

The Houghton Star

Volume 82.17

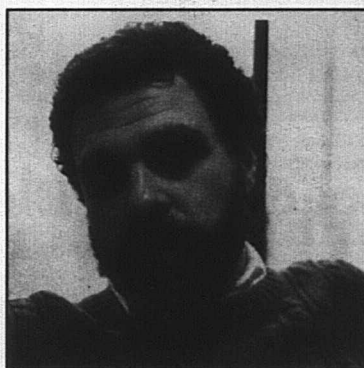
March 23, 1990

Social Work Major Nullified

by Ivan T. Rocha

Houghton College is once again buzzing over a controversial issue: the "termination" (as some administrators have put it) of the social work major. In response to this unexpected action, social work professor Dr. Larry Ortiz has resigned from Houghton.

While the debate regarding the fate of the students who hoped to become social work majors rages emotionally on, little precise information has filtered down to the hallways and lunch tables. The administration has been secretive, and no one else who knows about the subject is either available (some admini-
(continued on page 3)



Dr. Larry Ortiz (C. Daniels)



The 1990-91 Senate cabinet: Darren Chick, Bill Burrichter, Mary Biglow, John Brooks (C. Daniels)

Biglow Leads Senate Senate, Publications Leadership Elected

by Stephen Virkler

Elections for next year's Student Senate cabinet and the three student publication editorships (**Star**, **Lanthorn**, and **Boulder**) took place on Tuesday, March 13. Following the trend in recent years, a minority of positions (three out of seven) were actually contested. Another trend seems to be division of labor, as all three of the publications will be headed by co-editorship teams next year.

Next year's Senate president is Mary Biglow, currently a junior, who ran against junior Robert Fink. Joining her in new roles are sophomore John Brooks as vice-president and sophomore Bill Burrichter as secretary. Brooks ran unopposed; Burrichter ran against freshman Nancy Metzler. Darren Chick maintains his current title of treasurer.

Biglow stated that she wants to "continue [the] growth that Thom [Fenner, current president] started" and "work hard at making Senate an organization that can handle tough issues." She cited this year's field hockey issue as an example.

Biglow also wants "to have Senate be strong as a body, not as individuals." She wants to make sure that Senate continues to grow although its administrators constantly change, and that "Senate is not for the senators but for the students."

(continued on page 2)



Star editors: Ivan Rocha and David Wheeler (C. Daniels)



Boulder editors: Kathy Hung and Brad Wilber (C. Daniels)

Leadership Elected

(continued from page 1)



Star editor L. David Wheeler, currently a junior, will be joined next year by freshman Ivan Rocha, an art major with a concentration in graphics. Wheeler and Rocha's election was uncontested, as happened last year with the editorship position. "I want to **Star** to look more professional," said Rocha, who said that he would "like to see an increase in better photography [and an] improvement in layout and format." As an art major with experience working with layout (he did most of the layout in his high school newspaper), Rocha will concentrate on the production format of the **Star**. Wheeler, a writing major, will concentrate on developing the **Star's** content. "I've had the opportunity to learn from all my mistakes," said Wheeler. "With Ivan's help, I'd like to put this learning into practice."

Juniors Rand Bellavia and Roberta Pierce were voted co-editors of the **Lanthorn**, edging out opponent Tom Noyes. According to Bellavia, who is currently co-editor along with senior Alicia Beckford, the editors want to make the literary magazine five to ten pages larger

and have it bound like a regular book (perfect binding) rather than fastening it with staples. They also plan on supplementing the printed **Lanthorn** with an "audio and perhaps a video **Lanthorn**," depending on student interest. In this way, poetry readings, music, and the like can be included. Bellavia stressed that cost should be minimal. Bellavia and Pierce plan to have a senior communications major put together the video as an independent study project, thus saving the **Lanthorn** the production cost.

Kathy Hung and Brad Wilber, juniors, are next year's **Boulder** editors. As did their predecessor, current editor Melissa Fisher, they claimed the position after an unopposed election. "[We want to] create a **Boulder** that represents the student body as a whole," said Wilber. The yearbook should not "cater to specific people," he continued, "but represent as best we can the 'Houghton experience.'"

(Picture of **Lanthorn** editors Rand Bellavia and Roberta Pierce was unavailable)





Social Work Major Nullified

(continued from page 1)

stration officials were out of town and couldn't be reached) or willing to say much for fear of precipitating events in any way. Dr. Ortiz, however, was available for an interview.

Under plans to have Houghton accredited to offer the social work major, Ortiz had been working to develop the current program. According to Ortiz, however, Academic Dean Clarence Bence instructed him "no longer to pursue the accreditation process, therefore indicating that the decision [had] been made."

