

The Houghton Star

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Winter Weekend: Successfully Seuss

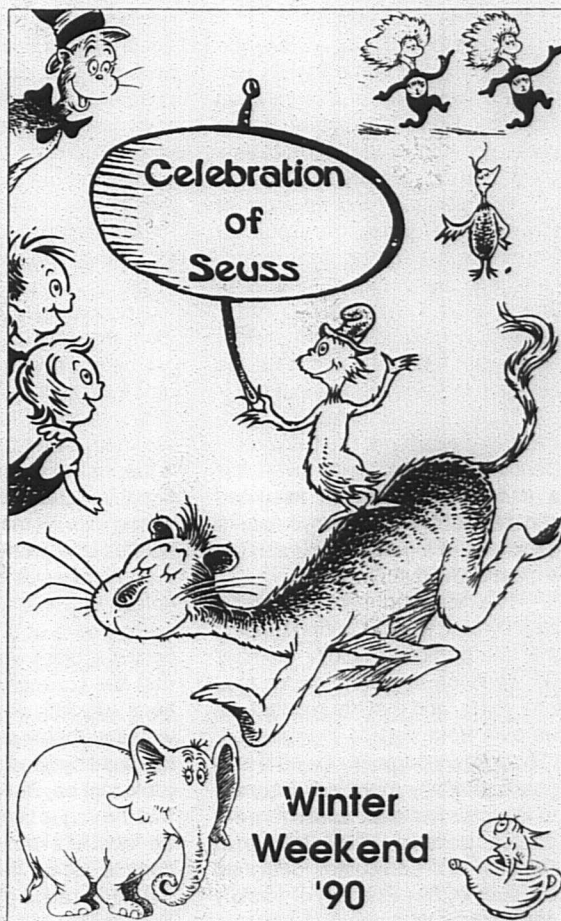
by Chris Daniels

A little prayer, a little snow, and a great Winter Weekend. The Celebration of Seuss began with a short appearance of the snow court in Thursday's chapel. The colorful costumes of Dr. Seuss brightened the campus as activities got underway. Thursday's study break drew quite a crowd, with Erik Williams winning the Green Eggs and SPAM eating contest, while the seniors claimed victory in the Friendly Feud game show.

Friday night's coffeehouse brought "Disciple" (as well as some euchre addicts) to the campus center. Saturday's snow sculpture, a joint venture due to insufficient amounts of snow, provided an excellent rendition of "green eggs and ham."

Saturday night was the highlight of the weekend with a banquet, movie, Spot, and announcing of class competition victors. Many thanks to Big Al for all his work with the "Christmas in Whoville" banquet (has anyone ever noticed how we take him for granted? Anyway, back to Seuss. . .). At 8:00 p.m. Dr. Seuss shorts were shown, followed by *The Secret of Nihm*. The evening finished with a Spot of superior quality, after which it was announced that the seniors won the class competition.

The Winter Weekend theme was well-accepted; coordinators Bill King and Chris Daniels send their gratitude to all who had a part in its success. The weekend was in the spirit of Seuss—the fun and childishness of his writings, the simple things he has to say. Hopefully, some of his celebration will last—for a little while, anyway.



Tenure procedure, page 2

Bence Explains Tenure

by Dave Wheeler

When New Testament professor Dr. David Meade was denied tenure in early 1989, questions were raised as to the tenure procedure: what is it, and is it designed in a manner conducive to ethical treatment of all parties involved?

Academic Dean Clarence Bence provided some insight into these inquiries in an interview on Tuesday. His perspective on tenure policy constitutes the fourth installment in the Ethics Series.

The granting (and refusing) of tenure is a still-warm issue at Houghton, recovering from the recent controversy over the denial of tenure to Dr. David Meade. Many students were (and remain) unclear as to what tenure is, and what the Houghton policies regarding it are.

"Tenure is a long-term commitment," Academic Dean Clarence Bence explained. "Once given, it is a mutual covenant, an assumed commitment. The college cannot decide to let a [tenured] person go; it must show due cause."

This "long-term commitment" is exactly that; it is an understanding that the particular faculty member will continue at Houghton for several years, and that his position will be safe from outside interference. "The primary purpose of tenure is to guard a faculty member's freedom to exercise her 'craft' apart from improper political pressure," said Bence. "It's particularly designed because of the possibility of wealthy contributors who could eliminate a faculty member." It is plausible that a wealthy alumnus or other interested third party might offer Houghton enormous sums of money, provided the college fire a particular faculty member. A tenured professor cannot fall prey to such a situation, as the institution cannot let

him go without providing outstanding causes.

