STAR STAR

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Ivan T. Rocha, Editor-in-chief

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

Or why Big Brother can't keep you out of trouble.

by Ivan T. Rocha

ookie? No? Graham cracker? Yes? Here...So tell me, historically speaking, what has repression accomplished? Typically, it has served to stamp out the symptoms of a problem (and vent reactionaries' aggressions) without addressing the underlying causes. And, for that matter, underground resistance has typically flourished under repressive regimens where "enforcement" has been the favored tactic. There seems to be something in human nature which reacts very strongly against the concept of "enforcement" and its overtones of repression.

The very word "enforcement" brings to mind the image of something being wrestled against its will into a mold or structure not naturally suited for it. For some reason as well, it brings to mind images of night-sticks, growling dogs, surveillance devices, and Big Brother. The whole concept of a police state, it seems, rests on enforcing abhorrent procedures and requirements conceptualized by an often self-righteous elite on an unwilling population.

This is not to say that enforcement does not have its place. There are times when it is useful to have an institutional Big Brother around to save us from doing ourselves in. It is, for instance, somewhat consoling to

think that the police may actually prevent you from suffering physical harm or the loss of your property. It is equally consoling to think that there is an effort to prevent us from acquiring the means to pickle our brains in a plethora of hallucinogens and intoxicants (which, nevertheless, has not prevented the purveyors of such substances from becoming all the more insidious and more carefully organized).

Now that I've beaten the bush to death, let me suggest to you that "enforcement" (with its repressive overtones) may not be the best way to effect a change in attitude on campus. Before any sort of senate resolution has an effect, there has to be a willingness among the student body really to change.

It seems plausible to think that people break the rules because they derive some benefit from doing so. Telling them they've been bad and slapping them over the wrists will not eliminate the potential benefit of breaking the rules (that is to say, telling someone that stealing cookies is imoral is not going to make the cookies taste any worse). Granted, if the slap is hard enough, it will probably diminish somewhat the attractiveness of stealing yet another cookie.

It seems, then, that people might benefit from knowing what (if anything) is intrinsically wrong with the practices proscribed by the Responsibilities of Community Life. Thus, hopefully, the cookies will lose their appeal in light of their (purportedly) deleterious effects. I have a feeling that until people are convinced that there are adequate reasons apart from a vague, abstract moral system for not drinking, dancing, smoking, sleeping around (always leads to dancing), or what have you, little is going to change. At best, repression will drive violators underground: they'll be more careful, they'll drive farther, spend more money (McCarty's may have a rise in occupancy)-to a degree, of course; after a while the law of diminishing returns will kick in. Anyway, the point is this: people will find ways to keep screwing around no matter how hard the community cracks down-unless they can be thoroughly convinced that there are good, immediate (nonplatitudinous) reasons not to.

Hell, I'm afraid, does not seem to scare too many people anymore. AIDS, VD, alcohol, and addiction are far more immediate.

Care for a cookie? Chocolate chip or oatmeal raisin? ☆

Senate Platforms



Doug Stockwell PRESIDENT

Are you tired of a student government which seems stagnant and apathetic toward the needs of the student body? Would you like to see a student body president who is an ambassador from the students instead of to the students? Would you like a more streamlined representative system which would better facilitate action and change? My name is Doug Stockwell, and as your president it would be my first priority to see that those questions are answered in innovative ways.

My platform is based on both pragmaticandideological solutions. First, the ideological: I believe that a president should be a messenger from the student body to the staff and administration. It seems to me that there has been a recent trend in which our leadership has forgotten that their constituency is the students. I will change that. I see need for active, participatory leadership, rather than an absentee leadership which is out of touch with the students.

These are some of the steps I would take to ensure effective government:

 1.)100% financial accountability with open records. This means no studentfunded perks for cabinet or friends. The scholarships provided are more than generous.

 Senate should be used to induce positive action in other student organizations without imposing restrictions that would hinder creativity.

3.) Streamlining: senators should be reduced from the present number of five to a more efficient three per class. This would get rid of the deadwood senators and promote a higher degree of responsibility. Other administrations have talked about this change. On my first day in office I will officially submit this proposal.

I have recently become aware that the candidate who is running for reelection will be spending next year at Buffalo Campus. Ibelieve a president needs to be active on the main campus every day. A vote for Doug Stockwell is a statement against traditional bureaucracy and in favor of a new, creative leadership.



Phil Ginter
VICE-PRESIDENT

It is really amazing how much

you can learn during the course of one year. This past year has been a time for me to learn what is involved with planning and running activities on campus. I know that I have not done everything perfectly this past year, and I know that I have room for growth and improvement. With this in mind I am running for the office of Student Senate Vice-President for another year.

The office of Student Senate Vice-President is in my opinion the most challenging and exciting of all the Student Senate Cabinet positions. Not only is the Vice-President active in the Student Senate but is also the Chairperson of the Campus Activities Board. The position allows you to be challenged and stretched in a variety of ways. As Vice-President I have learned what it is to be a leader, encourager, and friend. In addition to those things, I have also learned to be sensitive and respectful of the opinions of other students, faculty, administrators, and staff. With all that I have learned this past year I feel extremely qualified and ready for another year in this position.

Next year promises to be better than this year. Already we have a full Campus Activities Board staff ready to meet the social, cultural, educational, recreational, and spiritual needs of the Houghton community. Future programming will include more off-campus events, more off-campus entertainers, and the promotion of cultural diversity and understanding on campus. CAB is an organization which exists to meet the needs of students; however, we cannot do that if you do not speak up and tell us what you would like to see

next year. To those students who have taken the time to express their concerns to me this year I say thank-you and hope that you will continue to come to me when you have a problem, an idea, or just want to talk.

I am very excited about the opportunity to serve as Student Senate Vice-President again next year and continue the projects which were started this year both on CAB and on Senate.



Sara Witmeyer SECRETARY

The secretary plays a vital role in the functioning of the Student Senate as a whole. Because of my responsibilities this year as Executive Assistant I understand what makes a Student Senate Secretary effective and feel prepared to meet the responsibilities head on.

As the Executive Assistant of the Student Senate this year I had the opportunity to word with the Senate Cabinet. The year was very exciting formeas I was able to work with administrators, faculty, staff, and students to make Houghton abetter place for all concerned. The position of Secretary entails much more than typing, filing, and answering phones (although those tasks are all included in the job) it also includes meeting with administration, faculty and staff to get feedback, making sure that people are where they need to be when they need to be there, and being available to those

with genuine concerns. Furthermore, the proactive stance that Student Senate has taken this year is very important to me and I look forward to the opportunity to help guide Senate in the coming year.



Mark Evans TREASURER

My goodness, how time flies when you're having fun. That is how this year has been for me in the Student Senate Cabinet. It seems just like last week that I took the position of Assistant Treasurer. Among the qualities I have learned are accountability, responsibility, dependability, and the ability of working with different types of people. As the first semester progressed, I gained more experience and talked with more people on how I could do my job better.

This experience paid great dividends as I assumed the position of Treasurer early this spring. This transition took a lot of work and consumed a large amount of my time, but as I look back, the effort I put in was well worth it. This last semester, I created a system which allows me to achieve all the goals which I have set. At this time, I am in the process of putting the accounts of CAB and Senate into a computer program that would allow for both easy access and budgeting.

I have enjoyed this past year as I

have made many new friends and I look forward to serving you next year as your Student Senate Treasurer.



David Hooper TREASURER

My name is David Hooper. I am an Elementary Education major. Presently I am a sophomore representative on the Student Senate. I have decided to run for the position of Student Senate treasurer. I have experience in bookkeeping and have been treasurer for the class of 1994 and many other groups.

