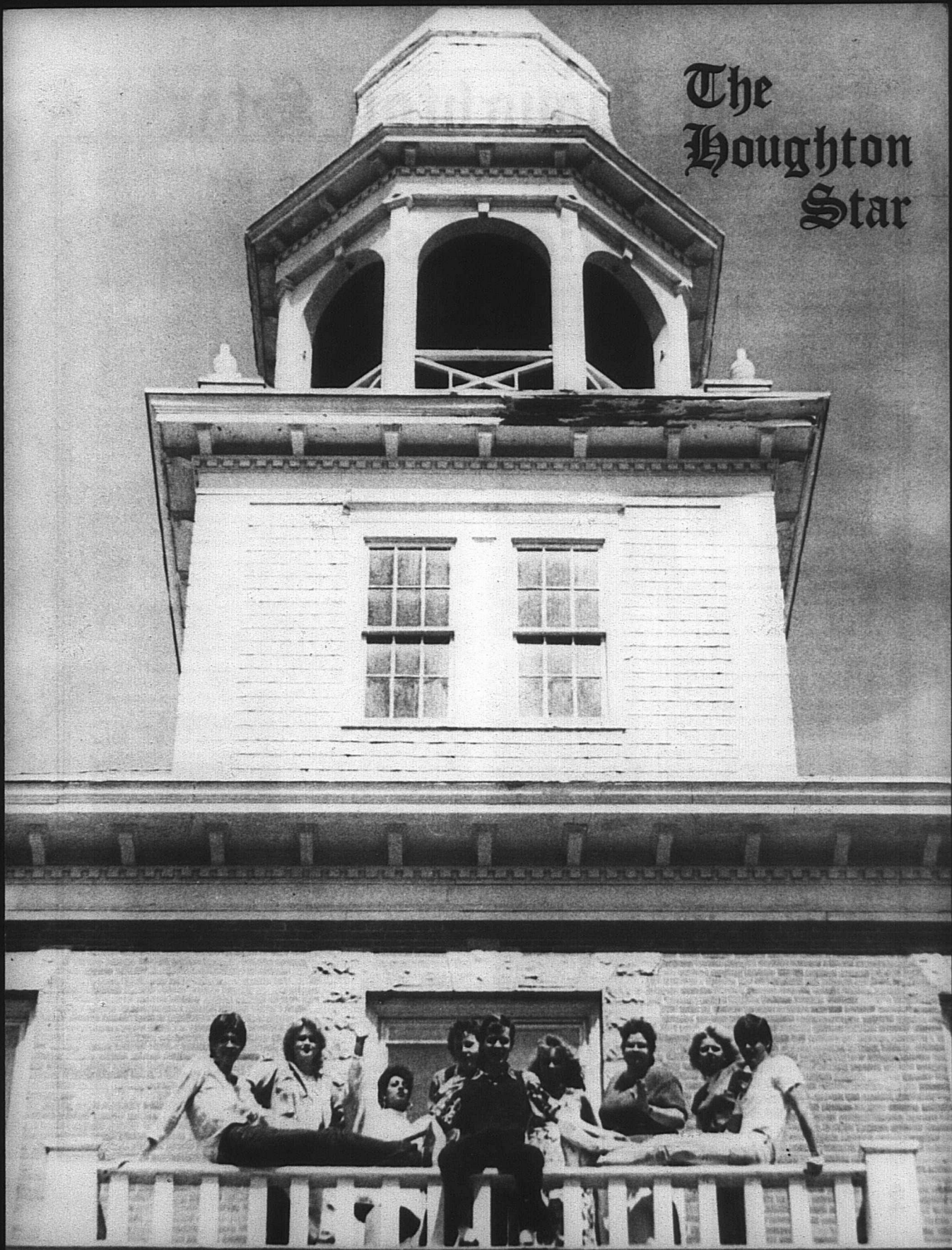


The Houghton Star



The Houghton Star

Senior Essays



"I wished I was home..."

