

THE HOUGHTON

STAR

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ACCESS DENIED!

By: Jason Poole

On October 20, around dinnertime, students logging onto email found a message from Will Krause, director of Technology Services, entitled: "Please read IMMEDIATELY!!!" Assuming overstatement, most opened it to find a message with information on how to reconfigure the settings on their user accounts to the new firewall going into effect at 6 p.m. Not a big deal. Because of various internet and hardware problems, students had lately been reconfiguring a lot more than network proxies.

But that wasn't all. Contained within these instructions was a short paragraph that began quite simply, "With border manager, we will be preventing access to sites containing material dealing with: Gross depictions, Sexual acts, Satanic/cult, Drugs and drug culture, Militant/extremist, Partial nudity and art, Full nudity. Any faculty

member who believes access to a certain site is necessary for one of his or her classes should contact me directly." A few more sentences, and that was it. No previous warning, no explanation.

There was not much response for a day, as students were still returning from October-Break. Yet, like flood waters collecting in a reservoir, the pressure was building.

Then, on October 21, at 8:21 p.m., the dam broke. Appearing out of relative obscurity, senior Ian Beam made an impassioned appeal to the student body decrying the blocking via e-mail. Shortly thereafter, a barrage of replies sparked a heated debate, online and off, that would last for days. Over and over the same sentiment was echoed: what right did Houghton College have to legislate the moral decisions of its students?

Last May, the Board of Trustees met for the third of their tri-annual school year

meetings. Prominent on the agenda was revision and definition of the school's internet access policy. Recent advances in the school's technology program (e.g. new laptops for freshmen allowing students access in the dorms) had made the issue a priority. The primary concerns in determining the policy were protection for students from accidental encounters with offensive material and harmonization with the school's overall mission statement.

After extensive research on the topic, which included investigation of and comparison with other Christian college policies as well as Houghton's own financial and moral considerations, the matter was brought on May 16 to two subcommittees: Academic Affairs and Student Development. The committees were presented with three choices: blocking of offensive sites, no blocking, and spot-checking (periodic monitoring of internet usage). These committees met for several hours before the results of their deliberations were taken before the Board of Trustees the next morning. The following internet policy was adopted on May 17:

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Tuition Update

Kristen Engnell

On Monday, November 24, the Board of Trustees Executive and Financial Committees convened on the West Seneca campus to make final decisions regarding next year's tuition and fees. The basic budget parameters they approved are as follows: Since 1990, tuition increases have averaged 7%. For 1998-1999, tuition will remain \$12,344, which is a zero percent increase from the current year. Fees will increase by \$25 for a total of \$445 for next year. Room and board will be raised approximately 11%, yet Houghton College's room and board rated are still typically 10-15% lower than all other schools in western NY. This increase will probably be accompanied by an equalization of room rates. We also expect to see incremental improvements in dorms such as carpet in all rooms of Shenawana hall. Board improvements are also being considered; the options include having Big Al's bucks included with board plans, or some credits being transferred to Big Al's for regular meals.

Recently Congress enacted the Hope scholarship program that grants up to \$1500 for higher education. The Hope scholarship program gives the college an oppor-

tunity to cut unfunded aid in a way which will impact students the least. In the recent years Houghton's unfunded aid to students has climbed to over four million dollars placing an extensive strain on the budget and forcing those students with the ability to pay to subsidize students with need. While merit based aid will remain unchanged, the trustees approved a plan which will cut the HC grant by approximately 46%. The average loss in financial aid will be \$985 which will be offset by the \$1500 Hope scholarship. Additionally, Pell grants will increase by \$300 to the students with the most need, and Houghton will be enacting a supplemental loan program.

Further budget adjustments include a projected 1% cut in all expenses and an increase in the admissions and marketing budget to ensure Houghton continues to have 1169 students each fall.

While the board approved these major changes, the budget process is far from complete. Administrators on campus will be working hard to determine the details of the plan and how to enact it most effectively. Information on these details will be released as soon as it is known.

NEWS

Campus Store: New and Improved!

Melanie Hess

The Houghton campus store has been constantly improving over the last few years, and just recently some changes have been implemented that should make it even better. The store has extended its hours to 9 PM on weeknights, and added a check cashing service. I sat down to talk with Phyllis Gaerte, the floor supervisor and interim manager, to ask about the new services.

"Part of it [the expanded hours] was due to the change in administration," she said, "and we are trying to be customer friendly. We realize students had labs and couldn't come in during the old hours." She also pointed out that with the new check cashing service, students can cash any check up to \$200.00

between 9 AM and 9 PM. When asked how long the trial period would last, Mrs. Gaerte replied, "until it's not profitable anymore. As long as there's a demand it will continue. The response has been great, so for the time being the longer hours and check services will be continued." She added that the management is open for suggestions for other improvements or things that students would like to see in the store. Recently the store has added an ice cream freezer that carries Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream, among other chilly treats.

These improvements and a desire to be customer-friendly promise to make the campus store an increasingly pleasant place to be.

Start Your Christmas Shopping at the Campus Store



15% off all Adult and Children's Bibles
20% off all Mom and Dad Sweatshirts and T-Shirts
Children and Adult Discounted Gift Books
20% off blank books and journals
Check out the Music Department for the newest releases and the large selection of Christmas CDs and cassetts



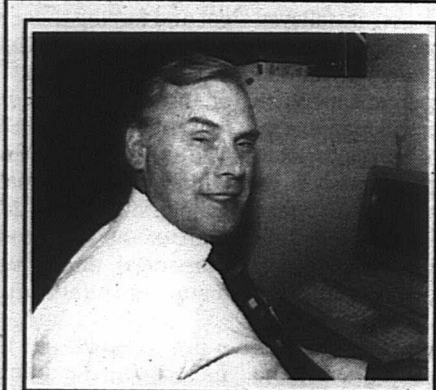
Christmas Cards, Gift Ideas, Stocking Stuffers, Christmas Candy, etc.

Houghton Welcomes Bakker

Nathan Reimer

I am sure many of you know of Coenraad Bakker, but how many of you really know him? In this article I will tell you a little about him; his past, his present, and his future. Well, let's start from the very beginning. Mr. Bakker was born in Holland, and moved to the US in 1961. He stayed in the Rochester area mostly except for some schooling in Iowa. He received his BA from Harkson College in Iowa and his master's in Computer Science partly from U of R, and RIT. He is married and has three children, which one is married now, another in college, and the other lives at home. He currently lives in Fairport, New York and commutes from there to teach. His work experiences have been extensive. Most recently he worked for EDS that is owned by Xerox for 18 months. He also taught at RIT for 13

years, St. John Fisher's for six, Robert's Wesleyan for seven, and Northwestern Christian College for five. He was brought in to teach in these schools, except RIT, to start or restart the Computer Science program. This is one of the reasons why he is here at Houghton.



Professor Coenraad Bakker

He came to Houghton through some connections that he had at Robert's Wesleyan and his church in Rochester. He taught part-time last semester and now teaches full-time this year, and he plans to stay at Houghton until he retires. Currently he teaches Computer Applications and Issues, Databases, Systems Development, and Programming I. He is very happy here at Houghton and is enjoying every mo-

ment. He hopes to be able to increase the interest and availability of the Computer Science program. We all wish him best of luck here at Houghton and are glad that he is with us.

ACCESS DENIED CON'T...

1) Before the start of the fall 1997 term, the college shall install a campus-wide system intended to obstruct access to pornographic material via computer terminals connected to the campus network.

2) If a student needs access to blocked material for legitimate research purposes, the system administrator shall provide access to that person upon receiving written notification of permission from a faculty member. Faculty and staff who require such unblocked access shall receive it.

3) Review: The Board of Trustees encourages wide-range discussion of the policy set forth above and invites comment and advice. The policy shall be reviewed for possible modification by Board action after the first year of implementation.

A few days later, it was announced to the Mayterm student population- and to the incoming freshmen on the final welcome weekend in May.

And so it stood, for three and a half months. Various problems had prevented implementation at the beginning of the 1997-1998 school year, and no one had reminded the students of the forthcoming blocking during this time (save an unconfirmed rumor here or there), so it took the campus by surprise when it finally went into effect a month and a half later.