The decision to interrupt the accreditation process was made by the Academic Cabine, an entity comprising all the division chairs, the head librarian, and the academic dean. The faculty voted on the issue during a special meeting on Tuesday, March 20. Originally a 22-21 decision not to support the termination of accreditation efforts, the count was changed to 21-21 on Wednesday, as one of the votes was an absentee ballot. The faculty's decision will be added to the Academic Cabinet's original recommendation and will be presented to President Daniel Chamberlain for his approval in the near future. The final word belongs to Chamberlain, who can, of course, override the cabinet's decision. Chamberlain will then go before the Board of Trustees in April with his ruling on the issue. Regardless of the final decision regarding the major, Houghton will continue to offer a minor in social work.

Possibly the most peculiar aspect of the termination of the proposed major is this: the program seems to have been aborted for no particular reason. Ortiz declares

himself "stumped." The only reasons given by the Academic Cabinet, according to Ortiz, were either vague, inconclusive, or "very difficult to accept." Cost-cutting does not strike Ortiz as a plausible reason; he indicated that elimination of the major would not result in a significant reduction in the department's budget. "I'm not trying to hide anything," said Ortiz. "It's just that I don't want to say anything because I truly do not know what the reasons are."

The cancellation of the proposed major has, in any case, resulted in Ortiz's resignation. Pointing to a three-volume self-study containing his proposal for a social work major, completed in the summer of 1989, he expressed deep frustration and hurt over what he considers two wasted years in his career. Two years of serious labor have, in Ortiz's words, "become essentially useless." As a result, he feels he can no longer continue as a faculty member and has handed in his resignation.

In keeping with recent tradition, the student body was given no say in the decision process. It may be argued that since there was no major *per se*, there were no social work students to worry about. A number of students, however, came to Houghton planning to become the first to major in this new program. Their only alternatives are either 1) to stay on and change their major or 2) to transfer elsewhere. In a parting gesture, Ortiz requested the administration to provide assistance for those wishing to transfer, although he could not say precisely what form this assistance would take.



President Burbury (standing) and President Chamberlain (seated)

Canadian Options Broadened

(a Public Information Offices release)

President Daniel Chamberlain has signed an articulation agreement with President William Burbury of Bethany Bible College in New Brunswick. Bethany students desiring the broader range of majors available at Houghton may take their first two years at Bethany and then transfer their credits to Houghton.

Under the agreement, Houghton will accept most of Bethany's general education requirement courses and recognize applicable major and minor credits. A minimum of 20 semester hours (out of 124) must be taken at Houghton, as well as half of the credit for a Houghton major.

The agreement significantly broadens economic and academic options for Canadians, both Wesleyan and other eastern seaboard students.



Uncle Ledy says:

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

Layout assistance also needed.



The Awaited Advent of Dr. Crider

by Dave Rhenow

Houghton College has gained yet another faculty member with a doctorate. Sue Crider, chair of the Division of Language and Literature, successfully defended her doctoral dissertation during spring break at the University of Alabama and will receive her degree on May 12. Crider, who has taught at Missouri Southern State College and Southwest Missouri State University, came to Houghton four years ago as head of the communications department and became division chair two years ago.

Crider's 255-page doctoral dissertation, which she has worked on for the past seven years, is called "Crucifixions: The Crossroads of Carnivals and Lent in Thomas Hardy's *Jude the Obscure* and William Faulkner's *Light in August*." The dissertation, says Crider, is about the theory of the specialized literary novel and how we as readers dialogue with a literary work. She has used much of her research on this subject in her teaching, she says: she likes to emphasize group discussion and student input because each person is going to react differently to the same piece of writing according to his or her cultural background. Her dissertation is most likely will be published soon.

Dr. Crider is very relieved to be finished with her seven-year project. She says she will now be able to relax a little and not feel guilty about neglecting administrative duties for the doctorate work and vice versa. She is looking forward to her first free summer in quite some time and is contemplating a trip to England.

Crider plans on staying at Houghton for a long time. She feels that it is not a disadvantage to be at a small rural school; rather, she enjoys the social interaction and the idea of being a "big frog in a little pond," both difficult at a large school. At Houghton "we make our own entertainment," said Crider.

Certainly Sue Crider's Ph. D. will earn her more respect. But will it make her more reserved in her volleyball games or the crazy Senate Spots? Don't bet on it!



