

# THE HOUGHTON STAR

SEPTEMBER 14, 1990 • VOLUME 83.2

*L. David Wheeler & Ivan T. Rocha, Editors*

W E L C O M E S   Y O U

## BACK TO school

.....  
what's new at  
houghton college  
this fall  
.....

FACULTY • STAFF • PLANT

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**THE HOUGHTON  
STAR** ★

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

**S**top for a moment; find a pen and a sheet of paper, a napkin, or if necessary your opposite hand; and figure out how many minutes there are in the average threescore-and-ten year lifetime. (Remember to factor in seventeen leap years.) Subtract from this numeral the twenty, twenty-two, forty, sixty-nine years worth of minutes you've already used up. Subtract from this numeral the minutes you anticipate spending waiting in meal lines, sleeping, waiting in checkout lines, engaging in personal hygiene, waiting in registration lines, etc.

What you have left is, I suspect, a number drastically reduced from the beginning total. While this is still a sizable number, its size depends on your living until your seventieth birthday. But there are no guarantees, as evidenced by the universally-ignored eagles by the campus center. Time is precious—and fleeting.

One year and six months ago, I decided I would devote a large percentage of my precious, fleeting time to a ridiculous college newspaper. Somehow, I thought, I would justify the newspaper's relentless gobbling of my evanescent minutes by pro-

## musings on the evanescence of life

by L. David Wheeler

ducing something that would be of use to people, that would enable them to better "watch and pray." Yes, and I would use my editorials to facilitate commitment, responsibility, reason, love, joy, peace, patience. . . these were decent ideals to take into the *Star*—the best of ideals, in my opinion.

If I've lived up to my ideals for the *Star* last year, then the countless minutes, hours, days, and weeks invested in this publication had meaning. They have counted, because they were part of the work of the LORD. If I haven't, then all I've done is waste my time, and I'll have to account for it someday.

The breath of life was God's first gift to Adam, and, similarly, His first gift to each of us. We may use that breath to honour Him by advancing His Kingdom with the decisions we make and the manners in which we act on these decisions, or we can squander it, casting

aside our inheritance in the foolish harlotry of the prodigal.

Too much squandering occurs on this planet already. We add to it by letting our petty squabbles escalate. . . by wasting our energy and intensity on demonic irritation and resentment. . . by subordinating compassion to the success-god before which we prostrate ourselves.

New beginnings have a special quality about them: they enable us to take stock of our current situation, analyze the alternatives, and start over. I can't think of any better way to use this early-semester period, this "Christian Life Emphasis Week," than to purpose to end the squandering of the breath of life—the gift of God—on the machinations of the devil. Now is the time to prioritize, and then to live this semester, and the next, and all the days of our lives (however long or short they happen to be) in line with our new priorities. ☆

## a few points of order

*Letting you know  
what we're doing  
and why.*

by L. David Wheeler

**W**elcome to the first non-freshman edition of this year's *Houghton Star*. For those of you unfamiliar with us, or for those forgetful among you, the *Star* is a student publication focusing on the events, issues, and ideas significantly affecting the Houghton community (reprinted from page 2 by our own permission). In other words, the *Star's* focus is on the collective us: what we're doing, what we're thinking and discussing, and how we're reacting, interacting, and maturing as a result of what we're doing, thinking, and discussing.

Basically, as one of us mentioned

'way back in his spring '89 candidacy issue, we want to make the *Star* informative, challenging, and enjoyable (enjoyable=fun). If you as students, faculty, staff, and administrators benefit from our *Star* by gaining valuable input for decisions and future planning—or just enjoying the time spent with us—we'll be satisfied and happy.

Incidentally, the *Star* will be published bi-weekly this year, for a number of reasons—mostly stewardship of funds, resources, time, energy, and sanity. The quality of the issues will, we hope, offset the drop in quantity. Keep us posted. ☆



# BACK TO SCHOOL

by stephen vikler and david wheeler

what's new at  
houghton  
college  
this fall

## FACULTY STAFF PLANT .....

### PLANT

As you stroll around the campus these days, you probably don't think that Houghton's appearance has changed much over the summer.

There are still lots of trees around, the quad is still here, and all of the major buildings—including the music building—are still intact.

However, the Houghton "plant" has undergone many changes over the past few months, including changes to the library, Luckey Building, Fancher, the campus center, and a few off-campus houses.

#### LIBRARY

The most visible changes on campus are found in the library. According to reference librarian Linda Doezeema, the library received lounge chairs, a display case, and numerous shelves from United Wesleyan College, which closed after the 1989-1990 school year. The new chairs have been put downstairs in the current periodicals room (current newspapers have been moved in with current magazines), while the display case is on the main floor.

You now have to go through the main library to get to room L1 instead of just walking down the stairs in the library entrance. This change was made so students "can get to the bathrooms from the main library and so the music library is connected to the main library," said Doezeema.

Other changes to the library include the addition of a microfiche reader (as of yet uninstalled) and the enclosure of the reference section.

#### FANCHER & LUCKEY

Within Luckey Building, college relations moved from the basement to the first floor.

Lt. Colonel Kennett of the Salvation Army also moved from the basement of Luckey Building to the third floor of Fancher Building. The other offices that moved into Fancher over the summer were development (from McMillan House) and alumni (from the campus center).

Because the alumni office moved to Fancher, Rev. Al Gurley's (Director of Campus Ministries) office was moved from the campus center

basement to the old alumni office on the main floor. His old office is now being used as a conference room. Also, a new information desk was put into half of the old Student Senate office over the summer, the other half being used as a Senate conference room, according to Senate leadership. The Senate office is now in the former phonathon room, which was also moved to Fancher.

#### OFF CAMPUS HOUSES

In off-campus housing changes, McMillan house, formerly the home of the development offices, is now a women's house. Bedford, a women's house last year, is inhabited by men this year. (The squirrels are still there, though).

The Houghton College "plant" has definitely changed over this past summer. However, as the old saying goes, "The more things change, the more they stay the same." As we continue through this semester, we can be assured that, although the physical appearance of this "intellectual factory" has changed, the results—"scholar servants"—will stay the same.



## FACULTY &amp; STAFF

The new school year brings with it an abundance of new faces in faculty, staff, and administrative positions. A number of this year's new "crop" are Houghton graduates, returning because of Houghton's Christian liberal arts program—and, in some cases, its rurality.

