

The Houghton Star

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No. 13

Conference Center and Cubicles Constructed On Charred 3rd Floor

Thanks to the Houghton College maintenance crew, Dick Losch and Ken Nielsen are "quite pleased" with the progress of Luckey Building repairs. Charred floors sanded, rafters and ceiling joists replaced, and electric and telephone lines rewired — all this to transform the burned shell of the third floor into a modern, expanded facility. Movable partitions will separate two board rooms and three offices for field personnel (travelling admissions people and counsellors who are away a large part of the time).

The roof has yet to be replaced, pending better weather, but painting and cleaning have eliminated much of the smoky staleness. According to Mr. Nielsen, the Houghton Volunteer Fire Department did a fine job localizing the roof damage, but one-third of the boards and slate still require replacement.

When Mr. Nussey, the Registrar, was contacted he expressed concern over the slow progress of repairs on the second floor, where his department was headquartered before its temporary move to the Science Building. Over Christmas vacation, ceiling tiles were replaced, drapes cleaned, the area fumigated, and debris swept up; all that now remains to complete repairs is ordering and installation of carpets. Mr. Nussey said that the workmen are now concentrating their efforts on third floor repairs. Since pre-registration work for Mayterm begins in three weeks, Mr. Nussey feels that this would be the most opportune time to complete refurbishing of this area so the Registrar's Office may move back in.

The college's Business Manager, Mr. Nielsen, stated that there are not enough men available to finish the

second floor in such a short period of time. Working from the top floor down will eliminate such problems as falling debris, excess noise, distractions, and insufficient insulation (since the unrepaired roof causes cold air to seep into the building).

Dick Losch estimated that repairs are 40-50% completed, and he joined Mr. Nielsen and Mr. Nussey in commending the work of Bill Crane and his crew. These men have put in long hours painting, spackling, wiring, and constructing, while the remainder

of the maintenance staff has covered the additional work load. Thanks to them, the college avoided outside contractor costs, and Mr. Nielsen reported that the final insurance settlement will cover "just about everything."

Houghton Remains 'Hot Spot' Amid Gathering Snow Drifts

All this past week, a combination of bitter cold weather and a severe fuel gas shortage throughout the northeastern half of the United States has threatened to shut down Houghton College.

The severity of the situation was first emphasized last week when Na-

tional Fuel Gas, suppliers for the college and much of western New York, asked that its customers voluntarily restrict usage by keeping thermostats set at 55 degrees. Since that time, however, the shortage has worsened to the point where closing the college altogether has come under serious consideration. Mr. Richard Losch, assistant to Houghton College Treasurer and Business Manager, Mr. Kenneth Nielsen, when asked if there was a reasonable chance that Houghton may have to close, replied: "Yes, that is a possibility." And in fact, early this week, National Fuel Gas telephoned Mr. Nielsen to discuss with him the feasibility of shutting the school.

Both Mr. Nielsen and Mr. Losch, though, were quick to point out important considerations against closing. First among these is transportation. Because of blizzard conditions, all western New York State roads were closed late last week making it impossible to send students home.

Secondly, closing the school would produce problems in meeting academic requirements, especially for seniors according to Losch, would probably mean a reduction in or complete elimination of the traditional Easter break.

But even in the face of such difficulties, closing remains a threat. According to Mr. Nielsen, National Fuel Gas has the final say in the matter. "If they want us to close," he said, "then we have to close."

Just what are the chances of the college shutting down? Nobody seems to know. Mr. Nielsen said it all depends on the severity of the weather and the extent of the gas shortage within the next few weeks. While little can be done about the weather, much can be done to lessen the drain on the gas supply. The college is making every effort to conserve fuel. Students are asked to be patient and to cooperate. Present conservation measures will be in effect at least until Sunday night.

Crane, New Maintenance Superintendent Has Been College Employee Eight Years

Nyla Schroth

Just who is the new Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds replacing Robert Fiegl?

We've all probably seen him around. He's that "tall nice-looking, sort of younger man driving the red truck that says Houghton College on the door." This is how one of his co-workers described him. "You're apt to find him around most anywhere", he added.

Paul R. Crane is the man and he comes to the job with eight years of experience in working for the college. He previously served under Mr. Fiegl in the area of heating and air conditioning.

As Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, Mr. Crane is in charge of all the 1700 acres that compose Houghton College. It is his job to see that all the college buildings and grounds are maintained properly. He also acts as an advisor to outside contractors and coordinates and delegates the work to be done by the col-

lege maintenance crews.

Paul Crane was chosen to succeed Robert Fiegl by the College Administrative Committee, Mr. Nielsen and Staff Employment, who in turn recommended him to be approved by the Trustees. He replaced the retiring Mr. Fiegl at the beginning of the new year.

Since he began his job as Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds there have been few changes for the staff or the college. However, Mr. Losch and members of the maintenance and custodial staff feel that Mr. Crane will try to form closer ties with custodial in an effort to better coordinate work between the two departments.

Before joining the maintenance staff of the college Mr. Crane owned a dairy farm outside of Nunda. His wide range of experience there is one of the factors that led administrative officials to select him for this important position.

The Cranes now live in Houghton

on Tucker Hill Road in a house he built. His two daughters, Tammy and Billy Joe, ages 13 and 14, attend school in Fillmore.

Both maintenance and custodial employees seemed confident in Paul Crane's ability to handle the responsibility of the job before him. As Mr. Losch, of the Business Office put it, "He's the right man for the job."

Review:

Oberlin Choir Gives Excellent Concert

by John W. Hugo

Throughout most of Friday, January 28, many Artist Series ticket holders made alternate plans for their snowy evening, expecting bad weather and extreme cold to cancel the Oberlin College Choir's scheduled appearance in Wesley Chapel. Judging from the size of the audience, many of

those plans held. However, the way from Princeton, NJ to Houghton, NY was providentially cleared and the Oberlin Choir put on a splendid concert in spite of wind, snow, and sparse audience.

The technical artistry of Oberlin is characteristic of many professional choirs of the same size. The quality of line, that is, the growth, development, and decline of the musical phrase, was superior. The sectional unity, particularly the alto and tenor sections, filled in the sonority effectively without causing a generally dull and unfocused tone. The choir's dynamic range varied between an intense pianissimo and a healthy forte. Nearly every word could be understood by an enthralled Houghton audience. The factors that make for good choral tone were present with Oberlin, especially in the areas of blend, tuning, and dynamics.

Oberlin was a choir of excellence, but not of perfection. Perhaps due to fatigue or complexity, the choir lost intensity as the concert progressed from beginning to end. The legendary "Houghton College Choir Scramble", did not seem to enhance the sound of the Oberlin Choir. Mozart's music lends itself more to a sectional approach, as opposed to the mixed formation approach taken by Oberlin. The balance in the Oberlin Choir was somewhat soprano dominated, supported admirably by the alto and tenor sections. The basses, however, did not provide the necessary harmonic foundation for the choir, lacking depth, roundness, and volume. Of course, these are admittedly very technical criticisms. The

shortcomings suggested here are of little consequence when one considers the choir's total impact.

Oberlin can do all periods of music well. Highlights of the concert included works by Fritschel, Bruckner, Nystedt, Poulenc, and Haydn. Three songs by Mendelssohn proved to be charming; the Oberlin Choir made these difficult pieces look easy. The Haydn "Te Deum" was performed with expressiveness, and refinement, although by this point in the performance, the choir was showing signs of fatigue. The entire concert was an enjoyable, stirring experience.

Daniel Moe, Oberlin's skilled conductor, is an excellent technician and artistic interpreter. He displays a keen understanding of music from the Renaissance through the Modern Period. Vocal technique, linear phrase conception, blend, and clarity are all evident in his conducting style. Moe returns to Houghton as guest conductor during Fine Arts Week, March 7-11.

Special mention must be made of the small orchestral ensemble that accompanied the choir through Mozart and Haydn. The clarity of articulation and intonation clearly mark the group as a top notch college organization. First violinist Peter Jaffe led the orchestra through some fancy string work.

The audience thoroughly enjoyed the concert. The appreciation was so great that Oberlin performed all of its optional selections. The applause did not stop until all of the performers (some 75 strong) were completely off stage.

Brackney, Gould and Sayers To Present Faculty Lectures

Just last week there was a faculty lecture series at Houghton College by Mr. John Hazzard, sociology professor. His lecture was entitled "Marx, Marx, Marx." That was only the first of four faculty lectures scheduled for this semester. What is the purpose of faculty lecture series? According to Dr. Richard Gould, classics professor, it is designed to give Houghton College faculty members an opportunity

to speak to the general college community about their own research or some special interest they have. These lectures give others a chance to share in the results of the lecturing professor's work. They are a general introduction to the topics, not highly technical treatments, and must be given in terms understandable to those who are not in the field.