Ibelieve that since students must pay money towards the student senate and CAB accounts that more money should be allocated towards more activities for students. Ibelieve that Student Senate in recent years has spent too much money for other things and not enough for the students. I would like to see money used towards getting some new equipment for the Recreation Room in the Campus Center. I stand on the belief that Student Senate and CAB should be set aside for activities for students.

Elections will be held during the day on Friday March 27

Senate Passes Resolution to Uphold the Pledge

A Public Service Announcement

he following material appears by special request of the Houghton College Student Senate and as a public service of *The* Houghton Star.

27 February 1992

Dear Administrators and Trustees:

A number of Student Senate representatives have expressed concern in several areas of student life. We have passed a resolution which we feel will make the first steps in dealing effectively with these problems.

The resolution seeks to address to the shortcoming of students to fulfill their responsibilities to the community which were agreed to by each student upon application to

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Houghton. A number of specific shortcomings have been noted, although we are sure that these specific failures are a result of more general shortcomings.

We have seen a rise in on- and off-campus alcohol use and abuse, sexual promiscuity, social dancing, and pornography use. While these are the most obvious problems, we believe that the problems stem from

We honestly are concerned for the future and welfare of this institution. Please support us as we endeavor to be better servants to each other, and ultimately to God.

a lack of love for one another, a lack of commitment to our community and possibly a lack of dedication to our God.

Our resolution recognizes the problem—this is the first step in any rehabilitation program. We then place ourselves on the line, making a commitment to work harder to fulfill our responsibilities as leaders in the community. In doing so, we commit to encourage the members of the community to renew their communitments to their responsibilities. Finally, we ask those given the task to oversee fulfillment of the responsibilities to hold us accountable while we are under their invisidiction.

We honestly are concerned for the future and welfare of this institution. Please support us as we endeavor to be

better servants to each other, and ultimately to God.

Sincerely and respectfully yours, The Houghton College Student Senate 1991-1992

RESOLUTION

We, the Student Senate and Cabinet members, realize that all Houghton Collegestudents have signed and agreed to the *Responsibilities of Community Life* upon application to the college; **AND**

WE KNOW that many, if not all, Houghton College students, including ourselves, have fallen short in our attempts to fulfill our responsibilities to the community:

BE IT RESOLVED that we as members of the Houghton College Student Senate do hereby reaffirm our commitment to the guidelines set forth in the *Responsibilities of Community Life*:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

that the Student Senate requests more specific elaboration on the guidelines and enforcement of all the Responsibilities of Community Life;

THUS, we will preserve the high standards and the solid Christian

This resolution [was] presented to the Student Senate for consideration and adoption on 25 February 1992.

reputation of Houghton College so that we will be proud to be named among its alumni in years ahead.

This resolution [was] presented to the Student Senate for consideration and adoption on 25 February 1992.

Adopted unanimously by the Houghton College Student Senate 25 February 1992. ☆

Houghton Receives \$500,000 Endowed Chair in Business

from a Houghton College News Release

he Hoselton Chair of Private Enterprise and Ethics at Houghton College, first proposed in 1984, is now a reality benefiting both Houghton business faculty and students, and economic education in public school systems of western New York.

Currently, business department head Richard Halberg is chair holder. Selection is made by the president and academic dean for three-year appointments which may be renewed or rotated. Appointment secures the holder a teaching load reduction to coordinate the chair's various activities and to do personal or departmental research.

Chair activities include a threepronged service to western New York high schools including teacher workshops, a video tape lending library, and classroom lectures. The teacher workshops—Business Development and Enterprise, Macroeconomics Issues in Private Enterprise, and Economic Systems and the World Economy-assists high school teachers in implementing a NYS Regent's Action Plan mandating teaching of economics. Over 2,000 high school students studying history, business, or economics, have heard one of a team of Houghton business faculty lecture presentations. Particularly popular are the lectures related to the former Soviet Union and China where faculty members have visited

and done research.

The chair also sponsors executive visits to campus, which afford college business students personal interaction with successful corporation figures or entrepreneurial specialists.

The idea for the chair originated in the early 80s when college development officer Ralph Young visited Rochester businessman David Hoselton to say "thank you" for a \$100 gift. In the course of their conversation, Mr. Hoselton, who heads one of the oldest Chevrolet dealerships in the United States, explained that the firm had a corporate foundation whose directors might consider a proposal from the college.

After consulting with its business department, the college proposed

an endowed chair of business. The Hoselton Foundation board responded enthusiastically to the concept, but found the funding request skimpy. Create a more realistic proposal, they advised. Responding to this unusual reaction, the college revised its application, and funding at \$500,000 was agreed upon. The foundation has been funding the chair over the last several years.

Beyond endowing the chair, the Hoselton Foundation has provided interim operational money during the funding interval in the late 80s and beginning of the 90s, so that the department could immediately launch and sustain chair activities. (In a separate program, through the last six years of the 80s college transportation resources were augmented via the loan of up to four new Chevrolets annually.)

Throughout the funding process, the family and foundation asked the college to maintain confidentiality because the Hoseltons had a daughter attending Houghton, and wished to spare her any notoriety. Today, that daughter has graduated and married another Houghton alumnus who now works in the family firm. As a token of the college's appreciation, President Chamberlain has presented Mr. Hoselton with an emblem appropriate to his generosity—a black velvet academic doctor's cap mounted in a handcrafted oak and glass case. **

Death row prisoner, Caucasian male, age 45, desires correspondence with either male or female college students. Wants to form a friendly relationship and more or less exchange past experiences and ideas. Will answer all letters and exchange pictures. Prison rules require your full name and return address on the outside of the envelope.

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Phonathon at \$267,030 Passes

Goal

t a time when it's common to read of educational institutions rejoicing at raising \$10-30,000 from their constituents by phonathon, Houghton College enjoyed its seventh straight year of topping \$260,000 in its annual February phonathonwith more than half of the money raised the first week. Proceeds go directly to assisting fall-entering freshmen through four years of college with annual awards ranging from \$500-\$1,500.

Key to the successful '92 campaign, "Helping Them Win" were the coordinative efforts of veteran direc-

A Houghton College News Release

tor Melinda Trine, prospect research director Steve Bariteau and student phonathon director and calling champ, Diane Galloway, plus some 300 volunteer callers—students, staff, faculty, administrators, alumni, and other friends. Four nights weekly from 6-10 pm throughout February, groups of 15 called college friends from coast to coast asking for gifts. In completing 7,914 calls, they received 2,350 pledges for an average of \$90 per call (not counting employer matching gifts). Matching gifts accounted for \$41,750 of the total.

Sometimes, Ms. Trine says,

phonathon calls are considered successful even when no gift results, because callers are trained to be good listeners, and numbers of those called tell of health, family misfortune or job loss that precludes their participation. Callers offer sympathy and caring, and on occasion may be part of a problem's resolution. Volunteers are convinced that their work is worthwhile despite busy signals, the increasing annoyance of answering machines, and significant levels of rejection because, for 100 students a year, phonathon money is pivotal in their decision to attend Houghton.

Significantly, persons who participated in phonathon as students, are now enthusiastic alumni donors. Most effective student callers this year were frosh and representatives of the combined women's dorm council. Trine underscored the phonathon's efficiency saying: "Phonathon is a vital link in Houghton's success at maintaining stable enrollment in an era of decline throughout the eastern states."