Once the Shenawana resident director, 1981 Houghton graduate Timothy Nichols now finds himself in the roles of Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Student Programs. After studying at Houghton and at Buffalo State, Nichols worked for seven years in student development at La-Tourneau, John Brown, and most recently at Nyack, where he was assistant dean. When the position at Houghton became available, Nichols applied, not out of a desire to leave Nyack, but out of a desire to broaden his opportunities. "The idea of coming back to Houghton was really interesting and appealing to me," he reminisced. "I was very honored and excited about being able to come back. Besides, I would rather live in a quiet rural setting than in the New York City area." Accepted by Houghton, he loaded himself, his two pet collies, and his goldfish Ethel into his truck, storing Ethel in a rather precarious mayonnaise jar. (She now resides in a deluxe gumball-machine-style bowl.) Nichols described his goal as "transmit[ing] to a new generation of Houghton students the kind of positive experience I've had here."

Also new in the Student Development Offices is Dianne Janes, Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Residence Life. Graduating from Spring Arbor College in 1980 with a BA in psychology, Janes worked for three years at Geneva College as resident director, campus minister, and instructor. She

then worked for a year as an admissions counselor at Spring Arbor, earning money for further education. This further education took the form of the Masters program at Michigan State, where she earned her Masters in higher education administration. After two years at North Park College, in the same position she now holds at Houghton (although at North Park she was also the RD for over 170 upperclass males), Janes spent a year as a substitute teacher on the secondary level, "for fun." This year was "a year of adventure," said Janes. "I was reevaluating whether I wanted to go back to student development." Frustrated with the "meat market" approach she saw in many college's interviewing practices, Janes saw in Houghton a pleasant alternative. Janes lives in the old Molyneaux farm and is currently getting acquainted with Houghton people and policies, and refurbishing her campus center office, occasionally pausing to glance at the picture of herself in clown regalia. "On rough days, I look at it and grin."

Former students of the now-defunct United Wesleyan College will recognize Prof. Richard Eckley, Assistant Professor of Christian Ministries. Eckley, a United Wesleyan graduate, returned to the school to teach after studying at Asbury and Princeton and pastoring in the Pittsburgh area for six years. Houghton's religion department, somewhat understaffed after the relatively recent losses of Drs. David Meade and Jack Norton, was in need of a faculty member in ministerial studies and theology, and United Wesleyan was closing down. Eckley moved in August to Buffalo, from where he commutes to campus. "I feel right at home with the faculty," Eckley observed, noting

that his "values and approaches to ministry" correspond well to those evidenced in Houghton. Eckley is currently a doctoral candidate at Duquesne.

Prof. Beverly Hurst, part-time instructor in music education, is a Houghton alumna who earned her Master's at Buffalo State. She is an elementary music specialist, and has taught music at an elementary level at Clarence Central School in Clarence, NY. Hurst, described by Fine Arts Division chair Dr. Ben King as "extremely highly-regarded," has had a long-standing relationship with Houghton through student-teaching.

Prof. Glen Avery is hardly new to Houghton; he taught history at his alma mater from 1987 to 1989. He spent the 1989-90 year working on his dissertation in history, which he will present at Ohio State. History is not Avery's only field of interest and knowledge; he holds a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from Plymouth State College in New Hampshire. He joined the Houghton faculty in 1987, interested in a small, liberal arts school where he could teach while completing his dissertation. "[This] gave me a chance to give back to the school some of what I took from it as an undergraduate," said Avery. This year Avery is Interim Assistant Professor of History.

Relieving the art department crunch of recent years (rising student enrollment plus only three professors plus Gary Baxter's current Egyptian sabbatical), Profs. Jerry Counselman and Rebecca Coffman have joined the Houghton faculty. (See article on page 6.)

These are only a few of the new faculty and staff at Houghton, and in upcoming issues the *Star* will introduce several more to you. ☆

introducing...

# NEW ART FACULTY

by deborah carr

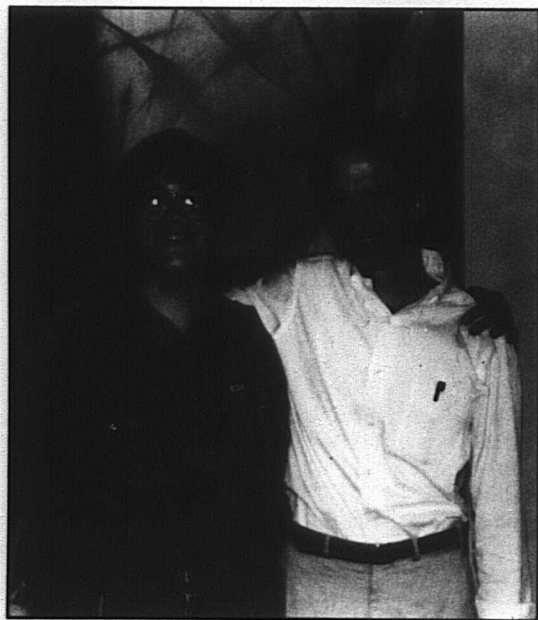
If you've had the chance to visit the art gallery in the basement of Wesley Chapel this month, then you've had a rewarding introduction to this year's new art faculty, Rebecca Coffman and Jerry Counselman.

Rebecca Coffman, 1989 MFA in Ceramics from Texas Tech University, will be taking Gary Baxter's place this year. Prof. Baxter is on sabbatical in Egypt. In much of her work, and in her ceramics exhibit in the gallery, Ms. Coffman focuses on the vessel as an image for artistic representation, rather than as merely a functional piece. Ms. Coffman once worked as a production potter in San Antonio, and while the business information gained from this experience was rewarding, she felt that her self-expression as an artist was stifled. As a result, she decided to explore the creative possibilities of vessels, rather than

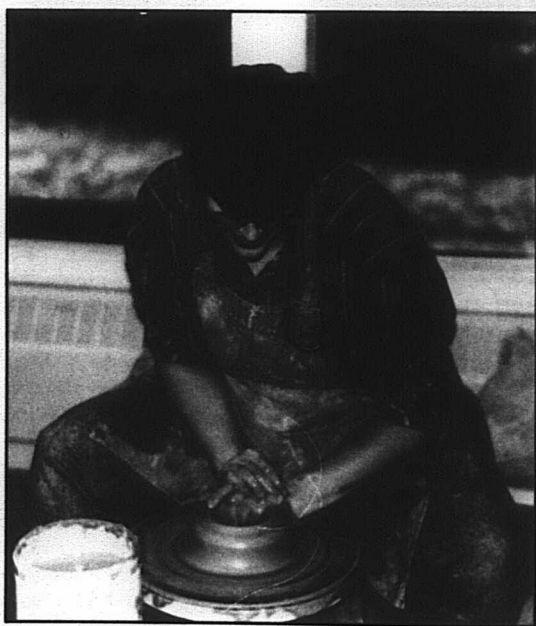
just their functional possibilities.

Jerry Counselman, Professor of Graphic Design and College Graphic Designer made his Houghton debut designing the brochure for this season's Artist Series. Mr. Counselman comes to Houghton with an MFA in Graphic Design from the Rochester Institute for Technology. His work concerns not only the initial concept of a project, but the process leading to the finished product. As a designer, he must be aware of the artistic aspects as well as the technical aspects of his work. His works on display range from topics dealing with European Immigrant designers to experimental typography.

