

The Houghton Star

Volume 82.14 February 12, 1990



Photo by Chris Daniels

Another Tradition: Black History Month

by Beth Johnson

The purpose of Black History Month is to "help Houghton students appreciate another tradition, the black tradition," according to Nancy Louk-Murphy. Louk-Murphy, along with Prof. Mary Conklin, Renee Murphy, and the members of African-American Cultural Exchange, arranged the commemoration.

The February 3 movie, "To Kill a Mockingbird," began this year's commemoration, and will continue throughout the month with videos, lectures, and musical events.

Musically, this will be a great month for Houghton; the Grammy-winning, black *a capella* group Take 6 gave an eye-opening performance on February 5, while the Orville Hammond Trio presented an evening of jazz entitled "Studio '90" on February 10.

Those who wished to experience worship and praise at a black church were able to do so when trips were made to four Buffalo churches February 4 and 11. At the evening services of the Houghton Wesleyan

Church on February 18, Rev. Les Braxton of Shiloh Baptist Church will be preaching. Mrs. Delores Beckford, a recorded, classically trained vocalist, will be soloist that evening.

Two Black History Month chapels are scheduled: February 14 and 21. The first chapel will feature students and faculty reading poetry and prose from such black writers as Gwendolyn Brooks, Langston Hughes, and James Weldon Johnson. Ms. Geneva Miller, evangelist and HEOP official, will speak at the second chapel.

Throughout February, a Black History trivia contest will be held, with a brunch for two at the Olde Library in Olean among the prizes. Also, exhibits of major black figures and developing African nations will be posted. In addition, photographer David Gordon's show "Hold" opened February 5 in Wesley Chapel art gallery (see article, page 12).

The video series "Eyes on the Prize" will be shown in the library on

Tuesdays from 8-9:0 p.m. This series documents the civil rights struggle during the 1950-60s.

Black History Month can be one of two things for you, the person reading this article...it can be another function, another event you breeze past and largely ignore. Hopefully, however, it will open your eyes to the struggle for civil rights and equality within our country, and give you a taste of the rich cultural background of African-Americans that you would otherwise be unaware of.

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News

Economist to Lecture

a Christian College Consortium release

Dr. Frederick Abraham Moses, Commissioner-cum-Secretary to the government of Orissa, India, will be the Christian College Consortium Distinguished Guest Lecturer visiting Houghton on February 12-13. His major chapel address presents "A Christian Perspective on Business and Economic Systems in the Third World." He will also conduct several class presentations.

As principal adviser to the government of Orissa for power and irrigation projects, Moses is responsible for the monitoring, managing, and developing of all related projects. He also serves in a top management position of IPITEX, Ltd., which exports ready-made garments to the United States, Western, and East European markets. In recent years, Moses has taught at the New York University School of Business and Public Administration and in the Graduate School of Business Administration where he utilized his knowledge and experience in developing world economics.

Moses serves as choir director and occasional preacher at the Union Church of Bhubaneswar, India. He holds memberships in the Bible Society of India and the Prisoner's Fellowship of India.

This lectureship is one of the Christian College Consortium projects included in the Multi-Cultural Teaching Project funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts of Philadelphia. A distinguished guest lecturer normally unavailable to single institutions is brought annually to the member schools to discuss contemporary implications of the faith and learning dialogue at the heart of the consortium emphasis. This is the tenth distinguished lectureship hosted by the consortium.

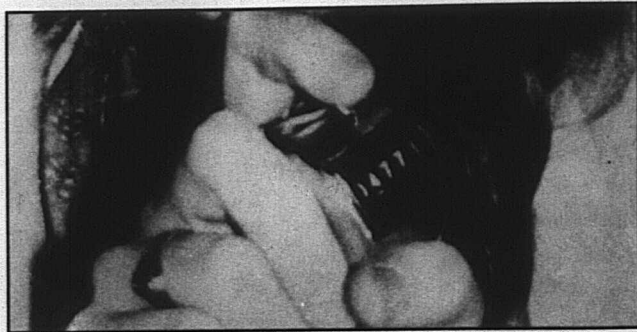


Photo by Chris Daniels

Of Rice and Rubles: The Pioneer Food Plan and Alternatives

by Mark Thomson

Do you feel cheated? Because you never eat breakfast, grab a salad for lunch, and only eat a truly substantial meal at dinner, while your roommate "pigs out" at every meal, do you feel like you're paying for a food-service you're just not utilizing? Don't. The truth is, you're really not paying that much more than you would be with a different type of food plan.

Houghton College uses the Twenty-one Meal (per week) Plan. Director of Pioneer Food Service Al Rehn ("Big Al") stands behind this plan. Rehn explained that when payment for the food plan is determined, the percentage of students eating at each meal is considered (hence the "clicker" at the bottom of the stairs) before calculating overall cost.

It is legitimate, however, to inquire about the advantages or disadvantages of alternative plans. Rehn, who has worked with a few other plans, has comments about them. Under a Fourteen Meal Plan, for instance, cost would initially drop; for the first two years students would be paying less. Then problems would push the price above its current state. Overhead (e.g. maintenance) must be met under any plan. Policing labor shoots up, as the food service staff must make sure that people are not exceeding their meal limit. Also, because people would

have to obtain a number of meals outside the cafeteria, staples from the food line would inevitably wind up in residence houses to be prepared there, incurring losses for Pioneer. (The small number of eating establishments in the Houghton area serves as another motive for providing all meals through the dining hall.)

At this juncture, one might ask whether a mixed system might be feasible. Those who wanted to obtain all their meals from Pioneer could do so, and others would be free to do as they wish. The problems cited above would still exist, as well as the additional confusion involved in making sure that everyone was adhering to his proper plan. The coupon system employed by Gordon College, in which students charge their meals to an account, is another consideration; however, it tends toward long lines and slow service.