Drama Department to Feature Triple Show March 19-21

From a Houghton College News Release

he Houghton College Drama Department will present three one-act plays in Woolsey Auditorium Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, March 19-21. There will be three evening perfor-

mances at 8:00 and a Saturday afternoon matinee at 3:00.

The three plays are based on three short stories: O'Henry's "The Cop and the Anthem"; Maupassant's "The Necklace"; and Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery."

Cast members include: Keith Lynip, Deb Cauvel, Shelly Smith, Robert Vandervliet, Daniel Uitti, Sam Dominguez, Karen Reese, Wendy Hoffman,

Kristy Tennant, Dan Dominguez, Sarylin Tyler, Sarah Barry, David Newton, Kim Rich Simpson, Whitehead, Bradley Salzman, Julie Patrick, Chervell Philip, Brain Arthur, Betsy Felstead, and Wendy Lobb. Four community children complete the cast: Ryan Bence, Tyler Stevenson, Erin Galloway, and Joshua Walters.

Director for the production is Bruce Brenneman and Christina Cortright is the assistant director.

Tickets may be purchased at the door or reserved by calling ext. 557. ❖

AND IN OTHER NEWS

By Amy Littlejohn

The results of a referendum in South Africa were announced on the eighteenth. The voting is on whether negotiations for black majority rule will continue. No blacks are allowed to vote, but a "yes" answer needs a wide margin to be successful. There has been an increase in violence, and the ANC (African National Congress) blames right-wing activists.

There was a 120 vehicle pile-up near Sapporo, Japan. Two people died and 71 were injured.

Two severe earthquakes have hit

eastern Turkey. Rescue efforts are underway, but supplies are blocked by a poor distribution system.

A rocket has blasted off from Kazakhistan, carrying two cosmonauts and a German astronaut.

A Palestinian man went on a stabbing rampage in Joppa, Israel, killing two and wounding several others. Israel is so far refusing to stop building new settlements in the occupied territories, though it may mean losing millions in US aid.

Burmese forces spilled over into

Thailand from Myanmar. They were chasing rebel forces but ended up fighting Thai soldiers instead.

A national election campaign is on in Great Britain, the first since the second World War to take place when the party in power (Conservative) is behind in the polls.

UN troops begin patrols in Croatia in April. There is a chance the peace will be kept: the presidents of both Croatia and Serbia are working for success, and many civilians are tired of war.

UN soldiers will also be in Cambodia. There, their job is to disarm both the Cambodian army and rebels, and to make sure all Vietnamese soldiers have left.

A fierce civil war between rival clans is raging in Somalia. Three ceasefires have been signed, and none have worked.

Eduard Shevardnadze has been asked to chair the new State Council in his native Georgia. In effect, he is that country's leader. A

SENATE REPORT

by Stephen Virkler

t the last senate meeting (all the way back on February 25), most of the time was set aside to discuss "The Responsibilities of Community Life" (a.k.a. "The Pledge").

After a couple hours of discussion, the senate approved both a resolution concerning the pledge and a letter to be sent to the trustees and administration (both of these were submitted by Jim Hilliard and can be found elsewhere in *Star*). This occurred only after they were edited by an ad-hoc committee of senators.

During spring break, senate President Darren Chick and Jim Hillianrd presented this proposal to the Board of Trustees, who were in Buffalo. According to Chick and Hilliard, the trustees thought this proposal was a good idea; they also requested that the student senate present several definitions for some of the more ambiguous terms in the pledge and said that they would choose the ones they felt were the most accurate.

In a related move, senate also approved a motion to sponsor a prayer vigil for the campus. This vigil will be held the weekend of March 20.

During tonight's meeting (March 17), the senate will be discussing the student activity fee among other things. More about this next issue.

Crossword Answers



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End-of-Season Report & Commentary on Men's Basketball

by Ron Whiting

he season's curtain drew to a close for the Houghton Men's basketball team on Feb. 29, after playing Philadelphia College of Pharmacy here at Houghton. The team was defeated in the semi-final round of the District 18 tournament 90-86, ending any hope of going on to Texas for the NAIA Division II national tournament.

Since this is the last article of the year on the men's team, I'd like to give some quotes, some opinions, and some hopes for the future. (Please keep in mind that these are the opinions of the writer)

— David Binkowski closed out the greatest career of any Houghton basketball player with 2,000 plus points. "Bink" was a great player to watch, he could hit the jumper from the outside or take the ball to the oppositions biggest player. Said Binkowski of the 2,000 point feat, "It wasn't one of my goals that I set out to accomplish, but I realize what a nice accomplishment it is."

—This marks the career end for Brian Adams and Mike Kinslow, as well as Binkowski. Adams was probably the best defensive player on the team, not to mention a strong rebounder and leader. Kinslow was an outstanding sub off the bench, able to give either guard a break

without losing any athletic ability on the floor.

—Adams said "I'll miss the competitiveness, and all the guys on the team, they're all like brothers to me."

—Darren Berkley was one of the nation's finest in both 3-point shooting and free throw percentage. Great things are expected to come from him next season as he leads what should be another great season for the Highlanders.

—Next years Seniors will include Berkley, Adrian Brice, Dave Brocklehurst, Gary Moorman, and George Wiedmaier. Wiedmaier was a solid starter all year who contributed in every game mainly as a shooter, while Moorman was able to get the ball to his teammates when he played. Brocklehurst is a great shooter who had big games against Daemen, in Buffalo, and against Geneva in the loss at home. Their leadership as a group will be needed next year.

—Newcomers Scott Fasick, Chris Morris, and Andy Gustafson all played important roles, especially in the paint. Fasick is a fierce competetor who'll hear a lot more chants in games against Westminster and others as well. Morris will be a great threat if he

can recover academically and Gustafson will be nice to see around for three more seasons as a tough forward with a nice touch on his shot.

—It appears that head coach Steve Brooks has finally found a great mixture of seniors, younger players, and team unity that should keep Houghton in the thick of things in District 19 play.

—Houghton will probably not be included with Roberts when locals talk basketball, they aren't even in our league of playing ability. Houghton-2 wins, Roberts-0, it sounds nice, doesn't it?

—This reporter believes that the team is finally starting to get where they belong every year, in the District 19 playoffs, and in th hunt for a trip to national. What a turn around form their 5-21 mark just a year ago. A great tunout was nice to see this year. When will the fans start cheering for evey game like they did against Westminster?

To close, here are the seniors fondest memories form their four seasons at Houghton;

Adams-"Last year's trip to Florida when we played right along with Georgia Southwestern, the number two team in the country. And beating Westminster at home."

Kinslow-"Beating Westminster and beating Roberts twice this season."

Binkowski-"Winning the Binghamton Tournament my sophomore year and hitting three points against St. Vincent my freshman year and Westminster this year, sending both games into overtime and eventually winning both."

—Thanks for four wonderful seasons and thanks to the basketball team for a great season!

Women's Basketball Finishes Season With 18-8 Record

by Nathan Ransil

he Houghton College Women's basketball team finished their season with a mark of 18-8, tying the record for most wins in a season. This was the Lady Highlanders' fifth consecutive winning season, which is also a record.

In the first game of the District 19 playoffs, host Houghton blew out Philadelphia College of Pharmacy Science 103-56. Sheri Doerkson led with 28 points, Stacia Dagwell had 23, and three others had double figures as well. though it may have looked like a large mismatch, in the end that was not the case. PCPS came in with a 17-8 record, outscoring

their opponents by 10 a game, with three players averaging double figures. Head coach Skip Lord said, "We wanted to make an offensive statement, both to ourselves and the rest of the district." And this they did by breaking the previous scoring record by nine points.