The show, as a whole, ties together many symbols and ideas which speak to our own experience. Be sure to catch the show, and insightful introduction to the new art faculty.



Profs. Coffman and Counselman, left to right (P. DUPLER)



Rebecca Coffman hard at work (P. DUPLER)



2

allegany  
county

years

the nuclear  
reprieve

by david rhenow

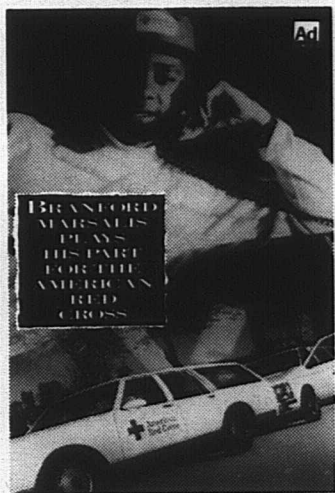
**T**he nuclear waste storage issue came to a screeching, though temporary, halt this summer in Allegany County and all over the state as Governor Mario Cuomo signed the "methodology bill" into law. This bill states that the New York State Siting Commission must first determine the method of nuclear waste storage to be used before selecting the site. The commission is forbidden from making this decision in less than two years and is barred from visiting any potential sites during that time, providing some of relief for disgruntled Allegany County residents. The Concerned Citizens of Allegany County (CCAC) was asked to work in cooperation with the Siting Commission in deciding on the method of waste storage to be used, but has decided against any participation with the committee. Citizens in Cortland County, however, have been working with the commission.

Another happy occurrence for the anti-nuclear dump movement over the summer was the dismissal of disorderly conduct charges against

dump protesters made last spring. A grand jury found no grounds for the charges brought against several county residents, including one on horseback, who blocked the road to the proposed dump site in West Almond in April. Charges were also brought against police for the way they handled the situation, but those charges were also dropped.

CCAC, although celebrating victory, has been active over the summer. In late August 400 attended a weekend family campout, which was held in West Almond near the proposed dump site. Also this summer, a bike rally from Corning to West Almond was held to benefit the CCAC. Houghton maintenance workers Ken Stonemetz and Tom MacHamer participated and helped raise about \$300 for the cause.

The group continues to keep a close eye on the proposed dump site in West Almond for possible violations of the restraining order, and holds its uncompromising stand against a waste dump in Allegany County. Says Prof. Jack Leax, "Nothing is solved. It's just a chance to catch our breath." ☆



PLAY Your Part

BE A RED CROSS VOLUNTEER

## coming next week

The *Star* talks with CLEW speaker Rev. Billy Simbo, gaining his perspective on the life of discipleship.

Homecoming and the people who will make it happen.

The Persian Gulf crisis: an essay by political science professor Dr. David Benedict.

Houghton's general education requirements are under review. The *Star* interviews the reviewers, examines the considerations they face.



## REVERBERATIONS

is a brand new program on WJSL this year. Tune in every Tuesday night at 9:30 for exciting interviews with interesting people. Your hosts: Dave Rhenow and Kevin Fuller. Guest this week: Wally Hollis, missionary with Trans World Radio. Don't miss it--Tuesday, 9:30 p.m, WJSL 90.3 FM.

## RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS



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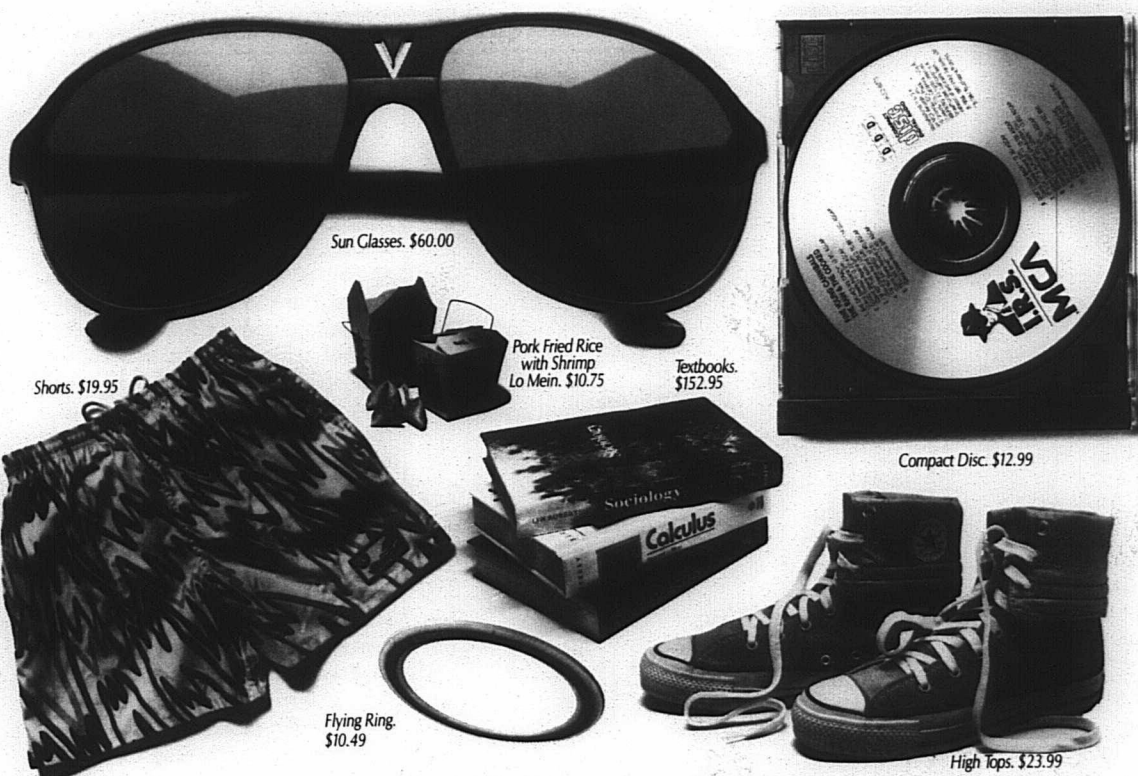
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# DO YOU *know* THIS MAN?

..... profile .....  
}

by ivan t. rocha

**N**ow seriously, folks, do you *really* know your academic dean? Or is it that you have a vague notion of who you think he is? Maybe you've come to think of him as the leader of some sort of Mafia that has its headquarters on the first floor of Luckey. Organized crime, you know; maybe they spend their days figuring out ways to inexplicably raise your tuition and rip you off without your knowing it. No? What then? Some sort of KGB-like bureaucrat, perhaps. That, at any rate, would explain why you constantly live in the fear of being caught breaking the pledge; with such a well-organized police force, who wouldn't? Come now, most of us are sane enough to realize that such conjectures are, at best, the crazed fancies of a sick mind. That, however, doesn't change the fact that a fairly sizable chunk of the Houghton College student body does not *really* know the man who sits in the Academic Dean's office.