Needless to say, Ian Beam wasn't the only perturbed student. The response was tremendous. Will Krause and Technology Services received over 250 e-mail messages, many of them criticizing the action. There were many concerns. One dissatisfaction was with the lack of communication that, in turn, had caused the lack of information. Students felt that they had not received a fair warning. There was confusion even with those who had previously known about the blocking, because much more had been blocked than was originally intended according to the new policy. However, the biggest and most expressed objection was that, in the words of one student, "our right to make decisions for ourselves and our abilities to think critically about important issues [is] being taken away from us." Time and time again the same feeling came out in conversations and on e-mail: "The freedom to be an adult is what is at stake." "As Christians, we are individually responsible to God and our own consciences. Who will guard our minds when we graduate?" This became a hot topic for discussion and debate over the next few days. To what extent could a college restrict certain "freedoms" of its students? Calls were made to petition the Board, write the newspaper, or talk to student government to try to effect change.

Certainly, not all were opposed to the measure. Some reasoned that as an authority over the school, Houghton had the responsibility to ensure the moral and spiritual growth of its students, regardless of the actions it took. Some even pointed out that the agree

(Continued on next page)

Saturday Walk Ends In Tragedy

Jen Crawford

On Saturday, September 24th between four and five in the afternoon, a female student was walking along Centerville road beyond Mariposa campground. A man came out of the woods, pretending to be lost, then dragged her into the bushes at knife point where he raped her and tied her up in her own bra. After she was able to free herself, she returned to campus and told a few friends, who then convinced her to contact campus security. The Security Department put in place the policy and support network, in this case the Sexual Assault Advisory Committee. With the support of a woman from this committee the State Police were called between ten and eleven that evening. The State Police then took over the situation, and began questioning residents up and down Centerville Road.

That is the account of the sexual assault as best as Dean Danner has been able to piece it together. When he announced it in chapel on Monday, September 26th, it was to stop any rumors that had begun, putting the facts before the student body. "I felt it was an issue already known to the community because of the number of people questioned by the police."

During the week following the assault, there was extra security on campus because a new security man had just been hired. During the week following the assault there was an extra man on duty, not specifically because of the incident, but because he was in training that week. This coincidence was a valuable asset to the community and students.

Upon the apprehension of the accused man, Danner decided to add serenity to the issue by passing out copies of newspaper articles stating his arrest. These articles were placed in all residence halls and gathering places on campus.

The accused man had a trailer parked at Mariposa campground. The trailer had been there for years, before the Schwartzes had purchased the campground. This incident has not damaged the relations between the college and Mariposa. Rather, the college will continue to support Dr. Schwartz as he continues to build the site into a family campground. Also, as Dr. Schwartz furthers his relationship with the faculty and administration, the site can be used for academic projects.

Dean Danner would like to commend several people on the handling of this situation. First and foremost, the victim should be commended for coming forward; the quick reporting led to the apprehension. Also, the advocate system and Security Department did a wonderful and effective job. The State Police are especially appreciated because of their thorough, extensive and quick action.

The heightened awareness around campus is good because the students should remain cautious. However, there is no need for a high level of fear. "Houghton is a relatively safe place, but the outside world does intrude upon us." Dean Danner then closed the issue with this, "Houghton students are valuable people and to have one of them violated in this way is about more than I can bear." Ditto.

ACCESS DENIED CON'T...

ment every student signed at admission gave the school that privilege ("I further agree, while enrolled at Houghton College to abide by all college policies including but not limited to the examples that follow: ...computer use policies..."). Others were disappointed that the debate seemed to take the wrong focus: "God brought each one of us here for a reason and I don't think it has to do with the firewall," or "it shouldn't be a problem when college policies make it easy to do right, and hard to do evil." The need for Christians to band together and support each other against immorality was emphasized. "If one person who was tempted by pornographic web sites will have their temptation decreased through use of this new firewall, then yours is a small sacrifice indeed."

The battle raged solidly for two days. It continued on e-mail with a discussion folder started by a student (to prevent the inconvenience of campus-wide mailings) and on campus in the classrooms, the cafeteria, and at Big Al's. Wherever students gathered, the issue came up.

A positive side of the furor was that views were being expressed and students were talking and listening to each other, in most cases, in an intelligent manner. In the words of Will Krause, "education has taken place." However, time progressed and the initial shock began to wear off. A general sense of confusion and frustration, spurred by misinformation, began to take over. Accusations flew and rumors spread; the Board of Trustees became a scapegoat (though their decision had been only the blocking of pornographic sites, not the other subject matter that was actually being blocked). A complication was the simultaneous breakdown of internet lines serving Houghton, which led some to believe that some sites were being restricted that were in reality not connecting with the server. Even taking that into consideration, though, no one seemed to know why so much was included in what was deliberately obstructed. Will Krause eventually admitted that he was responsible for the settings, but at the same time maintained that he and his staff "have been opposed to it from the beginning" and were only acting according to a mandate from the Board. Some said it was default settings, others said it was done purposely in opposition to what the Board of Trustees had desired. A few thought that there may have been higher motives at work, with higher purposes in mind than mere censorship. To this day, no clear explanation has been given.

Then, on October 23, at 6 p.m., Houghton students received this message from Will Krause in their e-mail boxes: "After reviewing the criteria provided by our vendor we have decided to remove all blocking except for Nudity and Sexual acts. We believe that this meets the intent of internet blocking as requested by the Board of Trustees." Almost as abruptly as it had started, the "state of emergency" had ended. Comments continued to trickle in and out of the shared folder and were made in passing in the hallways, but things, for the most part, had returned to "normal."

Kristen Engnell, president of the student body, made an announcement in chapel the next day. She expressed regret for the lack of communication and the slow response of student government. She encouraged students with questions to seek the proper sources- to "get facts" and reminded them to keep perspective. In defense of the Board of Trustees, she said that "prevention blocking is the spirit of their decision. Not censorship. I hope you can understand the distinction. It's not meant to say that we don't trust students, just that we don't want to provide for them pornography."

Thus, the "event of the semester" officially came to a close. The great ogre of Threatened Freedom had been run out of town, and the citizens could now rest easy.

(Continued on next page)

\$200,000 Grant to Advance Crop Research

Associate professor of biology Dr. Ming Zheng has received a \$200,000 USDA grant funding phase-two research toward developing new technology for breeding wheat strains offering larger yields, better quality and pest resistance. Over the next 20 months Zheng and student assistants will conduct detailed research concentrating on underlying factors at the cell and molecular level discovered in phase one. The students will receive senior honors projects and Dr. Zheng hopes the results will lead to an application phase after the turn of the century.

A phase one grant of \$55,000 has funded initial research over the past two years. Last summer

Dr. Zheng spent two months furthering the study at Washington State University at Pullman, along with the technician with whom he began the work before coming to Houghton. (Facilities at Washington advanced aspects of the research using radioactive materials not possible at Houghton). In addition to advanced study opportunities for Houghton students, the project has enabled the college to obtain new equipment, including a Zeiss inverted microscope, essential in studying growing cells and cultures, and beneficial to instruction and other kinds of cell and molecular research.

Plans For A New Bank

Jeff Spear

Coincident with my joining the college in August, an extensive evaluation of our present and future banking needs was conducted. The goal of the evaluation was to secure a banking relationship which would better meet the current needs of our faculty, staff, students and community members. Also, it was our desire to work with a bank that exhibited an unequivocal commitment to communities of our size in general and the northern Allegany County specifically.

I am pleased to report that we have achieved preliminary agreement with a banking organization which meets each of our criteria.

Community Bank, National Association (Community Bank, N.A.) was established in the 1980's with an emphasis on purchasing banking com-

panies and bank branches located in rural communities of upstate New York. This bank is committed to the smaller communities. Initially, the bank will be located in the Campus Center next to the Info Center in the space currently used as a commuter lounge. Other provisions will be made for a commuter lounge in conjunction with this change. The bank will be a full-service branch and will include tellers and a full-service ATM which will accept deposits as well.

I hope that you will join me in welcoming this organization into our community and will give positive consideration to opening an account with them when the branch is fully operational some time in March of 1998.



Public Apology

Joel Barber

On Friday, October 31, 1997, upon playing one of my final soccer games for Houghton College, after accidentally scoring a tying goal on my own team, I reacted in a tyranny of frustration that included kicking the goal post, cursing, and making a scene.

After already asking for the forgiveness of my teammates, I now ask for the forgiveness of any spectators who may have witnessed this.

As Chaplain of the soccer team and a leader of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, this action did not represent the ministries which I am involved with. Moreover it violated what Houghton College stands for in striving for excellence coupled with Christ-likeness.

