

THE HOUGHTON STAR

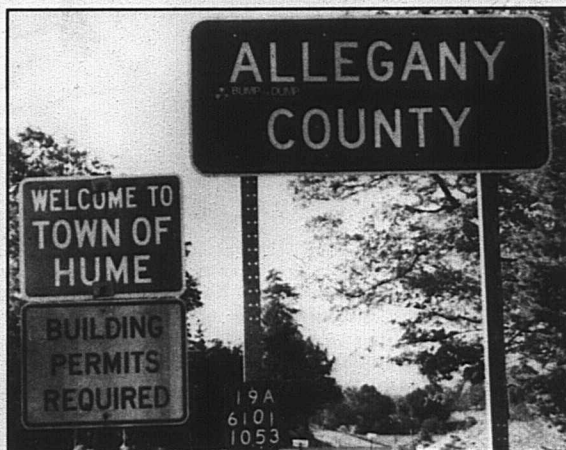


Photo by Dave Perkins

Running Risks: Radiation Danger Deepens

by Kim Kerr and Trina Van Derlip

You have seen the fluorescent signs on buildings, windows and trees. You've heard the phrase, "Bump the Dump." The people of Allegany County are very much opposed to the placement of a low-level radioactive waste dump (LLRW) in their county. Why then should many students at Houghton College have an unconcerned attitude concerning the dump? Perhaps they haven't taken the time to be informed.

With this in mind, we decided to be a part of the protest march against the dump, held Friday, September 25. This march was one of many activities organized by the Concerned Citizens of Allegany County (CCAC) to oppose the dump. We found ourselves walking in the cold rain from Belmont to Wellsville, a distance of nine miles. Aside from being long, cold and wet, this march was very informative, teaching us a lot about the towns and people of this county.

The problem had its beginning in 1985, when the Federal Low-Level

Radioactive Waste Policy Act (introduced in 1980) was passed and amended. This policy shifted the responsibility of low-level waste from the federal to the state governments. Each state or compact of states is responsible for waste produced within their territory. Under this law, the state of New York has selected five sites, three of which are in Allegany County. One of the sites is three miles from Houghton, right across the Genesee River. The approximately 1200 students of Houghton College were not considered in the choosing of the site (Houghton was considered to contain approximately 200 people), even though most students live in the area for a minimum of eight months each year. Similarly, the students at Alfred State were not counted in the consideration of the proposed site in their area.

Some disturbing facts were brought up in the course of the march. The siting commission learned this July, after more than two years of study, that the dump would be more

than ten times as radioactive as first indicated. The majority of the radioactivity will come from nuclear power plants, not short-lived medical waste as most thought.

This radioactive waste has serious consequences. Dr. Theodore Taylor, a noted physicist who worked on a committee which investigated nuclear power plants during President Carter's administration, has estimated that after 30 years of operation there could be as many as 100 billion lethal doses of radiation sitting right here in Allegany County. This idea could be a very frightful reality.

Another disturbing reality is the amount of radiation stored in these dumps. Within the next 30 years, the state plans to demolish three nuclear power plants. According to the July/August 1989 issue of *World Watch*, "dismantlement of one large reactor would yield about 600,000 cubic feet of LLRW—enough to fill a large truck every day for almost four years." The required technology to

(Continued on page 2)

News

"Risks"

(continued from page 1)

disassemble these reactors has not yet been used.

Some of the radiation to be stored will be radioactive for 20,000 years; however the dump facility is only engineered to last 500 years. But how will this affect students? Though we may only be here for a few years, we leave behind friends, faculty and future students who must deal with this problem.

William Coch, the medical advisor to the Allegany County Health Department, estimates (from material sent to him from one of the siting commissioners, Dr. David Maillee) that the risk of cancer over a lifetime could increase 35% for those living along the border of the dump. This problem becomes even more serious when we consider that Pennsylvania's Potter County, which borders Allegany, is being highly considered by Pennsylvania as a LLRW dump site. Having two dumps so close together increases the risk to residents and the environment.