A committee of administrators, Pioneer staff, and students will meet in the future to discuss what route Houghton should take. However, Rehn pointed out that at schools with alternate plans only a small minority defers from the Twenty-one Meal Plan. In Rehn's eyes, the issue looks rather like the "tail wagging the dog."



Stewards of Creation: Current Issues Day

by Ivan T. Rocha



As the theme of this year's Current Issues Day (Tuesday, February 20), the deterioration of the earth's environment is possibly the broadest and most polemic of current issues, encompassing everything from the burning of the Amazon to acid rain and the ozone hole. According to Dr. James Wolfe, CID coordinator, "the day's activities are built upon gaining an understanding of the complex environmental issues which confront the global community in this last decade [of the] twentieth century." Furthermore, the planning committee hopes to foster among Houghton students a dialogue "which seeks to expand not only our knowledge and appreciation for the Creator but how we, as Christ's stewards, can help in caring for the Creation."

A breakfast in which students and faculty will be encouraged to mingle and exchange views on the environmental situation will begin at 8:30 a.m., officially opening the day's activities. This breakfast, Wolfe hopes, will be a "visible demonstra-

tion of the interplay of the liberal arts disciplines to confront an issue."

An assembly following the student-faculty breakfast will take place at 10:00 a.m. and will have as its opening attraction a "playlet" by Dr. William Allen entitled *The Trauma-Drama of Gladwin Globe*. This mini-drama, inspired by Moliere's *The Hypochondriac*, points to the dangers of ecological neglect and will include in its cast Rand Bellavia, Deborah Young, Rebecca Lutz, Sandra Schlosser, David Brubaker, and David Lennon.

After this performance, Dr. David Mahan of the AuSable Institute of Environmental Studies will be lecturing on the Christian view of environmental stewardship. Following Mahan's address, Wayne Klockner, director of the Central and Western New York Chapters of the Nature Conservancy, will speak about the work of his organization in western New York, the United States, and throughout the world. Both of these men represent highly respected organizations, which during recent years have been prominent examples of affirmative action for the

preservation of wildlife. They have also informed the public of the necessity of maintaining a responsible attitude toward natural resources.

Various departments will be holding round-table discussions beginning at 2:30 p.m. about different aspects of the environmental issue. According to Wolfe, the purpose of these discussions is to allow both students and faculty "to explore different viewpoints and come up with practical ways to appreciate and care for the Creation."

The environmental issue will reappear to some extent during the Winter Weekend following Current Issues Day in the showing of the Dr. Seuss film "The Lorax," which, said Wolfe, "in a light-hearted yet pointed way . . . dramatically illustrates the consequences of not appreciating and caring for the environment."

It may be a good idea to make ours some of the ideas and recommendations which will surface during Current Issues Day and, like William Wordsworth, perceive in nature the "still, sad music of humanity" and be inspired to serious and responsible action.



Photo by Chris Daniels



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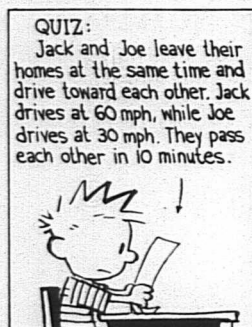
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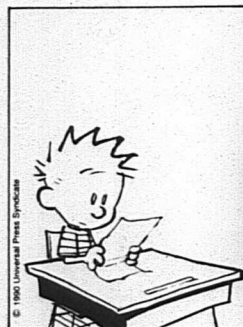
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Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



How far apart were Jack and Joe when they started?



Honesty and Accountability: Ministry Ethics An Interview with Dr. William O'Byrne

by Jon Jankovich

(For the third installment in the *Star's* series on ethics, Jon Jankovich interviewed Dr. William O'Byrne regarding ethical practices in Christian ministry. The following is Dr. O'Byrne's perspective; an examination of the Religion and Philosophy Department as a whole is forthcoming.)

Everyone is aware of the severe bashing taken by the church in the past few years by both its supporters and its staunchest opponents. Credibility is in very short supply as a minister who extends his hand is assumed to be reaching for your wallet rather than a simple handshake. What happened to faith in religion? Does it no longer exist? Whatever happened to ethics in ministry?

In a recent interview, Dr. William O'Byrne said that the biggest challenge facing Christian workers today is internal honesty. Christian workers must be honest in "who they truly are, what their practice is, their lifestyle—in comparison with the Christian life they profess. "One can end up living a double life if one is not honest with oneself, and an image of holiness can be projected when really one is not."

When asked the reasons for the many scandals that have rocked Christianity, Dr. O'Byrne replied that they were due, in part, to a lack of accountability between the leader and the rest of the body of believers.

"When a leader claims inside contact into the will of God, he or she becomes an autocrat who calls all the shots." (Who could deny one's claim that God revealed His will to that person?) A body needs to keep certain constraint over its various members, and ministers are no exceptions; they need to be held to certain standards, moral and ethical. "The Bible gives the broadest guidelines and principles which a person internalizes if they are to be righteous, but the standards of accountability are held by society."

In recent years, the church itself has become more involved in issues of today's world, and this interest grows out of the church's understanding of the ethics of Jesus (i.e.—being salt and light to the world, Matthew 5). "The church," said Dr. O'Byrne, "ought to act on race and prejudice, housing discrimination, the poor. [We need to] take Jesus' kingdom agenda; we're the agents of it." It seems that by ignoring the plight of hurting peoples, the church is turning its head from the part of

our commission from Christ.

On the problem of confrontations between the pastor and the congregations, Dr. O'Byrne does not see these as a hindrance to unity (which we all strive for, right?). If there were to be "a mindless lock-set militaristic conformity," then yes, a hindrance would arise, but differences only help people with divergent viewpoints come to a consensus in the Holy Spirit. It is important to maintain one's belief amidst the subtle merging of faith into an indiscernible gray.