SGA Report

Seth Taylor

The SGA Senate recently allocated money to student organizations for general operating costs from the Special Resource Fund (SRF) and for special projects from the Special Projects Fund (SPF). Fourteen clubs applied for money from these funds. Outreach organizations such as ACO, WMF, YFC, Habitat for Humanity, and Lord's Laymen usually receive the bulk of their general operating income from the Christian Life Fund, administered by Matt Webb. This means that although ACO did not receive the money that they requested for a special project, they do have another source of income.

Special Resource Fund

Men's Club Volleyball Team	\$1000
Habitat for Humanity	\$770
I.S.A.	\$250
Lord's Laymen	\$150
Accounting Club	\$100
Spanish Club	\$200
College Republicans	\$100
P.E. Club	\$200

Total
\$2770

Special Project Fund

W.M.F.	\$1500
Art Club	\$220
Habitat for Humanity	\$0
B.A.S.I.C.	\$34
Music Education Club	\$400
A.C.O.	\$0
Y.F.C.	\$876.90

Total
\$3030.90

The SGA Senate also recently elected Lindsey Ring to be editor-in-chief for the Lanthorn literary publication. No person had run for the position in the elections last year, so the Lanthorn was basically defunct. However, through the hardwork of several members of the Student Government Association, notably Justin Lawrence and Kristen Engnell, the Lanthorn is being revived.

ACCESS DENIED CON'T...

But with what results? Recently, on November 18, a forum was sponsored by the Gadfly Society. Called "A Christian Response to Internet Issues," its purpose was to draw principles from what had occurred, analyzing what had been and could be learned from it.

Three faculty members, Dr. Paul Young, Dr. Carlton Fisher, and Dr. Julie Tunstall were invited, as were Krause and Engnell. About twenty students came to the Campus Center at 8:30 p.m. for the discussion. Each member of the forum was given the chance to voice their views about internet blocking and usage in general. Important concerns were reiterated from past discussions: protection of the innocent, accountability, and the dangers of pornography on the internet.

Dr. Tunstall expressed what a number of students had pointed out previously. "For innocence... I would be willing to give up some of my own personal freedoms." She related a story of her eight year old daughter coming across some objectionable material on the internet inadvertently, and was concerned with what might have happened had she, her mother, not been there. She noted that the situation is similar for students coming from somewhat "sheltered" backgrounds, and that it is for them that this is so important.

Dr. Fisher brought up the problem of "new possibilities for plagiarism" on the internet, and the need for responsibility in that area. He also elaborated on the seriousness of pornography and disagreed with its restriction as censorship. "For us to assume that the mere availability of something makes it necessary for us to provide it is wrong... I don't think it's any infringement on freedom. I don't think it's censorship."

Dr. Young shared some information on the negative psychological impact of pornography (especially on young men), and confessed that his point of view on the issue had changed positively towards internet blocking after attending serious discussion on it.

Will Krause represented an opposition to blocking, with the emphasis on students needing to make their own decisions in order to grow. "It doesn't prevent the determined person." He also added, "because it is legislating morality, it tends to make us as a community less focused on the real problems of morality." He preferred spot-checking over blocking, in that it retained the accountability aspect but still allowed for freedom of decision. Another concern of his was for the less discussed problems of the internet such as abuse of chat rooms and excessive game-playing.

Kristen Engnell, in agreeing with the others, commented on the fact that although internet blocking software is not ideal, it is still better than not having any "checks" in place at all. "We can't wait around for the perfect blocking software."

Students were then given an opportunity to respond

and ask questions. Queries were made regarding where to "draw the line" when it comes to blocking and whether or not it is truly censorship. The discussion boiled down to following Christ versus succumbing to humankind's fallen nature, and the evening ended with a bottom line: though students may feel that their "rights" are being violated, they must remember that their "rights" were "signed away" when they signed the Responsibilities of Community Life statement. In spite of this, however, the sincere desire of Houghton College is that students are able to see beyond the letter of the law to its spirit- that of walking in proper relationship to the Creator of the Universe.

It has been observed that there are lessons learned in life that often run deeper and last longer than memories. Many things that a person discovers in college are not taught in the classrooms, but by Circumstance. Ironically, it is sometimes those things that end up having the biggest influence on that person.

Perhaps, for some, Houghton's "internet debate" will have been one of those times.

"Memorable" quotes from the email internet debate:

"...but what if we are a biology student doing a project on the sexual hormonal behavior of rats? Totally legitimate, might be useful to mankind, and totally impossible under this system because it has the word 'sex' in it."

"The goddess Freedom is rendered merely a sick whore without responsibility."

"What are they gonna do next... go to the library with scissors and cut out all the nude art photos, go into my room and clip out nudes from my *Art in Culture* textbook?"

"We who are against this blocking are not against it because it takes away our "rights," we are against it because it assumes that we are incapable of deciding what is right and wrong concerning the internet."

"...if we are the sheep, Christ is the Shepherd, not the Board of Trustees."

"Collective good, my friends. Can we not give up a wee bit if it will help another along?"

"I think that you should all relax and go with it. As long as you have a good reason to go into those places [restricted sites], it will still be relatively easy to get in. And if you want to find out baseball scores, watch ESPN."

END

**Submit Your Creative Work
To The Lanthorn**
C.P.O. Box 1367

It may be art, poetry, or a short story
All entries will be considered for publication.

Around the World

Jim Roberts

(Johannesburg, South Africa) South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation has begun hearings on 18 killings involving the former bodyguards for Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, ex-wife of President Nelson Mandela. A witness has testified that he last saw his son alive in a vehicle with Mdikizel-Mandela and that he was found badly beaten.

(Kharoum, Sudan) 19 Americans and a man from the United Arab Emirates were killed on a hunting trip in the state of Kordofan. The identity of the attackers is unknown but the U.S. government does advise citizens against travelling in Sudan.

(Nairobi, Kenya) 122 000 refugees fled shelters in northeastern Kenya after unusually heavy rains flooded two eastern provinces. Some areas are already under nine feet of water.

(Victoria, British Columbia) Seven teen-age girls and a boy, ages 14 to 16, were charged Saturday in connection with the murder of a 14-year-old girl. The arrests came soon after police began questioning schoolyard rumors that a runaway had been killed. The victim was from the small community of Saanich, on the outskirts of Victoria, British Columbia.

(Milwaukee, Wisconsin) Residents and merchants in this city aren't sure what to do with the overgrown lot where serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer once lived. The lot was razed five years ago, after Dahmer was convicted of killing 15 people in his second-floor apartment.

(Denver, Colorado) Hundreds of people took to the streets to rally against violence after a

spate of skinhead crimes. Most recently, white supremacist skinhead Nathan Thill, 19 said he gunned down a West African refugee because he was black. A nurse who tried to help was wounded and left paralyzed from the waist down.

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Maris' Vision: The Violation of Bambi

Jim Roberts

According to the local newspaper, a mother and daughter found a baby deer in the back seat of their Ford Explorer, took it home intending to keep it as a pet and the mother pierced its ears twice, implanting stainless steel studs into the velvety softness of a doe's fur. Animal Control officers thankfully found out about this poor, molested creature whose ears were soon inflamed and infected and rescued it, fining the woman \$250 for gross negligence. The woman protested because, and I quote "there's no real difference between a deer's ears and a human's."

Now, I think we can all agree that this woman

was, at least for a moment, very, very stupid. The difference between deer ears and human ears is, well, obvious: one set belongs on a quadruped with hooves that eats mostly grass and leaves, vents heat through its ears and must be able to pick up the slightest noise so that it can avoid predators. A human's are rarely used for anything more than listening to the radio or the TV and rarely have to be used to avoid predators.

There's nothing more pathetic than watching someone's ignorance and lack of common sense harm an innocent creature.

CAB DECEMBER EVENTS HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

December 5 th	CONCERT – THE WAITING will be in concert with our very own Houghton band THE COMMONS. It starts @ 8pm in Wesley Chapel. Tickets are \$5
December 12 th	STUDY BREAK – Come on down to Big Al's for some relaxation. 1940s Christmas Theme Time – 10:30pm In correlation with the Midnight Breakfast at Big Al's from 11pm – 12am
December 14 th	ACTIVITY – Wrapping Party – Watch for further details and time.

Look for more CAB activities in the next issue of STAR. Interested in being on a CAB committee next semester? Call the office at 567 – 9213.