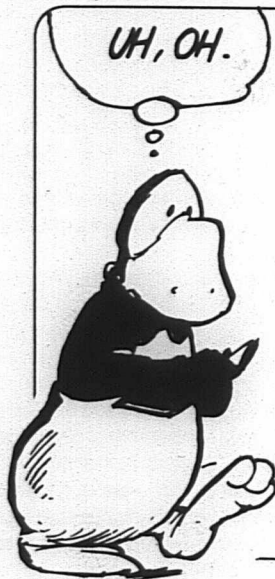


Above is a portion of one of the proposed sites for the waste dump. If selected, this small church will, naturally, be destroyed.
(Photo by Dave Perkins)

According to Gene Hennerd, one of the leaders in the CCAC, the current focus of CCAC will be the pressuring of government officials. On Friday, October 6, 1000 postcards were sent to President Bush, Rep. Amory Houghton, Sen. Alfonse D'Amato and Sen. Daniel Moynihan from concerned citizens meeting at the Fillmore Fire Hall. This is encouraged to continue. "If 2% of the people in this county—50,000 altogether, I believe—were to write letters, they (the President and legislators) would be receiving about ten times what they are now." People

are also encouraged to write to Sen. Jess Present, whose jurisdiction includes the three Allegany sites.

Although it is true that Allegany County is poor and not heavily populated, this does not mean that its citizens' lives and ours are worth less than those who live in wealthier, more populated areas. We as students will be leaving; however, the problem will follow us. The problem of radioactive containment is plaguing the entire nation, and will affect everyone we know and love sooner or later.



Retractions, Apologies, and All That

The following errors were made in the preparation of last week's *Star* (Issue 82.3):

- 1) Miriam Dentler's name was mistakenly replaced by Miriam Danielson's name. Humblest apologies to both Miriams.
- 2) The photos on pages 1 and 6 were not credited to photographer Dave Perkins. Humblest apologies to Dave as well.
- 3) Contrary to the article on page 7, season tickets for Side Artist Series can not be used to reserve seats for the regular Artist Series. Humblest apologies to everybody.

"Though we may only be here for a few years, we leave behind friends, faculty and future students who must deal with this problem."



News

Senate Approves Equipment Renovation

by Stephen Virkler



The Student Senate approved the purchase of \$1507.32 in equipment for the Senate office during its meeting on Tuesday, October 3. This equipment includes three desks, four chairs, a safe and a coat rack.

This purchase will help to improve the "image" of the Student Senate, said Senate treasurer Darren Chick. He emphasized the fact that this new furniture could draw prospective students, who will reportedly will be taken through the Senate office in the near future, to Houghton. In this way, Chick explained, the Senate could function as a sort of "public relations for the college as well as the Senate." The current furniture, according to Chick, was donated to the Senate by the college; and some pieces are over 15 years old.

In other new business, sophomore senator Tony Perkins proposed that the Senate look into the possibility of closing the New Academic Building at midnight instead of 11:00 p.m., the current closing time. This proposal was unanimously approved.

The Senate also approved

Senate President Thom Fenner's selection of members for the constitution and Pledge committees. These committees will be reviewing the Senate constitution and the college's "Responsibilities of Community Life" for possible modifications. The constitution committee consists of Fenner, secretary Melissa MacDonald, Erich Neumann, James Quick and Christopher Morris; while the Pledge committee includes Michelle Pike, David Rogers, Zach Bryan, Phil Carpenter, Miriam Dentler and Kristen Skuret. Dean of Student Development Robert Danner will act as advisor for the Pledge committee.

Campus Activities Board (CAB) chair Mary Biglow reported that "The Outsiders" has been approved by the Film Review Board. The movie will be rescheduled from October 14 to November 11, due to the number of people leaving campus on the weekend of October 14 (Reading Day weekend). CAB will work in conjunction with Big Al's to provide some activities (possibly a movie) for that weekend.



News

College Democrats Form; CR Chair "Excited"

by Dave Wheeler

Last year's elections served as a gauge of the political atmosphere of Houghton College; to judge by the legions of Bush-supporters, Houghton was staunchly Republican. The absence of an official Democratic organization similar to the College Republicans served to support such an analysis. The G.O.P. no longer holds a monopoly on campus political activity, however; as freshmen Mark Thomson and Eric Witte have organized the Campus Young Democrats.

According to Thomson, the impetus for starting the organization was Dr. David Benedict's Introduction to Politics class. Dr. Benedict requires that his students regularly participate in a political activity outside of class. Thomson explained that he "took a look around and noticed that it (the political life at Houghton) was very lopsided" and "overwhelmingly Republican." Thomson and Witte sought to rectify this situation. "For a political system to work effectively, there must be alternatives," Thomson remarked.