Dr. B. Sue Crider celebrating two milestones (her volleyball victory figures somewhere in there) (C. Daniels)

Mabel's Dream: It's Now a Reality

by Sharon Wills

Doris Nielsen ("Mabel") has had a dream for many years. As long as she and her husband Ken have been in Houghton, they have been interested in helping the people of Allegany County. Her dream was to have a program to achieve this goal.

In the summer of 1987, she began to put ideas together to build a program like the Highlander Adventure (which she also initiated) for Allegany County youth. In 1988, Project Allegany Student Outreach (PASO=STEP in Spanish) began with a matching grant and some fund-raising. In just two years the program has grown from seven to 32 students! Five Houghton students committed to the task of reaching the kids of Allegany County lead

the STEP program.

This year's Student Senate charity drive has been awarded to the STEP program, for the second year in a row. The STEP staff is asking for your support again this year: the Allegany County Youth Board has awarded STEP a matching grant of \$5300, and the STEP program must match the county grant in order to receive the money.

The Houghton community can

help by supporting the various STEP fund-raisers." 425 students participated in a Skip-A-Meal program this past Thursday. We thank you all for your support. The pizza deal is still going on as well. Donations are also accepted; send them to Doris Nielsen, care of STEP.

Thank you for your support from last year. We need your help again this year! Help us keep Mabel's dream a reality.

We, Ivan T. Rocha and L. David Wheeler, sincerely thank all who voted for us. We'll do our best to ensure that you're not disappointed.

ITR
LDW

And in Other News...



by Kenneth Cole

Activity in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe is still moving at a rapid clip, to say the least, and is quite likely to continue to do so until the political systems in the region can reach a more "stable" point. The latest of developments is the declaration of independence by Lithuania.

On March 19, Moscow declared control over Lithuania's communications, sea lanes and all other property deemed a national enterprise. Managers of state enterprises in Lithuania have been instructed not to hand over to the independent government any property that deals with the economy of the entire Soviet Union.

The White House, as of March 19, declined to formally recognize Lithuania's independence declaration. Washington insists that it recognizes only governments that are in "control of their destiny." This statement however, contrasts with the situation in Panama where, the new government was recognized before the fall of the old regime. White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said that "it Doesn't pay to compare the two cases," which is actually a legitimate statement; Panama was a more politically stable region than Lithuania.

At this point, Secretary of State Baker says there is no reason to doubt Soviet promises that Moscow won't use force to stop Lithuania's move toward independence.



CYCLOPS CHILDREN CAN BE SO CRUEL

MILLENICON Minus Eleven

by Randy Hoffman
RADIANCE coordinator

Armed with a guitar, a box of food from Big Al, and two proudly displayed collections of novelty buttons, seven Houghton students descended on a science fiction in Dayton, Ohio, last weekend.

Jason Covert, Randy Hoffman, Amy Littlejohn, Rob Scharf, Doug Spink, Heidi Tange, and Randy Thomas, all of whom are members of Radiance, Houghton's imaginative fiction club, left campus as 12:30 p.m. on Friday, March 16. After nine-and-three-quarters hours on the road they arrived at the Dayton Airport Hotel, where Millenicon minus Eleven (they're numbered backwards to the year 2001) was already underway.

Though the weary pilgrims were too late to register, the convention chairman graciously allowed them to stay on through the evening. In the video room, *Star Trek* episode and blooper video showings were held, followed by the pioneering film *Destination Moon* (1950). The meeting area was given over to filking (science fiction folksinging). Various local convention committees and clubs held parties in hotel rooms, most notably the Dayton Animation Club, which was engaged in a round-the-clock "Japanimation" (Japanese animated film) marathon.

Saturday morning came all too quickly; most of the Houghton contingent had to struggle to get awake enough to walk down to the registration desk and fill out their ID badges. Once they did, there was a wealth of activities to choose from. Panels featuring pro and fan personalities talked about a wide range of topics; the video room showed movies, movies, movies; dealers were on hand with an incredible array of merchandise; an art show beckoned; and a convention suite dispensed goodies and conversation.

In the afternoon Dr. Bill Breuer of Louisville University presented a slide show on the history of the U.S. space program. The highlight of the weekend, however, was Saturday night's programming. Joe Haldeman, author of *The Forever War*, gave a Guest of Honor speech; art was auctioned, door prizes were given away (Randy Hoffman win-

ning a pair of books); a costume ball showcased creative masqueraders; and a charity benefit auction for a proposed Dayton Planetarium was held. Following this, the filkers were once again given *carte blanche*; Heidi Tange surprised the veteran filkers by coming up front to sing and strum.