Opinion

Faith and Reason

Aaron Noll

Is faith in God antagonistic to reason? Can faith and reason coexist in a Christian's thought? It seems that these questions should receive constant attention in a Christian's life. However, many Christians neglect the issue and assume that faith is all that God wants.

It seems to me that faith and reason are antagonistic to each other. Reason defined by Webster's Dictionary is "to think through logically." To use reason is to think rationally without emotional influence. Faith is "confidence or trust in a person or thing." Faith in God involves an unusual kind of trust. The person who trusts in God, according to many evangelicals, must reject reason. After all, God is not logical; He is beyond the bounds of logic. Faith involves a complete trust devoid of any reason that might conflict with what one 'knows' to be true.

It seems to me that belief devoid of reason in any God, whether Christian, Muslim, or anything else is utter folly. Belief whose sole justification is faith would appear to be groundless and worthless. To understand why this is the case, faith and reason must be examined in the context of all religious belief. Genuine faith is not unique to Christianity. Every religion in the world makes a claim to faith. It is obvious that not every religion that requires faith also claims belief in the Christian God. Either (1) Muslims are telling lies when they claim to have faith, or (2) Muslims really do have faith. I submit (2) as the likely case.

How is one to reconcile the fact that most

religious people, regardless of their particular religion, possess comparable degrees of faith with the Christian notion of faith; that is, how should a Christian respond to the assertion that non-Christians can have genuine faith? Both reason and faith are means of arriving at objective truths. In every category of human thinking other than religious belief, one predominantly uses one's rational faculties to form a belief. In reality, one uses both reason and emotion in making one's decisions. Why should the case be different when one encounters religious belief; that is, why should faith, being similar to emotion, be the sole factor in determining one's religious belief? If anything, it would seem that reason alone should be used in determining religious belief. However, it is clear that the use of reason alone would not be sufficient to arrive at religious belief?

Is it possible to use reason in determining from all religious creeds the one 'most probably true'? Might one rationally conclude that, of all the world religions, Christianity is the most likely to be true? Following this conclusion, could one then take 'a leap of faith' to arrive at belief in the Christian God?

One must use reason in arriving at one's religious belief in order for it to be sound. Without reason, one could no longer make a rational effort at finding objective truths. Rational thought makes a reasonable appeal to objective truths. It appears that faith is subject to the same instability as emotions. Thus, reason should be used to examine many religious creeds. Every religion claims the support of faith but not every religion claims to be supported by reason. It is a conjunction of faith and reason, each one serving distinctly different roles that enables one to arrive at objective truths.

Have an Opinion?

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Thoughts Over Coffee



Jen Crawford

"The thing that preserves a man from panic is his relationship to God; if he is only related to himself and his own courage, there may be a moment when his courage runs out...How many of us get in a panic when we are faced by physical desolation, by death, or war, injustice, poverty, disease? [Exams?] All those in all their forces will never turn to panic the one who believes in the absolute sovereignty of his Lord."

Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*

Thorns and Thistles Coming to America

John Osae-Kwapong

As you will recall, I ended part one of the Coming to America series with the promise of looking at the contribution America makes towards this African obsession.

I wonder how many of you have any knowledge of the diversity visa programme that has been in place the past, at least, five years. It is simple; the United States has been giving fifty-five thousand immigrant visas yearly since 1992 through a lottery system since winners are randomly selected by a computer. True story. I would be the first to admit the noble intentions of the U.S. if this is a measure that shows their willingness to have to legal rather than illegal immigrants flocking their country in numbers. However there is a hidden reality beyond what we might think it is a noble intention. For instance, in 1995 twenty two of these fifty five thousand visas came to Africa. Now if the computer does not use an affirmative action policy in relation to the African continent then there is an explanation as to why we get the highest number yearly. This is just to further trap those who are already caught in this web of obsession. And it must be noted that this is something I

have never heard of in the annals of the history of any nation. So why would not people believe that America has more than enough for her citizens?

Then I simply describe America's policy when dealing with third world countries especially those in Africa as 'Honesty at home, Deceit abroad'. This policy is based on a propaganda that only seeks to glorify her image as the best in the world and a place where once in everybody's lifetime you must aspire to visit. The closest I came with the real America was in 1995 when a representative at the U.S. information services wrote an article in one of the Ghanaian dailies.

Quite apart from that, the very dictators we ran away from have at one time been very close allies of the U.S. In a shocking revelation in an article titled 'Liberia, an unavoidable tragedy' appearing in one of the social issues resources catalog in the Queens Public Library, the writer informs readers how much America had ignored former president of Liberia Samuel Doe's abuse of human rights under constitutional rule and kept pumping him with millions of dol-

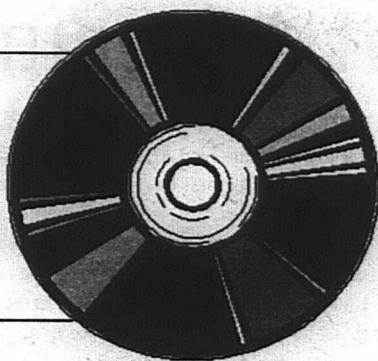
lars primarily to stop Soviet influence from spreading into much of Africa during the cold war. This meant the strengthening of Doe's rule even as a dictator. This is where I acknowledge the stupidity of some African leaders who act as stooges for America who is no angel.

At the end of the day Coming To America is a two dimensional issue. The unfortunate thing for those of us coming here is that the initial shock is not one involving being overwhelmed by the glory we have heard so much about but the glory that embodies crime, drugs, immorality, political corruption and economic hardships in some instances. This is the mirage I mentioned in part one.

Well I will conclude the series in the next issue by just dilating on the other side of Uncle Sam and then attempt to offer some virtuous advice for my fellow Africans, some of whom will not adhere until a personal experience in the supposed land of glory.

By the way, why all this noise about this writer who is no patriot? Is a pound of his flesh being demanded? I need an answer from you the super-patriots.

Sophomore Sensations



Tim Graffam

Five Iron Frenzy: Our Newest Album Ever

The first two weeks of November were banner weeks for those fond of Christian alternative music, with a string of long awaited releases from the likes of Ghoti Hook, PlankEye, Fold Zandura, and easily the most anticipated, Five Iron Frenzy's "Our Newest Album Ever."

Five Iron Frenzy's debut album, "Upbeats and Beatdowns," released just under a year ago, displayed the Denver, Colorado based band's talents that caught the eye of Frank Tate, president of 5 minute Walk records, the label the band had signed with a few months earlier. "Upbeats and Beatdowns" alone helped distinguish Five Iron as one of the premier third wave ska bands in music, Christian or secular, and the release of "Our Newest Album Ever" is more great material to reinforce that belief.

When mentioning Christian ska, one can't help but to draw comparisons to fan favorites The Supertones, who have really struck it huge these last few months. Though fans of each respective band can be very opinionated, both bands are very different in style and can (and will) co-exist in a very healthy way. Both of their ministries are strong, and both are quality bands (and two of my personal favorites).

That having been said, the album opens with a rather scathing commentary on individuals who can find nothing better to do but derogue bands for getting popular called "Handbook for the Sellout." It is a great opener, fast and energetic, and reaffirming the band hasn't lost it's lyrical edge. "Superpowers" relays, in a tongue in cheek manner, what life is like on the road and how the band members are no more special than the next person just because they get to be on stage. "Suckerpunch" is an anthem supporting those considered inept at being hip, and a song I can relate to. "Blue Comb '78" is a song about a very important comb lost during childhood, greatly affecting it's incensed owner. "Banner Year" keeps with the tradition of the political awareness prevalent on their debut album, telling of the trials of Native Americans in the mid-1800's. "Second Season" is a smooth number serving as a sort of reminder that, for believers, there is a much greater life on the horizon.

Though I don't find it as good, on the whole, as their debut, "Our Newest Album Ever" is an excellent album. Similar to the first one, it contains a great diversity in lyrical content, and even a more diverse musical spectrum than on "Upbeats and Beatdowns." Admittedly, my expectations for this album were very high, and that could have had an effect on my initial reaction, which bordered on disappointment. After repeated listens, the CD has grown on me immensely, and I now see it is worthy of Five Iron's talents and is a strong sophomore effort. It closes on an especially strong note, with two of the best songs on the CD, "Most Likely to Succeed" and "Every New Day." The former being about the errors of selfishness and the latter tackling the issue of losing hope in a seemingly hopeless world, yet not letting the glimmer die. The songs provide a thoughtful closing to an intelligent album.