Thomson believes there to be a "misconception that the Republican Party is more Christian, or more conducive to evangelical Christian thought." He acknowledged that "issues like abortion scare people off," but stated that "there's a lot more at stake than just a single issue."

"The outline and attitudes of the Democratic Party seem to me to be more 'Christian'," said Thomson, "more so than the Republican Party, a party for big

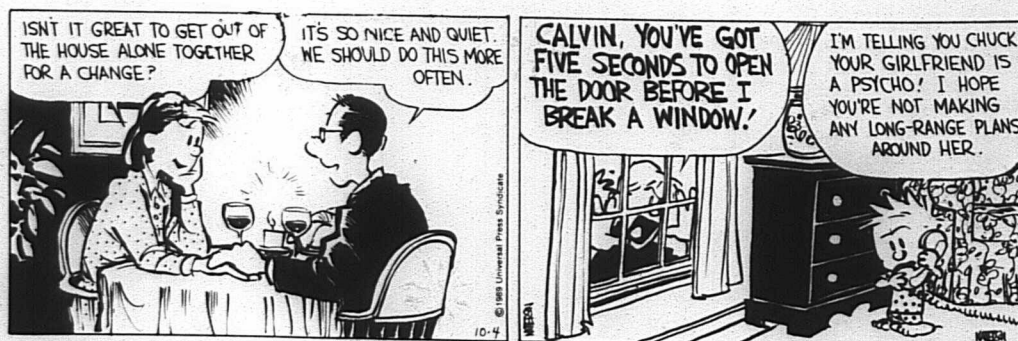
defense and little social spending."

William Thorn, the organization's faculty advisor, echoed Thomson's sentiments. "I don't understand why Christians are not Democrats," he remarked, "because Democrats care more about people, at least disadvantaged people, than Republicans." Thorn believes that CYD might "give more balance" to the political atmosphere on campus.

CYD's main function this semester will be "just to make people aware of a political alternative," according to Thomson, "to educate the campus to a second political theme; to let people know that we're here and we're doing something." Houghton's CYD group is not yet affiliated with the national organization, but Thomson claimed that this is forthcoming; they are "awaiting a response."

The emergence of the CYD has not gone unnoticed by the College Republicans. "To tell the truth, I am very excited," mentioned chair Joseph Galli, "I believe it will give more students an opportunity to participate in and support the politics they believe. It's the best thing that could happen to our club; it can provide for some good debates."

The first CYD meeting is October 10 at 8:00 p.m. in "Little Schaller" (room 116, Paine science building). Anybody interested (Republicans included) is invited to come.



Rev. Al Gurley

by Beth Johnson

Before I can tell you of my interview and discussion with Rev. Al Gurley, Director of Campus Ministries and Assistant Pastor, there are some things that Rev. Gurley wants you to know about him—background information, personal history—aspects of his life that occurred before he came to Houghton, and aspects which he feels gave him valuable experience that would be hard to gain through public schooling.

Rev. Gurley and his wife, Sylvia, are the parents of six children, ages seven to twenty-one. Two are students in the Fillmore school system, two attend Houghton Academy, and two (Stephen, a senior, and Dawn, a sophomore) are students at Houghton College. Rev. Gurley himself graduated from Houghton in 1964, after which he worked for two years in East Harlem. These two years were followed by one year of graduate social work at Florida State University.

It was within the framework and processes of these three years that Rev. Gurley believes God called him to become a shepherd of His people; and he accepted a job teaching junior-high students in an inner-city Washington, D.C. school, where he was the only white teacher. Returning to Houghton in 1968, Rev. Gurley became the Director of Parent-Alumni Relations. Following this, he worked as a youth pastor at Syracuse University for one year.

The next four years were the most difficult of Rev. Gurley's life. He and his family lived by faith in these times, as serious family illness and the collapse of a church he had established caused extreme pain and bewilderment. He believes, however, that the times of pain were sent to prepare him for the next phase of his life—the successful founding of Trinity Fellowship Church, an institution he and two other families established. Rev. Gurley spent the next ten years as a teaching elder in Trinity.

