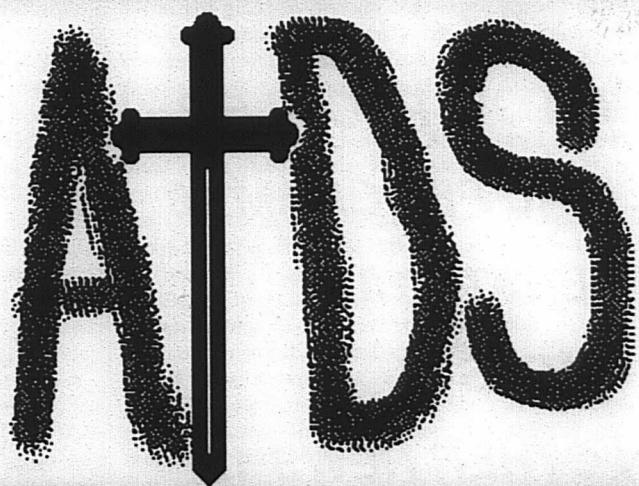


# THE HOUGHTON STAR

OCTOBER 26, 1990 • VOLUME 83.5  
*L. David Wheeler & Ivan T. Rocha, Editors*



## IN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

how then shall we live?

SPECIAL REPORT

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE: MARY BIGLOW IN PROFILE

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**THE HOUGHTON  
STAR**

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

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**A**IDS: The scourge of the twentieth century? The curse of God on homosexuals, prostitutes, and assorted libertines? Hellfire, brimstone, and damn them all to eternal perdition! But wait, what if . . . no, that can't be. Christians don't get AIDS, do they? Yes, my sweet, unfortunately they do. But how? How can they?! Really, child, it doesn't matter; the *how* matters much less than the fact that there are, indeed, professing Christians in this world who are dying of AIDS, victims of nature, victims of their own errors, or possibly learning in the hard school of life what being a child of God in a fallen world can entail. For Christians—yes, even you and I—are human. Redeemed, yes, but still capable of getting into more trouble than they are capable of getting out of on their own. And, yes, of course, there are those who are victimized by the fallibilities of human science, medicine, and knowledge.

How then, should we live, in face of this new, painful reality? For after all, AIDS seems so remote—tragic, yes, but remote—until it attacks close to home. Such a new, sickening, disconcerting concept: that AIDS, the “gay plague,” should penetrate the seemingly impregnable fortifications of the community of faith. In our smug self-righteousness the possibility of AIDS within our own circles seems about as plausible as airborne swine. Yet it is there, and far closer than we, in the sheltered hamlet of Houghton, suspect.

Suspicion, it seems, is the first reaction when you hear someone has AIDS. How did they contract it? It seems that so much hangs on the *how*. So much of our concept of who the person is depends on our knowing whether or not they were actually weak enough to slip. As if it would make any difference, we perversely itch to know—only that

# compassion for Christ's sake!

*What are we to do when faced with the prospect of AIDS in the Christian community?*

by ivan t. rocha

we might gloat in private over our own filthy, moral superiority, for of course we would never find our precious, self-righteous little selves in such a predicament; why, we are so morally upright, so just, so *Christian*! No, ultimately it doesn't matter. The *how* is between them and God. Thus, what matters to us is the fact that there is, right there in front of all of us, a victim, a brother in need, a sister in pain, a human being in need of compassion, understanding, and unconditional love, acceptance, and support. The last thing an AIDS victim needs is an accusing finger, a condescending attitude, a superior air. Not, especially, from someone who claims to be his brother.

What we do, how we live, how we react to a Christian (or for that matter, anyone) with AIDS, hinges on Christ's many injunctions that we show compassion to those in need (see Matthew 25:35-40, Colos-

sians 3:12, I Corinthians 13, etc.), love our brothers in the faith, and do everything we can as if for Christ Himself. Thus, to see one of our number suffering emotionally as well as physically in the grip of a disease from which there is no recovery should trigger in us the deepest sense of compassion and brotherly love. Yet it all still seems remote to you, does it not? AIDS at Houghton? Absurd. Impossible. No.

Yes.

If not now, then later. The threat is very much with us (see letter on page 4), and it is only a matter of time until, for whatever reasons, one of us—I, you, another student, a member of the community—is struck. How will we react? Will we be forever suspicious, will we descend, will we choose to ignore, run, hide, avoid? How then would you want to be treated? Go and be compassionate. For Christ's sake. ♦

## keeping things above board

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*When Dave and I were first approached about publishing an anonymous (or at best, pseudonymous) letter by the first potential AIDS victim in Houghton we were a bit wary, not wanting to generate a similar controversy to the one over the “TGP” letter late last semester. However, the more we thought*

*about it, the more point we saw in exposing the Houghton public to the reality that AIDS does strike in Christian circles. As we continued to plan this issue, we felt that such a letter (which we have published, withholding the author's identity—fully known to us—for obvious reasons) should not be published without adequate support. As a result, this issue's cover story developed, and now encompasses various aspects of the subject of AIDS at Houghton we perceived as important. We hope it is of some benefit to you. ♦*

# AIDS

skipped Chapel today. Not for the usual reasons: I overslept, I didn't read my Bib. Lit., Charles Bressler was giving a test, I had an undeniable urge to go to Mobil, President Chamberlain was speaking... .

I skipped Chapel today to be tested for AIDS.

Maybe you oughta sit down to read this article.

There's a bunch of things going through your head right now. Is there AIDS at Houghton? Who's writing this article? How did they get AIDS or why do they feel a need to be tested? Are they a drug user? A hemophiliac? Had sex? Were born with it? I'm not discussing the answer—it doesn't matter—so take your pick.

Let me walk you through the test. We got there early, so I had plenty of time to look around. It was rather like a movie. A dark hallway—bare bulbs, peeling gray and green paint, young mothers with babies on their hips waiting for social services... .the only thing missing was sad background music. The testers return from lunch and ask me to come in.