With the release of "Our Newest Album Ever," Five Iron Frenzy has reaffirmed it's position as one of the finest bands in any genre of Christian modern rock. Talented, high energy music and a good balance of intelligent and mildly facetious lyrics make for a necessary addition to any modern rock or ska fan's collection.

Tim Graffam

Ghoti Hook: Bananaman

Yes, those nutty punks in Ghoti (sorry linguists, they pronounce it Goady) Hook have finally returned with a potassium enriched, hook laden, power chord bonanza known affectionately as "Bananaman." It's been well over a year since their debut album, "Sumo Surprise," and it's rather obvious after a listening to "Bananaman" a few times that the guys haven't lost their sense of humor, or their punk rock edge.

Catchy guitar hooks and nifty song writing is what sets "Sumo Surprise" apart as the best punk album available in Christian music, and "Bananaman" continues in that catchy tradition. Punk purists would like to believe that there is no such thing as hook driven, almost melodic, radio friendly punk rock (rawk?), so the moniker

"pop-punk" was created right around the time Green Day was hitting it big a couple of years back. "Pop-punk" is a label given to more polished and more listener friendly bands such as Ghoti Hook and former Tooth and Nail label mates, alternative Christian reprobrates MxPx. Old school bands such as the Sex Pistols and the Damned are supposedly the true punks, though I think labels are for freezer bags and record companies, not for music and it's varying styles.

"Bananaman" contains a very healthy balance of jocular and seriousness in it's song writing. Songs such as the title track, "My Bike," "Cowboy," "At the Zoo," and "Love by the Numbers" are all proof the band doesn't take themselves too seriously and are super-charged fun. "My Bike" is about a favorite childhood bicycle, possibly inspired by the movie "Peewee's Big Adventure." "At the Zoo" relays the tale of Christian (the band's bass player) getting mauled at the zoo. "Love by the Numbers" tells of a long distance relationship in the numerical sense.

The album's more serious, intelligent side is represented by the songs "Estevan," "Just Fools," "Running Away," and "Gimme a Chance." These songs retain the punk energy of the album, yet have a completely different tone lyrically. "Running Away" and "Gimme a Chance" are about failed relationships and the positivity of the prospects of reconciliation. "Estevan" and "Just Fools" are two songs regarding the effects, both positive and negative, that serious relationships can have, and are two of my favorite songs on the CD.

Ghoti Hook's contemporaries in the Christian punk scene, bands like MxPx, Value Pac, and The Huntingtons, all seem to be one step short of Ghoti Hook. MxPx needs to learn to write a song or two not concerning girls, Value Pac could stand to learn a catchy guitar riff in their battle with mediocrity, and the three chords The Huntingtons know wear a bit thin rather quickly. They are not bad young bands, they just have some issues to work out.

I don't really consider myself a punk (maybe a ska-punk, right Dan?), but I know what I like, and I love Ghoti Hook. They are easily one of my favorite bands in any genre, Christian or secular, and "Bananaman" has a lot to do with that. "Bananaman" proves that with some work, the sophomore slump can be beaten, as it equals if not surpasses the high punk rocking energy, quality, and listenability of it's predecessor. I highly recommend giving either Ghoti Hook album a listen or two. They may take some getting used to, though it could really be worth your while, and you could get hooked!

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Kathie's Cooking Corner

With all the studying, cramming and business of the holiday, here is a simple and totally yummy recipe for all lovers of peanut butter. It makes a great dip for apples and bananas, works wonderfully over ice cream, on cookies, or just by the spoonful!

You'll need: 1 cup brown sugar, not packed
1/2 cup white Karo (corn syrup)
3 Tablespoons butter
2 or 3 shakes of salt

Bring all this to a boil, stirring. Remove from heat and stir in:

1 cup peanut butter
1/2 cup evaporated milk

Store in refrigerator, but serve at room temperature, or microwave before serving.
Enjoy!

For everyone who loves Info Center Cheese dip, here is the recipe:

1 large box Velveeta cheese
(regular or light, and cut into cubes)

1 jar of Pace picante sauce
Microwave until melted and serve with Tortilla chips. That's the basic recipe. For the Info Center, to make a larger amount, I also add 1-2 bags of grated cheddar or Mexican grated cheese. I add a couple shakes of cilantro, and some Mexican seasoning.

Art Adventure!

Tara Smalley

An Adventure in Europe!
Interview with Ted Murphy

Once again the Art Department is taking its biennial trip to Madrid and Paris! The Trip consists of one week in Madrid followed by an overnight train trip for two weeks in Paris. Highlights of the trip will be viewing two of the greatest museums: the Prado and the Louvre. Twelve other museums of note will be visited including the Sofidu in Madrid and the Musee d'Orsay in Paris as well as Cathedrals and Art Centers.

Students will be leaving the day after commencement, May 12 and will return on June 1. Anyone interested can contact Gary Baxter and Ted Murphy of the Art Department. The first payment was October 1 but these gracious masters themselves will let you decide as late as December, as long as you can catch up on the late payments. The payments are \$265 per month until April, which totals \$1,855. Not bad at all, and that includes lots of fun and a

chance to earn some Fine Arts credit!

Trips in the past have been very successful and in speaking with Allison Aldred, a senior art student who went on last year's trip to Italy, she shared some of the greatness. "To say the least, the trip was adventurous. Some of us chose to travel to the Mediterranean for the day. The scenery was exquisite and the change in culture was phenomenal. Having a chance to stand in front of the great masters works was breathtaking, inspiring, and indescribable. I would suggest to other students to take advantage and get lost in Europe with the Art Department!"

In my one-on-one chat with Ted Murphy, I asked him some questions regarding the trip. "Why was Madrid one of the chosen sites?" - "It's a former world power and some of the great world known works of art are held there, including some from Velazquez, Ruben and Titian. The painting collection in the Prado is considered one of the greatest and is the second or third largest museum in the world. Spain and France are very interesting as a cultural places and students majoring in Spanish and French

should really look into this."

"What takes place during a typical day in Europe?" - "We select one specific museum or event, for example, the Cluny Museum, a museum that has antiquities of Roman history, rich art, and manuscripts. We would spend hours there, viewing, discussing and asking questions. All this will go towards course credit."

"What other extracurricular activities can you take in?" - "The French Open and the World Cup will be taking place the same time we are in Europe! Students are free at their own expense to investigate those activities. Other activities that students enjoy doing are: visits to Notre Dame, evening concerts (great in France), operas ("Les Miserables"), and many other crazy and exciting things."

From what I can gather this will be an adventure that nobody will want to miss, so cancel that summer class! Would you rather travel Europe or sit in the lecture hall and take those loved exams? Take advantage of this awesome opportunity and start saving your money now, or just ask for your Christmas present early. Keep your eyes open for scheduled meetings the next few weeks.

Letters from London

Adria Willett

Many of you may be wondering about the benefits of the Houghton-in-London program. For me the semester has been a time of fascinating connections.

Experiencing London creates interesting connections with what we are learning in our classes. It has been rewarding to study plays and also have the chance to see Ben Kingsley play in Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, as well as get cheap seats for a performance of Caryl Churchill's *Blue Heart*. Our Pre-Raphaelite poetry class visits museums and galleries to see the work of people we are studying, like William Morris and Dante Gabriel Rossetti. I've also gone with my Intro to Visual Arts class to see the "real stuff." I found it thrilling to write a paper on Caravaggio, then be able to see three of his paintings in the National Gallery. We've been reading the biographies of various people in Dr. Airhart's class. It was so odd to read about William Blake's life and be able to walk down the road to his various residences with their blue circular plaques commemorating him.

This place is entrenched in history, and that evokes the most fascinating connections. In art the other day, we learned about Turner's painting, *The Fighting Temeraire*, depicting the remnant of Britain's naval glory being tugged up the river

Thames to be dismantled for its wood. Here in London we can see Trafalgar Square and its monument to Captain Nelson, who died in the Battle of Trafalgar, the great sea battle in which the Temeraire gained her glory. We can also drift down the Thames in a ferry, gazing at the monuments of centuries past.

Along this historical theme, I saw another connection while visiting the Victoria and Albert Museum a few days ago. The massive building still retains the tangible memory of war in its pocked walls created by bomb shards during World War II. In our learning and observing we constantly come across reminders of how life was altered here in Britain by the two world wars. In addition, I recently finished reading the biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was executed because of his involvement with the resistance against Hitler's regime.