More programming took place on Sunday, but the Houghton group had to

leave before it was all over. They pulled out of the hotel at 2:00 p.m., arriving back on campus shortly after 11:00. Their impressions of the weekend are well summed up by Heidi Tange's assertion that "this definitely isn't my last con." Plans are afoot for Radiance to attend a convention at the University of Buffalo next month.

The Pioneer Board Plan: Your Options

by Dave Wheeler

In recent years, an increasing amount of students have requested alternatives to the present board plan. This has led to the development of an ad hoc committee to review the current board plan and explore possible options. This committee, comprised of Kenneth Nielsen, Prof. Kenneth Bates, Jeanne Ortiz, Al ("Big Al") Rehn (resource), and students Mary Biglow, Darren Chick, and Eric Darling, has reviewed several board plans offered at different schools and has narrowed options down to two.

The first option is the present meal plan: students may attend up to three meals a day and eat as much as they wish. All traditional-age students living in residence halls, college-owned housing, and community residences are currently required to take part in this plan. Checkers at the bottom of the campus center stairwell check ID cards as students enter the dining commons and count the number of students being served. Students are expected to have their ID cards, but are admitted anyway if they forget them. Under this system, Pioneer is able to accommodate special requests such as early meals, picnics, packed lunches, and special snacks.

The second option is the "15 or 21 Meal/Week Plan," under which

each student chooses either a 21 meal plan (similar to the current system) or a 15 meal plan.

Students on the 15 meal plan choose 15 meals to attend during a seven-day period. They may choose any combination of breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. A computer system, activated by the student's ID card, is used to tally the number of meals eaten per week. Students can eat additional meals but must purchase them separately at the regular commuter rate. Students may eat as much as they want while the serving line is open.

Additional security would need to be installed under this plan, including the computer at the bottom of the steps and the gates at all entrances to serving areas. The serving areas would be locked up after the checkers leave the bottom of the steps so that no students can enter the serving areas and obtain more food after the lines close. Students must carry ID cards to all meals in order to be admitted to the dining commons. Under this system, it may not be possible to grant the special requests currently possible.

A survey of student's wishes will be conducted in the near future, and sheets should soon be appearing in mailboxes.

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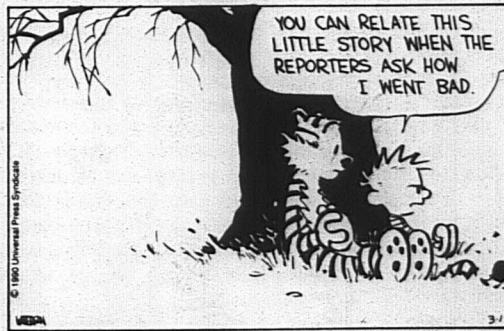
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Arts

Behind the Images: Jerome Washington

by Deborah Carr

Hyena

by Jerome Washington

Sadly
I find grief
Meat.

The he hyena stalking a
plateau.
Full moon shadows my steps
Creeping to scavenge
Another's kill.

Her voice, once my retreat,
Now an echo calls another's
name.

I plea for amnesty. I stop.
I conjure her from the past.

She lifts her eyes.
Her smile comes thin,
Uncertain,
I rub against her remembered
form.

A moment, two at the most.
The memory goes with the
wind
Like a seagull's frightened
screech.

Rejected,
Even in fantasy,
I bow my head
And walk on
Around the prison's gray yard.

On February 28, writer Jerome Washington presented a poetry reading in Fancher Auditorium. Having read some of his influential short prose and poetry, I wondered what had happened in this man's life to influence him to write with such direction and message in his novels, plays and poetry. What was behind his cogent word images?

Washington spoke with us as if we were acquaintances meeting him for a chat in a café. Born in Trenton, New Jersey, and "raised on reverse psychology," Washington was trained as a journalist at Columbia University. He served as a combat medic during Vietnam, converting to Buddhism during the war. After Vietnam, he became active in the civil rights and peace movements, later moving to New York City.

Washington's writing revolves around his prison experiences and dissatisfaction with the judicial system. He had been accused of murder in New York City. Not having sufficient evidence to disprove the charge, he was sentenced to prison. Later, he learned that the government had been keeping him under surveillance in San Francisco at the time the murder was committed in the New York. With this new evidence, and after subsequent appeal, Washington was released.

The purpose of the writings, Washington said, is to evoke change. He discussed the relationship between art and social change: art acting as a medium for change. He stressed the danger of silence and the necessity that each person find a topic that touches his thoughts and begin to speak out about it. He said that he does not write with malicious intent, but he writes to expose the abuses of the prison system. His works have consequently been banned from several prison libraries.