What criteria does Houghton use in making a tenure decision? How and why does it decide to deny tenure? Bence listed five qualifications necessary for a faculty member to attain tenured status. The first four—professional competence, commitment to Christian scholarship, and teaching effectiveness—are straightforward; the fifth is more vague and fluid. According to the faculty handbook, "[The] institution must consider immediate needs and long-range objectives in granting tenure."

According to Bence, this statement means that tenure should be granted if it is in the best interests of both institution and professor to enter into the kind of long-term relationship demanded by tenure. He gave a theoretical example involving affirmative action: "When we've made strong commitments to hiring minorities and women, what will the institution decide when a white male comes up for tenure—particularly if we're aware of a strong candidate [who is a] black woman?" Indicating that the college's long-term intentions to racially diversify the campus would probably outweigh the gains obtained by keeping the white male professor on, Bence acknowledged that the vague stipulation does open an "absolute can of worms." Such complications, he added, are why the "long-range objectives" stipulation cannot be used for tenured faculty.

Another related issue, debated often last year (and, to a lesser degree, this year) is the question of information. Should a college detail for a professor the reasons behind tenure denial? Bence stated that he believes it "ethically appropriate" to

do so, but that it is not "legally necessary." Furthermore, he continued, there are instances where it is ethically inappropriate to do so—instances in which harm can be done to the professor's character.

There are two reasons for a policy of confidentiality, Bence explained. 1) to protect the professor denied tenure. Reasons for denial, Bence argued, should only reach the public if the professor wants them made public. 2) to protect the integrity of the institution. A tenure decision involves several evaluations from peers and students. These evaluations are traditionally kept confidential ("No one will write a truthful evaluation if the person being evaluated can see it," said Bence). The federal government can demand that evaluations be scrutinized, however, if it suspects a case of discrimination.

Bence speculated that in a few years, much of the current confidentiality will be gone, reversed in Supreme Court hearings. He predicted that even the faculty evaluation forms filled out by students will eventually have to be signed, in order to protect faculty from anonymous untruths.

Lastly, Bence cautioned against pointing fingers at any one factor in a tenure decision; there may be as many perspectives as there are voters. The only way to know all the factors that go into a particular decision, while still maintaining confidentiality in the process, is to dwell within the minds of all the participants.

Which is more important—confidentiality in evaluation processes, or retaining of particular faculty? Can both be synthesized? Will there be another "Dr. Meade"-type case before these questions are resolved? There are no easy answers at hand.

Please send your comments to the Star, Box 378

And in Other News...

by John Chong and Dave Wheeler

Moscow

On February 26 in Moscow, Czechoslovakian President Vaclav Havel and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev were in the process of forming an agreement to withdraw Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia. On that day the first of 73,500 troops began the pullout. The Kremlin announced that the bulk of the troops will have left by June, but complete withdrawal won't be completed until 1991. Havel has been quoted as saying he wants all Soviet troops out by the end of the year. Despite the pullout, relations between the two states seems good. The Soviet news agency Tass quotes a Soviet military official as saying, "There are no fundamental differences."

During the visit, Havel plans to lay a wreath on the grave of Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet human rights activist who was one of the defenders of the Prague reform movement. That movement ended in 1968 with Soviet troops rolling and crushing the opposition.

Lithuania

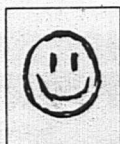
The Soviet Union is confirming election results that show a pro-independence movement sweeping to power in the republic of Lithuania.

Tass quoted a spokesman for Lithuania's Council of Ministers as predicting a "new phase in the republic's history." He speculated that "Communists will probably no longer play the leading role" in Lithuania. More drastic words were voiced by a leading member of Lithuania's Sajudis nationalist movement, who believes the republic's secession from the Soviet Union is attainable this year.

Official results released from last Saturday's balloting show 90 deputies have been elected to the 141-member Lithuanian Parliament, 72 backed by the Sajudis. The new Parliament cannot convene, however, because two-thirds of its members have not been elected.

Nicaragua

The US-backed presidential candidate, Violeta Chamorro, defeated Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega in Sunday's elections. President Bush sent



Senate Report

by Stephen Vekker

The Student Senate discussed the Health Center, Current Issues Day topics for next year, and the possible scholarship increase for student leadership positions at its fourth meeting of the semester on Tuesday, February 27.