She tries to make me comfortable, but I just want to be somewhere else... anywhere else. She begins the questions.

Am I bisexual? Homosexual? A prostitute? Use IV drugs? Had multiple sex partners? Monogamous relationships? She looks up. These aren't too nice, are they? she asks. I tell her I'm fine—she can continue. Am I aware of their sexual history? Drug history? Am I a hemophiliac? Been exposed to tuberculosis? Had a blood transfusion? I'm answering questions I don't even tell my closest friends.

She gives me a number, to protect my identity. Then a detailed explanation of how to put on a condom. More details about use and storage of condoms. Non-oxadol-9 kills the HIV virus on inanimate surfaces. Here's an AIDS hotline number. More information on AIDS: test sites, counseling, service programs, condoms, 100 Questions and Answers About AIDS, a comic book on AIDS. . . .

When she finally draws my blood, she doesn't wear gloves—I'm relieved—I don't feel like such a leper.

My fears are running at their highest right now, and most of them are about you. What if I DO test HIV positive? Will you hate me? Will you cut across the quad when you see me coming? Will you stare at me when I walk by? Will you whisper behind my back? Will you still sit with me at lunch? Will you still hug me? Will you still be my friend?

Identity withheld for author's protection.

# HOW SHALL WE THEN LIVE?

by L. david wheeler

*compassionately, according to responses  
to the star opinion poll on aids*

Last week, in "an attempt to better understand the position of the Houghton student body on the subject of AIDS," the *Star* randomly distributed survey flyers to 400 students. These flyers contained the question: "If you were introduced to a Houghton College student whom you knew to be a Christian, and were told he/she had AIDS, how would you be most likely to react?", followed by four possible responses, including a.) suspicion, b.) compassion, c.) shock, and d.) pity.

Only 86, slightly over 20%, of the 400 questionnaires were returned. Of those who did respond, the overwhelming majority (73 people) indicated that they would "feel compassion for him/her as a brother/sister in need." Twelve people "would be inclined to pity

him/her," five "would wonder about the sincerity of his/her Christian faith," three "would be too shocked to react," and two preferred an alternative response to the four options listed. (As evident from the results, those polled were free to indicate more than one response, and many did.)

Some felt that the poll was, by the nature of the responses offered, not an accurate gauge of student response. "B [compassion] is the only choice, except maybe for C [shock], which doesn't make you look like an insensitive, fundy clod," one student said. Another wrote that "asking a question such as this with such close-ended responses will not offer the kind of results desired," continuing to say that "if I could answer as honestly as possible, I would say a mixture of compassion

and pity and condemnation. How can you record that empirically?"

Written comments such as these were among the most valuable results of this experiment, for they offered a closer, clearer, and more reflective look at the question. The questionnaires included a space for personal comment, and several (over one-quarter) of the responses included some sort of comment. Below are a representative sampling of excerpts from these comments.

If the empirical portion of the survey is indeed accurate and representative, and a clear majority of students would feel compassion for a student with AIDS, the question remains as to whether that *emotion* would be translated into *action*—whether the students would go on to *treat* AIDS victims with compassion. It is this question which, in the long run, is the most crucial. Perhaps this is understood, though. Several respondents clearly indicated that they would pray for the individual in question. Although this poll hasn't succeeded in ultimately determining whether this community would be supportive to an AIDS patient, it does hold out the promise for understanding, compassion, and fervent prayer support—making the outlook a bit more hopeful.☆

## EXCERPTS

"I would hope that I would show continuous compassion, strength, and help, but because of my humanity, and the great influence of society about the disease, I realize my first reaction would be pity and shock."

"I'd want to ascertain the sincerity of their repentance (assuming the AIDS was contacted from drugs or intercourse). Not to judge, but because repentance is vital to faith."

"[after relating account of a church that excluded an active member after he

learned that he had AIDS, contacted during his prechristian past] This made me angry. Salvation isn't measured by the type of disease you have. God loves us all and he calls us to love each other like he loves us. AIDS victims can be children of God just as surely as anyone else can. What they need is our love and understanding, not our condemnation. After all, we're not God, are we? Or are we?"

"They [AIDS victims] can prepare while we who are Christians don't know our appointed time. It is bad—or is it—to stop us and tell us to look at ourselves a little bit deeper."

"A student with AIDS probably

wouldn't come here by choice because he/she would probably feel frightened and intimidated by the 'pious' nature of most students."

"At first glance I was ready to answer b.), thinking I'm a good Christian and this is how I'm taught to react. Rethinking that answer in view of the society and environment I grew up in, I would feel sorry for the person, but at the same time be scared that I could catch it accidentally. I would try not to be prejudiced, but deep down I know I would not want to associate with that person. I would pray and ask the Lord to help me with my attitude, but it would be difficult."☆

AIDS

AIDS

# WHAT IF IT HAPPENS HERE

*how is houghton college equipped to deal with the threat of AIDS among its student body?*

**A**IDS. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. In the past four years this virus has taken the lives of thousands of people from all walks of life: homosexuals, intra-venous drug users, hemophiliacs, new-born babies, college students, and even Christians. There is no known cure for AIDS or immunization against contracting it. With so little known about the virus, and so much confusion about exactly what transmits it, the issue has become one of the most alarming of this century. Due to the recent concern by many individuals, many schools, businesses, and organizations across the country now have specific policies for dealing with AIDS cases within them. We at the *Star* decided it was time to find out how Houghton College plans to deal with this situation, should it arise in the future.

To understand the relevance of the AIDS issue to Houghton, we must first look at some of the statistics: nearly 1.5 million individuals have contracted AIDS in the United States. New York alone has some staggering figures relating the spread of AIDS: 1 in every 100 babies born in this state tests HIV-positive; the Bronx having the most

alarming figure of all—1 in 43. You may say, "That's a real shame, but what does that have to do with us here at Houghton? After all, this is a Christian school and AIDS is sexually transmitted; surely there are no infected individuals here." For those of you who feel this way, you are right; this IS a Christian school, and AIDS IS transferred by sexual contact, but all of us here ARE human, and sexual contact is not the ONLY way an individual can become infected by the AIDS virus. There is just as great a chance of an individual carrying or contracting this virus while here as any other school.