Perhaps unity, then, is not looking like each other, but rather looking more like our Father. The more we look like Him, the less we look like ourselves. Maybe if we are more in His image, we'll begin to portray more of a family resemblance as His children. People will know we are Christians by our love, not by how many persons attend our great cathedrals each service. They'll judge our ethical practices by what they see us doing on the street instead of on the TV.

Health Care: What you're getting vs. what you want

by Carolyn J. Basham

The Student Health Advisory Committee met on January 29 and discussed the status of the Health Center and possible changes. As Houghton is making some budget cuts, the following options are being considered:

- 1) closing the Health Center and contracting with local doctors to give health care to college students;
- 2) allowing another doctor and staff to come in with a private practice and use the facility on campus (the building would be rented to the doctor at little or no cost with the agreement that students would be given first priority);

- 3) continuing with the present doctor, staff, facility, and on-call system for evenings and weekends. (Unrelated to this issue, nurse practitioner Dee Parker has plans to resign at the end of this semester. Whether or not the college will hire a replacement is questionable. The absence of a nurse practitioner would mean that the Health Center would no longer have the authority to diagnose patients and give prescriptions for medicine.)

Both Parker and Dean of Student Development Robert Danner have been working on a document to be submitted to the Administrative Committee that reports on the history of the Health Center, emphasizing its importance and the reasons for maintaining the service.



February 12, 1990

Student Senate is also preparing to submit a statement to the Administrative Committee. In the last Senate meeting (February 6), when I proposed to do just this, the response was given that the senators don't know what the students want.

What do you want? Is the present Health Center efficient, dependable, and important to you? Or are

you ready to wave goodbye to a center you have often found inefficient and undependable? As a senator and a member of the Student Health Advisory Committee, I, along with Senate, want to hear your ideas. I'm confident that the administration will, in turn, listen to Senate's ideas. It's your turn to talk; we are ready to listen.

Senate Approves Restructuring

by Stephen Virkler



At its meeting on February 6, Student Senate approved a motion to use half of the Senate office space for an information desk. Senate also dealt with a restructuring of general education courses and an increase in parking spaces, among other topics.

The proposed information desk will be used to house the switchboard, to serve as an information center for visitors, and to act as a registration desk during special events (Parents' Weekends, Encounter Days, etc.), according to Wayne MacBeth, Executive Director of College Relations. MacBeth added that the desk could serve as a student information center (providing such services as restaurant listings and airport directions), a place to rent out table games, or a ticket sales booth.

Concern over the East Hall desk prompted this motion, according to MacBeth, who cited the congested state of the desk during special days and weekends. A centrally-located desk in the Senate office's campus center space would theoretically reduce this congestion. According to the proposal, Senate will be able to use the current Phonathon room in exchange for the office space it gives up.

Parking Committee representative Steve Manney announced that a proposal has been sent to the administration which would open up a number of Fancher parking spaces for student use. This proposal is a temporary solution, Manney stressed, and will only be in effect for the remainder of this semester.

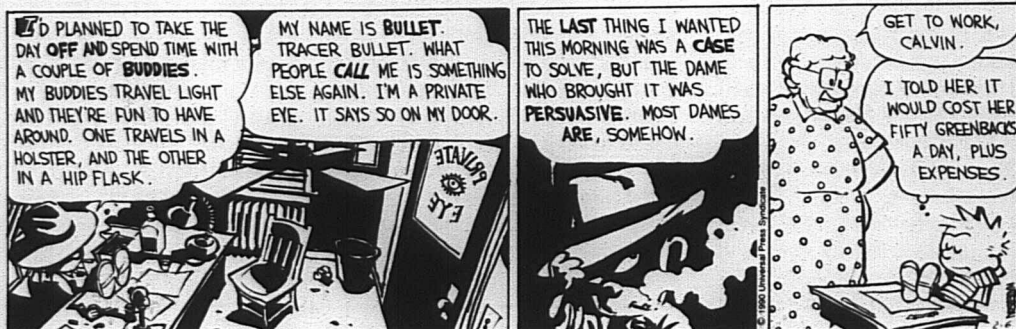
A proposal to cut Principles of Writing and Literature of the Western World from four to three credit hours has been passed, according to Academic Affairs representative Kristi Duliba. The two credit hours lost will be made up with a new, two-hour course called Library Research and Writing. According to Duliba, this proposal has been presented to the faculty for a vote.

The Campus Activities Board will offer students a free concert on Saturday, April 21. CAB treasurer Darren Chick announced that the contemporary Christian band Idle Cure is scheduled to perform, followed by a fireworks display.

Carolyn Basham, representing the Student Health Advisory Committee, discussed the health service options at Houghton and what each option would mean to the students and the college. For more information, see the related article on this page.

Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



And in Other News . . .

by Kenneth Cole



The past weeks have brought still more significant surprises in Europe. Last week, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was asked about the possibility of the reunification of East and West Germany. The reply: "Basically, no one casts any doubt on it." The words took their effect: East German prime minister Hans Modrow stated two days later that "Germany should once again become the fatherland of all the citizens of the German nation." He proceeded to present a four-step process for economic, legal, and political reunification. He also called for neutrality on the part of the unified country, meaning a withdrawal from NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

A reunification process had already begun on a personal level between the two countries; there has been much economic and social give and take between them. Businesses are well into the process of looking across the borders at new labor pools and customers. Socially, there has been much interaction between people on both sides of the border.

Perhaps Gorbachev's words, a catalyst in an animate situation, will have no major effect on the future—

but even if they do not, they serve to show how weighty a remark by a world leader in a volatile situation can be.