Dee Parker, the Health Center director, reported that the local physicians contacted by the administration are interested in serving the medical needs of the students "to an enthusiastic point." According to Parker, these physicians turned in their proposals to the administration on Tuesday. She went on to say that the administration is asking the physicians to perform the same services as the Health Center does now, although they will perform these services at their offices, and not at the Health Center (the Health Center may still be staffed with Registered Nurses, however). Parker also said that, according to Dean Danner, a decision as to how health services

will be given on campus next year will probably be made soon after Spring Break.

Senate President Thom Ferner reported that the Senate will not be able to choose a Current Issues Day topic for next year because the proposals he received were not adequate (anonymous, no faculty advisor, etc.). Students will be represented in the decision, however, because he will be a member of the committee that decides on a topic.

Also, Senate Treasurer Darren Chick asked the senators whether or not they felt that student leaders should be paid more (in scholarship) than they are now. These leaders include the editorial staffs of the Boulder, the Lanthorn, WJSL, the Star, and Senate.

This question sparked a good deal of discussion, with the point brought up that other leadership positions should be analyzed before any final decisions are made.

his congratulations to Chamorro, and lauded Ortega's "pledge to stand by the results [of the election]."

Although Bush has not at this writing decided whether to lift economic sanctions against Nicaragua, spokesperson Marlin Fitzwater said that Bush will consider lifting the economic embargo started during the Reagan presidency. Bush will also be speaking to Latin American leaders about trade and economic measures in the light of the changes in Nicaragua.

Capitol Hill, normally a battleground over aid to the *contra* rebels, is now united on the issue of aid to the new, democratic government. Senate Republican leader Robert Dole characterized the possible aid package as "big bucks." Georgia Sen. Sam Nunn mentioned "hundreds of millions of dollars."

Chamorro will take office in April.

Zambia

South African black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela embarked on a

17-day diplomatic mission Tuesday. His journey will take him to three nations.

At Zambia, the headquarters of exiled members of the African National Congress, he made a strong appeal for international aid to rebuild the freedom movement in South Africa. Several thousand ANC exiles and supporters awaited Mandela, recently released after 27 years in prison.

Mandela will also visit ANC training camps in Tanzania and ANC President Oliver Tambo in Stockholm.

Soviet Union

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was given broad new powers in a 347-24 parliamentary vote on Tuesday. Gorbachev would become president, similar to the US president but with more power. Under this system, the president can declare war and states of emergency, and can demand that the parliament fire any government member.

(Acknowledgements to UPI for background data and information)

Environmental concerns have long been a concern at Houghton. The late sixties and early seventies saw an especially active concern, though general. Currently, our concern hits home in the possibility of a nuclear waste dump nearby. This should make us all consider how we use power, recyclable materials, and our water.

Kirk Nelson

The Outer Harbor

The wind runs strong and free over the lake, stooping now and then to tie a white ribbon on top of a curling wave.

A greyhound of the lakes pauses at the threshold of the breakwater and disdainfully lets snuffling barking little rugs worry it to its berth.

The water is green . . . and pure.

The Inner Harbor

Sixteen lake freighters with quiet stacks loaf side by side and sniff the breeze with an eager air.

Laundry boats skitter like water-bugs, bringing clean clothes and taking dirty clothes to be made clean.

The dockmen sweat as they load grain bags from boat to car. Their fingers are raw and bleeding from the rough burlap.

The water is orange . . . and rusty.

Ohio Street Basin

Two worm-eaten barges lie wearily tied to a decrepit pier.

A dry-dock crib lifts a small boat high in the air with its arms; the boat looks longingly down at the water, as a child that wants to be let down.

A sand-dredger lies motionless, passively waiting . . .

And kids play . . .

and swim . . .

and . . . drown

In the yellow, greasy water.

THE HOFFMAN CINEMATOGRAPHIC VERTEX

by Randy Hoffman

Okay, this time I'm *not* reviewing a current movie. In fact, I'm actually going to preempt this column this week to report on a particular movierelated function of the club which I run. So sue me.

On Friday and Saturday, February 16 and 17, Radiance, the Houghton College Imaginative Fiction Club, held its Second Semiannual Bad Video Night. Entitled "The Return of Strange Turkeys from Beyond," this 18-hour affair devoted to the stupidest of movies was by far the most successful event Radiance has ever hosted. At one point, 31 people were present in South Hall's main lounge for the videocassette silliness.