I say this not to frighten any of you, and I do not wish to cause suspicion of everyone's roommate, but I as well as other individuals here are concerned that everything is being done for the safety, education, and rights of everyone on campus. Houghton administration is taking steps to ensure that these goals will be met: Houghton will soon be joining others across the country by developing a policy for dealing with the effects of the AIDS virus on college campuses.

The Houghton College AIDS Policy is a document containing

specific instructions to aid the faculty and administration in their efforts to protect the rights of all Houghton community members. A committee was assembled last spring to revise the previous draft of the policy. This committee included President Daniel Chamberlain, Dean of Student Development Robert Danner, biology department head Dr. Donald Munro, Head of Counseling Services Dr. Michael Lastoria, and two other staff members. Their purpose was to broaden the policy to apply not only to AIDS, but all other communicable diseases. The final draft of this policy is awaiting approval by several administration members, at which time it will be released to the Houghton public. Dean Danner said the official policy will be released in the next few weeks, and will be available upon request to anyone interested.

The policy will be modeled by a prototype drawn up by the College Health Association, a group of health care professionals in colleges and universities across the country. Houghton's policy will be following its comprehensive and stringent provisions for confidentiality. It will also include similar procedures directing prevention education for the college community and counseling programs for the infected individual.

The approach taken by the Health and Counseling Services at Houghton has so far been rather low-key concerning education. Should the current draft of the policy become effective, not much will change. Literature and information on prevention will continue to be available at both offices, as well as the most up-to-date statistics about AIDS. There will be no mandatory seminars or any other large-group meetings to discuss the issue. One thing that will change is that small group informational

# AIDS

meetings may be created if the Health or Counseling Services receive enough requests by the student body.

Should the Health Services become aware of an infected student, it will post information on AIDS around the college, but will not divulge any information on the individual, according to Nurse Manager Gail Smith. In adhering to a Federal law passed in 1970, a person who contracts a potentially fatal disease is to be considered handicapped, and under that same law the individual will be given no restrictions as to where he lives, eats, works, or chooses to obtain an education. In short, a Houghton student diagnosed with AIDS would have all the rights as every other student on campus. This law holds true for all faculty, staff, and administration as well. In the state of New York, the identity of an individual diagnosed with AIDS will remain confidential, with no exceptions. Also, no administration, faculty, or health care member has the right to release any related information to any individual, organization, or government agency. These laws are the basis for the stand the college is taking with its new AIDS policy.

This raises a very controversial question: What about the rights of the rest of us here who are in contact with a victim of AIDS? In order to preserve the rights of the infected person, and to insure that this person will not be harassed due to the illness, there is but one answer: we have none but an opportunity to obtain information on how to protect ourselves from infection.

This knowledge may be frustrating to some, but frustration is felt most by those who might bear the burden of confidence. Nurse Gail Smith said: "Even with the spread of AIDS and the concern for public health, our hands are tied."

Dr. Lastoria said about the rights of others on campus, "There seems to be a great deal of bias towards the protection of the infected individual, but where is the balance? Well, what are you going to do? Say three people on campus are known to carry the AIDS virus and their names are released; what will this information help us gain? Do we really want to scare the whole campus or harm the individual?"

Unfortunately, much of what is not known about AIDS will remain unclear due to confidentiality: "Because we are bound by total confidence, it is difficult obtaining accurate statistics about contact or numbers; without these statistics, we do not know the extent or the potential extent of AIDS," Smith commented.

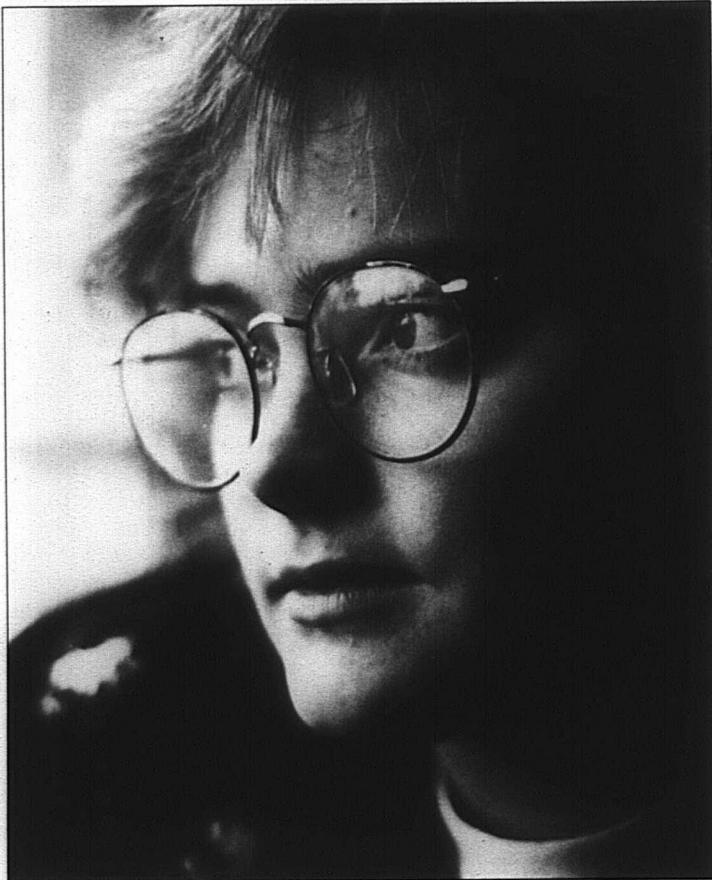
One other issue that comes to the attention of Dean Danner is the misconception that there is isolation in a Christian community. According to Danner, there seems to be a lot of emotionalism among evangelical circles, as well as a lot of misinformation, about this particular illness. "Why should a hemophiliac who gets AIDS from a transfusion be castigated by Christians as if she was promiscuous?" Danner commented. Medical studies have shown that AIDS is transmitted by a transference of body fluids containing infected blood. Sexual contact; the sharing of toothbrushes, razors, electric shavers, or used needles; and some very isolated cases of blood transfusion are among the known methods by which individuals contract AIDS. Casual contact; the sharing of living quarters, eating utensils, and bathrooms; and donating blood do not impose a danger of transmitting the virus to an individual. There is also the attitude that only homosexuals develop AIDS. This is a misconception, as only a small percentage of documented AIDS cases show