From there, fourth seeded Houghton traveled to Delaware to meet number one seeded Wilmington. Houghton came back from a half time deficit of five to lead by one with six seconds left when Wilmington hit two free throws to win 59-58. Wilmington went on to win the district finals by 19 and advance to the

national tournament.

The Houghton vs. Wilmington match-up had promised to be a good one with Wilmington coming in ranked eighth in the nation offensively and Houghton's defense also ranked eighth in the nation.

Houghton did manage to hold their opponents to 23 points less than their average, but came upjust shy at the end

"We had a great year, with one of our tougher schedules," said Lord. "Sure, it's disappointing not to go farther, but we achieved many goals. I feel we left a calling card in District 19, that we can play with them, and we'll be back."

Tricia Atkinson was voted to the second team all-district, and Stacia Dagwell and Lori Sheetz were named to the third team. Stacia, Jill Hughes, and Laurie Wynn are three seniors who have done a fantastic job in their time at Houghton. Lord credits these fine players as leaders with key roles in turning the program around.

Lord is looking forward to next year with optimism because of the team's depth. "We have players who are ready to step in and do the job, as well as a solid recruiting year...It's been the seniors' program, now we need the leaders to step into their shoes, to bring together the great players we have." *

Good Individual Performances Highlight Indoor Track Season

s the Houghton College indoor track and field season winds down, some noteworthy individual performances highlight a squad that is currently too small to score competitively in team standings.

This year's small but potent squad boasts three women distance runners: returning senior Marion Austin, sophomore heather George, and a talented young freshman Naomi Castellani. All three ladies are proving to be potential qualifiers to the NAIA Nationals competition in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Doug Gillham, in his first season at Houghton, bettered the previous school record in the 5,000 M run and now has his sights set on the 3000 M record. Dan Lingenfelter, a returning junior, has proved to be a valuable commodity in field events, just missing his old mark (and school record) of 20' in the long jump in his first attempt this season.

The track and field team is supported with strong and reliable team leadership from captain Dan Noyes who is helping in the search for needed athletes to make the opening spring outdoor season a competitive one in regard to team scoring.

To whom it may concern:

I am proud to be a student here at Houghton College and am thankful that the Lord Jesus Christ has lead me here.

I understand there has been a lot of disagreement concerning the *Doonesbury* which is printed in *The Houghton Star*, "a biweekly student publication whose focus is on events, issues, and ideas which significantly affect the Houghton College community."

In the February 7 issue (volume 84.10) we find "Hitler's my franchise, dammit!"

According to the mission statement found in the Houghton College 1991 catalog "Houghton College will sustain a scholarly comminuty of believers where all participants ... actively seek truth, recognize its foundation in the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and apply such truth to daily living. Under the Doctrinal Statement we read that "The college opposes practices and appearances which detract from one's Christian testimony ... Students are required to sign a statement of community expectations, committing themselves to abide by these and other standards of Christian conduct."

I must abide by these standards. Since *The Houghton Star* represents Houghton College, and as a member of the student body here, *The Houghton Star* also represents me. Since I must abide by these standards I feel that *The Houghton Star* should also abide by these standards.

I would like to ask you to prayerfully consider the college's reputation, your reputation, and my reputation. Please consider changing the image of our college that is represented by *The Houghton Star.* Thank you for considering my opinion.

In the name of Christ, **Greg Bish**

Ed. Note: I would suggest that Mr. Bish contact our library staff as soon as possible and schedule a public burning of all the books, films, and musical recordings that don't endorse a right-wing evangelical Christian ethic. After all, someone could visit our library and get the wrong idea about Houghton...

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To the Houghton student body:

This article is about you and me and everything else. You see, it's like this; I'm a senior and I've been thinking that maybe I should start thinking about starting to think about the future, and so, I did. And here is what I came up with.

I believe that we here at Houghton are among the most privileged in the world. We have received an outstanding liberal arts education from professors, mentors, and yes, even administrators who love us and have tried to give us the means to make this a better world. And now it is time to perform our duty, to go out

and teach others the miraculous love of our savior. I have often dreamed about the white picket fence and two car garage I might have someday. But now as I consider how God has blessed me I know that I want to serve him and serve our fellow humans. When I look at the hopeless and destitute lives of those without Christ and consider how much potential we here have to change that, I stand in awe of what could be done.

I have an idea, even perhaps a dream, that with your help we could make into a reality. What if you and I and several others were to bond together with our skills in psychology, business, law, music, writing, medicine, and all the other disciplines and move into an area that is impoverished, and begin to minister to the needs of the people there with those skills with which God has so generously endowed us? What if we were to pool our resources and buy buildings and make clinics, education and counseling centers, and places were we could teach the hopeless the hope of our God? What if we were to five up our white picket fence dreams and live like the church Luke described for us in Acts and tend to each other's needs and the needs of the community around us? My friend, we could change the world, or at least try.

We have been described as a complacent generation. You and I could dispel that notion. We could be know as the generation that served our God and made a mark in the world we live. I know my ideas are ideal, they may even seem impossible, but my friend, I know that through God we can move mountains. Have faith, have hope, have a heart and consider this impossible dream. If I have interested you in this proposal write to me at box 692, talk to me, share with me your ideas, and help me to make this dream a reality. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us, and that is all I am asking of you, that we do everything

More Mail

we can. So send me your ideas, pray for God's guidance and above all else, if you are called with me, act to change this world.

Eric Darling

222

Dear Ivan,

Igenerally follow the "never write to the *Star*" rule, but then again, I also break rules fairly often (but I won't tell you which ones). In my 16 years in Houghton I've read lots of letters to the editor, but none offended me as much as Tim Nichols' letter in the February 7 issue.

I refer specifically to Tim's slanderous and inaccurate reference that I ate meals in Gaoyadeo's basement when I was a student. No such thing happened. I'm amazed that someone who graduated with a history major from Houghton would do such shoddy research. Katherine0. Lindley is probably considering revoking Tim's major even as we speak (write, whatever!), although his comments about Kathie Brenneman were probably accurate. Perhaps Tim's problems stem from the time he spent at Youngstown State before seeing the light and transferring to Houghton to get a real education.

By the time I arrived at Houghton in the fall of 1975, meals in Gao were only a memory. Now, someone as ancient as Wayne MacBeth (class of '75) could tell you horror stories about eating in Gao. I can only tell of the horrors and joys of living there.

Tim failed to mention just how bad suppers were on Sunday night when I was a freshman. We prayed for something as good as "Broccoli-Cauliflower Nut Bake." Our treat was a pasta dish called (among other things that I can't put in this letter) "Sausage and Shells." During Mayterm of my freshman year the food service conducted a student survey of likes and dislikes, resulting in the demise of "Sausage and Shells" forever at Houghton College.

Please beware of false prophets like Tim, Ivan, even if they are employed by Houghton.

Tim Fuller

Ed. Note: "Sausage and Shells" have actually been back for a while. Pioneer serves them rather frequently.

222

Dear Editor,

I'll begin this article by bringing to your attention that the following does concern some of the things I see going on at our school, and yes, it also concerns our most recent spot. I'm telling you this now, only to ask that you give this article a chance, as I am not looking to condemn anyone, but seeking to convey some things that have weighed heavily on my heart as of late.

You see, my younger brother (16) was here at Houghton for Winter Weekend. I was particularly excited to have him here, as I, along with the rest of my family, am hoping he might attend a Christian college after graduation. I attended two secular colleges before coming to Houghton, so I pray often that my brother and sisters will somehow be able to attend a Christian school and not have to see and experience some of the things I had to. Yet after the spot and an evening in the dorm that weekend my excitement diminished when in the midst

of those two experiences my brother made the comment, "And this is a Christian college?"