Dr. Brian Sayers, philosophy pro-

fessor, will present the second lecture entitled, "Some Dilemmas in the Problem of Evil." In Fancher Aud. February 16, his lecture will be on the philosophy of the origin of evil. March 3 is the date for the third lecture, in which Dr. Gould will present an introduction to the opera *La Boheme*. The opera will be performed the following week in an Artist Series. Dr. Gould will give a general introduction of the background of the composer and talk about appreciating the opera. The final lecture will be held April 20. Dr. William Brackney, history professor, will speak about 19th century religious movements in Western New York in his lecture, "The Burned Over District." He will discuss the origins of the Wesleyan Church and American religious history, especially as it relates to Western New York.

All lectures will be held in Fancher Hall at 8:15 p.m., are free of charge, and are open to the public.

Wind Ensemble Concert Tonight

The Symphonic Wind Ensemble will present a concert, Friday, February 4, 1977, at 8:15 p.m. in Wesley Chapel. The program will include works by Ravel, Dello Joio, Saint Saens, Ralph Vaughan Williams and Malcolm Arnold. No admission charge.

HOW'S YOUR LOVE LOAF?

A Word Concerning Lack of Pictures

Sorry, no pictures this week due to snow-bound mail routes and photo engraver. Back next week (we hope).

Editorials

Chapel appears to be a perennial problem. Previous chapel committees had to fish up a rationale for compulsory attendance but when they got one, it was (at best) inconsistently applied. Many complained to the committee that the worship quotient of some of last semester's programs were not up to par. They were justified in questioning the place of skits, of question and answer sessions, of coy "This is not an announcement" announcements in the services that had been decreed to be worshipful.

Now to be fair, the committee has responded to these complaints. This semester's schedule seems to be free of potential pitfalls or unintentional self-parody of the committee's intent. Thus far the execution of the schedule has been, if unexceptional, decorous.

And it is necessary, I think, to require student attendance at chapel. (I shall resist comment on faculty attendance.) We are after all a Christian college and part of the body of Christ. "... Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together" is one of the elements needed to help each of us keep a grip on our faith. Each day, some of us need to be reminded of God, of Christ, of God's Word and His saints. The assembly of the body ministers to our weaknesses; the compulsory attendance rule administers that assembly.

Ironically, compulsory attendance violates the concept of worship — the committee's rationale for compulsory attendance. Worship is as much an act of the will as of anything else. A body filling a chapel seat against the mind's will is not formula for worship. It is in fact a great and unnecessary temptation to contrariness.

Perhaps this is not a serious flaw in the worship rationale. There are many more (I hope) who do come willingly to chapel than don't. But no one can come every day to chapel and turn on his worship circuits and buzz through the program. Let me suggest that the problem with the worship rationale is that it is too lofty for our mundane everyday meetings.

Our Christian faith is basically a workaday faith, a practical, livable, durable faith. Yet our God, who in this respect is so familiar to us and does things for us, is in another so awesome, majestic, infinite, transcendent and lofty, to be appreciated on the basis of his person alone. The function of worship is to focus on the character of God alone. It ought not to become workaday. It is perhaps the highest function of man.

The use of worship as a rationale for everyday chapel services creates tension. The trappings of worship are attendant upon some very unworshipful activities. Even the custom of "giving testimonies" may hit or miss the mark. The concept of worship is further violated by demanding that everyone stand in silent "meditation" as the Chaplain walks out. And now the chapel checkers (who ought not to be allowed to police their fellow students in this manner, but should remember that they are a necessary evil, just keeping the books) must refuse seating during the hymn to latecomers; this is an overreaction to last semester's situation and denial of a courtesy most churches extend to Sunday worshippers.

Chapel is a man-made institution, made by members of the body of Christ, yes, but not yet perfect. We affirm the practice of mandatory attendance. But we suggest that the rationale of worship, if it is retained, should be consistently and reverently practiced. Attendance requirements should be eased — perhaps a quota of twenty cuts would suffice — because the chapel program is limited in its ministry if only worship is offered; we ought to recognize that.