I have also been discovering connecting ideas between my different classes. We read the biography of Martin Luther in one class, and in another we observed the effects of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation on painting movements. In one class we discussed Shakespeare's reaction to empiricism, while in another we noted the poetic tendency to romanticize the past in the onset of

industrialization. In biography we discussed the role of creativity in shaping the culture we live in, and in other classes, we measured the creative effects of art, poetry, and drama. I read about Bonhoeffer's struggles with articulating Christian discipleship and identity, and at the same time, I learned about Mark's editorial decisions which emphasize the nature of discipleship and the lordship of Christ.

Attending church in London and learning about the Church throughout the ages has challenged and shaped my own faith. After reading about Luther's real terror of God's holy justice, I attended evensong at Salisbury Cathedral and at St. Paul's. The combined effect forced me to reconsider my treatment of God's holiness and sovereignty and then question: do I fear God? On several occasions I've been involved in discussions about the nature of goodness and how we live our faith. At the same time, I've had the opportunity to get involved in practical service in the inner city through the ministries of All Souls' Church.

Therefore, coming to London means experiencing the history and culture of Britain and the connection to us, while facing challenges to thought and faith. It also involves connections between ideas and articulation, learning and seeing, and believing and living. Try it out; take advantage of a challenge.

Adria Willett

A large percentage of us here in London are in biography class with Dr. Airhart. For the past two weeks we have been studying A. N. Wilson's biography of C. S. Lewis. It's a controversial biography, in some respects, because Wilson presents what he considers is the accurate Lewis, a picture most evangelical Americans would not be comfortable with.

In our discussion of the book, we consider the historical method of disproving a theory by genetic fallacy. This method works to prove the illegitimacy of the theory's source, thus ruling the theory itself invalid. With this in mind, we questioned the ramifications of A. N. Wilson's presentation of Lewis in his book. Wilson deplores the cult of followers that has formed around C. S. Lewis mainly because it dehumanizes the actual man, doing "Lewis no honour to make him into a plastic saint." However, in taking on the biographer's task to present a realistic portrait of his subject, Wilson is not rendering invalid Lewis'

impact on this century. Rather, he indicates we should not shy from seeing the realistic Lewis in the fear that his influence or greatness will be shattered. Wilson asserts the idea of considering a man honorable despite his imperfections.

Dr. Airhart pointed out that biography forces us to understand what it means to be a human being: head, heart, and spirit, not just the external appearances. If we were to come face to face with the argumentative, bullying, loud, coarse, smoking, and drinking C. S. Lewis, we would immediately judge him. But he was also, "a kind and patient teacher, a loyal friend, a magnificently astute and intelligent conversationalist who read much" (Wilson). He had the capacity to spiritually inspire thousands and write masterpieces. Man is a complex creation.

One of the problems of Americans mainstream Christianity is the tendency to see people as one - dimen-

sional, determined by their outward actions. Our traditions and convictions concerning the behavior of proper Christians has taken stage, and we judge people by them. The problem with such a legalism resides in its view on sin as only skin deep. If we go through the motions, we will be okay. Thus we completely box in God, leaving no room for the unpredictability and mystery of God.

C. S. Lewis wrote, "My idea of God is not a divine idea. It has to be shattered time after time. He shatters it Himself. He is the greatest iconoclast. Could we not say that this shattering is one of the marks of His presence?... All reality is iconoclastic." Wilson, for many readers, shatters the saintly icon of C. S. Lewis. But he replaces it with a portrait of a man who had his imperfections, but a man still deserving of our honour. In the same way, we should reconsider our icons of the ideal Christian and of God himself (heck, go read the book of Job).

ICARE Founder Speaks at Houghton

Nathan Reimer and Tara Smalley

The Scholar- Guest of the Staley Distinguished Christian Scholar Lecture Program of Houghton College this year was Dr. Phil Quinn. Dr. Quinn is a writer, child advocate and founder of an organization dedicated to the prevention and elimination of child abuse called ICARE. He has written several books on child abuse, child resiliency, and parenting drawn upon his personal experiences of abuse as a child and to his children.

Quinn was adopted around the age of eleven after several foster homes. He found himself in a very abusive family. His book *Cry Out* explains in detail the many horrible kinds of torment he went through. He mentioned many times in his lectures that he had wanted to die. When he was eighteen, he was kicked out of his house. He then joined a motorcycle gang because he was unable to find a job due to the partial deafness in an ear and blindness in one eye from the abuse he received. At the age of twenty he married but was divorced ten years later. From his first marriage he had two children. Up until the oldest child was three and the youngest was two, he abused them. When he realized the cycle of abuse occurring with in himself with his own children, he knew he had to seek help and turn around. Dr. Quinn is now remarried and has two other children which he proudly

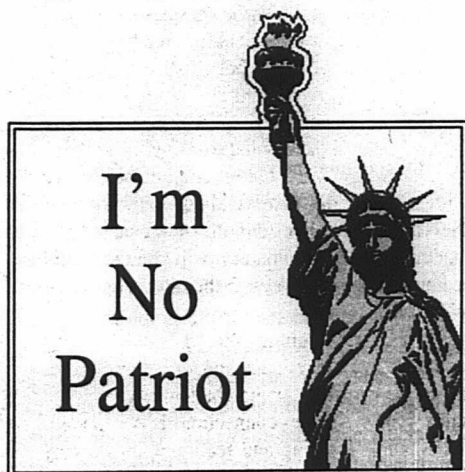


admits, he has never hit. Now he shares his story through the eyes of an abused child to capture the needed attention on this area.

Quinn had the opportunity to speak in some classes to answer questions regarding his experience as well as some evening lectures. The lecture not

only told the worst but also the best, regarding his redemption and his current outreach to help those who have gone or are going through a similar situation. If you would like to find out more information about Dr. Phil Quinn or his books, contact Dr. Van Wicklin, in the Psychology department.

L E T T E R S



Dear Aaron Noll,

I am writing this in response to "I'm No Patriot" and "Moral Indoctrination by the State: Public Education" printed in the last two editions of the STAR. I, too, am not a patriot, simply because I grew up overseas. I agree that there is a great deal of corruption in our government, and that many government employees are not always motivated by what is best for the citizens of our country. However, it surprises me to hear you say that our government is "tyrannical" and "oppressive." Perhaps I am surprised because where I grew up the U.S. was seen as a land of great opportunity, wealth, and freedom. I believe it is.

I used to think there was no safer place on earth than the West African country that was my home. But during the past five years, civil war has turned that once peaceful nation into a skeleton of what it once was and had the potential to be. Its people are living in fear of attack and destruction, and dying from

a lack of food and basic necessities, because of a weak central government that cannot resist rebel attacks. I can think of other nations that are under incredible religious oppression, or nations that deny basic rights, such as forbidding women to be seen in public. In this poverty filled, fallen world, our government offers safety, luxury, and freedom. While we should seek to improve our government, we need to keep our lives in perspective, aware of the suffering of people around the globe who lack rights much more basic than our demanded rights of freedom.

Christy Shea

The history of genocide should convince anyone that nationalism is inherently dangerous. Unfortunately, Aaron Noll's article "I'm No Patriot," neither illustrates why patriotism or nationalism is dangerous nor gives an alternative to his sad world.

Noll indicates that since the birth of the U.S. "politicians and bureaucrats" have been "twisting and warping" the meaning of the United States Constitution to consolidate power in Washington. Do these politicians and bureaucrats that Noll objects to include the majority in the Congress today who wish to vastly reduce the federal government's influence and boost the power of the state?

Noll would be best suited to leave out his argument on the National Bank. This institution was avidly supported by Hamilton, and architect of the "well intentioned" Constitution. Furthermore, the National Bank was eliminated over a century ago - probably not the best evidence for an increasingly

centralized government.

While it is undisputed that the Federal Government has grown since 1776, Noll makes no argument that this growth is detrimental, other than arguing a depletion of his "personal liberty." Unfortunately the evil regulations he cites such as suicide rights, drug prohibition or pornography generally are considered to be powers of the individual states. Noll blurs the distinction between "the state" and "states" and neglects to tell you which one is so horrible or whether he denies the authority of both.

The article's observations on the income tax are morally repulsive. To equate the so-called brutality of the IRS with the suffering and torture of Slaves in early America is sick. In doing so, Noll has trivialized slavery and its horrors.

To claim that the income tax is invalid because he didn't vote for it is absurd. If Americans were to work within the framework of a continuous direct democracy and scrap the republican system of the Constitution, an institutional element strangely absent from Noll's piece, they would find themselves in the midst of Madison's tyranny of the majority.