homosexual contact as the cause of infection. This evidence suggests that many individuals contract AIDS through no fault of their own, and therefore should not be the subject of ridicule, harassment, or discrimination.

Although current medical information suggests there is no risk involved in living with an infected person at college, the Health Services and Student Development would recommend to the infected individual a casual change of residence and a dramatic change in lifestyle, although these would not be mandatory. The person would also be encouraged to inform any individuals who may have had contact suitable for transmission of AIDS-infected bodily fluid. "There is a moral liability on the victim, but there is no legal obligation for the person to notify sexual partners, parents, or anyone else," Smith said.

The Health Service is prepared to provide answers or counseling concerning AIDS to anyone interested, including a monthly statistical update. Smith then asked to make a suggestion to the Houghton student body: "If you have fear or suspicion about exposure, know what the risk factors are. If you have behaved in a manner that is causing you anxiety or concern, have testing done." The Health Center provides confidential referral to a physician for anyone seeking HIV testing.

Student services contacted stated that there is an open invitation to all who wish to discuss this matter in more detail. In any case, Houghton College staff are doing everything they can to provide a safe, informative, and realistic atmosphere, and this goal will be met more readily when the college declares official its AIDS policy.☆



# MARY BIGLOW

*in profile*  
*by joy david*

PHOTOS BY IVAN T. ROCHA

**S**low down, Houghton College! Take some time out! Before you flip directly to the *Calvin and Hobbes* cartoons on the last page, there's someone I want you to meet. Her name is Mary Biglow, and she's not an inflated caricature of a Student Senate president; she's a real person.

I knew well in advance that I would have to interview this year's president. I watched Friday during chapel as she was recognized as being part of *Who's Who Among American Colleges*. Mary Biglow looked very professional up there on stage, as she received her certificate coolly and confidently; she had her act together.

The morning of the interview, I searched the campus center for a Barbie doll in high heels and a fancy skirt. Barbie never showed up. Instead I met Mary Biglow, Student Senate president, pre-med major, and senior at Houghton College, dressed in sweat pants and an over-sized rugby, carrying a cup of coffee. Then we began our interview.

Biglow was in the National Honor Society and worked as layout editor for her high school yearbook in Massachusetts. Her jobs during that period were very important to her; she has worked as a chiropractor's assistant, a camp counselor, and a veterinary assistant.

For the longest time, Biglow wanted to be a veterinarian. Her love of animals was evident throughout our discussion. She lives at the horse farm and owns a dog and a cat (named "Houghton"); and she goes running with her dog every morning. "It's not really new," she commented, "but it's part of who I am."

Biglow realized after she got to Houghton, however, that she also enjoys working with people. After having the opportunity to work as an EKG technician two summers ago, she noticed that there was a

real need for people who care in the medical field. As part of her job, Biglow made her patients cookies, and, at times, prayed with them. During lunch breaks it was not uncommon to find her inside the operating room watching an operation take place. She says about biology, "It amazes me that everything keeps on working when so many things can go wrong."

This "very human" person's dream for the future is to be a small-town general practitioner. Even though she loves people, she claims that she's a very quiet person who enjoys going home to cuddle up with her dog, cat, and a few good books. "Being able to go home at the end of the day is so important to me." She enjoys spending quiet time with a small group of friends and her Thursday night Bible study where she can let down her walls and pray about problems with other people.

"People that are there for me when I'm all stressed out from Senate" and "professors that care," Biglow said, are two very "cool" things about Houghton College. However, on the flip side of the coin, she said that "sometimes we all get so competitive and caught up in our work that we don't take time to appreciate one another."

This can happen very easily when you're Senate President. However, Biglow has nothing but praises for her co-workers and friends: John Brooks, vice president; Darren Chick, treasurer; and Bill Burrichter, secretary. "They're a real support . . . wonderful . . . so good at what they do . . . I never have to worry if they're doing their jobs, because they always are." Biglow works hard for Senate, which is a liaison between the administration and the student body, with the goals of looking out for student interests and stopping problems at the college before they start. Biglow has attacked everything from the

potholes at Shen to the Health Center's problem of finding a Registered Nurse.

Her favorite part of the Senate job is certainly not the paperwork, but "seeing students' wishes carried out in concrete ways and knowing we had a part in that." In simpler terms, getting things done that help the students. Biglow and the other officers meet with Dean