We began at 2:00 p.m. Friday with six people and the movie *Godzilla 1985*, a rather goofy little entry in the series that tried to attract viewers by redesigning the monster suit and bring back Raymond Burr for a cameo in the role he played in the 1955 classic. At 3:30 we had a few more bodies for *Garden of the Dead*, a really bizarre film about prisoners turned into zombies by formaldehyde. At 5:00 we showed a British movie from 1973, *Psychomania*, which is rapidly becoming a personal favorite, about a cycle gang that comes back from the dead and makes a general nuisance of itself. It features such memorable lines as "Liar! You're not dead!" and the song lyric "the holy sound of revving fills the sky."

By 6:30 the lounge was really starting to fill, and we watched the Chinese kung fu film *Young Hero*, yet another in the seemingly endless series of propaganda pictures about how dirty those rotten "Japs" are. Then at 8:00 the film *Superman IV: The Quest for Peace* rolled over, followed at 9:30 by *Godzilla vs. Megalon*, which various people remarked bears a striking resemblance to a World Wrestling Federation tag team match. 11:00 came around and the day's largest audience watched *Dark Star* a very slow but very funny low-budget science fiction comedy. Most everybody stayed around to watch *Santa Claus Conquers the Martians* at 12:30 a.m., a film justly renowned for its bad acting and ridiculous plot, among other things. At 2:00 the lounge was mostly evacuated, but a few diehards stayed

on through the killer rabbit movie *Night of the Lepus* and the weird time travel movie *Journey to the Center of Time*. By 5:00, when we screened *Dr. Otto and the Riddle of the Gloom Beam*, Jim Varney of "Ernest" fame's First Film (which I had already seen and am still convinced is one of the worst movies ever made in America), yours truly was pretty much out of it and so were a couple of the rest of us. But almost everybody revived sufficiently to take in *Nice Girls Don't Explode*, a surprisingly hilarious bit of shock from New World Pictures, and then all of us who had braved out the whole night (eight, to be exact) went to breakfast together.

Thanks to: all those who pitched in a dollar or whatever, which allowed the club to recoup its costs; Helmut Kostreba, for allowing us to take over the lounge for the duration; and especially Big Al, who provided us with the munchies we needed to stay happy.

Stay tuned for our next video event, which will probably be coming around Friday, March 23, and will feature good stuff this time.



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On the Record

Passion by Peter Gabriel

review by Jamie Lindsay

The last time I heard any portion of this album was back in September 1988 at the Amnesty International Human Rights Now concert in Philadelphia. Peter Gabriel opened his set with a piece from this album. After hearing it I said to myself, "When this album is released, it's gonna be good." About a year later *Passion* was released, and I was not disappointed.

Passion is a double-record set consisting entirely of the instrumental background music for the movie, *The Last Temptation of Christ*. The album does contain vocals, provided by Gabriel and many others (most notably Youssou N'Dour, who appeared on Gabriel's "In Your Eyes" in 1986), but there are no lyrics. Much of the music takes on a very

African sound, with the use of musicians and vocalists from all over Africa and surrounding regions.

Some of the album's best tracks include "Sandstorm," an eerie piece that conjures up images of winds over vast, desert wasteland; "Lazarus Raised," a brief but interesting work that creates visions of the sun rising or a return to life; and "With this Love-Choir," a beautiful selection featuring a fine choir in tandem with a very well-played Coranglais by Robin Cantor.

The most impressive work on *Passion*, however, would have to be "It is Accomplished." Featured at the end of the film when Christ realizes the importance of His death and its place in the will of God, "It is Accomplished" portrays a definite

RATING SCALE	
Classic	☆☆☆☆☆
Excellent	☆☆☆☆
Good	☆☆☆
OK	☆☆
Lousy	☆
Irredeemable	0

and powerful sense of Christ's victory over Satan. It is musically abetted by a driving beat and Gabriel's fine piano work.