Clarence L. Bence. Of course, you know *who* he is. At some point in time, either in chapel, Sunday school, or under other circumstances you have at least become acquainted with the man. If you are at all like most students who meet Bence for the first time, you were probably struck by the thought that he might actually stare a hole through your forehead if he wanted to badly enough. But, unless you were in really deep trouble for some reason, your fears were probably dispelled rather quickly by his straightforward affability. The public Dean, then, is probably quite well known to most if not all who are involved with the college in some way. The private man, however, is not that familiar.

A certain compulsiveness in his character makes the academic dean a workaholic who, nevertheless, finds great pleasure and relaxation in gardening. Anyone who



has ever tried to book an appointment through Dean Bence's secretary realizes how difficult it actually is to obtain a meager half hour of his time, not because he doesn't want to see you or because he doesn't care, but simply because there are only twenty-four hours in a day, and most of them are already booked, several weeks in advance, for the seemingly endless activities and deliberations that make up the routine of the vice-president of a large organization. Nevertheless, if ever you have braved Lindleys' Hill (Park Drive) and have ambled by the Bences' front yard, you were probably a little bit surprised to see a rather healthy-looking and well-tended vegetable garden, perhaps with a late crop of quite formidable squashes. A touch of the gardener's pride shows through when Bence speaks of his "horticultural barricade to prevent students from walking across the quad." His words, however, reveal the driving compulsiveness a workaholic: "My escape is working in the garden—with the underlining of *working*, I haven't learned. . . ."

A Houghton alumnus who characterizes his four-year experience here as one of "loyal opposition," Bence goes on to say, "I loved the school. . . but I was disillusioned with the tension that existed then (and I think still exists) between Houghton the 'family' and Houghton the business institution." Sounds familiar? "We're small enough that

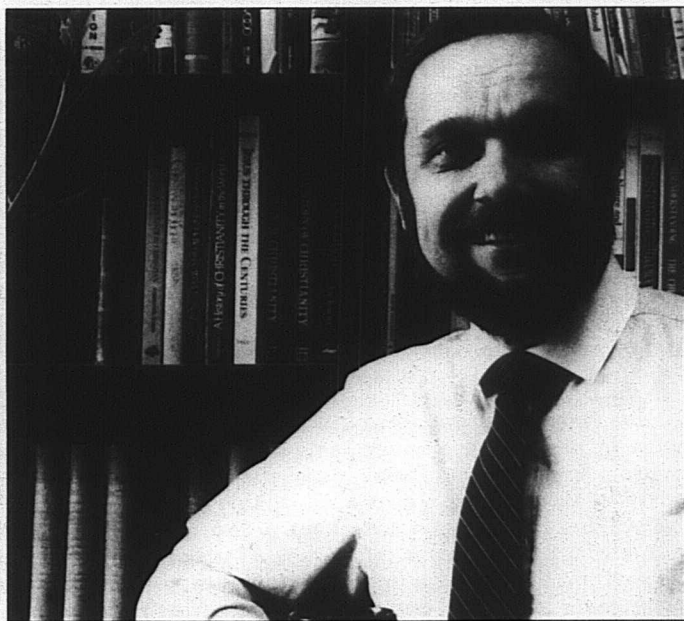
we think we should get individualized treatment and 'special consideration,' [but] at the same time we need to realize we are large enough that we live in a kind of institutional world where policies need to be applied without [undue consideration of] the individual student." Yet throughout his graduate studies, Houghton was never far from Bence's mind for, he says, "the concept of a scholarly community" was very appealing to him. As a result,

**"I loved the school. . . but I was disillusioned with the tension that existed then (and I think still exists) between Houghton the 'family' and Houghton the business institution."**

letters were exchanged, but repeatedly the conditions were not favorable for a move to Houghton, at times because the college did not have an available position, and at other times because the Bences were not ready to move. Nevertheless, in an answer to prayer, four years ago the opportunity presented itself, and Clarence Bence became the Academic Vice President and the Dean of Houghton College. Quite a mouthful for someone who left without the least intention of returning.

Intimate you are not, but now you know a little more about the man who inspires so many different emotions and wild conjectures among the many whose lives are presently connected to the college in some way. It is our intention to acquaint you with a prominent member of this community—whether a student, a faculty member, or an administrator—through this column, to appear sporadically, every two or three issues. ☆

**"My escape is working in the garden—with the underlining of *working*, I haven't learned. . . ."**



# and in other NEWS

by kenneth cole and mike ballman

**O**ften, as college students, we get so involved with what is happening in our own lives that we have little time to keep track of outside events. The purpose of this column is to present a summary of news that is happening elsewhere in the world. We will often present occurrences on an international scale, as well as domestic ones. Our purpose is not to offer political opinions; although we may occasionally include our own perspective, we will make an effort to keep the news which we present as unbiased as possible.

## Germany

In Germany, the societies of East and West are still merging together, although now the initial novelty is perhaps beginning to wear thin. On October 3, the East German Parliament will vote itself out of existence and both East and West Germany will become (politically) the Federal Republic of Germany. West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl pronounced the decision, made last week, as a "day of joy for all Germans."

## The Gulf

In the US, because of the conflict in the Persian Gulf, oil prices continue to rise as the economy stagnates. Investors worry that because of oil shortages, (they don't all believe that Saudi Arabia can compensate for 2 million barrels of oil per day) prices will rise, causing inflation, lower profits and unemployment. The stock market has

been falling, and public opinion expects conditions to deteriorate: 59% of adults in a *Time* /CNN poll expect a recession. (A recession, it should be noted, is not synonymous with a depression, à la the 1930s) Only time will tell.

According to official White House statements, the placing of US troops in Saudi Arabia is intended solely to deter an Iraqi invasion. The US military force assembled in Saudi Arabia (the largest deployment in a non-western region since VietNam), however, is quickly transforming from a defensive to an offensive posture. The general consensus of military analysts is that 50,000 men with 600 tanks, accompanied by the two aircraft-carrier battle groups already in the Persian Gulf, would constitute a formidable deterrent to an Iraqi attack.

Within two weeks, the US will have a force positioned in Saudi Arabia of well over 100,000 men, 1500 tanks, and several fighter and bomber squadrons supported by four carrier battle groups. ☆

# in case you were wonder- ing. . .

**TONIGHT, SEPTEMBER 14**  
1814 Francis Scott Key pens "The Star-Spangled Banner," which would later become the United States national anthem.