What may have a major mark on the future, however, are Gorbachev's efforts to establish a multi-party system in the Soviet Union. In a meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee, that is just what he proposed; and on Thursday, the Party voted to relinquish its monopoly on power by changing Article Six of the Soviet constitution, which has guaranteed single party rule for over 70 years.

Gorbachev is attempting to weaken Party influence and strengthen the power of the President of the Supreme Soviet. He holds the leadership of both, which makes the undertaking more feasible. With such a shift in power, the Party will apparently not be able to dictate as much policy as it has in the past. His plans have drawn sharp criticism from hard-liner Yegor Ligachev, who bitterly opposes the introduction of private property and Moscow's relative tolerance toward the Lithuanian independence movement.

In any case, the Soviets are calling for some sort of strong and appropriate action, and the situation may be more volatile than many care to acknowledge. Though Gorbachev has done what many would call a masterful job of controlled revolution, the questions remain as to what the year will bring, and whether such dramatic change can continue to be controlled.

Elsewhere, American civil rights leader and former presidential candidate Jesse Jackson arrived in Johannesburg, South Africa, on Wednesday to lend his name to the anti-apartheid cause, calling on President F.W. deKlerk to follow the reformist lead of the Eastern European countries. "As there is . . . a new morning in the Soviet Union, those winds of freedom must blow and make for a new South Africa." The right-wing Conservative Party, unimpressed, vowed to create a "new South Africa" of their own, an exclusively white homeland. There is still no word about the proximity of jailed African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela's release.

(Acknowledgements to UPI and Time for background data)

Darling, Jankovich Resign

Citing personal and spiritual reasons, president Eric Darling and chaplain Jon Jankovich have resigned from their positions in the Class of 1992. They have submitted their letters of resignation to the Star to initiate better understanding of their decisions.

My experience as president of the class of '92 has been an honor and a privilege (I am indeed grateful for the opportunity); but as of late I have grown tired, and often find myself struggling with several personal difficulties that interfere with my performance. I could blame my lack of motivation on a number of things ranging from academic pressure to spiritual apathy; yet I feel that my difficulties are not due to external stimuli but internal turmoil. This internal turmoil has to do with some aspects of spiritual searching and some aspects of burn-out. I feel that I am too tired physically and mentally, and it would be spiritually hypo-

critical if I were to continue as president. It is with these considerations in mind that I ask the class of '92 to accept my apologies and my resignation.

Eric Darling

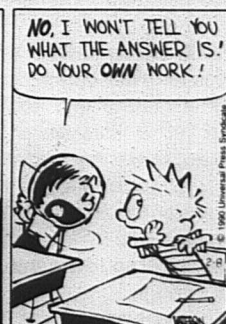
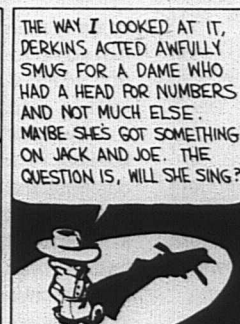
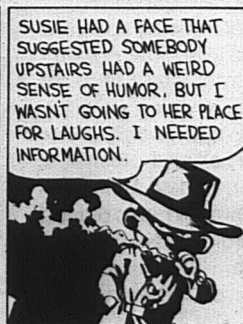
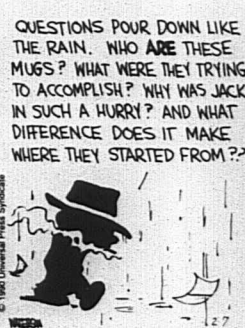
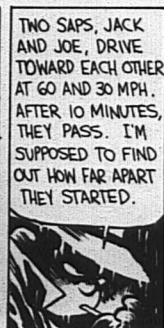
There comes a time when self-appraisal is necessary. When I look in the mirror of God's word and find some unrecognizable face, I guess it's time to stop for re-evaluation. For the past seven or eight weeks, I've really struggled in my faith and in my confidence as a "spiritual leader" on campus. Not many people have known, because I tend to wear a mask with alarming regularity. I don't like hiding anymore.

Dr. O'Byrne told me that a major challenge facing Christian workers today is internal honesty. For a long time, I've been deceiving myself into believing that my problems of faith were minor or nonexistent instead of honestly admitting them. What a

mistake! I needed to be honest with myself and with God, but I chose to hide them beneath my spiritual armor. My armor is rusting from the inside out, and I need to take it off for a while in order to attend Jesus' Spiritual Rehab center (I've just checked myself in for "therapy" via prayer, fellowship with close friends, and much study in the word of God).

And so I resign the chaplaincy of the sophomore class. I do so with a clear conscience, yet with a sad heart. Hopefully, you all will forgive me for doing so in the middle of my term in office, but I really must. Someone (a close friend) told me that it takes guts to look at one's self and then step down from office, but I think it takes honesty. Thanks, Dr. O'Byrne, for showing me that. I also want to thank my friend, Pork Roast, for much prayer, support, and love. And Eric Darling, my comrade: I love you, brother! You're in my prayers, Corporal.

In Christ,
Jonathon Jankovich





Carene Christensen

"One day I was teaching a math lesson to a fourth grade class of 25 students. A couple of students had colds and were coughing. The next time I turned around, 18 others joined in—they even had a rhythm going! I wanted to laugh, but I knew it was 'improper' to do so. But what else could I do?"

"Good morning. Greater Buffalo Convention and Visitors Bureau, Melissa speaking. Can I help you?" This phrase was one of the first challenges I faced while on my internship. 'Till this day I still can't spit it out correctly."

"Imagine yourself suddenly becoming a mother (or father) to thirteen pre-teenage boys who are either juvenile delinquents or Persons-in-Need-of-Suspension (PINS). I had a very similar experience last semester."