Overall, I enjoyed this album a great deal. It had definite focus and was beautifully performed. One of its most important aspects is that it allows us to see more of Peter Gabriel the musician-composer than usually. This is not to say that his previous work was not musically skillful, but his incredible voice and thought-provoking lyrics (e.g. "Only love can make love") often arrest attention from his musical arrangements. *Passion* reminds us of his musical skill, and I for one am glad to be reminded. Rating: ☆☆☆ 1/2

One of Several Possible Musiks by Kerry Livgren

review by Jamie Lindsay

Since leaving the band Kansas (of "Dust in the Wind" fame), Kerry Livgren has engaged in a variety of solo and group projects, chief among them AD. Amid rumors of his possible return to Kansas, Livgren seems to be taking everything in stride with his new album, *One of Several Possible Musiks*. This album is a departure from his usual work; it is an almost entirely instrumental album containing a mix of various different styles of music—styles that range from a keyboard based, dreamy sound as in "In the Sides of the North" to an acoustic guitar and mandolin sound as in "Alenna in the Sun" to the more rock guitar sound as seen in "Ancient Wings."

Musically speaking, there is little to complain about in this album. All instruments are played by Livgren with the expertise he has shown

many times in the past. Still, one cannot help but have the feeling that something is missing. The album really does not seem to have a purpose beyond proving Livgren's musicianship. The titles of tracks like "And I Saw, As it Were . . . Konelrad" probably mean something to him, but little is done to explain or even hint at their meaning. If this album was a movie soundtrack, at least that would give us a general idea as

to the significance of these tracks.

Yet, maybe that is the point. Maybe Livgren wanted to merely kick back and play without any pretense of deep religious or philosophical meaning. If that was his goal, to make good music and have fun doing it, then I believe he has succeeded.

Rating: ☆☆☆



Uncle Ledley
Official Star Mascot

Uncle Ledley says:

The Star needs more staff reporters! If you enjoy writing, and are comfortable with deadlines, please contact Dave at extension 210.

Layout staff also needed

Opinion

Last issue, the *Star* published the following reflections by Brian Sayers on the death of Valda (Beaver) Perkins. Unfortunately, due to mishaps on the part of the editor, a full line of text was omitted, rendering an entire paragraph pretty much senseless.

The *Star* apologizes for its error. Below is Dr. Sayers's submission, without errors.

REMEMBERING BEAVER PERKINS

A slumber did my spirit seal;
I had no human fears:
She seemed a thing that could
not feel
The touch of earthly years.

No motion has she now, no
force;
She neither hears nor sees;
Rolled round in earth's diurnal
course,
With rocks, and stones, and
trees.

(Wordsworth)

My thoughts of Beaver Perkins rebound between these two poles of human vitality and human dissolution. While alive she seemed more full of life than most anyone I had met—and her vitality infected me. I still nourish myself from that. Now that she has been dead for almost two years, I can feel her "force" upon me diminishing. I hate that. I move between hope that the second stanza will not be so, and the deep-drawn suspicion that it is so.

Occasionally I seek to adopt the attitude towards her death that Lucretius sought for his own when he declared,

"Consider how that past ages of eternal time before our birth were no concern of ours. This is a mirror which nature holds up to us of future



Valda (Beaver) Perkins

Photo by Don Tremblay

time after our death." [Lucretius, *On the Nature of Things*]

More often, though, I shrink from that much resignation. Instead, I continue my struggle to keep her alive in my memory. Fortunately for me, this is a struggle which I share with her family and friends. We recall Beaver and in that way we make ourselves more fully alive. As Lifton put it,

"It is important to talk about death because death is so integral to life... Suppressing our relationship to death is a form of numbing which spreads to other areas and tends to limit our capacity for feeling in general and therefore our vitality."

She is dead; we are alive. But since she died, we more calmly "feel the touch of earthly years." We need this, and we remain grateful for those years that we had.

Brian Sayers

TO: Mark Shiner

RE: Editorial on Feb. 23, 1990

I have a very hard time understanding the idea you expressed that homosexuality should be accepted at Houghton. If I am mistaken in the impression that I received when I read your article, I suggest next time you clarify exactly what you were trying to say.

When you express the hope that gays will one day feel free to hang

these pink triangles around Houghton, it seems that you are advocating homosexuality. Now I have no problem with the idea that we should love people no matter what they do, but we shouldn't compromise our principles just because society has. At other colleges, such as Haverford, people are trying to have homosexuality accepted as an alternative lifestyle, with there being no wrong in it. As a person who believes the Bible to be the Word of God, I cannot agree with this position (see Lev. 18:22). Perhaps you will call me one of those who uses "religious justification for my 'homophobia,'" but I feel no need to apologize for that which I believe to be wrong.