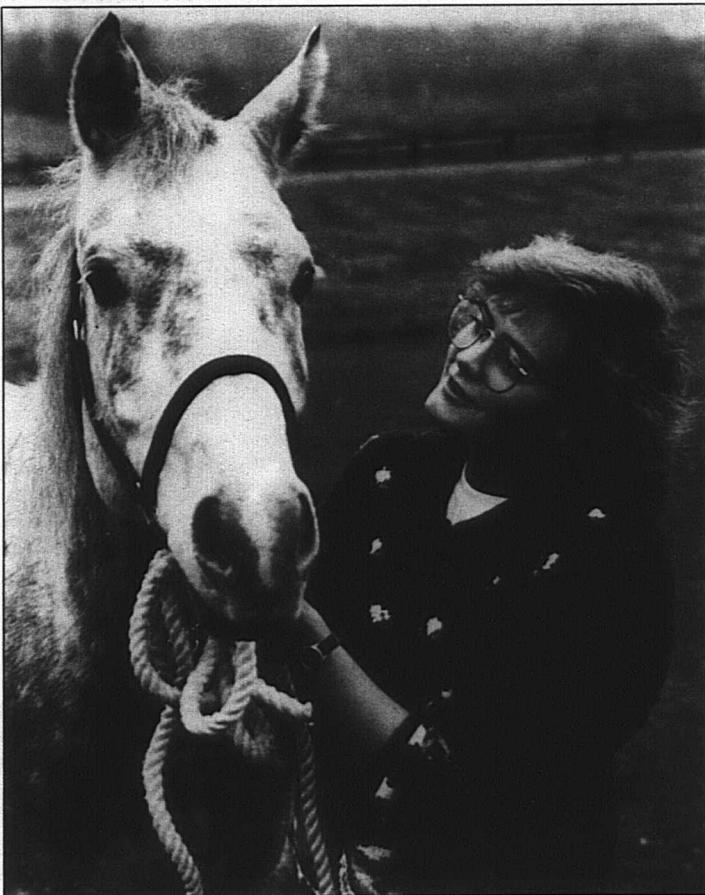
"sometimes we all get so competitive and caught up in our work that we don't take time to appreciate one another."

Danner once every week to turn their ideas into realities.

Biglow hopes that, after she graduates in the spring, students will realize the power in the Senate and use it, not abuse it. "Then they'll realize Houghton is trying to make life better for the students."

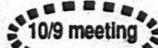
A friend of Biglow's approached us as we were concluding our interview. She took the liberty of adding a few words: "Mary's so much fun to be with—friendly, caring, and thoughtful." The interviewee joked, "I paid her to say that!" The friend continued to talk about the day she was introduced to all of Biglow's animals . . . ☆

Mary, who is very fond of animals, owns a horse, a cat, a dog, and a cockatoo ▼



## SENATE REPORT

by stephen vrkler



Student Senate recommended that Student Development nominate two more student representatives to the Athletic Committee, since two extra faculty members (intramural and athletic directors) were recently added.

According to Senate President Mary Biglow, the board plan will not change from the current 21-meal plan.

CAB chair John Brooks reported that he is currently trying to get Whiteheart to perform on campus on April 5, 1991.☆

Do you enjoy playing Diplomacy® or Axis & Allies®? Do you even know who Avalon Hills® is? If so, you may be a fellow simulation wargamer waiting to come out of the closet and find a new challenging opponent. Give me a call at 567-4609 (ask for Mark) or send a note intercampus to Box 716.☆

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

T	S	P	S	H	I	G	S	A	P	E
E	P	I	C	D	R	E	D	E	N	D
D	O	E	R	V	A	N	D	E	N	T
T	R	A	C	E	A	M	A	S	S	S
P	O	L	T	A	N	T	A	N	T	A
T	O	W	E	R	T	O	N	R	A	P
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A	B	E	S	S	U	E	F	P	E	E
H	E	D	E	S	E	M	T	E	X	T

# MINISTERIAL PROGRAM APPROACHES APPROVAL

by kimberly vorbees

After three years of delay and changes, the labors of the religion and philosophy department have been rewarded. The approvals of the establishment of a seminary-equivalent religion major with a ministerial minor and of a non-traditional ministerial program were passed by both the Board of Trustees and the faculty on September 29 and October 19, respectively.

The first program, which includes a fifteen hour ministerial minor attached to a religion major, was designed for the person not planning on seminary. It allows her to finish her ministerial training within her four years at Houghton instead of going on to seminary. This does not mean that the pre-seminary program has been eliminated; on the contrary, the pre-seminary program is "still the recommended route," said Religion and Philosophy division chair Dr. Carl Schultz. He stressed that this program is only for those who cannot, for whatever reason, attend seminary; and came about largely because of the call for Houghton to be more sensitive to the producing of ministers, due to the closing of the United Wesleyan College.

Authorization has also been given to develop a non-traditional ministerial program. This would

serve those people choosing ministry as their second or third careers. According to Schultz, "We will be utilizing our West Seneca (Buffalo Suburban) Campus for this program."

This program will include courses in dealing with the Wesleyan tradition (in which students would study the Wesleyan movement), and in pastoral care and administration (which deals with theories and techniques of pastoral counseling, as well as church administration and parliamentary law). There will also be classes in evangelism and an opportunity for personal field experience in which the student will go into a local church during the fall and spring semesters, combining both the theory and practice of ministry.

Schultz stressed that this program is "to prepare ministers for the Wesleyan church," but it will also serve the requirements for ministers in Baptist, independent, and other churches as well.

Although great obstacles have already been overcome, the approval of the Indiana-based Wesleyan Church has yet to be obtained. According to Academic Dean Clarence Bence, the proposal was mailed Friday, but the administration does not expect an answer for at least six months.☆

# ARTISTS CELEBRATE ALLEGANY COUNTY

by L. david wheeler

**T**onight at 6:30, the Houghton art gallery begins a month-long showing of the works of several local artists. Works of Houghton faculty Gary Baxter, Scot Bennent, and Ted Murphy will join those of approximately nine other area artists, to make up the *Artists*

*Celebrate Allegany County* exhibit. This showing will consist of close to 30 works, featuring the Allegany County environs.

According to gallery director Roselyn Danner, "the showing is timely, especially in view of the negativism the county has experi-

enced politically." The exhibit, said Danner, is an attempt to focus attention on the positive and to "raise consciousness of the treasure we actually have here. Residents often take it for granted until its threatened in some way."

Featured artists include the three Houghton faculty members; professor emeritus Marjorie Stockin, who works with oils; Sandra MacFarland, whose work will be mainly pastel pieces featuring Moss Lake; Scio art teacher and watercolorist Tom O'Grady; and Chet Swier from Cuba, who also works with watercolors.