Throughout these years, Rev. Gurley worked as a "tentmaker", providing material support for his family as a carpenter, as a Salvation Army youth home coun-

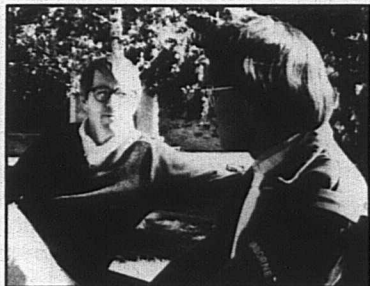


Photo by Dave Perkins

selor, and in the establishment of the Evangelical Counseling Center in Syracuse. Rev. Gurley believes this (provision for one's own needs as well as laying foundations for and being active in various ministries) to be the practice of the Apostle Paul.

As Campus Ministries Director at Houghton, Rev. Gurley is responsible for providing pastoral counseling and in structuring Koinonia ministries. He works with the twenty Koinonia leaders on a weekly basis, and wishes to encourage the drawing together of all the official and unofficial spiritual groups on campus, including class chaplains, ACO leaders and Senate chaplains.

When asked about his primary goals, Rev. Gurley stated that he wishes to counsel those struggling with personal and spiritual growth with a Biblical perspective. He wishes to nurture spiritual growth, particularly through personal involvement in accountable relationships maintained between individuals.

Most importantly, Rev. Gurley hopes to issue a challenge to the academically and intellectually oriented students of Houghton: to be "servants first, scholars second." He rallies students to embrace a Biblical perspective in all facets of our lives; for "truly, knowledge makes arrogant; love edifies."



Opinion

Who Do You Follow?

submitted by Jenna Gieser and Miriam Dentler

Jesus was, in a sense, a hippie of the ancient world. Wearing long hair and sandals, He only owned one set of clothes (there is no question in my mind why people washed their feet). He wandered the countryside with a scruffy group of followers. Polite society had absolutely no use for Him or His friends. He hung out with the dregs! Jesus was scorned by the scholars and worshiped by the prostitutes. He loved the poor and told the rich that they getting into heaven would be hell.

This man was not into social conformity; he was into Truth. Speaking out for the Truth, He said what He believed and never shrank back from the consequences of His words. Jesus was committed! He never settled for the life of an apathetic pacifist; He was a passionate activist. He was into loving and forgiving everybody and promoting world peace. He was willing to suffer for His cause—to be martyred for loving. His eyes saw the pain of the common people, of whom He was one; and His heart was broken.

We follow a hippie and are called to emulate his life. That doesn't mean we follow the stereotypical hippie lifestyle and wear tie-dyes and smoke pot. Nor are we all called to travel across the country (in a hippie van) with one set of clothes and no money. What this does mean is that we need to be aware of the society around us—in it, but not of it. We must be committed to TRUTH and never afraid to suffer for our cause. HIS cause. *The cause.*



Rant

by Mark Shiner

"On Faithlessness"

I find it almost unbearably disturbing that the only thing that makes Christians any different than the rest of the world's population is the fact that Christians' souls have been deposited in the heavenly bank account.

I realize that for some of you this idea is not troubling. Some of you have grown up in Christian homes, gone to Christian schools, and are now attending a Christian college; and you will probably go on to work with Christians in a Christian institution. Your contact with the world has been mostly theoretical: you have not really lived there. You have lived in an evangelical ghetto all your lives and you have embraced the stereotypes of non-Christians as immoral, selfish people who hate Jesus. If your opinion of the "world" has been formed by such stereotypes, it is easy to think of Christians as somehow "better" than the rest of the world.

Unfortunately (or fortunately—I guess it depends on how you look at it), I've met enough

kind, generous, moral non-Christians and enough cruel, greedy, immoral Christians to convince me otherwise. I've come to the painful realization that, at least from my vantage point, the church looks no better than the rest of the world in matters moral. And it's all the more painful for me, because when I point my finger at "the church", I implicate myself.

If the church is, at best, only marginally better than the rest of the world, perhaps aligning ourselves with it is irrelevant. Perhaps we should simply evaluate people by the fruit their lives bear, not by how precisely their belief-systems align with ours. Perhaps we should simply stop evaluating people.

This is *not* intended as merely a criticism—it is a question, something I've struggled with for a long time. I write this in the hope that people will talk to me about it.



Opinion

Letters

Dear Carol,

I would like to enlighten you of what I've learned from the three things you learned from your article.

1) What you call constructive ventilation of anger is the heaping of guilt upon people who don't ask for it or find it constructive. I believe there is enough pointing and complaining about the obvious problems on campus. If you want to constructively vent, work at building people up like the examples you gave in paragraph six. If that isn't enough, get a hobby.