The people behind these quotes—Carene Christensen, Melissa Fisher, and Janet Welch—all spent last semester in Buffalo on internships. Their varied experiences are a clue to the diverse programs offered through Houghton's Buffalo Suburban Campus extension.

"After taking several education courses here at Houghton, I felt that I was in control and could be in control in a classroom setting," Carene Christensen recalled, noting that her experience as a student teacher was much more difficult than she anticipated. "Everyday there were different and difficult challenges to get through."

Christensen's typical day con-

sisted of waking at 6:30 a.m., being at school by 8:10, teaching eight subjects to 25 students throughout the day, staying 45 minutes later to clean up, and arriving "home" (the BSC townhouses) around 4:30 p.m. She then quickly prepared supper and conferred with other interns about how their days went. After an hour of "relaxing," she spent between five and six hours preparing lesson plans.

"The biggest uplifter and moti-



Melissa Fisher

vation for me came the day I met a student's mother, Mrs. M____," Christensen recollected. "She said that her son R____, who was in my class, had improved his attitude considerably towards school and learning." Christensen had been told "the first day" that R____ was rude and disruptive. "I hit it off right with R____; I took him under my wing and gave him some extra love. The reward I got, which was the news from his mother, made everything worth it."

Everything was "worth it" for Melissa Fisher, as well. Fisher, a business major, worked at the Buffalo Convention and Visitors Bureau in the special projects division of the tourism branch. Her division created brochures, pamphlets, guides, videos, jingles, and advertisements

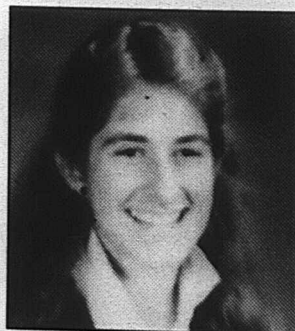
for the purpose of bringing tourists to Buffalo.

Fisher's main project was the I♥NY guide to the Buffalo/Erie County region. Besides checking the phone numbers, addresses, and listings, Fisher worked with all aspects of design and photography. She attended meetings and functions with her supervisor, learned six new MacIntosh programs, set up photo shoots, and visited several printing presses, graphic houses, and professional photographers.

"Truly my biggest challenge was learning to 'fit in' in the business community," Fisher explained. She cited networking, rush hour traffic, and dressing for executive board rooms as main sources of "culture shock." She ended up "fitting in" quite well. "Besides the contacts, experience, and overall molding of myself into a career-oriented person . . . I also had a lot of fun!" Working with "a great bunch of successful and approachable people" enabled Fisher to see "the more enjoyable side of the so-called 'rat race' of business life."

As a Child Care Worker at Gateway Youth and Family Services in Williamsville, Janet Welch virtually "[took] the place of parents for the

(continued on page 9)



Janet Welch

Buffalo Internships

(continued from page 8)

duration of the children's placement." From the time the boys finished school until their bedtime, Welch (a psychology intern) and two other staff members did "many of the little things that many of us haven't yet really thought about, such as taking the boys for haircuts, shopping for school clothes, and buying them Christmas presents." They also planned activities, maintained order in the boys' cottage, and counseled.

"I really enjoyed my work," Welch recollected. "The boys were terrific. Sure, they had a lot of problems, but deep inside they were still just little boys, looking for the real love and

attention they had never gotten."

Welch and her charges "had some really good times too. We went out to dinner, went roller-skating, [and] went to a Bills game." She "finally proved to them that yes, a girl can catch a football!"

Welch stated that she feels very positive about her experience at Gateway. "Because of my internship, I have a better idea of what I would and wouldn't like to do after graduation. I also gained an experience that will not only help me in applying for a job, but will someday be valuable to me as a parent."

Education, business, and psychology are only a few of the internship possibilities available through the Buffalo campus. A internship informational meeting will be held on Thursday, February 15, in Schaller Hall for interested students.



Partnership Update

by Chris Daniels

The *Partners Make it Possible* Phonathon is off to an exciting start. The Music Education Club completed a record 667 calls. The previous record, 544 calls, was achieved by the class of 1992 last year.

High callers such as Sarah Kye, Laurel Hibbard, Rachel Rath, Tammy Hill, and Missy Pepper helped student organizations pull in more than \$12,000 toward the

\$275,000 student scholarship goal. Prizes were awarded to top callers nightly, as well as gift certificates given as door prizes. Brunch for two at the Olde Library in Olean will be awarded to the top caller in the two-week period. You can help by calling, praying for the callers, and limiting telephone use during weeknights. All support, in whatever way, is appreciated.

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Offer good until March 31, 1990

Sports

Houghton Defeats Point Park

by Kevin Fuller

The men's basketball team defeated the Point Park Pioneers on Friday, January 16, gaining its sixth win on the season. The Pioneers, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, came into the game leading the Houghton series by 8-1, with an overall record of 7-13.

The first half was dominated by the Highlanders, who successfully established the inside game while on offense, allowing them to gather a lead of up to 12. Defensively, Houghton forced Point Park to shoot ineffectively from the outside, limiting Point Park's 3-point leader, Mintey Perkins, to only one basket. The Highlanders went into the locker room at the half with a 38-33 lead.

Point Park began the second half on a more aggressive note. Their full count press was very effective, causing a number of Houghton turnovers. The Pioneers, led by freshman Randy Smith and junior Derek Parker, helped Point Park to score inside more effectively. Toward the end of the game, Houghton was nursing a 3-point lead. David Binkowski, Houghton's leading scorer, along with senior Tom Kirshner, helped stabilize the Highlander lead with consistent ball handling and timely scoring. With one minute left to play, Brian Adams was fouled as he made a break-away lay-up, cementing the 72-68 victory for the Highlanders.