"Sin is sin and we shouldn't be proud of it to exclaim that we do it in little pink triangles."

If we at Houghton were to adopt an attitude similar to the world's (which you expressed hope of in your article), we would be saying that homosexuality is okay, and that is wrong. In I Cor. 5:1-5, Paul speaks about expelling a man out of the church because he had committed sexual sins and the Corinthian church had done nothing about it. This may be almost 2000 years later, but the Word of God doesn't change. Sin is sin and we shouldn't be proud of it to exclaim that we do it in little pink triangles. Yes, we should love one another no matter what sin we commit, but I, for one, will not look forward to seeing pink signs saying "Gay Men Swim" any more than I would like to see signs saying "Gossipers Swim."

Bella Werberg

For Mark Shiner's response, see page 8. -ldw

About five months ago I decided to write an article entitled, "Why I Hate Houghton." I was going to go on and on about the geographic location, the rules, the RAs and why I thought the Pledge was stupid and unbiblical. This is the anti-article. I'm still sorry to see the close-minded views of many of the people around me and I probably will never agree with the Pledge or back down on my views (please shoot me if I do!). But the Lord has opened my eyes to the good things that Houghton has to offer.

I saw the administration help out one of my friends who had a rare disease. She had to drop to part-time because of her condition, and they decided to hold back her transfer credits so she could take Mayterm free and not mess up her financial aid. I've watched so many good people give of themselves without a second thought about repayment. People stick close to each other here and are always ready to lend a helping hand.

Several people have helped me come to think of Houghton as a haven from the rest of the world, and I've come to think of it as such. Over Thanksgiving my fiancé broke up with me. In that same week I was locked out twice, left in Boston in the middle of the night, and had my life threatened. I was pretty sure my life was a complete wreck, but I got back here and had support from students and professors alike. Thanksgiving vacation was also an eye-opening experience in other ways. I had seven people in the course of one week ask me to sleep with them. Six of them were guys. I don't have this problem at Houghton.

I can even give thanks in the laundry room. You know, the place where you have to feed four dollars into the dryers before your clothes dry? And someone's always taking your clothes out and they wrinkle in a pile? I came to know, REALLY KNOW, the Lord while sitting on one of those dryers.

But these aren't the only reasons I like Houghton. I like Houghton

because it doesn't ALWAYS snow (it rains here too). I like it because the greatest distance you ever have to walk is between South Hall and Shen. I like seventeen different flavors of ice cream, and cereal at all three meals. I like being able to call my mom who lives up the hill (yes, people really DO move to Houghton!) and say, "Hi, mom! . . . My typewriter just jumped out of my hands and onto the floor and I need a new one now! Help!" I like candlelight dinners in the New Academic Building and traying on the ski slope (did I say that?) and having Heidi arrange my hair so I was six-foot-five (my, Jen, you seem to have grown twelve inches!).

I still wish I never heard people say stupid, close-minded things like, "Oh he's a fag, better watch your back." (Mark Shiner—when people say that (and it ticks me off to no end when they do), I answer with, "What makes you think *you're* so attractive?" To those who have ever said that . . . think about it and read Mark's *Rant* column from the last *Star* issue.) And I still don't like self-righteous RAs, and Houghton will never be a major metropolis, but if I have to be somewhere that isn't perfect, I'm glad Houghton's it.

**Phre7d
The Blonde
Jen Garrison**

To the student body:

It is time to alleviate some misconceptions about Houghton College's Security Department and its employees. First of all, we are in no way responsible for the upkeep of the parking lots and grounds. If you have a problem with this upkeep, the people who need to be notified are those in the maintenance department, not security. In the case of the main roads going around the campus and up to the gym, (Mr. Walz), those roads are the town's responsibility.

Secondly, we are in *no way* paid

any sort of a commission for the tickets we write. The student security personnel are paid minimum wage just like everyone else on this campus. We are in no way rewarded in any manner for the tickets we write. The rumor going around that we are on a commission basis is *false*.

Third, security personnel are subject to parking restrictions just like everyone else on this campus. All of us have the proper identification stickers on our cars (look closer next time, Mr. Morris) and park only where we are permitted. We are also under orders to report and ticket any fellow officer whom we witness disobeying the college's parking policies. As Houghton students, any of you can report us too.

Fourth, the security officers you see working around campus don't make the policies they enforce. Telling us about your problems with the college's policies won't do you any good, because we can't do anything about it. We are just trying to do our jobs to the best of our abilities just like everyone else on this campus.