Sitting there in the crowded Chapel with a few newly-made friends around me, I wished I was home in my small, familiar church. The message said what I needed to hear and I enjoyed singing the hymns, but afterwards all the college students (including me) left quickly to go to dinner. I was too shy to reach out to any adults, and I didn't stay long enough to give them a chance to reach out to me.

Being away from my blood family and my church family, I had a great need as a freshman to have caring adults reach out to me. As I said, I never gave them a chance, but even if I had, there is such a large ratio of students compared to adults in our Houghton Wesleyan Church that it is difficult for the adults to get to know many students personally and "adopt" them as part of their family. Yet I believe there is a great need for this type of closeness. In this vulnerable time of our lives, we need more than just the support and counsel of equally struggling friends. Many students are glad to get away from adult involvement in their lives, yet we need those who have lived through the struggles and decisions we now face.

Many students may have found that the Houghton Wesleyan Church meets their spiritual needs. They have found spiritual counsellors and families to feel a part of and as a result have matured spiritually during their college stay. Yet some have not found the spiritual guidance in such a personal way which they have longed for while away from their home church. Some have wanted to put forth the effort to feel an integral part of this large church, yet since they were not used to such a large church family, were unsure and overwhelmed and resigned themselves to just learning from the sermon and then going on with life.

For those who feel this way, as I did, there is an alternative. By attending a small local church in the vicinity of Houghton, I have gained a family away from home that I'll always feel welcome at. Others also have found smaller local churches to be what they needed. Included in this number are the students who attend the early service at the Houghton Village Church. The following list provides some other services and a name to contact for more information.

Cuba First Presbyterian Church, 25 minutes away
John Osterhout, ext. 279, Box 1319
Sunday School: 9:30, Worship: 10:30
Belfast Free Methodist, 20 minutes away
Liz Hitchcock, ext. 378, Box 983

Sunday School: 10:00, Worship: 11:00
First Baptist Church of Hume, 10 minutes away
Bill Dunkerly, 567-8265, Box 698
Sunday School: 9:45, Worship: 10:45
The Salvation Army
Sue Knickerbocker, ext. 384, Box 1075
Services in Wellsville, Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse
Richburg Seventh-Day Baptist, 40 minutes away
Becky Saunders, ext. 374, Box 1438
Saturday Service, Song Service: 10:15, Worship: 10:30
Daystar Full Gospel Church, 40 minutes away
Jay Hart, ext. 273, Box 1017
Sunday School: 9:45, Worship: 11:00
Central Baptist Church of Yorkshire, 35 minutes away
Kerri Crowley, ext. 382, Box 654
Sunday School: 9:30, Worship: 10:30
Higgins Wesleyan Church, 15 minutes away
Shawn Hotchkiss, 567-2591, Box 984
Sunday School: 10:00, Worship: 11:00
Pioneer Christian Fellowship, 30 minutes away
Phil and Cheri Behe, 567-2689, intra-campus to Phil Behe
Sunday School: 9:30, Worship: 10:30
Hallsport Wesleyan Church, 40 minutes away
Chuck Wheeler, ext. 273, Box 1687
Sunday School: 9:30, Worship: 10:45

For a complete listing of area churches, the Yellow Pages of "The Complete Telephone Directory" (covering areas of Olean, Alfred, Fillmore, Wellsville, Salamanca, Boliva, Cuba, and Franklinville) is available at East Hall desk, and the Saturday Olean Times-Herald can be found in the library. Over one-hundred churches of various denominations within an hour travelling distance of Houghton offer diverse worship experiences to students. As students participate in another church, they will have new experiences and ideas to contribute to the larger community of Houghton, thus increasing both faith and learning in the form of creative discussion. As each student hears a different message and fellowships with adults not connected with Houghton, they will increase their understanding of their own faith.

The families from the small community church I attend have given their lives to me as if I would always be a part of their church family. As they reached out to me, I became involved in their lives too, finding a steadfastness in these relationships which provided stability throughout my sometimes confusing and chaotic college years. I have been "adopted" by a few families in the church; their prayers and godly counsel have sustained me through some difficult times.