2) It is a truism that no one can claim to be perfect, but your statement and your definition of hypocrite lacks refinement. Jesus said, "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" (Luke 6:46) Since you admitted that you have failed miserably, yet still call yourself a Christian, you *are* a hypocrite. Either stop calling yourself Christian or resign yourself to be a hypocrite like the rest of us. You do have a right to expect yourself to be like Christ, but let's face reality.

3) The important concept to remember is that you are not responsible for another's actions. To take John 21:22 out of context, Jesus said, "What is that to you, Carol, if they go to the 11 o'clock service in fashion, or carry books for the girl on crutches, or parade Christianity around teachers and the dean, or dance, or listen to a roommate's problems, or drink, or work in ACO, or YAO, or throw napkins in the cafeteria? You must follow me." And when you do feel the need to speak out against something that really matters, aim carefully and do it constructively.

Brennan Smith

Editor:

In her letter to the *Star* last week, Carol Chaffee said she was not a "good Christian," that she has "failed miserably." As an example of her failure, she wrote that she doesn't always make it to church.

I, too, don't always make it to church. However, I don't see this as a failure on my part to be a Christian, because I don't think any amount of going to church will make me succeed in God's eyes.

June Grey

Dear Editor,

Carol Chaffee wrote a letter to the *Star* last week, complaining about hypocrites, people who say one thing and do another. The people she chose to criticize were the ones who use church not as an opportunity to worship, but as a theater in which to exhibit their fine clothes.

To kick off her letter, she wrote: "I'm not the kind of person to really hate something, but there is one thing I detest: a hypocrite."

So, she says she's not a person who really hates anything, then she tells us what she hates.

A hypocrite!

Aaron Gil!





Arts A Messiah For All Times

by Jedidiah McKee



"Jesus Teaching in the Synagogue"

Photo by Dave Perkins

The oil paintings and other works of Tanya Witkowski are on display in the Wesley Chapel Gallery this month. The pieces in the exhibition are examples of illumination of and exploration into Biblical narratives, particularly in her use of color in the oil medium. Ms. Witkowski has been working with Biblical narrative subjects for about ten years.

In a telephone conversation, Ms. Witkowski spoke of the autobiographical nature of her work. She uses friends and relatives as models in her work, and values their opinions on her work. Events and themes from her everyday life, as well as emotional reactions to the narratives, find their way into her paintings.

She told a story about counseling a friend struggling with worldly ambition, and then beginning work on *Christ Tempted with the Kingdoms of the World*, the next on her

list in the Life of Christ series. This painting, along with about half of the other works in the Life of Christ series, is now on display in the gallery. Ms. Witkowski also spoke of trying to get at the emotional, psychological, and spiritual reality of the narratives.

When I looked at the paintings, particularly *Jesus Teaching in the Synagogue*, I was struck by the universality of the images, depicting a story for all times, a Messiah for all

racess and all people. This effect is, in part, created through the use of vibrant, glowing colors showing (for instance) the interplay of light and shadow in a person's face and clothes, a very effective use of outline, and a supreme confidence with the human form.

It's a good show—go see it. Be sure to stand at least four feet away, and turn on the suspended gallery lights to get the full effect of the colors.



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

Review

On the Record: A Retrospective

by Jamie Lindsay

(In the light of the weekend's sixties theme, Mr. Lindsay asked—nay, demanded—that he be allowed to review a prototypical sixties album. Foolishly, I gave my consent; and thus was born the review below. Mr. Lindsay has been forbidden to review any Liverpoolian for at least five months.)



Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band

In late 1966, some no doubt felt that, great as the Beatles were, there was little else they could do that would surprise people. Even the greatest band in rock and roll history has its limits. Fortunately, the Beatles had not reached theirs, and in the following year they produced what has been acclaimed by many as the greatest album in music history: *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*.

The album opens with the title track, an introduction to Sgt. Pepper and Co. This song frames the album as a show you are witnessing and makes you feel at home, inviting you to "sit back" and "enjoy the show." This song merges into "With a Little Help From My Friends", a playful song about friendship made all the more whimsical by Ringo Starr's vocals.