**SEPTEMBER 17**  
Citizenship Day, the official beginning of Constitution Week.

**SEPTEMBER 18**  
1793 Washington lays the cornerstone for the Capitol Building.

**SEPTEMBER 19**  
1928 Walt Disney introduces his creation Mickey Mouse.

**SEPTEMBER 21**  
Autumn begins.  
1776 Colonial patriot Nathan Hale dies at the hands of the British.

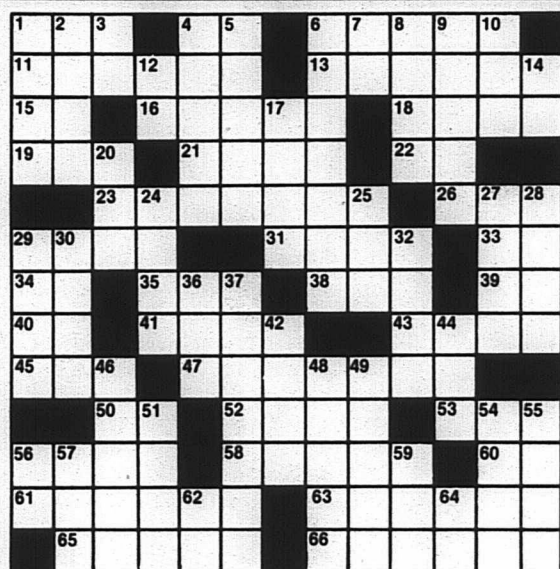
**SEPTEMBER 23**  
1642 Harvard holds the first college commencement in America.

**SEPTEMBER 24**  
1755 Supreme Court justice John Marshall is born.

**SEPTEMBER 25**  
1690 The first American newspaper, entitled *Public Occurrences, Both Foreign and Domestic*, is published.  
1789 The Bill of Rights is submitted to the states for ratification.  
1968 Star photographer Peter Dupler is born.

**SEPTEMBER 27**  
1722 Colonial patriot Samuel Adams is born.  
1840 Thomas Nast, father of the modern editorial cartoon, is born.





## ACROSS

1. Southern state (abbr.)
4. Prosecuting officer (abbr.)
6. Helped
11. Outdoors person
13. Slanted type
15. Division of the psyche
16. Scornful expression
18. Short note
19. Change color
21. Click
22. Amer. volunteer organization (abbr.)
23. Violation of allegiance
26. Hot beverage
29. Small rodents
31. Snare
33. Type of army discharge (abbr.)
34. Public notice (short form)
35. Also
38. Prepare golf ball
39. Southern state (abbr.)
40. Chem. abbr. for cerium
41. Cat sound
43. Stalk of plant
45. Dine
47. Fill with life
50. Edward's nickname
52. At another time
53. Mischievous child
56. Moisture from eye
58. Subject
60. Either

solution  
will appear  
in this space  
next issue

61. Seed used for oil
63. Get away
65. Puzzle
66. Kept hidden

## DOWN

1. Sharp
2. Woman
3. Be
4. Close; compact
5. Area for combat
6. Aircraft area
7. Indefinite pronoun
8. Wet
9. Vote into office
10. Pale
12. Post script
14. Company (abbr.)
17. Direction
20. And so on
24. 500 sheets of paper
25. No. (Scot.)
27. Rim
28. First man
29. Chemical deterrent
30. Thought
32. Bothersome person
36. Edu. Group (abbr.)
37. Gives
42. Excessive drinker of wine
44. Prepare golf ball
46. Annoy
48. Cash
49. Positively charged electrode
51. Dull
54. Easy gait
55. Worry
56. Tensile strength (Physics, abbr.)
57. Ever (Poetic)
59. Roman 300
62. 12th Gr. letter
64. Symbol for argon

**O**n Tuesday, September 18, Wesleyan Church General Superintendent Dr. Earle L. Wilson will give the first in a series of twelve chapel addresses on the Wesleyan heritage. This series, coordinated by the chapel committee, will begin with the life of John Wesley and his immediate impact on the church, and follow with discussions of historical movements resulting from Wesley's life and ministry.

The series will feature a number of experts in the field, including Wilson, author and Wesleyan Theological Society president Dr. Donald Dayton, and Houghton trustee Dr. Melvin Dieter, who is the director of the Wesleyan/Holiness Study Project. Several Houghton faculty and administrators will be speaking as well, including Dr. John Tyson, who has written two books on Charles Wesley.

# wesleyan heritage chapels

## REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SHAPED OUR FAITH

by kimberly vorhees

Chapel committee coordinator Dr. Harold Kingdon expressed his hope for students to become more informed of and "gain appreciation for this part of church history." He also stressed that he had specifically requested that speakers formulate their messages with their non-specialist audience in mind, realizing that most students are not well versed in the Wesleyan movement (a broad term which encompasses more than the current Wesleyan church).

"We are fortunate in having some real experts in the field," said Kingdon, who said he expects the messages to be full of good content that students will enjoy.

For specific information on dates and speakers, consult your chapel schedule. ☆



# THE *Hoffman* ..... cinematographic V E R T E X

..... by randy hoffman .....

Hello again, you Houghton videophiles and videophobes. Once more I bring you my absolutely unreliable judgment about films which happen to be being exhibited someplace in our shared awareness. My system for this column, if you haven't seen it before, works like this:

#### TITLE (MPAA rating)

My rating on a scale of one to four stars (or a turkey, if merited)

My "recommendation" clause (what I think about you going to see the movie)

My "approval" clause (what I think about the college showing this movie)

My "Capsule Comment" (a summary of my criticism)

A blank line followed by my full commentary

So, without further ado—

#### **DARKMAN (R) ☆☆**

**Recommendation:** Attend the film only if you don't care to be illuminated.

**Approval:** Apart from the dunderingly excessive violence and some "light moments" profanity, why not? Then again, without the dunderingly excessive violence and "light moments" profanity, why bother?

**Capsule Comment:** Horror maven Sam Raimi, while perhaps

achieving some respect from mainstream Hollywood for his crash-and-dash direction, will impress no one with the originality or consistency of his writing.

What do you get if you cross the comicbook characters Swamp Thing and Unknown Soldier with the first episode of the *Incredible Hulk* TV show?

Did you guess a sensitive, subtle film showing real character development?

Wrong.

Did you guess an exciting action picture with a tragic edge?

Closer. But still cold in the middle.

Did you guess a Hungarian burrito?

Let me clue you in. "Darkman" does the same thing for superheroes that "Matt Helm" did for superspacemen: provide a popular, glib-talking, hard-fighting, dim-witted ripoff that cashes in on a genre's recent success. Sam Raimi, fresh from directing the mildly acclaimed *EVIL DEAD* movies, both wrote and directed here, but the more of *DARKMAN* that one sees, the more one gets a sneaking suspicion that one is not being served a dish prepared carefully in the kitchens of Chez Graphic Novel but rather a comic book concoction straight from the vegetable domain of the

Charlton Cuisinart.