Leaving the reading, I remembered the musical influences and rhythm in his poetry, the sounds of consonants and word patterns—but I also remember his message: don't be silent; you have a responsibility to speak out.

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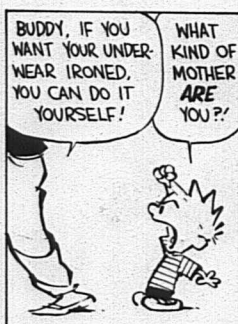
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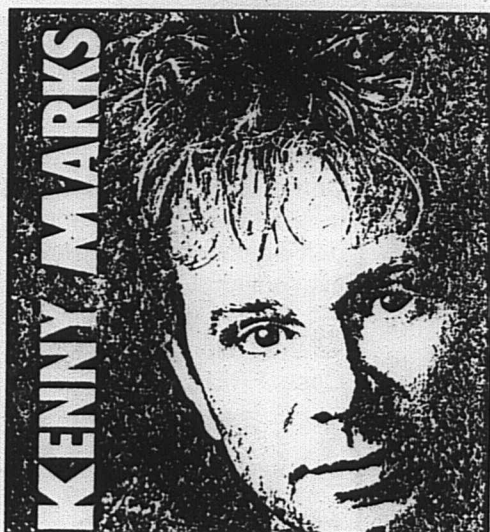
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Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson





TONIGHT ("Another Friday Night")
Wesley Chapel, 9:00

THE HOFFMAN CINEMATOGRAPHIC VERTEX

by Randy Hoffman

DRIVING MISS DAISY (PG) ☆☆☆1/2

Recommendation: The theater, and step on it.

Approval: I would approve such a decision.

Capsule Comment: A great actress and a great actor turn in great performances in a good movie. Expectations.

This movie's central concern is human expectations, and it is a very good illustration of how to make an audience aware of its own. First, on the positive side: the filmmakers' determination to let the story *suggest* issues (rather than, say, kick the viewers in the gut) is the characteristic that most distinguishes it from the ranks of recent American pictures. The mastery of the understatement and the subtlety is clear throughout as the film deftly weaves around the issues of race, religion, literacy, aging, and family, darting in and brushing the hearts of matters and quickly moving on.

There really isn't a plot to this movie, but that's not of great importance. What it's basically about is the changing relationship, over the course of thirty-odd years, between a stubborn and independent-minded Jewish widow (Jessica Tandy) and the black chauffeur (Morgan Freeman) that her son (Dan Aykroyd) has hired to drive for her. Through the long march of time we watch as the pair grows closer together and she comes to trust and depend on him. What we leave the cinema with is a wide but beautifully detailed mosaic of life.

Secondly, however, consider the casting. Tandy and Freeman filled their roles more than adequately, but Aykroyd impressed me as being rather flat. This is from

Wesley Chapel Hosts Eastman Jazz

a Public Information Offices release

The renowned Eastman Jazz Ensemble from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester will perform at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 24 in Wesley Chapel. Conducted by Associate Professor of Jazz Studies Bill Dobbins, the ensemble is composed entirely of students who write much of the music they perform.

Acclaimed for their originality and energy, the jazz ensemble has served as a launching point for work with jazz masters such as Count Basie, Woody Herman, Buddy Rich, Mel Lewis, Thad Jones and Freddie Hubbard. Chuck Mangione, former director of the Eastman jazz program, is also an alumnus of the ensemble.

In addition to preparing its members for the future, the jazz ensemble has recorded five albums: *Eastman Jazz Ensemble Live*, *Holiday*, *Montreux*, *Hot House* and *Spiral Galaxy*. The group and its individual members have also won more awards in the annual *Down Beat* magazine student talent competitions than any other school.

Dobbins, head of the Eastman jazz program, is experienced internationally as a composer, author, performer and clinician. He has worked with Pierre Boulez, Clark Terry, Al Cohn and Phil Woods, and composing and arranging for Barry Harris, Red Mitchell, Lew Soloff and Dave Liebman. Dobbins has toured in Spain, Portugal, West Germany, Austria, Denmark and great Britain, and his instructional books, including the recent *The Jazz Workshop Series*, are used throughout the world.

Tickets are available in advance from the Houghton College music office at (716) 567-9400.

two things, I think. One is the expectation I have from SNL and a dozen movies that whenever Aykroyd walks onscreen I should be prepared to laugh. It was very hard to believe him in this dramatic outing. But the other reason Aykroyd seemed flat is the simple fact that his character was cardboard, which leads me to my final point.