From here, the album takes a psychedelic twist with the dreamy classic, "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds", based on a drawing by John Lennon's son Julian. Some have argued that "Lucy" promotes the use of drugs, but I think that may just be a testimony to the increased cynicism of our time. A song with a similar sound is "Without You Without You", filled with a sitar-based background (courtesy of George Harrison) which still sounds unique twenty-two years later. From here, the Beatles' genius continues to emerge, and is most prominent on "Getting Better", "She's Leaving Home", "When I'm Sixty-Four" and "Being For the Benefit of Mr. Kite".

One of the reasons that this album and the Beatles themselves have been so endearing for so long is because they are the band of the common man. They sing about normal situations in average life, refusing to focus on the Ken-and-Barbie relationships as so many shallow pop bands do. "She's Leaving Home" is

a musical masterpiece which employs classical strings in a sensitive and tragic story about parents who have, with the best of intentions, not allowed their daughter to experience life. For this reason, she is leaving home. Vocally, this song is phenomenal, as Lennon and Paul McCartney's voices mesh beautifully in a way few songs have been able to match. "Kite" is yet another musical extravaganza, with a carnival-type atmosphere created by pipe organs in the background.

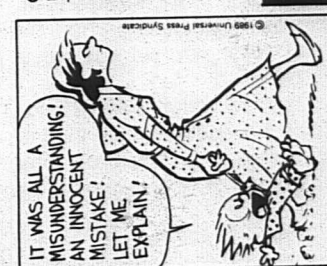
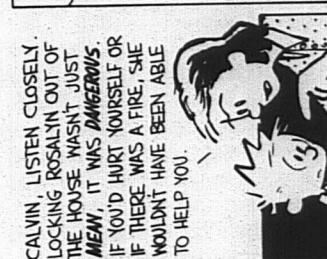
The album closes with a reprise of "Sgt. Pepper", informing us the show is over and hoping that we have had a good time. The album ends with the classic tune, "A Day in the Life", which apparently acts as an encore would in a live show.

All told, this album contains great musical contributions from all members of the band, excellent classical arrangements and ingenious production by George Martin. Lyrically, it is also unique in that it approaches topics such as old age and friendship—rare even today, not to mention in 1967. This album would turn out to be the *magnum opus* of the Beatles' career. But like all of us, the Beatles had their limitations; and in 1970 they played together for the last time. In the years to come, the band would go on to influence such talented and diverse performers as U2, Phil Keaggy, Michael Jackson and David Bowie.

Among the measures of a band's success are those whom it influences and the staying power it commands. I am confident that when the pollution and smog created by rap music and similar fads fades away, one will still be able to turn on the radio and hear Sgt. Pepper and the Beatles.

Rating: *****1/2

Classic	*****
Excellent	****
Good	***
OK	**
Lousy	*
Irredeemable	0



Sports

You Make the Call: Intramural Refs Take a Back Seat

by Kevin Fuller

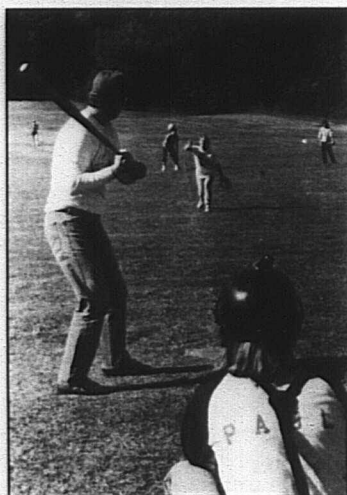


Photo by Susan Dutton

Things Defeat Knights

by Don Dutton

Last Saturday in intramural softball double-header action, the Wild Things took both games from the Flamingo Knights. The first game was tied 3-3 until the Wild Things scored seven runs in the bottom of the fourth inning and then held off the Knights to win 11-9. The Wild Things were paced by faculty and staff members James Wardwell, who hit two home runs, Susan Dutton, who was the winning pitcher, and Renee Potter, who played flawless third base.

In game two, the Wild Things, leading 5-1 going into the third inning, batted around the order three times to take complete control of the game.

The double-header sweep moved the Wild Things into first place with a 3-1 record and dropped the Flamingo Knights to 2-3.



It has been said that the most effective official is the one who goes unnoticed. The Houghton College Intramural Department is taking this axiom a step further by completely removing the referee in a number of sports, notably softball and soccer.

Aggression is an element that athletes strive for in a contest, but this quality is often linked with tempers that get out of hand. Bob Smalley and various intramural supervisors have attempted to lower the intensity levels of the players by making the student participants responsible for the officiating.