For one thing, Raimi plagiarized from other sources like a kleptomaniac, and chooses to prominently display his stolen clichés as if they were military medals. From the "Swamp Thing" we get a scientist who is blown into a body of water just as he reaches for the bomb in his lab; from the "Unknown Soldier" we get a man who always wears bandages on his real, disfigured face and performs heroic acts while wearing disguises that would be perfect except for his compulsion to scratch the itch; from the first episode of TV's *Incredible Hulk* we get a rational fellow with an emotion-related curse who tries to regain his humanity but who must resolve himself to being a monster (and, presumably, hitchhiking across the country in weekly installments to the tune of a sad piano riff).

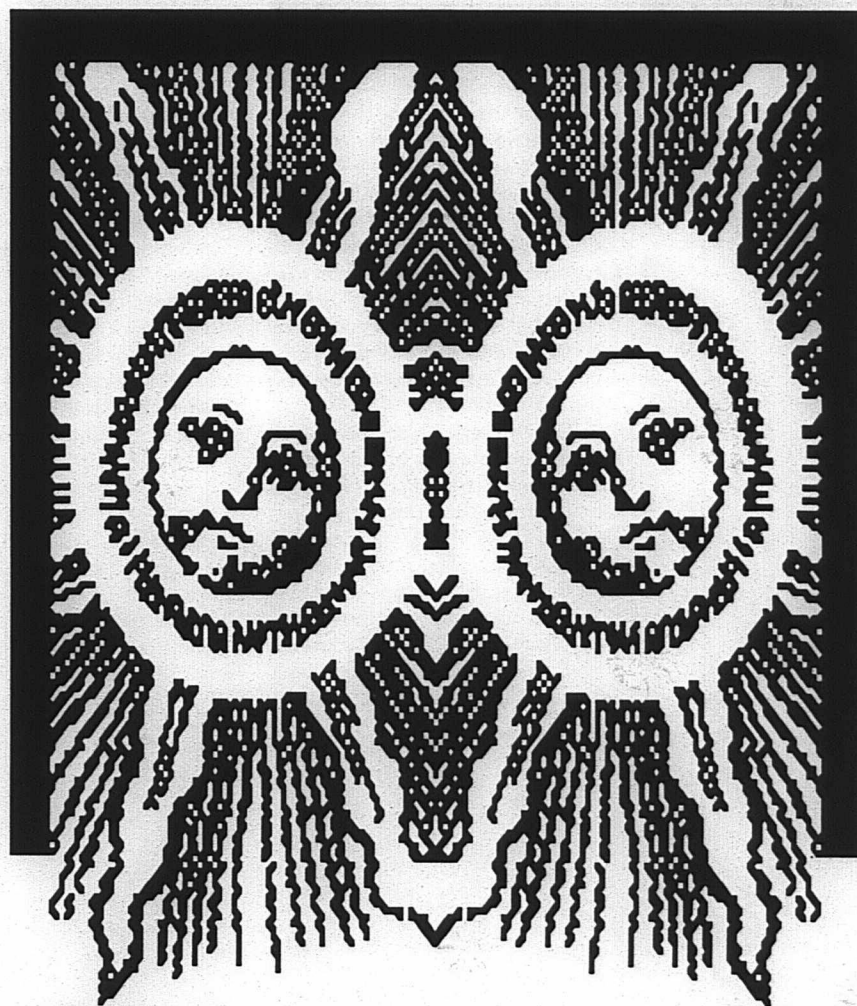
Secondly, the movie has believability gaps wider than the Old Niagara. Darkman himself isn't a self-consistent character.

Thirdly, Raimi frequently over-directs; he creates among other things a memorable rivet-shooting scene in which we see the villain from hero's point of view, the hero from the villain's point of view, the rivets from a speeding side view, and even the hero from the rivets' point of view.

But don't get me wrong, now. If you're one of those who can set all this aside, if you can let yourself be swept along in the current of the fast-paced story, you'll probably have fun. It's a well-produced, let's-have-fun movie, and it has some interesting special effects. Of you people I would just ask a little imagination and a little of the magic dustbunny called Discernment: Do you want to pay to root for a modern, scrupleless, killer "hero", or not?

In the words of the immortal comics editor Stan Lee, "Nuff said."

WRITE • WITH • THE • STARS



# THE HOUGHTON STAR ★

THE HOUGHTON COLLEGE STUDENT NEWSPAPER

## STAFF SEARCH 90

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL IVAN ROCHA AT 567-4522 OR DAVE WHEELER AT 210

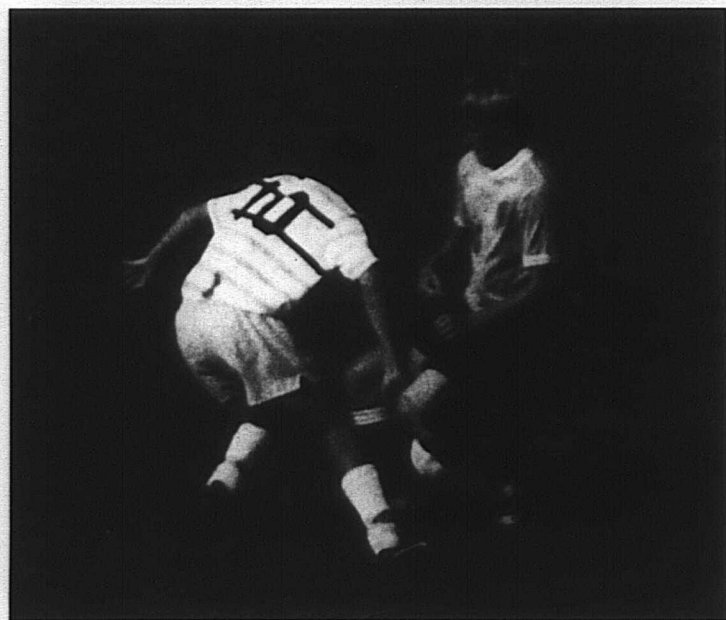


# houghton soccer

## KICKS OFF TO A GOOD SEASON

by nathan ransil

.....



A scene from Tuesday's game against Buff. State (P. DUPLER)

Coming into the season, the Houghton men's soccer team faced some questions and uncertainty. Could the team recover from the loss of seven seniors? Well, after three games, the team's record is two wins and one loss, and the future seems bright.

Head coach Douglas Burke, in his twenty-third year of coaching soccer, is pleased with the results so far, and looks for continued growth. "We have a young team," Burke noted, "but we've had a good year recruiting, and some of the freshmen are playing above expectations."