Houghton raises its record to 6-12, as Point Park dropped to 7-14.



Opinion

"How Do I Love Thee . . ."

by Jenna Gieser

With February 14 sneaking upon the calendar, I figure it's time to acknowledge Valentine's Day. How do you feel about Valentine's Day? I know that for a large number of females it is a day of depression and repression. No flowers, no eloquent epistles from the man of their dreams, no man of their dreams. . . They hide their feelings behind bitterness, indifference, or a smile. Since I don't have firsthand experience with the male perspective of the day, I will keep my misconceptions of their feelings to myself.

It is my opinion that Valentine's Day is enjoyable under three conditions: 1) you are deeply, sincerely in love with someone, 2) you are in love, or think you might be falling in love, and you have lots of money, 3) the person you are in love with, or thinking you might be falling in love with, has lots of money. The day, basically, is a celebration of materialism, the florist's dream come true. Roses by the dozen, candy, cards, a night on the town (if you have the money needed for a car).

If you don't have money, or if your life is devoid of romantic love, Valentine's Day can leave you feeling inadequate. We easily end up spending Valentine's Day depressed and

defeated. I've spent a lot of Valentine's Days like that. Is our focus wrong if we feel that way, or if we have the "perfect day," with roses and the works? Have we given in to this world? I'm not saying that roses and cards are bad, but is it necessary to spend \$50-\$150 to have a good Valentine's Day? Does receiving a dozen roses mean you are loved more than the person who receives only one? Does giving a dozen mean you are more loving? Does the absence of roses from your day mean you are not loved by anyone?

How should we, as Christians, respond to Valentine's Day? No, I'm not trying to Christianize the holidays (although you might consider that it was originally observed to honor Saint Valentine, a martyr in the third century). What I would like to suggest is that on a day that can be distressing, we consider reaching out in love, that we focus on others. I John is a good book to study in preparation for the day, no matter what your situation.

"Dear Children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."
(1 John 3:18)



To the student body (people who have gotten parking tickets in particular):

I am getting extremely tired of hearing about threats of violence or harassment towards people and their belongings. For example, "If I get another ticket on my car from you, I will..." (use your imagination). As you can tell, these threats are aimed at the guys who work for security.

Listen, those fellows didn't ask for your harassment, they are only doing the job they were hired to do

(Hey, they need to make money for that car insurance payment just like everyone else). Put yourself in their shoes; would you want someone swerving to cover you with slush, or threatening to rearrange your face or car?

These guys ticket only cars that are parked illegally. Why should you get mad at them for something you did wrong? If you want to complain, go over their heads to their boss, or the dean of student development. That's the ticket!

Tammer Cristman

Dear Mark [Horne],

I want to thank you for your letter in the January 26 issue of the *Star*. I have often been confused and angered at the lack of concern over our babies that are being butchered every day. I believe it's 4000 a day—think of it!! We can speak for ourselves, but who will speak for these babies? What makes us think we aren't going to be held accountable?

When the Lord says to Cain, "Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground," what about us? Can't we hear the earth screaming?? Twenty-five million babies. Think of it.

Sincerely,
Donna Fiegl

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

To CDT Capt. Hice, and others seeking military careers via ROTC:

A puzzle of sorts:

If you were in boot camp, and I was your drill sergeant, and I told you that you were a fascist, would you argue with me?

Love,
Mr. Shiner

P.S. Why do you ROTC guys always call me Mr. Shiner? I'm not your CO—you can call me Mark.

P.P.S. But seriously: I've spent a good deal of time with several ROTC folks, and found them to be really decent, sincere people who are passionate about serving God and others. While I am personally opposed to the military as an institution, I am not necessarily opposed to individuals within that institution.

I apologize to those I may have hurt and hope that those I have wronged will confront me personally (without weapons). Cheers.

"Why do you ROTC guys always call me Mr. Shiner?"

Rant

by Rand Bellavia
guest columnist



A few weeks ago I was having lunch with six friends. Three of them were seniors and three of them were freshmen. Over the course of the meal, we (the upperclassmen) asked the freshmen their opinion of Houghton. As we ingested their comments, I began to feel a very real pressure from the upperclassmen (myself included) directed at the freshmen. It was as if we were saying, "Go ahead. Slam Houghton. It's fun. We've been doing it for years. It works."

To their credit, the freshmen spoke their convictions. Later, I was speaking with one of the upperclassmen about the conversation. I mentioned how ridiculous we must seem to freshmen, having the argumentative skills to expose every flaw we could find in Houghton, yet seemingly lacking the intelligence to leave.

Why do we complain? Because it's fun. Because it relieves stress. Because it blows off steam. All of these are positive. I don't think the problem is that we complain. Everyone complains.

Maybe it's what we complain about. I've never read a letter that began, "While the filleting of security guards may provide entertainment for certain students, I felt that I had to write to let you know how offended I am by someone speaking his or her mind. . . ." It's more like, "After reading your letter urging the extermination of all security guards, I had to write to let you know how wrong you are about them . . ."

I've also spent lots o' time speaking with both students who were outraged at something someone said and students who were fearful for their lives because of something they said. Wouldn't it be just great if we could complain without the fear of being fire-bombed? I think so. Thus, I have compiled a top ten list of things at Houghton that universally offend. These are things that it is okay to be mad at. If fact, these are things we should be mad at. It is my hope that we can all rally around these topics and, through them grow into a clear, spiritual utopian mind state (not really).

1.) Dirty glasses in the dining hall. You all know what I'm talking about.

2.) Where, oh where, have our napkins gone? That's all.

3.) The ex-steps leading from South Hall to Fancher Hall. When I confronted someone in authority as to why the

steps were removed, he said that it was a safety measure. The school was worried that by encouraging us to cross the road, they were risking one of their students being hit by a vehicle. (Of course, by removing the steps, we're forced to walk from South Hall to the Campus Center, and then walk in the road for a full minute in order to get to Fancher. Let's not tell them that, okay?)