"By giving the team captains and players more responsibility," explained intramural supervisor Brian Beck, "we remove the pressure from the officials and make the games less intensified."

"I like the idea of not having an umpire," said junior softball player Doug Pereira. "It gets the team more involved with the game, and the players don't attempt to get away

with anything, since they have to be the official."

Steve Lloyd sees no problem with the innovation. "I haven't found any important differences in the games," said the senior soccer captain. "We have had some occasional disagreements, but we take care of them."

The bang-bang play at first or the offside call on the soccer field would normally cause fiery arguments between players and officials. The removal of the referee from various intramural sports has helped to dissolve disagreement from the field of play and has forced players to settle fairly among themselves. There are lists of excuses for teams that lose intramural games, but this season, it cannot be due to a bad call.



Spurs and Success

by Nancy Metzler

The seven horses and six riders who represented Houghton at last Saturday's Elm Valley Riders' Fall Horse Trial, had a "definite impact on the competition," according to coach Jo Ann Young. The three-phase horse trial, consisting of dressage, cross-country and stadium jumping, was held at Dunham Sport Horses in Little Valley, New York.

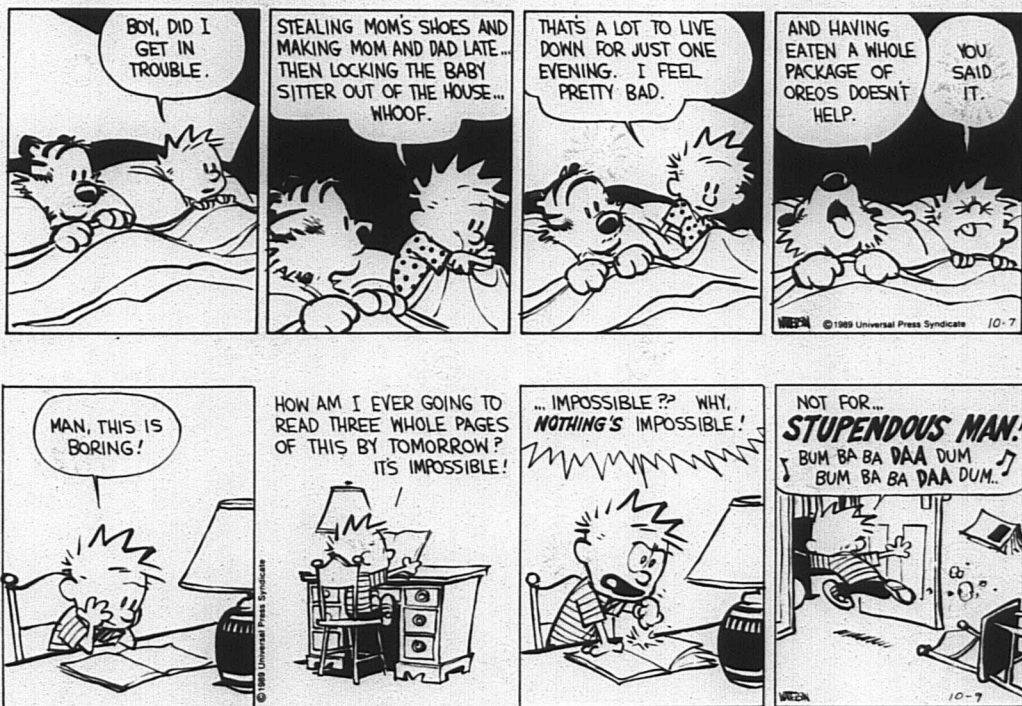
The divisions entered by Houghton were pre-novice rider (riders new to horse trials), pre-novice horse (horses new to horse trials) and open novice (more ex-

perienced horse or rider). Sophomore Lisa Kendrick had two mounts for the day, Blue Zephyr (Houghton-owned) and Solo Flight (privately owned). Blue Zephyr was Houghton's only entry in open novice, and not only did he finish fourth in the division, but he also took the award for the fastest time on his cross-country course. Kendrick's other mount, Solo Flight, finished sixth in the pre-novice horse division, and won the award for the lowest dressage score of the day. Dressage consists of a test of movement skills, including each gait: walk,

trot and
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Tatum's
Rou
senior T
five-year

Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



trot and canter.