I knew this film had been nominated for a Best Picture Oscar when I sat down to watch it. In the last few years I've managed to catch such Oscar nominees as *Amadeus* and *The Color Purple* and I got chills on the back of my neck from them. I was hoping for more of the same here, but it just wasn't to be had. Instead of sitting back and feeling the ring of masterpiece in my brain, I found myself noticing shallow characterizations and unnecessary profanity. It was distinctly uncomfortable to have the sneaking suspicion that no matter how good the movie was, it could easily have been much better.

"Oh, come on," I hear from some of my readership, "the idea of this film was just to tell a good, artistically well-crafted story, not to be a 'profound statement about the human condition.'"

Is there so little profound vision left in Hollywood, then, that anything better than average can expect a nomination for our nation's most prestigious film award?

Think about it.



Sports

Floor Hockey

by Kevin Fuller

Floor hockey is arguably the fastest and most physical game that the intramural program has to offer. Players of both genders flock to the gym in order to take part in a good hour of bumping, pressing, and shooting.

The league is split into three divisions: Men's A league, Co-ed A league, and Co-ed B league. In the Co-ed A league, the Pigeon Stompers roost at the top with a 4-0 record.

Co-ed A League

1. Pigeon Stompers (Charlie Howard) 4-0.
2. Guns & Roses II (Mark Thorp & Jen Barret) 3-1-1.
3. Cronies (Deb Frase & Marian Anderson) 3-3.
4. Drop Your Gloves (Doug Petingell) 1-4-1.
5. Rattle & Hum (Gary Salvatore) 1-4.

In the Coed B league, Bailey's Boys, coached by Darren Wingard, have compiled a perfect record of 5-0, and goalie Kevin Terry has given up a mere four goals.

Co-ed B League

1. Bailey's Boys (Darren Wingard) 5-0.
2. Mustangs (Doug Periera) 3-3.

3. Asleep in Church (Rand Bellavia) 2-3.

4. Turtles (Peggy Thompson) 1-5.

The Hacks currently lead the Men's A League but are looking over their shoulders due to pressure from the Bumbling Idiots and 101.

Men's A League

1. The Hacks (Stephan Schilke) 4-0.
2. Bumbling Idiots (Charlie Howard) 4-1.
3. 101 (Gary Salvatore) 3-1.
4. Blazing Blades (Jim Francis) 3-1.
5. Ledley Left Us (Bill King) 1-3.
6. Old 2nd (Eric Darling) 1-4.
7. Ledley's Loyalists (Dave Wheeler) 0-6.

"I enjoy playing floor hockey because it's physically demanding, and you're forced to exert yourself," said junior Scott Lewandowski, a member of Bailey's Boys. "It also serves as a chance to get together with the group from the last year's floor."

The intensity and action which floor hockey is associated with inspires players of all kinds to grab a stick and get out on the court.

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THE PLAN

Friday night, May 23

7:00 Intro-Mark Cerbone

Movie: *Mississippi Burning*, followed by discussion

10:00 Coffeehouse

Music by Jay Rosen, Eastern College (with Houghton friends)

12:00-12:30 We join the WMF prayer vigil

Saturday, May 24

7:55 Breakfast in Trustees' Dining Room

9:30 "Our Relationship with the Rich"-Mark Cerbone (We always focus on the poor)

10:45 "Community Today"-Mark Cerbone (Living in community without being part of a formal community-Why? How?)

12:00 Lunch at Church

BYOM-Bring Your Own Mug

1:30 "Compassion"-Marian Kurath-Fitzsimons

(What does it mean?)

(The role of compassion in our lives)

2:45 Closing-Mark Cerbone

(What can we do?)

(Academics and Activism)

Prayer and Praise

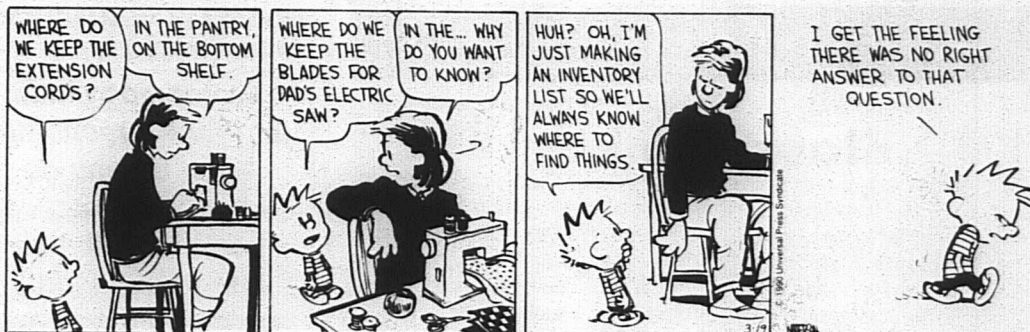
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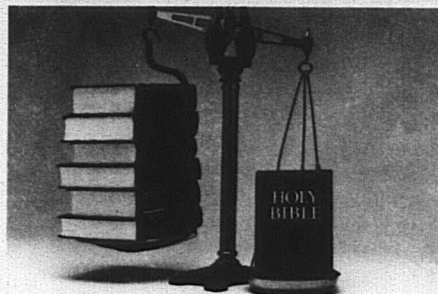
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Good evening
Houghton!!!