4.) Christian Jazz. (I don't know of any, but if it exists, we need to be angry.)

5.) That last pair of underwear. You know, the one that you got in the ninth grade. The one with the rips. The one that reminds you when to do laundry. The one that you're literally afraid to put on.

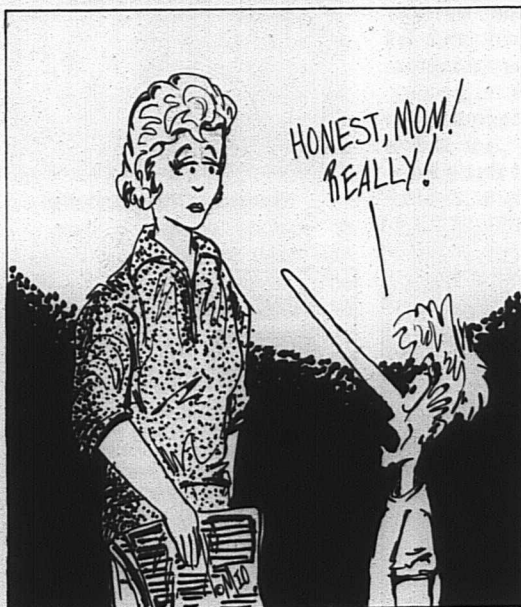
6.) The cover of last semester's *Lanthorn*. It was truly offensive. There was absolutely no redeeming social or artistic value in it.

7.) Anyone who just nudged the person to their immediate left and, pointing to #6, said, "Now there's one that I agree with."

8.) The ceilings in the practice rooms in Wesley Chapel (go look).

9.) The French horns in orchestra (go listen).

10.) Mark Shiner (it's okay; I asked).



HOW MOTHERS ALWAYS KNOW

"But where's the money?"

-Antipholus of Ephesus
Comedy of Errors
Act IV, Scene 4



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.

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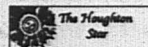
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Arts

Hold: A Congregation of Faith

by Jeddiah McKee

The black and white photographs of David Gordon are on display this month in the Wesley Chapel Gallery. Gordon, whose exhibit is entitled "Hold," has been a commercial photographer for the last ten years.

Some of the pictures (particularly the close-ups) stand very well on their own. It is important to realize, however, that the photographs function as a unit that, taken as a whole, offers the viewer a sense of what the Refuge Apostolic Church in Buffalo is like. My initial reaction that "there is no context" was tempered by the realization that the pictures function as parts of a whole, that they provide the context for one another. Strong emotions come out clearly in the photographs, and a second look a few days after the initial viewing may help bring about greater insights into this congregation of faith.

The works in this show were created from 1982 to 1985. They began as a photo documentary commissioned by the church but went further with David Gordon's curiosity and personal search for faith. Gordon was converted as a result of the ministry of the Refuge Apostolic Church, after the conclusion "Hold" series.

"Hold" is a reference to God's relationship to his people; it is not a grip, but neither is it a casual relationship; somewhere in between, a "hold."



Our Town and Beyond

by Deborah Carr

A celebration of small town life? Not exactly, but in director Bruce Brennen's estimation, the play *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder "... still has that freshness to it" that urges us not to make the mistake of taking our daily routines for granted.

Through the character of the Stage Manager, played by David Brubaker, we are introduced to the community quirks and town history of Grover's Corners, a small New Hampshire town in the early 1900s. This is a town whose residents comment on a moon that's just right for planting potatoes by, engage in friendly conversation with the milkman, and perhaps register chronicles of the town drunk back and forth over the neighbor's fence.

The play focuses on the interaction of two neighboring families in the community: Dr. and Mrs. Gibbs and their son George, played by Chris Daniels, Sarah Kye and Dan Uitti, and Mr. and Mrs. Webb and their daughter Emily, played by Erik Niemi, Charlotte Smith and Margaret Lyon. Through them, we relive not only small town dynamics but the decisions in life which we all face at one time or another.

Our Town is sponsored by the English Expression Club and is under the direction of Bruce Brennen and assistant director

Christina Cortwright. Performances are February 15, 16, and 17 at 8:00 p.m., with a matinee showing on February 17 at 2:00 p.m. in Woolsey Auditorium, Fancher Hall. Tickets will go on sale Monday, February 12 in the Campus Center by the dining hall stairs during meal times, or they may be reserved by calling 567-9557. General admission is \$3.50, students, \$2.50 and children under 12, \$2.00.

Even though written against the backdrop of a small town, the play extends beyond these borders. It doesn't remain in the early 1900s, because it speaks of you and me, wherever we are. In whatever setting we find ourselves, *Our Town* cryptically reminds us: *carpe diem*—seize the day.

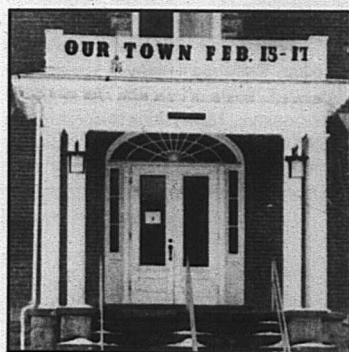


Photo by Chris Daniels

IN JUNIOR RECITAL
Wednesday, February 14

Donna Laffoon
piano
and
Miriam Danielson
violin

assisted by
Kimberly DeWald
piano

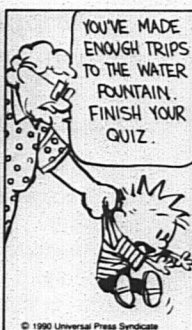
Wesley Chapel, 8:00 p.m.