Kelly Carmichael, who boards her horse Casey at the college farm, was the overall winner of her division, pre-novice rider. Joining her in the winners' circle was sophomore Amy Stettler, riding Ravinwood Sonnet in the pre-novice horse division. Following Stettler in the same division was freshman Nancy Metzler on Rosindale's Percival (3rd place) and junior Karen Weaver on Tatum's Tempest (4th place).

Rounding out the entries was senior Tammer Christman, riding her five-year old Arab/Percheron cross

in his first trial. Her horse, Mike, was in his division's lead following both dressage and cross-country, but due to a stroke of bad luck was unable to finish the stadium jumping course. Merely three minutes prior to entering the ring, another spirited horse kicked Mike in the chest, unnerving the young horse. Christman had bought Mike last spring as a green horse who had never even seen a show ring before. Even though last week's loss was disappointing, his success up to that point overshadowed this unfortunate incident.

2nd Shen
Quiet floor
proverb of the week:

"Let he who has never
cast no stone un-
turned."

10/7/89

Editorial

Ring Them Bells

by Dave Wheeler



As just about everybody knows, the bells in the new academic building work. Not only do they function, but they have an auditory range of about fifty times their previous volume. Which, of course, is delightful (which, of course, is debatable), unless you happen to be in the middle of a discussion of nuclear war...which happened to Dr. Benedict's International Politics class on Monday.

It was quite interesting. We had discussed such wondrous concepts as mutually assured destruction, counter-city strategy, massive retaliation and process of exchange—and had run through the various and sundry weapons employed on either side, of which a simple megaton or two could make Hiroshima look like a fizzling firecracker—and then the bell went off at a volume mildly approachable to that of an airline runway, stopping hearts (albeit briefly) throughout the building. It was the perfect ironic ending to the discussion and the class—although not an air raid siren, it was the next best(?) thing.

Irony aside, the scenario was somewhat sobering. Early adolescence was the last time I had really thought about nuclear war—and then chiefly because you think about everything as an early adolescent. Amongst the purple mountains of America, and more so amongst the olive-green walls of Shenawana, it is easy to forget that total destruction hinges on a button. And al-

though I personally believe a nuclear exchange is unlikely (deterrence and all that), this is probably due to my own naivete.

All this said, this editorial is not about nuclear war. It's about the dark, sinister forces within us that long to destroy and rip apart—and the relative ease by which they are unleashed. Such snippets start dancing around my mind naturally when I contemplate buttons and their capacity to, by simply being pushed, unleash global destruction.

Within me, under the purifying blood of Christ and under the veneers of civilization I'm clothed in, lurks a vicious, wild animal existing by the stalk and the kill. No. "Animal" is the wrong word to use, for the creature within me takes pleasure in destruction—not only for destruction's utilitarian aspects, but because it likes it. For convenience's, and convention's, sake, we shall call this creature *serpent*.

This serpent rejoices at pain suffered by others, and drinks it in with alcoholic relish. Drunk with others' anguish and misery, it seeks more; and with addiction-born zeal it prowls about seeking to cause discomfort, fear, despair—*hurt*, in its myriad forms.

It is Lucifer within me, channeling his energy through his servant, my flesh—the serpent slithering around in my bloodstream. It is only Christ within me that holds it back from lashing out. And it will lash out,

if I let it. Unfortunately, it is quite easy for the serpent to get out; for all I must do is refuse to yield or neglect from yielding one element—one small chunk—of my life to Christ. To the serpent, this pinprick, minute though it may be, is a gaping hole. It slithers out, to harm whom it may.

Perhaps if I truly realized this, I would be less likely to let myself lapse into moments of frustrated rage which lend themselves to verbal attacks. Maybe if we truly realized this, we would be less likely to subject one another to the torture of judgment. Perhaps our institutions would think twice before making ill-advised tenure decisions affecting a man, his family and a college. Perhaps our state would think twice before dropping waste dumps where it may. Perhaps our nation would refrain from channeling money to the hostile and trying to pass amendments restricting freedom of expression.

All it takes is a moment, an instance, a trifle for the serpent to get out. Therefore, we must devote our energies to placing our faith in the Lamb and thereby trampling the serpent's head. But to do so requires a lifetime of discipline which I'm not sure I can handle.

No, I don't know how one silly bell led to all this. But now that it has, I'm going to have to act on it. Hopefully, you will as well.