Opinion

Dear Editor:

I feel compelled to respond to the war of words about this whole matter of homosexuality and accepting homosexuals as human beings.

First, I would like to answer Mr. Wheeler's challenge (March 1): "Let's assume the traditional view of homosexuality as sin is true." Let's do more than assume: let's define homosexuality as sin according to I Corinthians 6:9-10 (NIV): "Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor *homosexual offenders* nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God." I also would like to direct your attention to statements about burglars and the sexually immoral. God makes no less a stigma on these groups. I agree that we also have no excuse to.

Personally, I feel that thieves do get no less a stigma. A la Jen Garrison's statement, "Better watch your back," how often do we say, "He's a thief—Donnie told me he stole \$50 from him—better watch your wallet!" And about the heterosexual offenders—If you saw Jimmy Swaggart walking down the street, how many of you would cross to the other side? Have I made my point? We (I am guilty, too) should be ashamed of how we treat sinners. We should definitely not *condone* the sin, but we need to love the people and lovingly convince them that the Lord can help them deal with their problems.

I wonder what the reaction would be if we hung red crosses at Alfred or Geneseo which said, "Christians play chess" or "Christians swim" or "Christians are humans." Do you understand?

To Mr. Shiner, I don't feel that any of us, and especially Miss Wer-

berg, find ourselves less dependent on God's mercy than any moral offender, for God's mercy is what we exist on from day to day.

Jim Hilliard

Dear Editor:

There has been a lot of discussion and debate (sometimes heated) concerning Mark Shiner's article, "Gay Men Swim" since February 23's *Star*. I would like to express my views about such situations.

In the New International Version (which isn't from Satan), I Corinthians 5 is entitled, "Expel the Immoral Brother!" Paul is specifically referring to a man from the Corinthian church who was sexually immoral—he had his father's wife. At the end of the chapter Paul instructs the church to "expel the wicked man from among you." Paul takes this from the Old Testament (Five times in Deuteronomy alone there exists the instruction to "purge the evil from among you"). Throughout the rest of I Corinthians 5, Paul argues that we should not associate with Christians who are sexually immoral. According to other places in scripture, homosexuality is a sin, and it is included in the term "sexual immorality." Therefore, we should not associate with homosexual Christians.

All of us nonhomosexual people had better not start getting self-righteous, though. Paul goes a little further than just sexual immorality. In verse 11 he says that we "must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat." Indeed, Paul does not mean to limit this list to these six sins. He uses these six to mean sin in general. Therefore, we should not associate with Christians who sin.

Actually, my last sentence was not totally accurate. I stated it that way to get a reaction (I only wish I could have seen your face when you read it). Correctly stated, that sentence would read, "Therefore, we

should not associate with Christians who *practice* sin."

"Practicing sin is just that—practicing. What do you do when you practice something? You intentionally do it over and over—you intentionally repeat the action."

What is the difference between sinning and practicing sin? Well, that's easy, but not so fast. First, did King David sin or did he practice sin? Did Abraham sin or did he practice sin? Now that you have answered those two questions, I once again ask, "What's the difference?" The difference is that sinning is not a habit, and it is not something we do purposely over and over again. Practicing sin is just that—practicing. What do you do when you practice something? You intentionally do it over and over again—you *intentionally* repeat the action. Practicing sin means intentionally performing the same sin over and over again.

Sinning is excusable and forgivable. Practicing sin is neither excusable nor forgivable. Even God won't forgive you unless you repent. Repenting does not mean saying you're sorry and going out and doing it again. Repenting also does not mean that you won't do it again. Repenting does mean saying you are sorry, meaning it, and trying to keep yourself from sinning again.

Thus, we are not to associate with Christians who practice sin—no matter what kind of sin it is. We are, however, to not only associate with Christians who sin and repent, but we are to love them—even if they have had homosexual experiences.