I have been struggling with this comment ever since; those few words have been the cause of much frustration and prayer as I went back and forth in my mind on how to answer his comment. At first I was defensive, as I feel there is a great number of Christians here, and many people whom the Lord has called are educating themselves here to do His will. Where did my brother come off making a statement like that? Then I thought about what my brother had actually seen here. He spent the night in a dorm where we have an individual(s) kicking holes in the wall, knocking vents out of bathroom doors, and where swearing in a common occurrence among even a greater number. Unfortunately, my brother either heard or saw some of these things. Next came the spot, where my brother was able to get an idea as to what our "christian college" finds humorous. A band which promoted breaking the rules (dancing, drinking, premarital sex), acts designed to criticize individuals, and act demonstrating why my brother should wear a watch. Now before you label me a prude, hear me out. I am not condemning one's right to individuality or to express oneself, nor am I saying that those who participated in the "individuality" that evening are on the road to hell. I, before anyone, must admit I have downfalls, struggles, and questions in my Christian walk. I am no better than the least here, but what I saw at the spot and have been seeing in the dorm is what I believe, a true example of a "slippery slope." I believe very strongly for the standards this school has against dancing, drinking, and premarital sex. Not just because they say so, but because I believe the effects of these actions are more negative than good. However small the negative effects may be, our stand against these things represents our willingness to abstain from things that could be detrimental to our Christian walk. Without these standards, what would we be? Sure, we could still call ourselves Christian, but how strong would our vocal witness be to a nonbeliever when we participate in all the world does? Yes, I suppose we would still make it to heaven also, but would we take anyone with us? I'm afraid we'd be too concerned about our own "footing" to help anyone else to solid ground.

Now you may disagree passionately with me over this and some may agree. If you disagree, that is fine, that is individuality with responsibility. If you disagree and express yourself hurtfully, and break the rules you imposed on yourself by coming here, then you are participating in irresponsible individuality and lose and important aspect of your witness. Is it not biblical to be most concerned with our witness when expressing our individuality?

Please understand me as I bring this to a close. I am in no way looking to force my beliefs on anyone, the individuality and diversity we bring here as a result of our backgrounds is one of the great aspects of our school. The sharing and debating we are able to do because of our differences is a good thing. This characteristic of our school needs to remain an aspect only, though, overshadowed by a priority common to all of us, our commitment to Christ. With this commitment comes the responsibility of not only living for Christ, but also "representing "HIm to ones we come in contact with, whether it be other Christians or non-believers. We as a student body need to seriously consider our witness and pray consistently about it. We in turn may see a better understanding of each other, and whether someone encounters us in our dorms, the chapel, or the hallway between classes, we will not only be able to tell them this is a Christian

campus, but we could also let our actions answer the question before it is even asked.

Matthew Pickering

2222

Dear Editor.

Being a senior and having read the *Star* for four years, I have come to see it change from a serious, thought-provoking periodical to something I read just for amusement. Now, when I read it, it just makes me angry. Case in point is your editorial in the February 21 issue, claiming that this generations has done nothing and that there are no heroes in the world. I think you are totally wrong on these two points.

First, the idea that "...very little that could be labeled excellent work in the arts and sciences has come out of our generation" is a strange statement. I mean, we're sorry we haven't developed a fusion reactor yet, or solved Fermat's equation or discovered alien life or painted the next Mona Lisa, but give us a break willya? This generation is only around their twenties; we haven't had time to research or develop these ideas (or even think of our own!) yet. We don't have enough experience. So, Mr. Rocha, would you mind giving us, this generation, a little time, please? We might not look like we have much done now (and who does at age 21?) but we will "come of age" in the future. Count on it.

Secondly, and more importantly, I reject your idea that there are no heroes in the world; heroes who you obviously think must be come kind of "rebels with a cause" or political and social activists. Don't get me wrong; the world does need these kind of heroes, desperately. But I reject your narrow and

restricting definition.

What about the person who beats a drug addiction? What about the person who exerts willpower and loses hundreds of pounds? What about the father who works 60 hours a week at a low paying job just so that his family can have a place to live, food to eat? What about faithful, Christian parents? What about single parents who struggle to raise kids today? What about the soldier who sacrifices his life for his country? What about a person who overcomes some physical handicap? What about the billion people who go about their daily lives, trying to survive as best they can? Are not all these people heroes, in their own way? If they are not, then what are they? According to your definition, they will never be heroes. I claim that these people, the people who conquer the difficulties, fears, and trials in their own lives, are the greatest heroes of all.

For me, the greatest hero I ever want to be is the hero of the little girl I want to have someday in the future. A little girl who will hug me, kiss me, and say "I love you, Daddy" just because I'm her Daddy. On that day, I will be the greatest hero on earth, and I would not (and will not) trade that for anything in this world. But according to you, unless I'm protesting against the current political or social status, I'm not a hero; I'm the antonym of a hero, a villain. And this is not just the case.

You've been labeled a cynic in the past; I don't know if you are or not, But I know your vision is too narrow; it cuts out most of the human race. I don't want to be a part of that vision. I want to be a part of the vision that sees the hero in everyone, be they activist, rebel, or just an ordinary guy.

John Percy

AND MORE MAIL...

To the brothers and sisters who live at Houghton, and to those who do not call Jesus "Lord," who live there, too:

We are all guilty of tolerating sin in our lives and in the lives of those around us. We have forgotten a call to be holy as our Father is holy. Therefore, I think we have also neglected part of what it means to be a Christian. It is hard for me to continuously hear talk in classes, at meals, on sidewalks, and in the campus center regarding the women who spent the night, the wine coolers that were downed, and the dancing that was done. We are open and flippant, casual and unaffected in our souls about the sin in our lives, and we are grieving our brothers and sisters. Some, we have caused to stumble. Others, we have tripped on purpose. Most of all, we have displeased the Almighty God.

John Wydysh's letter in "Blackberries" about the "proposed motel," while cleverly sarcastic, really underscored the real problem: we accept sin in our lives. It's not an issue of the pledge, so don't write this off yet. It isn't a matter of Wesleyan tradition. What's at stake here is indeed an appearance/image deficiency. The misconception is that the image that is bruised by our actions in Houghton's. Nope. Not one bit. Houghton is buildings, acreage, books, and paper. There are no egos or images at stake. It's not us who are bruised either, because we've proven that we just don't care. Our actions hurt the image of God.

In a world that leaps at every

opportunity to mock Christians, we can ill-afford to slap God's face in the public eve anymore. We dare not point the finger at "high-profile" Christians such as Jimmy Swaggart, Robert Tilton, or Jim Bakker, and add our disclaimer that our faith is not as their faith, or "We aren't like that!" Oh yes we are! To Allegany County, we at Houghton are "highprofile" Christianity, even if our profiles have never graced their presence personally. (Another sin: Jesus said "Go..."; why don't we? The county's not that big, but it is part of the world...) Regardless of how we try to justify our actions by saying "God looks on the heart. Man looks on the outward appearance," remember that the men and women of the world do look on outward appearance, and if outward appearance reflects someone (especially the "old man," whom we were to put off) other than Christ, we are very wrong. Let's not damage Jesus' possible relationship by our actions. Let's pledge our whole lives to Jesus Christ, otherwise we stand for nothing eternal, and the earthly things are passing even as I write.

