

the Houston Star

FEATURE:

the  
Explosion  
+  
10 little  
indians

issue

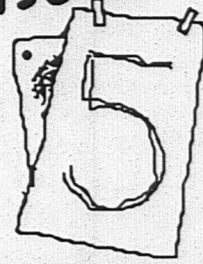
4 Nov. 88

Unwrapping:  
Nov. 14th

ending  
Oct. 28.



issue



# Sermonette

of concern, sheep, and the election

**B**eloved, we are gathered here today to address the concept of why students should be other than inert, apathetic, and unconcerned about the upcoming presidential election. Why, in a year of "wimp vs. shrimp," of mud vs. dirt, of slur vs. innuendo, should students—and Houghton students in particular—give a rip?

I'm not so sure I know, but I do have a few apropos thoughts.

On one hand, we—the generation you will be taxed to support in another ten or twenty years—have taught you well to be apathetic. We have rejoiced that the turbulence and violent leftism of the Sixties has withered and dwindled, being replaced with a quasi-conservatism that we can rest in. That this is also a smoke-screen for "Me-first-and-Only-Is" is something we choose to ignore: greed seems preferable to overt violence.

On the other hand, in many ways you appear to be placid residents of the mythical two-dimensional country of Flatland. We see you: you have height and width; but there is no depth. You slide flatly from classes you endure to chapel you sleep/read through to the palace of institutional cuisine where you share blahs and blabs. Your little light doesn't go on unless there is something that gives you immediate jollies; the thermometer of your outward-directedness was easily read on Founder's Day. As your motto, you have taken Rhett Butler's famous exit line.

And, to quote Tevye, "On the other hand....," my generation may not be providing a very good example. As academics, we often are the princes of put-downs, the sheiks of sarcasm, the champs of chop-ups, the nabobs of negativism, the rajahs of red-marks. If we didn't think it up personally, we say, "It ain't no good." And you have watched us.



dick wing

But back to the election. Does it matter who wins? In one sense, not really—the new president will quickly find himself (until we elect "herself") in the role of the flea on the end of the tail of the dog, presuming he's providing the direction with which said appendage wags said canine. In another sense, it matters greatly: without some personal conviction that this is my election and that my country will be affected, we agree to be apathetic passengers on a boat to nowhere.

Regardless of which side (if any) you might support in this election, the real point is to care, to be concerned, to have a measure of passion. Your focus may not even be on the election itself or on the persons involved, but on one of the issues. There are more than enough issues available—birth rights, civil rights, gun rights, breathing rights, privacy rights, lefts and rights. Grab one, make it yours, and start standing up to be counted.

Life awards no prizes for being wishy-washy. In fact, in Scripture (Rev. 3:16) we read that lukewarmness gives God reverse peristalsis. Some of us here have been shot at in anger to give you your privilege of choosing and supporting a cause. We don't have to agree with you—just don't let us down.

Come on: annihilate the apathists, shock the sheepists. Give a rip.

## Definition time:

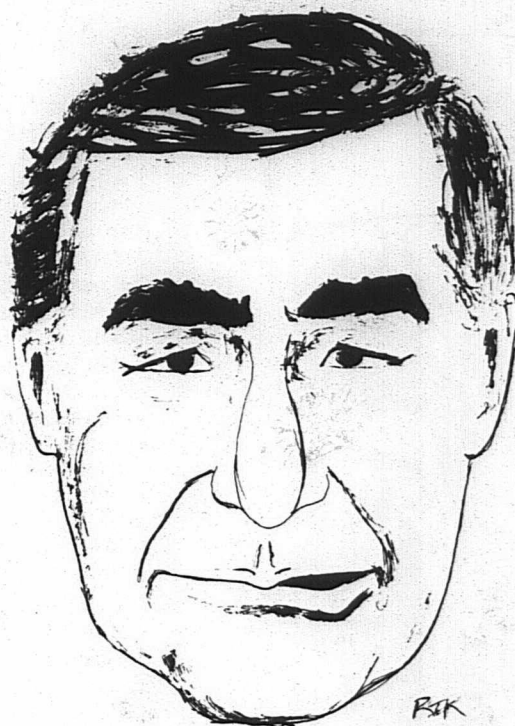
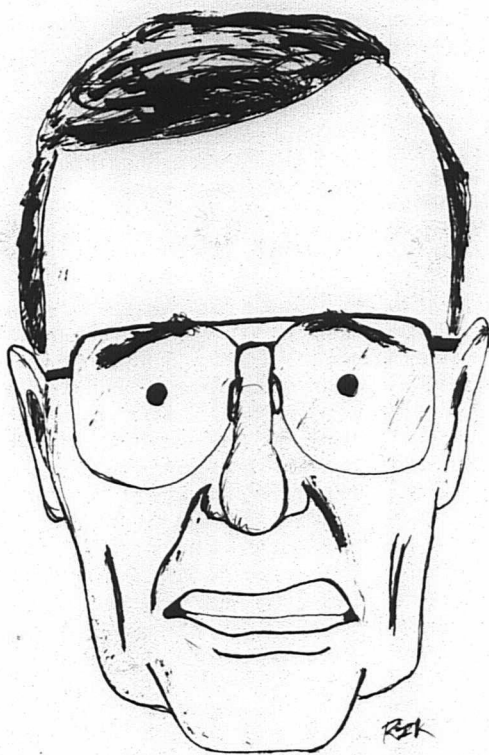
**Atheist (noun):** person seated at midfield during the Houghton-St. John Fisher game but who doesn't care which team wins.

**Apathist (noun):** person seated under media presidential campaign deluge but who doesn't know when the election is.

**Sheepist (noun):** person who acts like a sheep. Interested in food and water, comfort, perhaps in continuing the species. Lost if alone; comfortable only when moving with the flock.