The exhibit opening is tonight at 6:30 p.m. in the gallery located in the chapel basement. ☆

## OIL CITY SYMPHONY TO GRACE HOUTON STAGE

The off-Broadway musical, *Oil City Symphony*, will be performed at Houghton College during Freshman Parent's Weekend, Friday, October 26, at 8 p.m. in Wesley Chapel.

Playing the parts of four alumni of any high school, the cast, Richard Biever (Mark), Laura Lemle (Debbie), Emily Mikesell (Mary) and Joel Spinetti (Mike), have "come back for one night only to give a recital in honor of their beloved music teacher, Miss Reeves." Houghton voice department head Dr. Bruce Brown termed the musical, a "wonderful evocation of the mid-sixties, with rock and roll standards, old-fashioned melodies, and original songs," and, "a sweetly nutty celebration, sure to delight."

Winner of both the Outer Critics Award and the Drama Desk Award two years ago, *Oil City Symphony* has been called "a musical with charm" (*New York Times*) and has been described as having "nostalgic charm" (*New Brunswick Home News*). Tickets will be available at the door. ☆



**H**old a piece of tape up to your eyes, dim the lights and try to fill out your taxes. Now you're seeing things from her point of view.

For this woman it's poor eyesight, for someone else it might be arthritis or maybe they just can't cope. The fact is, last year 4 million Americans got the help they needed from IRS Volunteer Assistance Programs.

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# AND IN OTHER NEWS

by mike ballman

## *kuwait*

On Monday, a Kuwait newspaper loyal to the deposed Kuwaiti government reported that Iraqi head Saddam Hussein dreamed that the prophet Mohammed appeared to him. Mohammed, the highest prophet in the Muslim faith, allegedly told Hussein that Iraq's missiles were "pointed in the wrong direction." The paper proposed that this "dream" was a ploy of Hussein's to prepare his troops for a pullout from Kuwait.

The Kuwait paper provided the following account of the revelation as told by Hussein to his aides. "The prophet Mohammed visited me swathed in pure white. 'Prophet of the Lord,' I told him, 'what is it you wish of me?' And he answered, 'I've come, Saddam, to call your attention to a big mistake. I see your missiles aimed wrongly.'

Hussein is alleged to have asked, "What is the direction you want, O Prophet of the Lord?", to which Mohammed replied, "You know the direction and you should correct it."

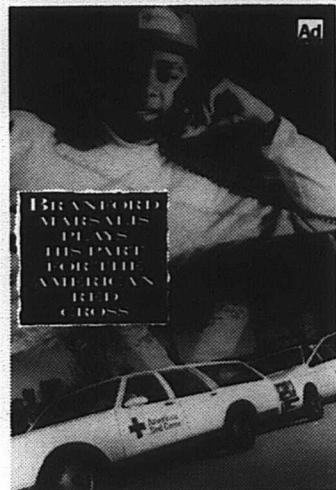
This report helped to spur the largest single-day drop in oil prices since the crisis began. The price fell \$5.41 a barrel, down to \$28.38.

## *liberia*

The bloody, brutal civil war in the West African nation of Liberia has continued to escalate, with no apparent end in sight. The hostilities were initiated last December by Charles Taylor, leader of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) in an effort to oust President Samuel Doe. Since then, the war has been complicated by the splitting of the NPFL into two opposing factions; in January, Yedu Johnson took a substantial number of Taylor's rebels and formed a third party. The war rages on between all the participants, despite the killing of Doe by Johnson's forces and the presence of a 6000 man West African Peace-keeping Force.

This violent civil war has virtually devastated the tiny nation. Over 10,000 Liberians have been killed, mostly civilians, and more are being killed everyday. Starvation is claiming the lives of thousands of residents of the capital city of Monrovia, which has not received food shipments since July. The iron ore and rubber industries have been decimated beyond recovery.

Even if the war ends swiftly, the recovery of Liberia may take years.☆



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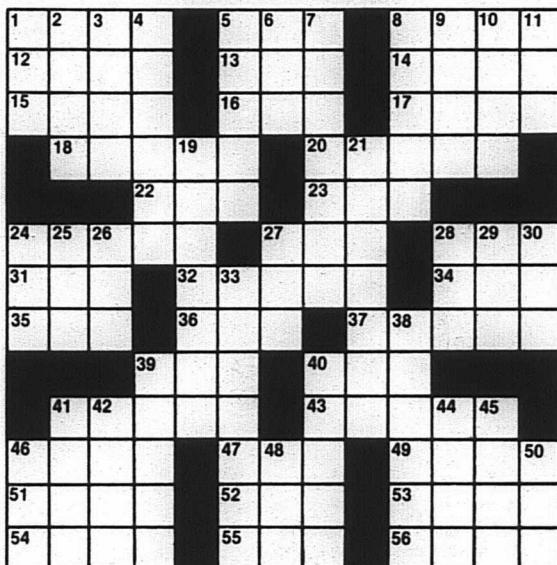
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## Crossword Companion

**ACROSS**

1. Teaspoons (abbr.)
5. Not hers
8. Tale
12. Narrative poem
13. Mineral
14. Paradise
15. Worker
16. Covered truck
17. Depression
18. Follow trail of
20. Pile up
22. Politics (abbr.)
23. Expose to sun
24. Tall structure
27. 2,000 lbs.
28. Hit sharply
31. Hall
32. Musical drama
34. Native (suf.)
35. Stop
36. Not (pref.)
37. \_\_\_\_\_ Pyle
39. Point in law
40. Edge of garment
41. Horses' movements
43. Place for contest
46. Indication
47. Mistake
49. Circuits
51. Abraham's nickname (pl.)
52. Take to court
53. Fencing sword
54. Inhab. of ancient media