Instead of pointing fingers at the sins of others, reassuring ourselves that we are not like them, maybe confrontation is better. A simple, "Brother (or sister), I love God and I love you. What you are doing is wrong and goes against God's Word and it hurts him. Please stop." does not kill you, and if it does, your killer has his or her rewards, but you will gain yours, too. So don't fret it. By turning your Christian sibling off to sin, you are honoring God and loving your sibling.

If we have taken God's doctrine of mercy to extremes, we have probably forgotten justice, holiness, and our call. We are called to be a holy nation, not "Christians aren't perfect, just forgiven." Why not perfect? Why settle for less that being holy even as God is holy? To be less and

exhort others to that poor witness via our cars' bumpers is wrong. Worse yet, it's cheap Christianity. I think Houghton would do well for God's image in this part of the world to quit merely talking about our sins. the most godly thing we can do is to get rid of sin, not to shove under a rug or hide it in an empty classroom.

I will push no indictment without a proposed solution. First, pray that God's refining fire within you will destroy sins both small and large in you. Confess them to him. Pray that he will purify you to the inmost part. Ask him to revive his people starting with you. Secondly, pray for your brothers and sisters. Satan hates them as much as he hates you. They could use your help. Third, pray for revival. Fourth, pray for revival! Fifth, pray for revival! We may be annoying insects, buzzing in the ear of a sleeping church, but the annoyance causes the church to do two things: 1.) it wakes up, angry enough to destroy you if it can. Or 2.) it wakes up, remembering something more important to do that it should have done before it went to sleep. Either way, you'll wake up the church. Don't forget to be holy. Cut the sin out. If not, if you want to persist in blatant disregard of God's image, get out. That's right, go. You do the name of Jesus and "Christian" no earthly good.

A word to John (an other Houghtonites): it is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness. Don't merely point out a problem. Be the solution to it.

Jon Jankovich

क्षेत्रक

Chapel Deadbeat Warning: Anyone who leaves chapel after having scanned in is subject to an immediate one week suspension. (TJN)

From my seat in the back row, I could see but not hear Tim Nichols

questioning the woman who had gotten up to leave before Monday's chapel service had come to a close. After a minute or two, he allowed her to pass. I wondered at this for a moment, then put it out of my mind.

Standing in the lunch line, I looked up from reading Mr. Nichols' notice in the *Scoop* to accept a cheese sandwich from this same woman, now working behind the counter. I certainly hope that she did not incur "an immediate one week suspension" for leaving chapel early to prepare for lunch. I also hope it will not be necessary for her to be detained at the door each time she attempts to do this. But under this new rule, who will be detained? Who will be suspended?

The rule may have been intended to punish the small minority of students who "scan in" and immediately walk out for the express purpose of "beating the system." But these are not the only ones who will be affected. Those most obviously inconvenienced include food service workers, people with other appointments, or those who become ill. Also affected, though, will be perhaps one more group: those who, for personal or emotional reasons, find it necessary to leave in the middle of a chapel service.

One of the good things about chapel is that is exposes students to a diversity of perspectives on the Christian religion. Often I have been surprisingly challenged or encouraged by messages presented by chapel speakers. Because of this, I try to come to chapel with an open mind and a willingness to listen. However, there have been occasions where I have found chapel messages unedifying, upsetting, and even offensive. On some of those occasions I have chosen to leave: raised a Roman Catholic, I was offended by the intolerance of Jack Wyrtzen (last semester's WMF speaker) toward this branch of Christianity. In chapel the week after attending an "unsaved"

relative's funeral sophomore year, I was emotionally unable to watch a film graphically depicting the eternal torment awaiting "the lost."

Under Mr. Nichols' new rule, would leaving under such circumstances be grounds for suspension? Hopefully not. Would this be grounds for extensive questioning? Probably, yes.

The prospect of being questioned in this way at a time when I am already distressed intimidates me. I am led to wonder: would I be believed in such a situation? Or would I be accused of being a "deadbeat?" How much of my distress will it be necessary for me to justify to Mr. Nichols before I am allowed to exit the building?

I trust that Mr. Nichols is a reasonable man: that while he has an interest in exposing students to a variety of Christian messages, he does not intend to require them to remain in chapel, under threat of

suspension, at a time when they feel unable to be authentic, willing participants. I trust that, when presented with a legitimate reason for leaving such as this, Mr. Nichols would not impose on a student a harsher punishment than is given to those who "overcut" (who are allowed a meeting with the Chapel Attendance Committee to discuss their actions, and who may be given the option to perform a public service duty instead of being suspended from school). It seems that the brevity of Mr. Nichols' Scoop notice, though, might allow this new rule to be interpreted as reflective of a desire for legalistic order, rather than Christian compassion.

I look forward to a clarification and further explanation of this new policy by Mr. Nichols.

Sincerely,

Susan Kinnetz



Pot Shots

Short fiction, special in this issue by Tom Noyes

remember the heat that day. Even in our tree house, usually the coolest spot around, the sun seemed to disintegrate the broad maple leaves that had frequently provided a haven for trading baseball cards or playing marathon monopoly games. "A real scorcher," the guy on the radio called it. Manny and I had a cheap transistor in the tree house that got only the oldies station out of Trenton. In 1981 I was eleven years old and knew all the words to Marvin Gave's "I Heard It Through the Grapevine" and the Temptations' "My Girl."

The tree house and all its contents belonged to my best friend Manny and me. We owned the radio and everything else jointly. We had built our castle together with my father's tools and filled it with loot from our basements and attics. An old endtable from my house and a couple stools from Manny's house were at the center of things. Our major decoration was a poster of five or six dogs sitting around a table smoking cigars and playing poker. Manny's mom had encouraged us to take that classic off her hands.

So that was the set-up. It doesn't sound like much looking back, but at the same time it sounds like a lot. Life was usually good up there in the branches.

Well, like I said, it was hot that day. We were both sweating buckets even though we were in the shade.

"Manny. Peter. You guys up there? Hey!"

Neither Manny nor I had to look out to know who the voice belonged to. It was Vinnie, Manny's sixteen year old brother, and we weren't thrilled about hearing him.

"What do you want, Vinnie?" Manny sounded and looked disgusted.

"Come to the door for a second."
Manny and I looked at each other
and rolled our eyes before crawling
over to the door hole and looking
down to see what Vinnie the slimeball
wanted. We didn't have to ask when
we saw him. He was holding a case of
Bud, and two of his loser buddies
joined him in squinting up at us.

"Let's party, little brother."

This wasn't the first time Vinnie and his buddies wanted to use our tree house for party central. A couple of moths before they had slept out there without telling Manny or me, and one of their friends had fallen out and broken his leg. I later heard that the poor slob was so drunk the doctor had to pump his stomach.

"Come on you little faggots. I'll even let you two share a brewski. It's hot out here and we're coming up there to drink our case. We're asking for courtesy's sake. We're not asking for permission." Then they started climbing up the ladder.

Vinnie and the case got to us first. "Help me out, Manny." He gave Manny the beers so that he could hoist himself the rest of the way up to the doorway.

What happened next is kind of questionable. Manny insisted after

that he didn't do it on purpose, and after all that happened I'd like to believe him, but I don't know. Anyway, twenty-four Budweiser bottles took on gravity and lost. Manny said the case slipped out of his hand.

On purpose or not, as soon as they hit, both Manny and I realized he had screwed up. Vinnie's face was already red from the heat, and now his eyes were real crazy. He looked like the devil. "Me and my buddies are going to teach you and your homo friend why you should respect a case of Bud," Vinnie said. He seethed his words. "First I'm going to count to twenty because I'm a nice guy, and then..."