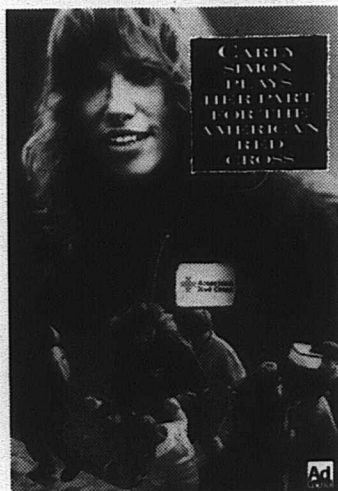
Coach Burke also recognized outstanding play by junior striker Randy Levak, who has three of the team's four goals in the early going. Levak is quick to credit the talents of Stephan Schilke, Rob Goodling, Dan Dominguez, and backup Amos White at midfield. "if they don't control the game," Levak acknowledged, "then we [the strikers] don't get the ball, and in the meantime

the defense gets shelled. Good midfielders win games, and we have got a good midfield."

Burke hopes that freshmen can fill in for striker Andy Doell, who is out for three weeks with a severely sprained ankle. "We miss 'The Weasel'," commented fullback Dan Long.

In its first three games, the Highlander defense has allowed only one goal. Burke sees room for improvement, but he predicts the team will become a solid unit as they continue to play together. Schilke believes the team is always learning stating that "it's a team that improves every time they go out."

Leadership of the young team is provided by Schilke, the lone senior, and a number of juniors, particularly Chad Groff and Kevin Goos, the team chaplains, who also share the goal-keeping duties. Coach Burke said he feels the team maintains a good attitude, and believes they are a good representative of Houghton College. ☆



PLAY Your Part

**American  
Red Cross**



**East**

**N.Y. Giants** (11-5-0): The Giants are definitely in the top 5 in the NFL.

**Phil. Eagles** (10-6-0): Should give the Giants a battle right to the end.

**Wash. Redskins** (8-8-0): The Redskins may not have enough to pull off a big season like last year. The extra wild card may help.

**Phoe. Cardinals** (5-11-0): Do not expect much from Phoenix.

**Dal. Cowboys** (3-13-0): Three wins if they are lucky. Expect Steve Walsh to be traded soon. [Please find a real coach.]

**Central**

**Chic. Bears** (10-6-0): Watch for the Bears as they make an attempt to return to Super Bowl status. (A mellower Mike Ditka??)

**Minn. Vikings** (10-6-0): Only if they stay healthy.

**Det. Lions** (9-7-0): No, the Lions will not finish at the bottom. One of the teams to watch. They may make it tough for Chicago.

**G.B. Packers** (8-8-0): Unfortunately Don Majkowski decided to be a holdout. This will hurt the Packer's chances.

**T.B. Buccaneers** (4-12-0): Probably a laugh.

**N F C****West**

**S.F. 49ers** (13-3-0): The only way to beat these guys is if they do not show up. Like it or not, watch for No. 3 in a row. Super Bowl Championship, that is!

**L.A. Rams** (11-5-0): Potential for being the second best team in the NFL with a chance at topping the 49ers.

**Atl. Falcons** (9-7-0): Hello Jerry Glanville! Hello Playoffs?!

**N.O. Saints** (7-9-0): No comment!

# N F L preseason predictions

by dru christian

It's a brand new NFL season at last, and I know you are all as anxious and hopeful for a terrific season as I am, so I just thought I would jump on the bandwagon and make my preseason picks. You may argue with me if you want to. I don't claim to be an expert; this is only my opinion.

**A F C****East**

**Buff. Bills** (12-4-0): Quit fighting among yourselves, guys, and get a hold on what you can do.

**Miami Dolphins** (10-6-0): Dan Marino will keep them in the race.

**N.Y. Jets** (9-7-0): The Jets could surprise a few people.

**Ind. Colts** (8-8-0): Dickerson cried too much; now he is out for six weeks.

**N.E. Patriots** (5-11-0): This may upset a few New Englanders.

**Central** (This has to be the toughest Division right now)

**Cin. Bengals** (10-6-0): Ickey's back! Boomer will be at the top in passing again.

**Pitt. Steelers** (9-7-0): The Steelers surprised a few people last season. They could be the next AFC champions.

**Hous. Oilers** (9-7-0): New offense. High hopes.

**Clev. Browns** (8-8-0): Should stay in contention. This division could have three playoff representatives again. I am not sure if four is allowed.

**West**

**Den. Broncos** (12-4-0): Denver has the potential to lose another Super Bowl.

**L.A. Raiders** (10-6-0): May upset the Broncos, but I doubt it.

**Seat. Seahawks** (8-8-0): Another ho-hum season?

**K.C. Chiefs** (6-10-0): Prove me wrong!

**S.D. Chargers** (5-11-0): They have a lot to prove.

**Don't give up on your favorite team yet! Wait until the first four weeks are over. ☆**

# The Black Hole

M. TAYLOR

**H**ello! It's me, Matthew L. Taylor, once again with the column that you may eventually love to hate. I won't bother to introduce myself because my editors want this (and practically everything else I write) short. So, if you want to know who I am, don't ask anyone else, ask me. I'm readily available at home and around campus but always identify yourself before entering my home because I own a Pit Bull.

So much for the bull. Now to the meat of the issue. "What meat?" you may ask. "Why, my meat," I will heartily reply. The MEAT of this column. [Watch those minds, people.] What is it that I'm going to do to this paper... er, or, then again, I mean "with this column." [Ahem!] First of all, I wish to dispel the notion that I am taking the place of Mick Williams' "Minefield" or Mark Shiner's "Rant." This is MINE. It will be ME, not someone else. I refuse to follow in the footsteps of cynics.

Although I may have already been labeled as such, please don't feel that you have to think of me in such a manner. Think of me as simply "upset." And OH am I upset. You'll find that I have an opinion on just about everything. I will try to keep it to the "important" things when writing, but who's to say what is and what isn't? I surely will not take a stance on that. (And neither will Shirley.)

What I wish to do with this column (MY column) is address those issues that I and many others find controversial, of social importance, and generally stupid in nature. Sound like "Rant?" Well, it won't be. I will not thrash an issue

until it dies a painful, tortuous death on the cold cement floor. I refuse to battle with perturbed letter writers over sensitive matters. And I am NOT going to be cynical.

Letters to the *Star* addressing my column WILL be accepted IF they are reasonably short, intelligible, argumentative and have a real name, address and phone number attached, and people, I DON'T answer letters from people with names like Confused, Upset, Immoral, or T.G.P. If you have a good, substantial argument for me, I may answer you, (Yes, I judge what is and isn't "valid" and "substantial." It IS my column.) If you strike a point, count on an answer. But if you just want to yell at me because you think I am stupid, I might just tell you to doink off.