Perhaps if Noll is worried about the "government" taking away his personal liberty he might find a workable definition of "liberty" instead of "patriot." An understanding of the United States' history and political system could probably have prevented this article.

Dan Bates

F u n n i e s

Relief and Where to Find It

Joel Tom Tate

As promised, this column will focus on a few of the public restrooms in Fillmore. Fillmore, I will readily admit, has always been a bit of a puzzle to me. With all of its natural resources (the river, the trees, the fields, etc.) it seems as though it ought to be a booming metropolis. And yet it is not.

Fillmore is awash with startling contrasts. On the one hand you have the quaint, cozy, sleepy-town feel of the Wide Awake Club, and on the other hand there is the crass modernity of the Market Basket shopping plaza. On the one hand there are Amish buggies clickety-clacking along main street, and on the other there is the bright and shiny Sugarcreek in all of its new-fangled glory.

And yes, this contrast is also apparent in Fillmore's public restrooms.

The men's restroom at the Ned's Diner is easily a three star restroom, bordering on a four. It has always been clean, with plenty of toilet paper on hand. There is decor. Prints and antiques, even if they do nothing to enhance the experience, certainly communicate to you the patron that Ned appreciates you. The only real drawback to this restroom is the fact that there is no urinal and that the water runs very hot. True, it's expecting a lot for a diner to have a men's restroom equipped with a urinal, and true, there is a sign behind the splashguard warning you that the water runs hot, but my standards are high and if I'm going to designate a bathroom as a five star it will be because there is nothing wrong with it whatsoever.

Now the restroom at the Market Basket is another story altogether. Originally I was going to give the restroom a token one star rat-

ing. I couldn't give it a no star rating because it did have a toilet after all. But as I thought on it some more I began to realize that even if the bathroom is a little crude and rudimentary, as though it was tucked into the bowels of the Market Basket as an after thought, they still let us use. And it is not as though they have to. On a number of occasions I have had to use this bathroom and the gratitude I felt at the time easily overwhelmed any queasy feelings of uncertainty about the bathroom itself.

Indeed, Fillmore is a town of contrast but one thing is true throughout. They are good, decent people, people who make good neighbors, the sort of people who do not hesitate to let you use the bathroom in back. The next time you are at the Market Basket have a kind word for the checkout clerks and don't hesitate to use the bathroom if you need to.

Science Fairs

Dave Johnson

I was the master of the science fair. Back in the days of elementary school, when the paste was edible and the chicken nuggets were not, science fairs were the ultimate judgement of intellect. Sure, the popular kids with the new Velcro sneakers and Thriller were embraced by their classmates as social icons, but the winners of the science fairs were acknowledged as supremely intelligent beings, whose brilliance could only be rewarded with Xeroxed certificates and three dollar savings bonds. Science fairs are integral parts of academia, elements of scholastic achievement most closely associated with competition, learning, and paper mache'. There is an interesting history behind science fairs, and how they became the driving forces behind young, scientific minds for all these years.

Actually, I lied about there being an interesting history behind science fairs. I haven't the faintest clue how science fairs came into existence, but I'm sure it had something to do with moldy bread.

What are some typical science projects? By far, the most popular science project in the history (we already covered that) of science projects has got to be the volcano. Walking around a local elementary school science fair is like attending an infomercial on Arm and Hammer. Every other booth, some kid with a wild look in his eyes has a model volcano surrounded by model trees and model fences and model Pierce Brosnans. The volcano itself, which is usually

just 75 pounds of clay formed into a hollow cone, has been filled with so much baking-soda it could absorb the odor of a dead trout soaked in urine. While an enraptured audience (usually 7-year-olds) watch, the kid, probably wearing a poncho, dumps in a pint of vinegar and instantly takes cover. The volcano shudders, then proceeds to regurgitate gallons of putrid liquid (like I did, the time I first listened to Milli Vanilli). Various pieces of furniture and anyone unlucky to be within 50 yards of the volcano are washed out of the gymnasium, and emergency rafts are immediately deployed.

Another popular project is the solar system. Actually "solar system" is too general a term. "Painted balls of Styrofoam skewered onto coat hangers" is more accurate. These displays usually lack the factual quality of the solar system, unless Saturn is indeed surrounded by a Frisbee. The "Prehistoric Fossils" project is also often seen in science fairs. These designs may consist of a metal pan of dirt with plastic dinosaurs embedded up to their necks, a bowl full of chicken bones, or, in some cases where the student procrastinated too long, some Polaroids of grandparents.

For the more advanced participants, projects involving lasers, mirrors, motors, or liquid nitrogen become appealing, purely because it's lot more fun to install a V-6 engine into a digital alarm clock than it is to spray paint foam balls. Some of the brighter

students (nerds) created these incredibly complex machines that can fire lasers, light light bulbs, shell peanuts, and open dimensional portals using only a D-cell battery and some chewing gum. Of course, this type of technological marvel always made the other students look bad, especially me, as my project was entitled "Birds." But, guess what. I still won. Why? Presentation.

Sure, some of the other participants may have worked harder, or had more colorful posters, or changed the molecular structure of physical objects, but if the presentation lacks, it all means nothing. You must approach the presentation of a science project as if you were a used car salesman. If you can successfully convince the judges you knew what in the world you were talking about or you spent countless hours researching the topic or you actually learned something that will some day help you contribute to the betterment of mankind or there's an envelope of small bills underneath their car seat, you will have as good a chance as any to win.

Science fairs are an invaluable resource to test young minds and extend their appreciation for the wonders of the natural world. They are exhibitions of learning, competition, and fellowship. They give every student an equal chance to rise above the rest of their colleagues and prove their academic might. The opportunities science fairs provide for—oh, forget it. I've already got 700 words.

CHAOS by Brian Shuster



"Oh yeah? Well I'll bet you twice that much that I CAN land this sucker blind-folded, upside-down and on a rocky mountain top."

CHAOS by Brian Shuster

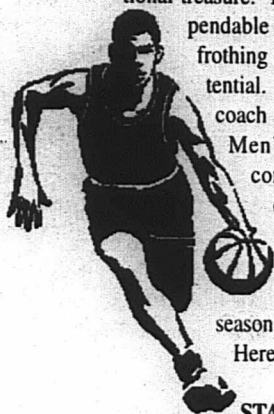


"Oh no, it's my husband! Quick, get back on the floor."

SPORTS

Chewing the Fat With Ed Keesler

Dave Johnson



Edward Keesler, resident of Olean, is a national treasure. He is a hard worker, a dependable Pioneer employee, and a frothing cauldron of basketball potential. Ed is the student assistant coach for the Houghton College Men's Basketball team, and commands respect from all carbon-based life forms. I was lucky to catch up with Ed one day, and talk to him about the team, the season outlook, and life in general. Here's what he had to say:

STAR: Ed, we all know you've secured your name in the annals of basketball lore, but can you tell us a little about this year's Houghton Men's Basketball team?

ED: We have lots and lots of good potential. We have a lot of good, young recruits. [In fact] we're returning only one starter from last semester—Brian Hills.

STAR: Who else is returning from last semester?

ED: Eli Knapp, Kurt Sauder, Alan Krechting, Sergei Swanson, Sam Albert, Todd Kleitz, Tim Vance. [Looks at me like I'm an idiot] Would you like a roster?

STAR: No, keep going.

ED: Who was the last one I gave you? Did I say Dwayne Washington?

STAR: No.

ED: Dwayne Washington.

STAR: Who are your starting five?

ED: It varies. Depends on who steps up.

STAR: So, if you want playing time you have to show that you have the goodies?

ED: You're gonna have to work hard and do what the coaches want.

STAR: What was your record last year?

ED: 7 and 20, with one win being a forfeit.

STAR: 7 and 20? That's not that good.

ED: [Glaring at me, probably thinking "This guy is an idiot."] No. It's not that good.

STAR: Is there a brighter outlook for this season?

ED: Yes. I see us doing quite well. We are improving constantly.

STAR: Who are your new recruits?

ED: Nate Ward, David Summey, Jeremy Martin, Greg Lytle, Dan Gero, Dan Yanda, Chris Hearn, and Michael Grant.

STAR: Who's one of the brightest looking prospects you have?

ED: Michael Grant. He's ineligible for a semester. He's from Toronto. He's a very good all around player.

STAR: Your season has already started. How did you do your first game?

ED: We lost by twenty-something. We're trying to block that out. We're still learning. We're a very young team.