Manny and I didn't stick around to hear anymore. We were down the ladder and out of there before either Vinnie or either of his mutant henchmen could lay a hand on us. Manny was faster, so I followed him. We ran to his house in about a minute and a half and locked the door.

We didn't beat Vinnie and his boys by much. They were booking up the walk when Manny turned the lock. When Vinnie put his face to the small, diamond-shaped window near the top of the door and told us to let him in, Manny gave him the finger.

I was scared. Vinnie had beaten Manny up pretty good a couple times, and the way things were going, I thought it would happen again. At some point we were going to have to exit the house or let Vinnie in. Vinnie and Manny's mom got home from work in less than an hour, but even she could only put things off. Vinnie wasn't the forgiving and forgetting type. As soon as she wasn't around it would be open season on us.

After watching Vinnie bang weakly up against the door a couple times—there was no way he wanted to explain to his parents how he had broken down the door while trying to kill his younger brother over a spilled case of beer—Manny left the kitchen. I figured he was heading around to

the living room to lock the front door. Good idea. I gave Vinnie's pitiful puss one more glance before I followed Manny.

Instead of hustling to the living room, though, Manny made a rush upstairs. For a moment I thought he was going to his room

to hide under his bed. I knew this wouldn't help anything Vinnie would have qualms about pulling us out from under a bed our by ankles in order crush our skulls, but at moment I was all for hiding anyway.

hurt.

Manny wasn't in the hiding mode that day though. Instead of going into his room to wait for a whipping with his gutless friend, he went into his parents' bedroom, opened the wardrobe. and grabbed his father's .16 gauge. He checked to see if it was loaded.

"Don't worry, buddy," he said to me. "Everything's going to be just cool."

My heart was jumping around in my throat like a bull frog on steroids. I didn't follow Manny down the stairs and out again into the kitchen as much as I followed the gun he carried.

Vinnie's face became deranged when he saw Manny and the gun. He

backed away from the door at first like he couldn't believe it. Then he flipped. "You little piece of crap," he yelled so my legs shook. He then began to take frantic full-body runs at the door like he was content to first kill, then worry about explaining the scious. The room seemed to be rocking, and I couldn't stand without the help of the wall. I thought about grabbing Manny or the gun or something, but I couldn't get my body to move. Instead I spoke. "You're just making him madder," I heard myself say. I pulled myself together enough then to get straight to the point.

"Manny," I said "you shouldn't play with guns."

> made his last charge on the door. He bounced offagain, then looked in at us. He saw what

Vinnie, as if on cue, then

saw. Manny had the g u n pointed at the lower middle part of

He had a Clint Eastwood smile on his face, and his trigger finger appeared eager to make Vinnie's day.

"Manny!" I screamed. "That's not loaded is it?"

He turned to me for a second and smiled. "What do you think I am, stupid?" He didn't look my way again until it was done. He directed his attention at Vinnie who was beginning to make a retreat. "Feel this, Vinnie, you puke."

> After the bang there wasn't silence. In the movies there's always

ing out of his right buttock. The slug

quiet after the bad guy gets shot. It gives the hero time to get kissed by the girl who he rescues and all that. Not so in Manny's kitchen. Vinnie's screams filled my ears like growls and shrieks do during a bad nightmare. When Manny finally opened the door we saw Vinnie writhing around on the steps like notquite-dead roadkill. Blood was pour-

the door. that I figured I'd say a prayer or two while I was there. It couldn't obliterated door and bodies to his parents.

Manny screamed after the third or fourth of Vinnie's mad rushes. "One more time and I'm going to blow you away, Vinnie." He held the gun on his hip like he was some kind of cowboy gladiator instead of a skinny, punk Jersey kid. "One more time and you're worm food."

At this point I was barely con-

Continues on page 20

had gone right through the door and Vinnie's back pocket. Later, I found out that it also had gone through Vinnie's wallet and its contents: four one-dollar bills, a picture of his girlfriend, Heidi, and a Trojan condom he'd been carrying around for about a year so his friends would think he was scoring.

I sat on the lawn and watched Vinnie curse and wriggle while Manny called the ambulance. Somehow the cops had found out about things, probably from a neighbor. There was quite a crowd after a few minutes. A couple of officers had just begun to ask Manny and me questions when his mom got home from work. When se found out what happened, everyone in the small gathering around her yard seemed willing to help her out in piecing things to-

gether, she marched over to where we were, split the two cops like she was O.J. Simpson, and started bombing Manny like he was a punching bag. It took both cops to held her. By this time our town's finest had figured out that Manny was the shooter, and they told me I could go home for now. they said not to go far though, and that they'd be in touch.

I walked home slowly. When I finally turned into my yard I was my dad on the porch puffing away on a Marlboro. He had pretty much quit smoking a couple of moths before, so I figured he must have heard about Vinnie. He noticed me and watched me with interest as I approached.

"Hey Pete. Accomplice to any attempted murders lately?" My dad was a funny guy.

"I swear I didn't know it was

loaded, Dad. I didn't even know he was getting the gun until he got it, and the everything happened so quick." I paused to breathe. "Sorry."

Dad didn't say anything right away. He exhaled long streams of smoke though his nostrils a couple times before he said, "You know, Pete, I know it's hard being a kid. I was a kid once, you know." He dropped his cigarette and stamped it hard into the ground before getting another one out of his shirt pocket and lighting up. "I got through being a kid without shooting anybody in the butt though. You know something, son? I don't think I ever even hung around a kid who shot people. Sort of a rule I lived by, I guess."

I couldn't think of anything to say. I sat on the step and breathed his smoke for a while.

Black Hole M. L. TAYLOR

Some of you may remember that little statement made by Fraz Bailey during black History Chapel about racism being present here at Houghton. I was initially shocked, as well as perplexed at this statement, as I believe most of you were. Some of my profs even voiced their discomfort at it even being implied. After much personal deliberation and decision, I took it upon myself to interview Mr. Bailey and get his feelings on the matter and maybe even give him a chance to redeem himselffrom many implied comments or attitudes. What I found out strengthened my position on the issue and did much for my wanting to take a stand for a multi-cultural balance at Houghton College.

When asked about the statement

in question, "Racism at Houghton?" I personally found a lot of what Fraz had to say became very pertinent and applicable to life, not only in Houghton but in the surrounding areas as well.

"What bothers me is that we know about certain things that you don't, and vice versa. Plus, there's things people say, the way people behave, and the stereotypes people hold. A lot of people hold stereotypes about black people, and other people will hold racist stereotypes about black people. I feel that a lot of people hold the racist stereotypes. A lot of this is perceived because many people will give off the attitude and not realize they're doing it, but it's the fact that I and other minorities on campus perceive it that makes it hard for me to take."

He went on to explain, "Boy' is a term that my friends and I use for each other, but if someone that I know uses that term 'Boy' in reference to me or one of my 'Boys,' someone who I know didn't come from my background, I take that as an insult." He went on to clarify this in explaining that nature of the term has a lot to do with where you are from, not necessarily you race. "If one of my white friends form home says, 'He's my Boy' that's okay, but if someone from the country who doesn't know me, or even if they know me, calls me 'Boy' then I tend to get offended because I don't really know in what context they're saying the word. It's really difficult to deal with when it happens repeatedly."

It has much to do with the context of the moment and where you come from. These thoughts are where I got the sense of what the main point was. It also has to do with the overt acts, though, intentional or not. "Here's a good one," he continues, "I would date a black guy, but I wouldn't marry him.'/Well why?/Because he's black.' or 'All black girls are genetically ugly.'

