for at least two semesters prior to taking office. The Campus Activities Committee may grant exceptions to these qualifications if necessary, but must personally interview all candidates to ascertain their fitness. Other qualifications are pending approval.

BOULDER: Editor-in-chief, photo editor, layout editor, and business manager

(See Jill Herman for qualifications)

LANTHORN: Editor-in-chief and business manager

(See Kirk Shillinger for qualifications)

To run for one of these positions, contact Lawrie Merz, ext. 607.

Vegetables' Heyday

Dave Barry

Two dramatic recent developments have demonstrated, once again, why these are such exciting times in which to be a vegetable.

For openers, scientists have finally realized one of humanity's oldest dreams -- the dream of creating, in the laboratory, a potato that commits suicide.

If you don't believe me you should dig out your Oct. 24, 1996, issue of *Machine Design* magazine and check out the article on page 139, sent to me by alert reader Mark Mielke, concerning work being done by leading potato scientists in Cologne, which as you know is a city in France or Germany or possibly Belgium.

But wherever it is, Cologne contains the Max Planck Plant Breeding Institute, where scientists have been messing around with potato genes. Genes are little items that are found in every living thing ex-

cept Sen. Alfonse D'Amato. As most of us recall from biology class, a gene can be either "dominant" or "recessive," depending on which type of gene it is. With this knowledge and a pair of very tiny pliers, scientists have modified a potato so that, if it catches a fungus disease, it will cause itself to die. (I did not follow the technical details of how the potato does this, although we can probably rule out firearms, because many states, despite the clear intent of the U.S. Constitution, no longer allow vegetables to obtain handguns without a "cooling-off" period.)

The question is: Is it morally right to make potatoes commit suicide? Potatoes are, after all, living organisms that perform the same basic life functions as humans -- growing, reproducing and purchasing state-lottery tickets. Can we look a potato square in its eyes and say that we have the right to "play god"

this way? And once we do this to potatoes, what is to stop us from doing it to other species? Every day, in TV commercials and magazine advertisements, we see close-up color pictures of the feet of human beings who are suffering from the heartbreak of toe fungus. Are we going to start putting suicidal potato genes into these people? I hope so, because those pictures are disgusting.

We also need to give serious thought to the issue of radicchio. I don't know about you, but I hate it when I order a salad, and instead of some nice, green lettuce, I get these scrawny sprigs of radicchio, which is Italian for "tastes so bad that even a starving goat spits it out." If we're going to make ANY vegetable suicidal, this is where we should start.

But enough about killing vegetables. What about the other side? What about the issue of HEALING veg-

etables, specifically tomatoes, through prayer? This issue recently was the subject of an experiment, which I absolutely swear I am not making up, conducted by Jay Ingram, who does a science show on the Discovery Channel on Canadian TV. According to newspaper articles sent in by several alert Canadian readers, the experiment involved six tubs of tomatoes, some of which had been punctured and infected with tomato blight. Some of the tomatoes were visited by healers, who, according to Ingram, directed "healing thoughts" toward them. The public was also invited to "think powerful healing thoughts when the tomatoes are periodically shown on your TV screens."

The results, according to the show's World Wide Web site -- [http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/\(tilde\)yliv/tomato.html](http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/(tilde)yliv/tomato.html) -- were as follows:

"In the three tubs that had good thoughts sent to them, the

average size of the wound was virtually the same as the wounds on the tomatoes in the control group. However, of the three tubs of tomatoes prayed for, one tub was interesting in that the size of the wounds was the smallest of the six tubs. What is the explanation for this? Is it simply biological variation? Or, is there something else at work here? More tightly controlled experiments would need to be conducted to explore this outcome."

So there you have it: A definite "We don't know" form the groundbreaking Canadian tomato-prayer experiment. The Web site does not say what happened to the tomatoes, but it would not surprise me in the least to see them on TV advertising their new psychic hotline.

Meanwhile, all this research has aroused my scientific curiosity. I'm going to go conduct a tightly controlled experiment to see what happens when you put ketchup on fries. Pray for me.



Social Commentary

Dave Johnson

Instead of subjecting you, the reader, to me, the moron, jabbering on about trivial nonsense I thought I would jabber on about trivial rubbish. I've decided to offer a few helpful hints on the issue of fire safety that you may be able to use in the event of an emergency or at the very least as icebreakers. ("Excuse me honey, did you know that a third degree burn left untreated will fester and bubble in a matter of minutes?")

First of all, I would like to state that I am in no way a licensed physician or fireman, and have never slid down any poles, or ever owned a Dalmatian, or possess any working knowledge of medical protocol, and am probably making some if not all of this up. That aside I'd like to begin with Step 1 -- Fire Identification.

In the event of a fire one should always locate the fire in question and then determine if it is in fact a fire or merely an acid flashback. In order to be completely assured that you are indeed dealing with a fire, I suggest using the officially

licensed Fire Identification Test Kit, available at pharmacies, wholesale clubs, and Dairy Queens. Simply remove the tester from its plastic sheath and hold it in the test subject for thirty seconds to a minute and a half. Remove, soak it in the special chemical compound, and wait two hours. If the line is pink, you do not have a fire and were probably sniffing paint thinner. If the line turns blue then you are dealing with a real fire. Proceed immediately to Step 2 -- Fire Containment.

There are several ways to contain a fire successfully. If your house is equipped with a sprinkler system or CO2 shower then there should be no need to panic. If you are lacking these systems, after panicking, you should try heavy salivation and constant exhalation towards the fire. If the fire is small, smothering it with a blanket is recommended, unless the blanket is soaked in lighter fluid, then it is not recommended. Lastly, never ever try to put out a fire with large amounts of wood. I'm speaking from experience.

Of course, the best defense against fire is definitely precaution. Good fire safety devices include smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, small dogs tied to furniture, and super sensitive fire detector cones. These cones are so sensitive that if they were hit by, say, a poorly thrown glove, then the entire building becomes enveloped in a horrific sound resembling a goose being beaten with a pipe wrench or, even worse, Fran Drescher's voice. Mapping out emergency fire escape routes also helps. Here's a good example:

Run with your hands waving in the air screaming, and hurl yourself through the nearest window.

I hope that these tips help to increase your understanding of the severity of fire and how to cope with it. Remember, even though fire is really interesting looking and colorful it is a merciless creation bent on destruction, agony, terror, and property damage; kind of like the WWF.

Hopkins/ Stam win Equestrian Competition

It is with great pleasure that the Houghton College Equestrian Program shares the following news: On Saturday, Feb. 1, Houghton students Heather Stam and Tricia Hopkins traveled to High View Farm in Pittsford, N.Y. They were accompanied by Heather's horse, Buy George, Houghton College lesson horse, Tank, moral support in crew of Courtney Howard, Becky Lloyd and Mariah Petersen, and coach J. Young.

Heather and Tricia entered the \$500 HSM Packaging Jumper Stakes, competing over a tight, twisty course of 3'9" fences

against a field of eight other competitors vying for the prize money, including High View Farm's own professional trainer, Mark Frohm. Both gals guided their mounts to clean rounds and went clean in the jump off with fast enough times to place third (Heather) and fourth (Tricia) and to win a very healthy piece of the prize money. Congratulations, ladies, for beautiful application of the knowledge and skills you have been polishing in professor C. Daggett's Hunter Seat Equitation class!