Your Brother in Christ,
Barry S. MacTarnaghan

Rant Atheism

by Mark Skinner



The first year I was at Houghton I had a pretty extreme crisis of faith. Within two months of arriving here, I had declared myself an atheist. Since then I have met a lot of people who have "lost their faith" while at Houghton. And more often than not, I have found that the reason these people have lost their faith is simply because their religious experience has not been what it was promised to be.

It seems that there is a tremendous discrepancy between the promises the Christian religion makes and what most Christians actually experience. We are told that we will have peace, fellowship, community. We hear that Christians can have a "personal relationship" with the Creator of the universe, and that this relationship is characterized by joy and gratitude. But deep within, many of us hold the suspicion that things just aren't as good as they should be—that something, somewhere, is dreadfully out of whack.

Once in a while a person will have the courage to articulate this experience. She will ask the questions most of us here are too afraid to ask. And when she does dare to ask, she will be met with rejection by Christians who have been taught all their lives that this sort of questioning is simply inappropriate. Perhaps some of her friends will simply stop being her friends, too afraid of catching the disease of unbelief. And this rejection only makes the questions all the more harrowing, belief all the less tenable.

When a person proclaims herself an atheist in a place like Houghton, her words should fall on us as a stinging critique of the way we do religion here. What she is saying, in a lot of ways, is that we have failed.

But beyond this, the atheist is often the prophet. She has had the courage to proclaim that if there is no more to Christianity than what she sees among the "religious" here, then Christianity is a farce, a sham, a scandal in the most unchristian sense of the word. And in saying this, she calls all of us to account for the way we've used our faith to insulate ourselves from the pain of the world.

We need to do much more for the atheists at Houghton than mumble an "I'll pray for you" over our shoulders as we run away from them. We must, I think, be willing to enter into the agony of unbelief with them, to try to understand and to listen. And perhaps, if we listen closely enough, we will come to grips with our own suspicions that Christianity was meant to be more than what we've experienced all our lives.

"What small percentages of today will become the critically important large percentages of tomorrow?"

What's 1%?

by Jenna Gieser



This is an age of percentages. They make up page after page of statistics. Studies are done on just about every subject imaginable and the statistics are published in *People*, *Newsweek*, or *The National Enquirer*, depending on the topic. We often determine the importance of issues from the statistical percentages presented to us. We like impressive percentages to get riled up about.

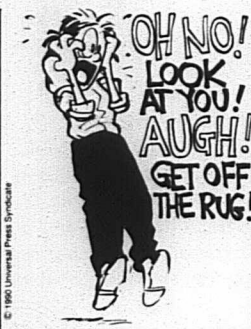
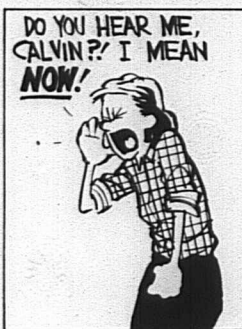
Often we dismiss statistics as unimportant when the percentages sound inconsequential. Why has our country become more environmentally aware? We did not become concerned until the statistics became impressively ominous. California and Iowa have lost more than 95% of their wetlands, Minnesota has lost more than 90% of its marshes and swamps, Brazil has seen 95% of its rain forests cut—these statistics are what it takes for us to get interested, and we still aren't willing to do much about them.

Now I'd like to bother you with a little tiny percentage. While I was playing Trivial Pursuit the question was asked, "What percentage of the earth's water is drinkable?" The answer: 1%. This little percentage gives us life. Every day we use water. Every day we contribute to water pollution. We take it for granted. But this is a little percentage of great importance. While it often takes small percentages having become large percentages to catch our attention, we have here a small percentage that will only become smaller.

I find myself wondering what other important small percentages we overlook. What small percentages of today will become the critically important large percentages of tomorrow? Each of us needs to spend a greater percentage of time not only being educated about what is going on in our world, but giving a greater percentage of our time to working toward finding solutions and putting those solutions into action—into our own actions.

Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



MOM! MOM! I JUST SAW THE FIRST ROBIN OF SPRING! CALL THE NEWSPAPER QUICK!

HA HA! A FRONT PAGE WRITE-UP! A COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE! A CIVIC CEREMONY! ALL FOR ME! HOORAY! HOORAY!

OH BOY! SHOULD I PUT THE PRIZE MONEY IN A TRUST FUND OR BLOW IT ALL AT ONCE? HA HA! I CAN'T BELIEVE I DID IT!

IT'S A HARD, BITTER, CRUEL WORLD TO HAVE TO GROW UP IN, HOBBS.