**ANSWERS TO THIS  
WEEK'S PUZZLE  
ON PAGE 10**

**55. Seminary (abbr.)  
56. Class book****DOWN**

1. Spread to dry, as hay
2. Mark
3. Wharf
4. Rub with considerate pressure
5. Small, miserable dwelling
6. Ireland, political org. (abbr.)
7. Politician
8. Car
9. Sweetened drinks (suf.)
10. Marshes
11. Ear, Nose, Throat (abbr.)
19. Prince's crown
21. Person in charge
24. Projection
25. Eggs
26. Cyst
27. Number
28. Edge
29. Dined
30. Each
33. Has
38. Egg dish
39. Wash lightly
40. Moslem wives
41. Mocking remarks
42. Older
44. Back of neck
45. Highest point
46. \_\_\_\_\_ Snead
48. Remorse
50. Put

## WING'S AGRI- ACRONYMS

by r. l wing

**B.U.L.L.**  
**Big Ugly Ladycow Lover**

**C.A.L.F.**  
**Cavorting, Active Little Feller**

**C.O.W.**  
**Costs Outweigh Worth**

**D.O.G.**  
**Dentals Outweigh Growls**

**H.O.R.S.E.**  
**Huge Obstinate Ripe-Smelling Entity**

**P.L.O.W.**  
**Push Lands Over Weeds**

**P.O.L.I.T.I.C.I.A.N.**  
**Person Of Limited Intellect Talking  
In Circular Inanities and Non-sequi-  
tors**

**S.H.E.E.P.**  
**Short Hairy Easily Excited Pasture-  
grinder**

**S.H.O.V.E.L.**  
**Sure Hernia On Very Extravagant  
Loads**

**S.T.A.T.E.**  
**Someone's Taking All Thy Earnings**

Congratulations to the Houghton College cross-country team. The entire men's team, and Marion Austin and Jill Clark of the women's team, will be advancing to Nationals in Parkside, Wisconsin, on November 17 after their stellar performance at the NAIA District 18 Championships last Saturday.

The district championships, held at Westminster College in

## HO'TON RUNNERS ADVANCE TO FINALS

by *dru christian*

Pennsylvania, saw Austin and Clark finish first and second among women, respectively. The top finishers among men included Mark Stace (third), Jon Cole (fourth), Tim Thurber (seventh), Eric Runion (eighth), and Mike Jones (thirteenth).

The men's team finished first out of five teams, which included Geneva, St. Vincent, Pitt-Brad, and Westminster.☆

### OOPS, WE GOOFED!

*In our last issue we inadvertently called the cross-country team the "track team" in the article entitled "Houghton Runners Defeat Pitt-Brad" (p.12).*

# VOLLEYBALL SPEEDS ON TO DISTRICT FINALS

by *nathan ransil*

Down the final stretch of the season, the Houghton women's volleyball team has been picking up speed on their way toward the District playoffs. They young team reeled off wins in six straight matches, before dropping a tough match to Alfred.

Head coach "Skip" Lord is pleased with the consistent improvement. He said, "I'm really excited about this team. We're doing things on offense and defense that we've never been able to do since I've been here. We just have a super group of people."

The higher level of Houghton play has been exhibited in recent matches. Playing away against a very good Buffalo State squad, the Highlanders fought back from a 2-0 deficit to win three straight games and the match. Three days later, the team bagged two wins in an exhausting double-header. Houghton beat Canisius three games to one in another nail-biter, outlasting their opponents by scores of 18-16 and 20-18 in the first two games. In the second match of the day, Laroche got "whapped" in three

straight.

Finally, even though they still played very well, Houghton's win streak came to an end with a five game loss to a persistent Alfred team. Says Lord "We're playing great, we just stubbed our toe tonight." He emphasized that the team is right where they wanted to be at this point, with a district record of 5-4, and 12-7 overall.

Several players rank highly in the district leaders. For the week of October 7th, Sheri Lankford led the district in hitting and digging, and for her efforts was named District Player of the Week. Christie Brown ranked third in kills per game, and the premium pair of Elise Munyard and Julie Claypool were tied for third in assists. In statistics recently filed, Stacia Dagwell posted a whopping 4.5 kills per game, with 23 big ones against Buffalo State. Lankford had 23 of her own versus Canisius, to average 4.4 a game.

These outstanding numbers and the excellent play of the whole team add up to wins, as Houghton looks to add a strong finish to an outstanding season.☆

## that man behind the curtain

I'd like to play a game. I imagine that you'll be getting your copy of the *Star* either right before or right after dinner. Good. My wish is that you use this article to stimulate dinner (or after dinner) conversation.

Someone once said there are three levels of conversation: conversations about people, conversations about things, and conversations about ideas. Let's aim for level three, shall we?

The game works like this: I provide a list of questions. You provide thought and intelligent discussion. As I said, it'd be neat if you could not just answer these questions to yourself, but talk out your responses with whoever is around. Please don't feel the need to discuss each and every question; feel free to deal with the ones that appeal to you the most. What I like about this game is that you lose only if you refuse to play.

Are you sitting comfortable? Then we'll begin...

1) If all of humanity could be made to understand exactly who Jesus really is and what Jesus did, would the entire earth bow before Him?

2) What is the real reason that the world does not follow the example of Christ?

3) Is questioning God a bad thing to do? Does God tolerate it? Does He encourage it?

4) Are you happy?

5) Do you trust God to take care of all your problems?

6) If a young woman approached you in candor, informing you that she was being abused by her father, and told you that she wanted to put her faith in God and trust Him to love her and take care of her, what would you say? What

would you do?

7) Is there an unforgivable sin? If so, what is it?

8) Can the love of Christ pierce Hell? Why or why not?

9) Why are you a Christian? Really?

10) What do you think when you hear the word "Christian"? Do you get a visual image? A certain personality type? A certain political affiliation? Social status?

11) Is the Bible the inspired Word of God? Why or why not?

12) Do the words "proof-texting" mean anything to you? What does it mean, and how does it fit into your views on the Bible?

13) Do Houghton's academic expectations leave you enough time to spend dealing with questions such as these? If not, whose fault is that?