Those two were said to my face." It gets better. "Oh you know Yuri?'/ Yeah, he's the black guy'/No he's Hispanic.'/Oh,samething.' There's a world of difference. This culture's totally different from mine. I'm from mid-New Jersey. I don't get this where I'm from because the black people and the White people get along so well. Before, I was really oblivious to the whole idea of racism."

When asked about the fact that Houghton has such a low contingent of both black students and faculty, and how that would change some of these attitudes, he felt that it would be quite different in that what he and others were dealing with would be less strained and also, there would be someone with more wisdom and experience there to talk to about cultural animosity. Since we don't have this at Houghton, it becomes more difficult for the few that are in the minority to take, especially because there is a minority of minorities. "If you didn't live it, you can't feel it, and there's no one else except the few students here to relate to. But, if there were a few black faculty, that would make it easier."

Then there's the age-old question of "community." He mentions that when he stayed here for spring break, "I thought there was going to be an accident on route 19, there were so many people turning heads. People who *knew* me were like, 'What are you doing here?' I makes you feel like you don't belong. And what really bothers me is that it's here. This is the cream of the crop."

One thing that a point was made on was that it really bothers Fraz that white people don't know enough about black culture or city culture. "It's easy for us, as Blacks to understand you because we get it all the time, but it's not so easy for you to know about us." That is what black History Month is for.

When I suggested some sort of intercultural class, possibly required

as a possible gen-ed course for students, teaching differences in attitudes concerning race, location, ethnicity and such, he responded, "Yeah, I think that would be a good idea. But, I still think that people would be bothered by it, because I saw people mad about having black History Month and not wanting to learn about black people. I didn't know alot of stuff that's common knowledge here because I'm from the city. There's alot of stuff that I could have learned if there were a class like this. I'm learning not to take things so seriously. People exude what might be seen as racism, but if you're trained to see though that, I could prevent alot. As Christians we should have a different view and an open mind. I mean, we're equal. Just because I say something like 'Brother' doesn't mean black, either. I doesn't have do do with skin color, it's more of a friend thing or if you like to be with us." Another thing that bugged both Fraz and I was the fact that if the black people on campus sit and congregate together, it's perceived as isolationism. We both agreed that this is no different from the fact that jocks or other groups of friends all sit together. It's not a clique-thing, it's not a race thing, it's a friend thing.

Something that got to me about this racism thing was this: "There was a girl that graduated from here, good Christian girl, that by the time her four years were up, she was a racist, she hated White people. I don't want to be like that. But, it's very hard not to be when you're reaching for that and every time you do someone hits your hand with a bat." I feel that this is the worst thing about this attitude.

It may be difficult for the majority of students here to perceive what's going on here. I won't pretend to have explained everything way here in this column. What I can do, though is give this piece of advice to all of you: don't presume to be the other, because you can't. It's like Fraz said, you can't understand it unless you live it. I haven't lived in Fraz's world, nor he in mine. To say that there shouldn't be animosity is a great thought, but the reality of it is that it's going to be there, regardless. The only thing that we can do about is pray. After prayer comes wisdom. Let's pray for the wisdom to deal with this issue, because, I will agree with Fraz. Racism is here. It is here, it is there, it is everywhere. To attempt to avoid it will be the noblest of tasks, for this will keep a brotherhood in Christ unstrained. But to avoid it and ignore it is death itself, and will bring about the most terrible war. Please pray on this, even if you feel that it is not a problem for you specifically. You cannot call yourself a Christian and live in a multi-cultural community unless you do.

Houghton College and the student literary journal,
The Lanthorn, will sponsor a poetry reading by Dr. James
Zoller, on Tuesday, March 24 at 8:00 p.m. in
Woolsey Auditorium.

Zoller's poetry has appeared in such publications as Antaeus, Arachne Inc., Blueline, Kudzu, The Kentucky Poetry Review, and others.

Blackberries

by Johnathan Wydysh

Dear Susan and Gordon,

I wanted to say hello and let you know when I'll be coming to say goodbye. I also wanted to make sure that everything was still okay as far as how you guys are feeling about taking on Houghton. I know when you first met her she took to you like you were her kin. You said then and every time you visited that if I ever had to let her go you would be glad to have her.

Sadly it has come down to a time when I have to move on and I cannot take her with me. She's too big for the city and too much a country-girl to be happy there. I just want to make sure and nor corner you for things said and meant in the past. Do you still want her?

She produces wonderful litters. I've had her bred twice and her children go for top dollar. If you choose to have her bred she will more than pay for herself in puppies. She's made more money for me than she's cost. Even-tempered, intelligent pups are always in demand. By the time they are whelped they are strong, healthy, obedient likenesses of their gentle mother. You may get the occasional runt, but that is generally the pup with the most charisma. She's a good mother and loves all equally as only a mother can.

I must warn you that Houghton has a will of her own! Sometimes if you're not used to it, she'll knock you down in an effort to show how much she cares and will be confused and hurt if you respond angrily to her well-meant intentions. She just wants to love and be loved.

Once in a while she's a little mischievous and gets after one critter or another and ends up re-landscaping the equivalent of a city block in search of a pesky rodent. Aside from having a one-track mind, she's also occasionally a little near sighted.

The other day she ate my welcome mat on the back porch. I was angry, but I was more concerned for Houghton's health than the 31. South stupid mat. The vet said that unless there is blood, there's nothing to worry about. The mat will simply pass through in a week as long as I put vaseline and chocolate sauce on her paws every morning. I'll let you know how that comes out.

She is usually quiet and only barks to get someone's attention. The only time she's ever growled at me was when she thought I was harming one of her children. She isn't very territorial, but rarely backs down from a fight. 90 percent of the time she's a happy, playful dog. She can, however, be a no-nonsense bitch when the situation 51, Frozen water

All in all, she's as loyal and true as they come, and you two are lucky to have such a friend come be with you. I will miss her terribly. Especially when the air is cold and the moon full and shining off freshly fallen snow, everything will be quiet. I'll be alone, and the warmth of her constant presence will only be a fond memory. See you soon.

Love, David

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ACROSS

- 4. Corded fabrics 8. Assist
- 12. A lifetime
- 14. Enclosure 15. Male sheep
- 16. Intensifier of sound
- 18. Wash away 20. Tailless amphibian
- 21. At

- 29. Giri (slame)
- 30. Give ple
- 32. Cat's sou
- 34. 6th scale note 35. Lawful
- 37. Faintly lighted
- 38. Dreaming eye
- movement (abbr.)
- 39. Arabian prince
- 40. Encountered 41. Male pronoun
- 42. Angers

Crossword answers on page 9

- 52. Village in Ireland 53. Ireland (poetic)
- 54. Signal for help
- 55. Aquatic animal
- 57. Explosin

DOWN

- 1. Slice 2. Marine algae
- 3. Isolated
- 4. Unusual
- 5. Strain to fill out
- 6. Gun
 - 7. Speak
- 8. World of scho
- 9. Night bird
- 10. Self
- 11. Three (pref.)
- 17. Sodium symbol
- 19. Perform
- 24. Duke (abbr.)

- 25. Small island 26. Squad
- 28. Elementary (abbr.) 29. Semisolid material
- 30. Direct
- 32. Pertains to marriage
- 36. Soldier (abbr.)
- 37. Want
- 38. Fight off
- 40. Measure
- 41. Laugh sound
- 43. Egyptian sun god
- 44. Curved
- 45. Idol
- 46. Bird's home
- 47. Poss. pron
- West
- Gershwin 50. Viscount (abbr.)





















