Last of all, it is true that the parking lot restrictions only apply from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. All the parking lots are "open" parking areas during all other times; the only restriction is that there is no overnight parking.

If anyone has any problems, suggestions, comments, etc. about Houghton College's parking policies, we would be happy to hear them. You can do this by contacting the security office in the basement of Luckey Building at ext. 333. We are especially interested in ways to improve the current parking policy.

Thank you,
Christopher Siebert

**Letters
continued
on page 10.**

A Thank You

by Jenna Geiser

One generation will commend your works to another;

They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty,

And I will meditate on your wonderful works. (Psalm 145:4-5)

As I hurry through writing this column, I have to acknowledge the absurdity of my situation. I am in a rush because of a Romanticism paper that must be delivered to Dr. Bressler before leaving for home, and my intended subject for this column is professors like Dr. Bressler. However, I am not writing to complain bitterly about my work load. I am writing to thank the professors who have devotions of some sort—prayer, song, or scripture—before class.

This is a Christian college, yet we find it easy to put God behind studying, papers, and classes. Many of us have conditioned ourselves to tune out chapel speakers so that we can study for our exam at 11:45 or 1:15 (or write our column for the Star.) It is, for me, the professors who take time to share with students meaningful readings or spiritual insights they have gained throughout

Dear Bella,

I didn't address the morality or immorality of homosexuality for two reasons: it is an issue I have not yet resolved, and it is irrelevant to the point I was trying to make.

The point I was making was simply this: homosexuals are human. Homosexual or not, we are all still sick with sin. We are all helpless without God's grace.

No, you do not need to apologize for your moral system—you only need to apologize (and certainly not to me) if you think that you are somehow less dependent on God's mercy than someone struggling with his or her sexual identity.

In Christ, Mark Shiner

P.S. Leviticus? Seriously? Read the whole book, then tell me whether you keep every commandment in there.

P.P.S. We don't need pink signs saying "gossipers swim." Everyone already realizes that.

their years of teaching whom I hear. God uses them to reach my shut ears. These profs remind me that everything I do, I do for God. They jog my mind during a busy day with a still small voice saying, "God loves you." "Are you rejoicing in His provision?" "Are you living for Him?" Often I am blessed by the honest sharing of a professor as we both struggle to become more Christ-like.

Yesterday was a BAD DAY for me. As I crawled into my bed, thinking that heaven was sounding pretty inviting, I remembered the verse

shared in Romanticism class: Psalm 145: "The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made. The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing." (Psalm 145:13-16)

I was encouraged and thankful for professors who take time out in class to share.

☆



Rant: Beastiality--An OK Thing

by Mark Shiner

Only kidding.

I get bored with my own ideas sometimes. This week was one of those times, so I decided to have a little fun. I spent about an hour in the campus center today, asking a lot of people the following question: if you were given the opportunity write my column for a week, what would you write about? Most people thought the question was odd, but given time, they were able to respond. One guy, obviously annoyed, said he'd write about "prevention of hemorrhoids" and walked away. Hmm. Gotta pray for him, I guess. Another guy offered two ideas: "I'd write about how terrible the education department is," and "People at Houghton complain too much." You figure it out.

What I found is that there are basically three types of columns people at Houghton would write: (1) complain about Houghton, (2) complain about people complaining about Houghton, and (3) talk about something not directly related to Houghton. Almost everyone I met spoke of some way in which people at Houghton could become better Christians: listening, forgiving and encouraging other, being more sensitive, caring more about student organizations, loving rather than condemning those who are different, making chapel more of a worship experience instead of a lecture series. Some people would use their column to complain about the way I've

been writing. I can't say that I blame them. All in all, what I found were people genuinely concerned, genuinely caring—a bunch of people I could probably grow to like.

Well, enough of my commentary; here's a list of some of my favorite responses (saying they're my favorites does not necessarily mean that I agree with them). Enjoy.

1. I Hate Freshmen.
2. The Library Should Be Open on Sunday.
3. How to Be Forgiveness.
4. Boredom in Class—Why Am I Thought a Smart Aleck Because I Ask Questions?
5. Why Do People Think Atheists Are Immoral People?
6. How a Male God-concept Alienates Women.
7. The Stinkiness of Chapel.
8. Realize the value of Your Struggle Here—this one was Dean Danner's; it's hard to summarize what he said into one line. Maybe I can get him to guest "Rant."