Okay, there you have it for now. The good news is no one is going to collect your work and grade it. The bad news is I have no answer sheet. These (and many, many others) are questions I spent time thinking about over this past summer. Although I do have opinions on all of these questions, and would enjoy to hear from you about yours, the main point of this is not to increase my amount of intra-campus mail. The point is to...

Now wait a minute. I think I have another question, and this one I do have an answer for...

14) What was the point of this article?

Of course feel free to let me know what you thought, both of the questions and of the idea itself. I may do it again...

Peace, Love, and Understanding,  
Rand

Rand

### Dear Christians:

Lately I've been thinking about the rivalries that exist between different religious groups, particularly between denominations. Perhaps you don't know what I'm talking about. Perhaps you're one of the few naive people that think all Christians automatically get along. Then again, perhaps you're just deaf and blind. The fact is, these rivalries exist, but they are very destructive.

Do these names mean anything to you: Jimmy Swaggart, Jim Bakker, Oral Roberts? Are you one of the many who lifted your voices in disgust against the actions of these people? Are you also one of the many who pointed their self-righteous fingers at the denomination(s) these men belong(ed) to? Don't worry, these types of things happen in your denomination, too.

Maybe you don't use certain people or certain instances to defame an entire denomination, but that does not mean you are innocent. Be honest with yourself—are you one of the arrogant who believe one must belong to a particular denomination in order to enter heaven? (There are many Christian groups that believe that. I wonder which is right.) Are you aware that pride is very destructive for everyone? Are you aware that pride is sin?

A few more questions before I close: What ever happened to the Golden Rule? Did we become exempt from it somewhere along the line? Did we "outgrow" it? Or did we simply discard it as being obsolete?

Sincerely,  
Barry S. MacTarnaghan

MAIL



# ARTFUL USE OF THE TRADITIONAL:

Joy Harjo's  
*In Mad Love and War*

*review by amy flemming*

You pick up the book and look at the back, and you notice that the picture of the author is a good one, then you notice that it says "Wesleyan Poetry" in the corner. Immediately certain expectations arise, and some always ask if those words are a contradiction in terms. But after reading a few of the poems in *In Mad Love and War* (Wesleyan University Press, 1990), you realize that the only thing they have in common with Wesleyanism is the Wesleyan University Press. Joy Harjo is a poet and a member of the Creek (Muscogee) tribe who employs traditional Native American elements in her poetry. She artfully uses the traditional to describe the present conditions and the heartaches of Native Americans.

It is appropriate that Harjo is a woman writer, because generally the women of the tribes in the area where she comes from (the Midwest) are the keepers of the histories, the laws and traditions, and the myths. She lays all of this out in her poetry, in order to record for all the current history of Native Americans. She makes references to the traditional animal characters, including the trickster, the instruc-

tional character in most stories. He is the one who is always getting into trouble, getting outsmarted, and getting into various comical situations; he is usually Coyote or Wolf or, in some of Harjo's poetry, Rabbit. The Trickster in these poems symbolizes white men; and the situations are usually comical, rarely instructional. Her references are drawn from Nature, or are at least paralleled to it, and she uses repetition for emphasis. Both of these are found in traditional Native American literature, which was always spoken in poetic form.

*In Mad Love and War* is divided into two sections—love and war, obviously. The section entitled War deals more with the world around her, the outside world, while the Love section is more about the inside, more personal. War contains, in general, instances of anger and hatred toward the majority and the treatment of Native Americans. One of these poems, for instance, is written about and dedicated to Anna Mae Aquash, a Micmac and member of the American Indian Movement. She was found dead in the woods in February 1976. An FBI investigation followed, and the head

of the investigation had her hands severed and sent to Washington for prints and testing. Native Americans were outraged by this mutilation, and Harjo's poem expresses this anger and sadness, and the inanity of that action.

The Love section focuses on the personal life, on lovers and family, on growing up on reservations, on emotional ties and erotic sensations, on family security, on love for her people and their own way of life. These poems tend to be more vague, written to or about specific people, but the imagery she uses and the way she uses it is captivating. Her style is simple, using either poetic prose or a mode similar to a "Beat" style. The movement through each poem seems to flow, and is free.

Native Americans need to be recognized as a submerged nationality, as a group of people who are struggling for their rights and their freedom. As a society we tend to neglect them, as we earlier neglected black Americans. While we are slowly changing our reactions and attitudes toward blacks, and while we are studying black literature as a distinct genre, we need to recognize other cultures as well, including Native Americans and their literature. They have as much to offer society as we do.

Harjo has written two other books of poetry (*What Moon Drove Me to This?* and *She Had Some Horses*), and is currently a professor at the University of Arizona. I would like to leave you with an excerpt from "Fury of Rain" from *In Mad Love and War*:

We are all in the belly of a laughing god  
swimming the heavens, in this whirling circle.  
What we haven't imagined will  
one day  
spit us out  
magnificent and simple.

EVERYONE TAKES ME FOR GRANTED! NOBODY PAYS ANY ATTENTION TO MY NEEDS!



IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK FOR AN OCCASIONAL TOKEN GESTURE OF APPRECIATION?!



OK, HOW ABOUT A BIG HUG?



SEE?! I DON'T MATTER TO ANYONE! NOBODY CARES ABOUT ME!



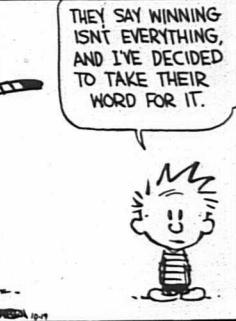
HOBBS, DO YOU THINK OUR MORALITY IS DEFINED BY OUR ACTIONS, OR BY WHAT'S IN OUR HEARTS?



I THINK OUR ACTIONS SHOW WHAT'S IN OUR HEARTS.



I RESENT THAT!



I STAND FIRM IN MY BELIEF OF WHAT'S RIGHT! I REFUSE TO COMPROMISE MY PRINCIPLES!

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