I believe faithful commitment to a local church is one of the most important factors in our Christian growth. The body of believers each of us is a part of provides the prayer support, counsel, accountability and genuine love that every Christian, and especially every college student, needs. Whether on campus or off, and whether a graduate or a returning student, the ties knitted together within a local church are important for spiritual maturing. As our roots grow deep in a church it will become increasingly difficult to leave our faith in Christ.

Shari Krissel



"... eight hours of sleep can do wonders..."

My time at Houghton has gone by unbelievably fast. As a Freshman I thought I had plenty of time to decide what I wanted to do with my life. As a Senior I still don't know what I want to do!

Coming to college has been a life changing experience. I am not the same person I was as a Freshman (Thank God!). I have learned so much both in and outside the classroom. Unfortunately it's taken me four years to learn things that I should have known as a Freshman, such as how to study, organize my time, and get enough sleep. It's amazing how eight hours of sleep can do wonders for one's health and sanity! I've also learned not to worry about grades — it's just not worth it. Two million years from now will I care that I failed a Music History quiz on Beethoven? (Will Dr. Huizenga care?)

Some of the highlights at Houghton have been Artist Series, plays given by the English Expression Club, attending my friends' Senior Recitals, Wind Ensemble tours and trips to Letchworth.

Bummers have been no free time, stress, illness and financial problems.

Probably the toughest things I've been through were Mr. Rownd's Theory II exam, Music History "quizzes" and finals and my Senior Recital.

Each semester has been difficult for many different reasons. I've had to struggle in most of my classes just to keep up. Instead of anticipating each new semester as a challenge I would think "I'm going to die! How am I going to get through this semester?" God, on the other hand, was always there saying "You can do it!"

Fear not for I am with you;

Be not dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you,

I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

Beth St. Cyr



"I am working at accepting and adapting..."

Glistening white snow covers the campus on an early Tuesday morning... smiles of familiar faces greet me on the sidewalk as I walk to class... hymns ring out as the crowds file into chapel. Squeezing through lunch lines to the mail room, dodging puddles, dinner conversations, the view at the top of Centerville Road, running the hearts — these will be my memories of Houghton — not to mention the long van rides to track meets, the last stretch of the 1500M, the comfort of my bed after an evening of studying, and the last day of finals... Houghton is truly a unique place that I feel sad leaving.

Here is where I have made some special friends, and have gotten to know a variety of interesting people. I feel that I have achieved what I wanted to achieve at college. These years have been fulfilling

years. They have also been difficult ones. In addition to peaceful, happy times, I have also gone through times of frustration, boredom and fatigue, despair and loneliness, insecurity and uncertainty. Endurance and my relatively calm disposition, however, have brought me through many hard times. The Lord says to me, and to all of us, "I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and of good courage" (Joshua 1:5,6).

I think that the four years I've spent at Houghton have helped me to develop a more realistic attitude toward life. Some things have happened that I wish had not, and others have not happened that I wish had. That's how life goes. I am working at accepting and adapting to the circumstances in my life with more flexibility. My goal is "In whatever state I am, to be content" (Philippians 4:11) — a goal that will keep me occupied my whole life, I'm sure. Many events have shown me that I need to stop trying to control those things that are not in my power. For a person who likes to be in control, this is sometimes, a difficult lesson.

The stoic philosopher Epictetus had some valuable words of wisdom with which I'll close:

Seek not that the things which happen should happen as you wish; but wish the things which happen to be as they are, and you will have a tranquil flow of life.

Mary McCullough



"... I must follow Christ totally..."