STAR: On a personal note, how is your intramural basketball team doing?

ED: Oh, we're doing great. We're earning a lot of respect even though we haven't won a game yet.

STAR: Who was the first team you lost to?

ED: I don't need to answer that. [For those of you uninformed, my team, The Owls of Fury, felled Ed's team, quite comfortably.]

STAR: Any parting words to Houghton College?

ED: I know you guys will come to support your team.

STAR: Finally, Ed, what are the chances of me making the Houghton Men's Basketball Team?

ED: [Looking at me as the realization hits him, that I truly am an idiot] Slim to none.

Eddie "Hoops" Keesler. A man among boys, whose prowess for basketball and Italian cooking go unmatched in Western New York. In my opinion, not a day should go by where we don't fall on our knees and thank God for Ed Keesler, and the wonders he brings to Houghton College.

Volleyball Falls Short of Regionals

Linda Shea

The Lady Highlander's volleyball team lost a memorable play-off battle Tuesday night, November 11, bringing their winning season, that was full of adversity, to a close.

The match, a Keystone Empire Collegiate Conference Semi-final featuring fourth-seeded Houghton against fifth-seeded Seton Hill, lasted two and a half hours.

The first game the lady highlanders came out strong, beating their opponents 15-7. Losing their confidence, they lost the next two games 9-15 and 8-15. In the fourth game it looked like the match was over when Seton Hill had match point at 14-8. The highlanders used scrappy defense and the encouragement from an enthusiastic crowd to fight back and win 16-14. In the final game, however, Houghton ended their 1997 season losing 10-15.

"I thought after coming out so strong in the beginning, and having such an incredible comeback we could win the match. Unfortunately in the fifth game we just dug ourselves too deep of a hole that we couldn't come back again," said Coach Nancy Cole.

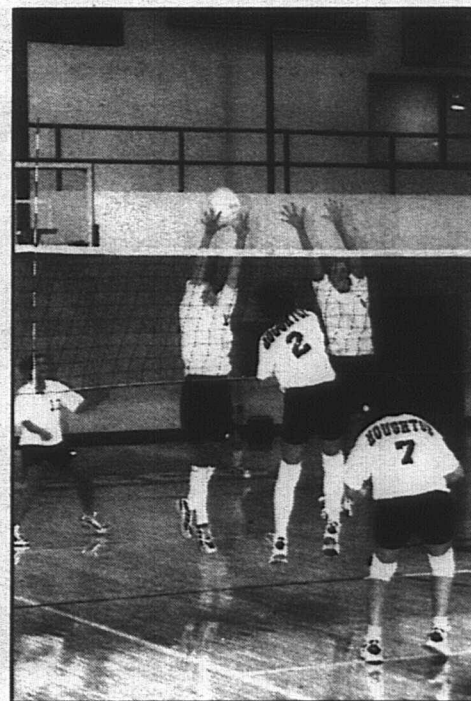
Coach Cole also mentioned the outstanding play of Allison Roberts, especially in her defense, that kept the team fighting in the match. Roberts had 51

digs and 16 kills. Also stepping up were Amie Fells with 42 digs, Alison Chubb with 60 assists, and Linda Shea with 28 kills and 36 digs.

The volleyball team faced a season of adversity. Only two starters from last year's team remained. In addition, senior captain Allysia Hanson tore her ACL, followed by three other starters being injured during the season.

"Because of our injuries we had a new team every three weeks," explained Nancy Cole. Despite the injuries, the team still finished with an overall record of 16 wins and 7 losses. This was partially a result of players like Ruth Stone, Dana Norton, Kristin Gurley, Rigel McKee, and Carla French, who were ready to step in and play well at any moment. Also contributing was the steadiness of senior Hannah Young and the adaptability of Amie Fells, who played three different positions during the year. The injuries, while difficult, unified the team and taught them to trust in the Lord more.

Coach Cole is optimistic about next year since the team is only losing one starter. She looks forward to having juniors Alison Chubb and Amie Fells, who made second team All-Conference, be strong leaders. They will all greatly miss seniors Allysia Hanson, Hannah Young, and Sarah Chords.



Houghton volleyball players get set to return.

SPORTS

Tough Loss For Women's Soccer

Jenn Greggo

Women's Soccer Team Just Misses Nationals... again!

Nationals seem to be an elusive goal for the women's soccer team. They had their hearts set on a trip to Texas to close out the 1997 season the day that the 1996 season was over. Through summer workouts, pre season, regular season, and especially through conference play, the women were determined to make this **the year!** Yet, Green Mountain of Vermont dashed the team's hopes during semi-final regional play.

Post season started out great for the women.

After defeating Geneva 5-0, during a conference semi-final match, the women went on to defeat Roberts Wesleyan 4-0, winning the conference championship for the fifth consecutive year. They prepared to face Green Mountain with enthusiasm and hoped to finally defeat them after losing the semi-final match to them in the past two attempts.

Regional play was hosted by University of New England in Biddeford, Maine. The tournament was played through extremely cold temperatures and while snow accumulated to several inches. Houghton still managed to play a great game, completely dominating play. In fact, Green Mountain barely had possession for more than a few minutes at a time. Yet in

one of the few moments they did possess the ball, they were able to put a goal into the net with just eight minutes left in the game. Houghton could not get one in despite some very close attempts. The game ended 1-0, Houghton suffering a heart-wrenching loss.

All was not lost in this attempt, however. The women still managed to achieve their ultimate goal. With each game played this season, they went out to glorify God. This loss was no exception. Though frustrated and disappointed with this end to the season, the team knows that they did not fail to let their light shine for the Lord throughout the 1997 season! ...And who knows, maybe next season will be the year!!

Men and Women Cross-Country Teams Go to Nationals

Krista Ruth

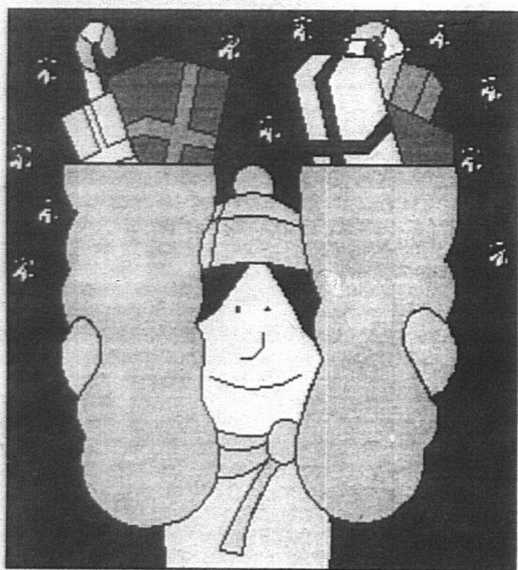
Snowshoes would have been more appropriate footwear than running spikes for the NAIA National Cross-Country Championship on November 15, 1997. The nine inches of snow covering the women's 5K and the men's 8K courses at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside did not postpone the race. 333 female runners plowed through the snow. Coach Smalley predicted that "this race is not for the faint-hearted."

Houghton's women's cross-country team proved their stamina and determination, placing 14th out of 45 teams. Once again they practiced their packing strategy to ensure success. Kim Wellington led the lady Highlanders with a time of 20:30, earning 40th place. Sprinting in 20 seconds later, Lauren Keepert placed 63rd and Krista Ruth finished 66th, three seconds later. Heather Ayers and Melanie Swansfeger finished the race within 16 seconds of each other. Close finishes like these in large races are characteristic of quality teams. Tenneil Tower and Sarah Gagnon also ran with determination through

the winter wonderland.

After 333 female runners blazed a slushy trail, 336 male competitors endured a slippery 8K race. Three of Houghton's men's cross-country team competed in the NAIA National meet. His second race of the season, Felix Cheriuyot placed 45th with a time of 27:42. Brent Wright and Pat Weaver also represented Houghton, finishing within 38 seconds of each other.

Five years from now these teams may forget all of the effort and excitement that led to qualifying for Nationals and performing well. However, they will remember and treasure the bond of Christ and friendship. After the race, the women demonstrated this tight bond when, draping their arms across each other's shoulders, they formed a tight circle. Wet from snow and sweat, their heads touched and tears flowed. With sincere love and gratitude for each other, they prayed. Their prayers did not focus on their running performance but on their love for their Lord Jesus and for each other. **TEAM!** This is why they run. This is what they will remember.



Merry Christmas

From your friends at The Star!

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