Oh, that's enough. Anyway, thanks to everyone who participated—it was helpful and enlightening for me. Next week, I'll be writing about the appropriateness of atheism. Keep your fingers crossed. Cheers.



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

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CONTEST

Standing Up for Peace



Why have some people risked their jobs, their homes, their families and even prison to take a stand for peace? This is *your* chance to find out. The Standing Up for Peace Contest invites you to talk face to face with someone who has refused to fight in war, pay taxes for war, or build weapons for war, and then to express what you think and feel about what you heard through writing, art or music.

The contest is open to young people ages 15-23. The deadline for entries is May 1, 1990.

To enter, send for the Standing Up for Peace Contest booklet, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960 (914) 358-4601.

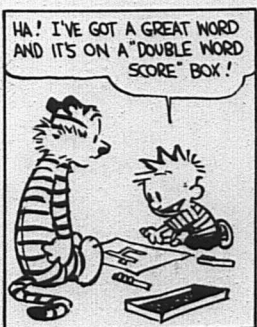
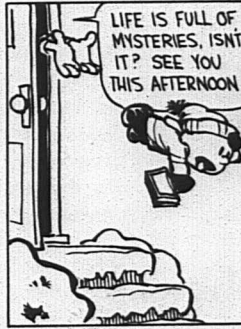
\$500 PRIZES \$100

Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



WHY DO I HAVE TO LEARN? WHY CAN'T I STAY THE WAY I AM? WHAT'S THE POINT OF THIS? WHY DO THINGS HAVE TO BE THIS WAY? WHY CAN'T THINGS BE DIFFERENT?



"ZQFMGB" ISN'T A WORD! IT DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A VOWEL! IT IS SO A WORD! IT'S A WORM FOUND IN NEW GUINEA! EVERYONE KNOWS THAT!



Sometimes things we do or say, meant to be entertaining, are taken in a wrong way and cause harsh feelings. I find myself in this very situation. The song that I sang in the Spot was not meant to be malicious, nor was it meant to be *specifically* about certain individuals. Though the events in the song may correlate to real events, that correlation does not suggest that the song is *just* about that particular event. In reality the song is about a general happening that is not uncommon here at Houghton (or anywhere else for that matter). Anyway, the point is that the song was not sung to be hurtful or embarrassing to anyone; but because it was, I am sorry and wish to publicly apologize to those to whom the song was offensive. I was too specific. I was wrong. Please forgive me.

Eric Darling

The Lanthorn, Boulder, and Houghton Star

need dedicated, creative people as editors and business managers next year. If you're interested, submit petition (including name, cumulative GPA, and reason for running) to the Publications Committee c/o Prof. Greenway.

Editorial

A--=A

by Dave Wheeler



Last week, Mark Shiner wrote a column for the *Star* consisting of one major point: homosexuals, like everybody else, are human beings who should be treated as such. They have an equal need of God's grace and mercy as philanthropists, politicians, thieves, or *Star* editors. I don't know how one could argue this point; it seems to be a biological given, but I'm sure the arguing is being done.

The point is such a simple, obviously true one: every human being is human. A=A. Yet many people will have problems with that statement if applied to homosexuals. It's almost as if admitting that the homosexual is human would constitute advocating his behavior. An acknowledgement that gays are "human" is taken as an acknowledgement that gays are "okay," and the author of the statement finds herself labeled a gay-advocate for stating a biological fact. A strange fallacy for people who believe in original sin—who believe that to be "human" is *not* to be "okay."

For the sake of the argument, let's assume the traditional evan-

gelical view of homosexuality as sin is true. Some will disagree; but as I said, it's for the sake of the argument. Why is there more stigma attached to the homosexual offender than to the heterosexual offender? What is there about a homosexual that imputes to him more disgrace than to a burglar—particularly in evangelical settings? Or, rather, what is it about us that makes us treat people that way?

I don't know. I'd like to know. That's why I wrote this editorial; I'd like to know what your thoughts are on the subject. Our box number is 378; please use it if you have any insight on the topic.

At any rate, we all are human, and we therefore owe one another certain things. We are to love one another, to pray for one another, to do good to one another—even when we're being cursed, oppressed, and slandered by those we're trying to love. If we're commanded to love that much, how can we possibly consider certain groups so "far gone" that we can in good conscience withhold our love and concern?

Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson