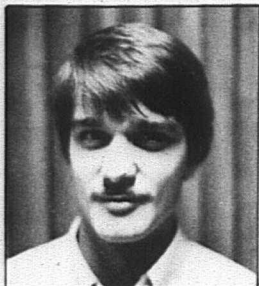
When I first arrived at Houghton, I had all the answers; by the end of freshman year, I didn't have any answers. Early in my junior year I heard someone describe the typical four-year liberal arts experience. She said that freshmen enter college and soon have many of their beliefs stripped away as they learn to think critically. Toward the end of their college careers, they begin to construct their own sets of beliefs. It struck me that, though I had become an expert at shredding whatever model of reality someone else constructed, I had yet to begin seriously building my own. Over the past year-and-a-half, I have begun to construct my own belief system.

One of the most important beliefs which I now hold is that if I am going to be a Christian, I must follow Christ totally. Mere intellectual assent isn't enough — even Satan assents intellectually to God's sovereignty. Christ desires that all my actions and decisions be based on His revelation in Scripture. What does Scripture say that I should spend my life pursuing? The Kingdom of God. How diligently? With everything I have.

If the Kingdom of God is so valuable that I am to "sell everything" in pursuit of it (as in the Parable of the Pearl), then certainly my career choice should be affected by my Christianity. The question is not "Can I do this as a Christian?" or even "Would this further the Kingdom of God? Rather, the question is "How can I best employ the talents God has entrusted to me to further His Kingdom?"

When I first entered college, I wanted to use my talents to amass a material fortune, but that goal is much less important than the goal of furthering God's Kingdom. As I have prayed about what career I should pursue, I have been impressed with the urgency of giving every person the opportunity to hear the gospel. I am therefore planning on a career as a foreign missionary. Too often, we make our career plans considering only what will be comfortable for us. Jesus calls us to make disciples of all nations. Each of us needs to prayerfully consider how we can most effectively work toward this end.

Norm Biller



"... Houghton offers Christian growth for those who strive for it..."

Without doubt the name "Houghton College" brings many different connotations among various members of the senior class. After four years of strenuous study I think they're going to let me graduate. Yet somehow I can't feel sure of this until I see my diploma in hand.

In the past four years I have grown a great deal. I came here as a naive freshman who thought he knew a great deal about a little. Now I am leaving knowing a little about a lot. And for this I am very thankful.

I would like to reflect specifically on what I see as three good qualities of Houghton College and then three problems of the college. I do not intend to be overly positive or overly negative for I am still somewhat undecided about my attitude toward Houghton. I do intend to be critical — is that not one of the goals of a liberal arts education?

Firstly, Houghton College provides excellent opportunity for Christian growth. I don't think many people would choose to argue with this. However, the key word is "opportunity." The longer I have lived here the more easy I find it to go with the flow. It is no challenge to be a Christian among Christians. However, Houghton offers Christian growth for those who strive for it. Secondly, I have found the quiet town atmosphere of Houghton to be very conducive for studying. I don't think the many distractions of a large city campus would have been beneficial. And thirdly, I have been very impressed with the devotion

and caring attitude of most of the faculty. My world view has been greatly molded and shaped by the inspirational thoughts of my professors. These are the greatest benefits I have seen at Houghton.

Houghton though, like any other school, has its problems as well. Some of these problems have not affected me directly as a student, but do frustrate me as a member of this community. I see a serious problem in terms of community communication. One of my professors once said, "You're an expert in your field until you come to Houghton," meaning faculty are hired for their expertise but their opinions are very rarely asked. One example is the software bought for the library computer. As a class project the Houghton computer students programmed a duplicate of the library's system which actually ran more efficiently. Why were the computer professors not previously consulted? Or how about to all too predictable eroding bank above the new dorm? There are faculty experts in geology as well. Improved communications would save a great deal of money on this campus. Secondly, I, among many in this respect, question the wisdom of how our money is spent. How can the school afford to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars moving buildings around campus when at the same time some programs, such as foreign languages, are being drastically cut back? Thirdly, as a graduating student it is unfortunate that Houghton is not a big-name school. For some of us, Houghton's rigid academics pull down our GPA. As graduates in the job market it is difficult for us to compete against graduates from big-name state schools who have a higher GPA because the state programs are less rigid. I know that I have earned the better education but my prospective employer may not recognize this.