Anyway, I am going to take matters of "importance" and try to make sense of them in this nonsensical world. I may thrash about on an issue and get some people pretty touqued (that means "upset" for all you colloquially illiterate people). If I do, that means I'm doing my job right, though this is not my sole purpose. I simply wish to help in the reasoning out of things a little, and I hope that you'll help me by letting me know just how you stand on whatever it is I scream about.

So, that is how I can best describe what I want to do. Otherwise, just read this column and it will basically describe itself quite graphically. I look forward to shedding some light on things and I hope that you will stay with me through them. Until next time, same Matt time, same Matt channel, I bid you a farewell, a toodaloo and a get lost! What—the what—the☆

# MAIL

Dear Houghton Community,

*Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:1-2, NIV)*

Freedom is a concept central to the Christian life. As Christians, we are told that we have been set free. But what is this freedom? How can we exercise it? The standard answer is "we have been set free from sin." Great! What does that mean—that we never sin? No, of course it doesn't. It does mean, however, that we are not ruled by our sinful nature, but by the Holy Spirit. Anyone who has been subject to an addiction will tell you that it is slavery of the worst kind. Shortly after succumbing to an addiction, the addict realizes that her habit is no longer under her control; rather, she is controlled by her habit. She will start planning her life around satisfying the desires of her habit.

Sin is the worst habit ever, because we are all born addicts to it. And sin is one habit we cannot break. There is no 12-step plan to quit sin; we do not have the ability to free ourselves from sin. When you become a Christian, however, you receive that power from God in the Holy Spirit. The death of Christ atones for all the sins you have committed or will ever commit, and the Holy Spirit empowers you to live a sinless life—what a wonderful message! No wonder we call it the good news!

There is a problem, however. (There would have to be, or I wouldn't be writing this, right?) What are we doing with our freedom? Pretty harsh question, isn't it? I'll tell you what I've been doing with my freedom: watching movies; listening to music; playing video games; reading books and magazines; eating Al's wings, pizza, and mozz sticks; playing pinochle; and—oh yeah—regularly attending classes, studying for exams, getting my papers in on time (honest, Dr. Tyson, I'm going to do it this year!), and skipping chapel (Oops! Sorry, Dean Danner). Now, don't think for a moment that I believe that any of the above are sinful (except maybe skipping chapel—but even that's a close call). Okay, those of you who were about

Continues on page 19



to explode in righteous indignation can relax. There is nothing wrong with any of these activities (especially eating Al's food—there's definitely nothing wrong with that!).

"If those things aren't wrong, then what's your beef, Lennon?" you might ask. Well, the apostle Paul says it best: "Everything is permissible for me"—but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me"—but I will not be mastered by anything." (1 Cor. 6:12) You see, the things I've listed above are not sinful in and of themselves, but they become sin if we let them master us. I propose that we have been slaves to sin so long that we do not know how to be free. We feel the need to be a slave to something, so we willingly enslave ourselves to things of this world—movies, music, clothing, cars, food, books, games, friends, members of the opposite sex (if this is not a problem for you, hasten to see Dr. Young!)—the list goes on and on. We have taken our freedom and exchanged it for mastery by the things of the world. How God must weep to see that we accept His freedom with one hand and reject it with the other!

How can we get our freedom back? That's the question each of us must answer. You know what your stumbling blocks are. (If you don't know mine, please write me, enclosing a self-addressed stamped envelope—and, oh yeah, \$379.95 for postage, handling, and photocopies.) Not everyone has to be like the rich man and sell all his possessions and give the money to the poor. But for that particular man, that was the only way to gain his freedom. His possessions owned him, and he could not accept freedom from Christ until he was willing to give up his former master. Are we willing to give up our current master(s) to regain the freedom Christ gave us?

Brothers and sisters, this is the exhortation Paul gives us: to examine ourselves carefully with God, by the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, and then determine to be a slave to no person or thing of this world. Are you constantly worried about this or that? Everything is really God's anyway. Acknowledge that and be free. Accept the freedom God offers and relax, knowing that all things are in the Father's hands. When you realize that you really own nothing, nothing can own you.

David J. Lennon

## that man behind the curtain

Rand

**G**reetings and salutations,

My name's Rand. If you know me, hi. It's good to be in contact with you again. If you don't know me, hi. Here is a list of all you need to know about me:

1.) My given name is Rand.

When I was asked last year to write a column for the *Star*, I thought, "Hey, no problem." Just like that. "Hey, no problem." Why? Because I knew that I'd have no lack of things to write about while residing in that hotbed of controversy that masks itself as Houghton College. Unfortunately, I was asked to write my first column outside of said hotbed. (Not to burst any bubbles, but my home life has yet to reach legendary status.)

So, lacking any solid concepts for a column, I am going to fall back on the journalistic mattress known as "Give 'Em a List or a Pie Graph." (Any of you familiar with *USA Today* or *Late Night* know what I'm talking about.) Since my protractor and compass are packed away with my school stuff, I guess I'll have to do a list.

Here is a list of what I'm NOT going to do with this column:

1.) Take Mark Shiner's place. No one could even if they wanted to. (And, just to clear things up for you seniors, Mark never tried to take Jack Urso's place, either.)

2.) Use it as a means of revealing my "true, inner self."

3.) Use it to take you all to a higher level of consciousness.

4.) Try to bring about a kinder, gentler Houghton.

5.) Natter for hours about the supremacy of dunking over sprinkling.

6.) Try to make you all lit. majors. (Okay, maybe just a little.)

7.) I hereby promise never to use Kant's Categorical Imperative or Maslow's Hierarchy in this column.

8.) Use it to justify pledge breaking. Come on, by the time you're college age, you have the tools to justify anything. You don't need my help.

9.) Moan endlessly about the distinction between what is excellent and what is praiseworthy.

10.) Attempt to determine Bob Dylan's religious affiliation.

As if that's not enough, here are some things that I'd like to do with the column this year. No matter what the column itself is like, two things I will periodically include will be:

1.) Partial lists of words that I find wildly humorous. Here are some examples: shrubbery, Sasquatch, pumpernickel — o' — (i.e. "lots o' noodles" or "heap o' porridge") Stuff (with three f's. No, that wasn't a typo.)

**"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?" (1 John 3:17 NIV)**

2.) For those who must have some degree of seriousness in the column, I'll try to include something of at least minimal importance. If you need one now, check this out:

"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?" (1 John 3:17 NIV)

That's about it from here. Don't be afraid to comment on anything I say, but please talk to me about it. I prefer a conversation to a letter if possible. I believe this would be more in line with Christ's teachings on confrontation in Matthew 18:15.

Peace, Love, and Understanding,  
Rand