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Readers Theater

by Dave Wheeler

Selections from Thornton Wilder, James Thurber, and Tad Mosell were read February 1 as part of the second annual Anna Houghton Daughters Readers Theater. The readings were performed by a group comprised of AHD members and students, in a manner described by director Bruce Brenneman as a "cross between oral interpretation and acting": the readers animated the texts with minimal use of costuming and props.

"The focus must be primarily on content," said Brenneman, explaining the process of selecting works for delivery, "on the theme overriding the author's work. We select [works] where the audience can focus on the theme." Brenneman also tries to select works which deal with "a variety of characters."

Wilder's "Happy Journey to Trenton and Camden" dealt with such a variety of characters. The story, about a family's automobile trip to visit a married daughter, was delivered by Brad Wilbur (the placid father), Carolyn Eltscher (the garrulous mother), Debbie Young (the easily-embarrassed adolescent daughter), David Lennon (the young, fidgety son), Vicki King (the married daughter), and David Huth (the Stage Manager, which encompassed several minor characters). The interplay of the characters highlighted Wilder's ability to elevate the ordinary, mundane aspects of life to

the status of the sacred.

Following Wilder's story, the troupe delivered several short excerpts from the [James] Thurber *Carnival*. Among them were three hilarious stories centering on an outrageous pun or other joke, and a monologue, read by Huth, entitled "The Night the Bed Fell." A highlight of these performances was "The Little Girl and the Wolf," a reworking of the Little Red Riding Hood story in which Lennon brought a Wolfman Jack snarl into play (and was shot dead by the little girl).

Mosell's *Impromptu*, as performed by its cast of Wilbur, King, Lennon, and Chris Dowden, served as a fascinating study of individuals. Four actors—one introspective, one jaded, one egocentric, and one woefully timid—found themselves on stage together without a script, and the ensuing interaction serves as a brilliant examination of nothing less than life.

Brenneman began the Readers Theater last year when approached by members of AHD to organize a dramatic program. Lacking the time and personell for a full-scale play, Brenneman opted for this route. Handpicked casts of AHD members and students on hand from Brenneman's English Expression Club productions were used for the first two performances, but next year it may be open to auditions. Contact Brenneman for more information.

"Always have the courage to say to yourself, 'I am ignorant.'"

Ivan Pavlov

...and while we're on the subject, the following errors found their way into Issue 82.13:

The Take Six concert, which actually took place on February 5, was reported as occurring on January 6;

The name "Marion Barry" was spelled "Marion Berry" on page 2. Similarly, the word "science" was spelled "SpScience" on page 2 (I'm perfectly ready to simply blame it all on page 2...);

The 1933 poem by Harry Gross, which is actually entitled "Steel Rails" was entitled "Steel Wheels";

And Henry VIII's wife was nowhere to be found. Of course, that was his own fault...



Editorial

Back in the far-begone days of my freshman year, I had a problem with Black History Month. Come to think of it, I had a problem with just about anything labeled "black," "white," "Oriental," etc.; such language seemed to me to smack of racism. Any mention of the idea that there existed such a thing as "race" seemed racist to me; I preferred to think of everyone as "persons," and saw words like "black" and "white" as undermining that idea. From there, I arrived at the dubious conclusion that Black History Month promoted racial tensions and was therefore racist.

One time in February 1988, I was presenting this thesis to Dave Rhenow, who presented an interesting counterargument: the "person" I saw everybody as being was white, white, white. I naturally denied Mr. Rhenow's assumption; humans transcend race, I argued. I preferred to see only one race: humanity. Mr. Rhenow responded that while my "humanity" was theoretically raceless, its core attributes were decidedly White Middle Class.

That was an interesting idea, and a quite uncomfortable one to me. I wasn't used to thinking of myself as "white." I had always believed that the best method of combating racism was to ignore race altogether. If everyone did that, I thought, racism would wither away, a dinosaur in a mammalian world.

I leaped to combat Mr. Rhenow's accusation, of course. I argued that in my scenario, each individual would be free to pursue her own interests, devoid of race. Whereas the path I followed might be characteristic of the White Middle Class (I grudgingly admitted for the sake of the argument), the path another followed, regardless of his race, might not. There would be no black or white churches, for example, in this reasoning; there would simply be churches—some charismatic,

"By stripping my African-American friend of her African-Americanism, I would be robbing her of a part of her identity."

some ritualistic, some ascetic, and so on. Race would have no bearing whatsoever.

My freshman idea was rather utopian, and it would probably be workable in heaven. But, as I've come to learn, it won't work here. Even if it went into effect, not everyone would automatically forget about race. Racists certainly wouldn't—so much for my plan to wither it away. And no one would be able to hold the racist accountable for his racism—everyone would have convinced herself that neither race nor racism existed. So my idea actually would work to its own detriment.

Another profound reason exists for rejecting my freshman argument, as well. While my argument had focused on our unity as human beings and the ignoring of the petty differences that divide us, I ignored the good distinctions, the quirks and attributes that make each individual

special. By stripping my African-American friend of her African-Americanism, I would be robbing her of a part of her identity, one of the items that mesh with so many others to form the whole that she is.

Mr. Rhenow knew all this, of course. I was just slow to catch on.

So now I fully support Black History Month. Through the study of the events and persons that shaped the lives of this substantial part of our population (and therefore all our lives as well—see John Donne's Meditation 17 and anything Walt Whitman ever wrote)—the abolitionist movement, the civil rights movement, the Carvers, Lincolns, Bunches, Drews, the sublimity of Martin Luther King, the passion and fury of Malcolm X—and even through the trivia on the dining room tables, we learn more about ourselves and are that much more enriched. Mr. Rhenow, I salute you.

What, Me, White?? I Just Stay Indoors a Lot . .

by Dave Wheeler



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