Although the Christian values learned at Houghton have been very beneficial in my personal life, the unfamiliar name of Houghton College does not carry much weight with prospective employers. To compete in the business world it may have been more to my advantage to have graduated from a well-known school. Houghton is a good school, but unfortunately this fact is not widely known.

Brad Bascom
B.S. Computer Science

"My greatest danger . . . was the potential to become a cynic."

Today I am twenty-one years old. I do not feel twenty-one, but then I have never felt any age. Three years ago, when I was eighteen and my brother was twenty-one, he told me that I would grow and change more in the next three years of my life than I had in the first eighteen. He was right. These past three years of college have formed me; the essence of my life has been pruned and molded, encouraged to grow in specific directions.

I came to college with a certain innocent outlook on life. The past three years, especially this year as editor of the *Star*, have removed much of my innocence, and threatened the happiness my innocence sheltered. Like many of you I have come in contact with new ideas, and have had greater chances to see the world in action, not always a pretty scene. I have seen more of the dark side of human nature than I ever wanted to see.

Do not let my last sentence alarm you; I come from so sheltered a life that anything shocks me. But there were difficulties in the year. Putting the staff together took much work, and most of the work was done by staff members finding other staff members. For a time no one seemed willing to write stories, making me despair about keeping the paper going. But the Lord proved faithful. I came to recognize the greatest asset he gave me — a devoted staff. He gave me hope and strength through them. I survived the crisis and I saved my positive outlook on life.

My greatest danger, I believe one of the greatest dangers on a college campus, was the potential to become a cynic. There are many things that threaten to turn students into cynics. Improved critical faculties and news about the true functionings of the world, like some of the events that happened in national politics this year, can cause us to lose faith in government and people. When people lose faith they have not learned the lesson I learned, the one that saved me: compassion. When we see evil, done to ourselves and others, or when we see people

mess up, instead of becoming cynical, we need to express compassion. Realize that people are not perfect, that they need help. There is sin in the world, but that is why God sent Christ. Forgive people, and strive for justice. Cynicism comes from the feeling that people have failed us, and we judge them for it. People can fail us by not being what we expect, by not being perfect. To survive we must have compassion, we must forgive. We must keep hope.

The whole year as editor was not one great struggle against despair. The year was fun, and rather successful. Sure, the *Star* was no artistic masterpiece, but it looked okay. People read the paper, we covered some important stories, and I think we gave people a good attitude about the paper and the campus. I want to encourage our vision of hope, and warn against its loss. Be ready for people to fail, and be ready to forgive them. Forgive yourself. We will be a better community if we learn to have compassion on ourselves.

One person called me the "feeblest of the feeble" as far as editors of the *Star* is concerned. I agree. I never expected to do the job of editor in my own strength. The Lord has been strong in my weakness. He that is mighty has done to me great things, provided staff and other minor miracles. The *Star* succeeded this year. It only took a willing instrument.

The paper had to rebuild this year after the attrition of staff from last year. The *Star* survived, and I look forward to an even better *Star* next year. My journalistic skills are fair. Patricia Uleskey's skills are excellent; she is cut out to be a journalist. I expect the *Star* to continue to climb next year in student support and quality. Get involved next year. Remember, it is your paper, and only as good as you make it. Thank you for allowing me to serve you this year.

Respectfully yours,
Jonathan Robards Lightfoot

Classifieds

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IT SUCKS**

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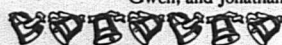
RAMONA MEAD

and

MATTHEW SCHLAEGEL

May your "inzies" and "outzies"
always be "upzies!"

Walter, Susan,
Gwen, and Jonathan



**BEST WISHES TO THE
CLASS OF 1987!**

You will all be missed.



Hey White Boy and Velcro.
This first year was great; thanks for
everything! Have great summers.
"Seedy"



Strobords—
Remember, when we're all
gone, that life is basically just

A BIG DANISH.

All our best.

Yer Honor,
Her Mutherr,
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8:00 PM

Wesley Chapel

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