Perhaps there is a better rationale for chapels. Ministry to the body of Christ at Houghton College has been mentioned. This would allow for occasional assembly-type programs alongside of worship chapels. While the current chapel committee ponders our suggestions, let them begin also to relax the tension created by the worship rationale. End the nonsense about meditation and seating. Let us respect the high nature of worship and stop using it as an excuse to pack the chapel every morning.

Daniel Hawkins

I remember Petticoat Junction. You know, Houghton is a lot like Petticoat Junction. Yes, petticoats come and go, just like Valentine's Day decorations. Perhaps Houghton would be merrier with . . . Forgive me. For a moment there, facing an empty copy bin, I feared I had nothing to write about. Thus, in desperation, I resorted to cheap, inter-editorial parody in a last-ditch effort to be entertaining. Suddenly, a thought (faintly Hegelian) came to mind: I would let editorial editorialize itself, and negate thereby the negation of the editorial column. In other words, editorial is its own object. All clear so far? Good.

Metaphysics, metaphor and alliteration aside, monologue can only go on so long. Sooner or later, one runs out of things to say to oneself. (Witness the above chatter.) Without adequate dialogue, editorials quickly become as full of snow as downtown Buffalo. (See?)

Last week, Jake wrote us a letter. We were stunned. His communication was the first of its kind — a written, publishable, direct reply to our editorials. We were warmed and encouraged, but only partially.

The community-at-large does not write to us. True, we receive vague feedback, which occurs in roughly three categories. 1) "Good editorial, Kath/Dan." Generally spoken by close friends and those in forced proximity — chapel partners, lunch line acquaintances and the like. 2) "Say, did you know so-and-so thinks your editorials are really radical/stupid/worthless?" Generally received third or fourth hand after key committee meetings. 3) Non-verbal aggression — raised eyebrows, icy stares, crumpled Stars. Generally noted on late Friday afternoon and on into Saturday.

We have thought this matter through thoroughly and have posed the following possible conclusions:

- 1) Our editorials are so unimpeachably logical that they are invulnerable to attack.
- 2) People are just too embarrassed to write things like, "Hey, you're just great. We agree with you 100%. Keep up the good work."
- 3) Houghton is perfect and our comments are superfluous. Therefore, no one bothers to read editorials.

While the last sentence of point No. 3 may be closer to home than we would like to think, we are still dissatisfied with our hypotheses. We need and want your comments — both positive and negative. Parenthetically, we are not so egotistical as to think that you have nothing better to do than read and react to our brilliant, stimulating editorials. Perhaps we are totally incompetent. If we are, you can tell us that too.

If we do not hear from you these next few months, we will be forced to accept any or all of our ridiculous hypotheses. Prove us wrong. Write to us.

Kathleen Confer

Letters to the Editors

Editor's Note:

While the concern for response to editorials, as expressed by Ms. Confer, is still evident, we do appreciate this week's response to other aspects of the Star. Thank you for taking time to write.

Dear Editor,

While reading last week's Star, we were pleasantly surprised to see that in the midst of all the excitement over the Love Loaf program, other important organizations were remembered. We are quick to recognize the need and responsibility of Christians to respond to the poor and starving in the world and we are not advising students to ignore or reject this program. It is an important outreach. But we wish to remind students of other responsibilities.

World Vision International has all of the Christian community from which to draw its support, while our own FMF is limited to the financial support of us, the students. These 12 missionaries are no less needy than the rest of the world. Without our support they can no longer do their job. We, as students, have heard pleas over these past months, but how many of us have responded? They do not have cute little banks — which we can set on our dressers to remind us — only the urging of the Holy Spirit. They do not sponsor a Sunday night "celebration," when we can gather to hand in our gifts, but only an anonymous intra-campus mailbox. We are responsible for the \$22,200 budget.

We are not "active" members of FMF, only concerned students reminding other students to check their motives and priorities. If you feel called to contribute to the Love Loaf program, do so! They need your support. If you can get involved in both, praise the Lord! But please, let us not forget our responsibilities to our missionaries, who are ministering to a dying world not just a starving one.

In Christ,

Carol Beveridge
Ronald Beabout
Jeffrey Patten

Dear Editor,

Many times I have fought the urge to rip my copy of The Star into hundreds of tiny, illegible pieces, making sure that no one could possibly read some of the trash written in it. Before, I just sighed in disbelief at the articles; I did not want to believe The Star could concern itself with such trivial things as the Pledge or Mr. Reist's chapel message on alcohol. And to think Scandanavia, Land of Pictures, the Kodak presentation sponsored by Y.A.O., was passed over without even the slightest mention by the editors.

The article (or should I say "thing?") which finally prompted me to stop my critical sighing and take more positive action was the printing of the clenched fist with a man-made inscription of Matthew 25:37. I would expect this fist, a symbol of radical power, with its crying verse to appear in the publications at UB or Buff State, but certainly not at Houghton. I feel as though the words of Jesus spoken in Matthew 25:37 were taken in vain.

First, let me say that the United States is not, nor should it ever be considered or personified as, the Lord. Separation of Church and State is indeed a Biblical principle (Luke 20:25).

Second, the United States is a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. The people are sovereign. If the government fails only we, the American people, can be blamed. We, the people of the United States of America are responsible, and as American Christians, we are responsible to our brothers, even the

least of them.

Why I ask, do we blame a system instead of ourselves?

Through individual energies, individual voluntary actions, many good philanthropic things have been done. One has only to look at Jane Addams and Hull House, or the American Jews financing the transport of their Soviet brothers from Communism to freedom.

Christians, with faith, are endowed with the power to move mountains. How sad that many of us sit around and complain about the government of the United States and, if I can be allegorical the government of Houghton College. Both are places of personal, independent liberties. One has only to take advantage of them.

I encourage the Love Loaf program. It is one example of what free and responsible Christians can and should do for their brothers. But I found the promotion of their program through the use of the power symbol with its misquoted verse out of place, out of line, and out of context.

Sharon Lynn McMinn

Dear Editor,

I discovered a fact the other day that delighted me. I'd like to share it with your readers. The college was able to purchase two new foos-ball tables for the campus center. Praise the Lord!

My excitement doesn't come from

the fact that I am a foos-ball addict. In fact, I'll probably never use the tables. My coordination between hand and eye leaves much to be desired and foos-ball is definitely not one of my talents . . . No Way!

I'm excited because of the reason the college could purchase these tables! Several years ago, due to excessive mistreatment and vandalism, the campus center funds were being spent in repairing damage. The TV room was often left in shambles. The college considered such measures as hiring more proctors for the recreation room.

However, a change has come about. The campus community has itself discouraged vandalism, reduced needless damage, produced a sense of respect for community property, and initiated a spirit of cooperation with respect to the campus center facilities. You are becoming good stewards of the blessings the Lord has given us. What is the result? Money is available to improve these facilities.

When I realize that it is imperative for our state schools to lock facilities and to tightly supervise every aspect of institutional life against acts of vandalism, I am indeed joyful that the Lord has given me the privilege of living among a thousand considerate, respectful, young adults. Praise the Lord!

Truly yours,
Jake

Intramural Schedule

Feb. 16 Regular 5-Man basketball ends	Present 5-man basketball standings	W	L
Feb. 17 Class League Basketball ends	League A		
Feb. 23 & 28 Regular & Class League Playoffs	Lithos Meter	6	0
March 4 Regular and Coed Volleyball rosters due	Makin Trouble	5	1
March 5 Class League (10-minute tourney) (Begins 6:30 p.m.)	Bedford Brawlers	2	4
March 10 Regular and Co-ed Volleyball begins	Gaylord & Merry Men	1	5
March 15 Men's Floor hockey rosters due	Perkins Pot	1	5
March 19 & 26 Men's Floor hockey double elimination tourney	League B		
April 22 Men's Home Run Derby 3-5 p.m.	Scrapping Bottom	5	0
April 29 Cross Country Bicycle race — sign up by April 28, 5 p.m.	Dixie Dew	3	0
April 29 All volleyball ends	Designated Shooters	3	2
	Original Bogus Boys	2	3
	(Greek team)	1	3
	Music Majors	0	4
	* * * * *		
	Free throw tourney: Winner—Steve Sawada (39-50), Second—Bill Horn (39-50), Third—Pete Wilcox (38-50). Steve Sawada won a sudden death shoot-off against Bill Horn. Pete Wilcox missed his last two free throws for a chance to win or tie. There were fifteen contestants altogether.		

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