- d. w.





## Where the candidates stand

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### National Defense

George Bush endorses the "peace through strength philosophy" of the Reagan administration, and would attempt to deploy the B-1 and stealth bombers, the MX missile, and the \$4 billion-per-year Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) program, though the source of funds for these projects isn't yet apparent.

Conventional weaponry would be the priority of Michael Dukakis, while SDI would receive only \$1 billion annually. The governor is in favor of a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty and a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. Some defense analysts say the savings resulting from these policies won't be sufficient to pay for the new conventional systems Dukakis supports, which include tanks, jet fighters and fast-attack subs.

### The Economy

In order to encourage economic growth in an industry, Bush favors tax credits specific to the industry, with the assumption that these businesses would reinvest. Dukakis finds more value in helping industries modernize by assisting in research and development over the long-term.

In the area of taxes, Bush states that if he becomes President, there would be "no new taxes" even in response to the federal budget deficit. Dukakis counters with the slogan "no new loopholes," though he would raise taxes as a last resort to decrease the budget deficit gradually.

(continued on page 4)



those who wrote these  
summaries:

bethany howden  
john morris  
val novak  
kathy faust  
dan zerbe  
deb munro  
tammy burr

## Crime

Dukakis expresses a desire to be hard on crime, citing the per capita homicide rate in Massachusetts (half the national average) as evidence of his commitment. In addition, as governor of Massachusetts his state's serious crime rate dropped 13 percent while the nation's increased 4 percent. As president, he would create a council composed of law enforcement officials, legislators and crime victims. This advisory group would assist Dukakis in establishing anti-crime programs.

Bush's stance on crime is severe. For murder, espionage, treason, drug-related and other "heinous" crimes, Bush advocates the death penalty. Bush wants to double the budget for prison construction and utilize unused military bases as prisons. Contrary to his rhetoric, Bush would promote prison furlough programs for all but lifetime/no-parole sentences.

## Drugs

During the past spring, voters blamed the Reagan/Bush administration for doing little to solve the drug problem. Bush now proposes a four-pronged strategy: 1) education: encourage students kindergarten through college age to have a zero tolerance attitude toward drugs; 2) drug treatment: encourage abusers to seek treatment; 3) supply reduction: create an international strike force to destroy drug crops and labs; 4) tougher enforcement: stiff penalties for dealers, such as suspending drivers' licenses and passports, and death penalties in certain cases.

Dukakis has a good record for combating the drug problem in Massachusetts. His strategy for the presidency is to create comprehensive health education for teachers and children and programs for immediate treatment of abusers. He would cut off aid to uncooperative governments and give incentives to those who work with the U.S. to re-

duce drug trafficking. In addition, he would double the number of Drug enforcement agents and increase the number of U.S. attorneys who prosecute drug cases. He would expand role of military in fighting drugs. He opposes the death penalty.

## Foreign Trade

Bush's policy on foreign trade is similar to Reagan's: "Fair but free trade." He would foster bilateral agreements, such as the one that exists between the U.S. and Canada, and push for "minilateral" agreements between small groups of states, to reduce the trade deficit. Dukakis does not think that simply reducing trade barriers will close the U.S. trade gap. He would work toward eliminating the trade deficit by reducing the budget deficit, restoring competitive exchange rates, and stimulating Latin American economies. He counts on a \$6 billion increase in productivity and a \$30-\$40 billion increase in exports to West Germany and Japan.

Neither candidate will curb foreign investment.

## The Environment

Although Bush has made environmental stewardship one of his platform promises, his previous political involvement in environmental issues has not given his official position credibility. Because of past legislations proposed or supported by Bush, he does not have the support of environmental circles. For example, the Task Force on Regulatory Relief, of which Bush was chairman, attempted to redefine wetland areas in a way that would have "removed 2/3 of nation's wetlands from federal protection."

Dukakis has a reputation for snagging environmental issues as they scuttle across his administrative agenda rather than advancing them with the zeal of a true environmental advocate. Overall, however, Dukakis has made decisions which



have pleased environmental groups, although his position is not clear. For example, he approved the development of a shopping complex on a "sensitive wetlands area" in Massachusetts, contrary to the environmentalists' stand.

## Foreign Policy

Dukakis calls for multilateral action; that is, he stresses cooperation among nations rather than dependence on the U.S.'s military force. Therefore, he favors Reagan's policy of reconciliation with the Soviet Union. Dukakis supports both the INF (Intermediate Nuclear Forces) Treaty and the Strategic Nuclear Arms Reduction Treaty (START), but wishes to move beyond these in reducing nuclear arms. According to Dukakis, the U.S. should have a large defense budget. He strongly supports NATO and believes that Europe and Japan should share in the defense burden. Dukakis strongly opposes sending aid to contra rebels in Nicaragua. He believes this behavior is unconstitutional and violates pacts signed by the U.S. He favors increased trade with Latin American nations and calls for an attempt to ease their debt crisis. Dukakis claims that tougher economic sanctions should be made on South Africa in order to discourage racism and the South African army's attacks against neighboring countries.

Bush takes a realist's approach to foreign policy; that is, while the U.S. plays the leader role in global affairs, he believes that its primary goal is national interest. Realism requires skepticism, and in terms of U.S.-Soviet relations, Bush claims to be more skeptical than Reagan. He does, however, support negotiation for START. He also favors negotiations to reduce conventional arms and a pact outlawing chemical weapons. Bush favors resuming aid to the contra rebels in Nicaragua. His objective is to maintain governments in the western hemisphere that are

committed to democracy. Bush believes that the U.S. has a strategic interest in South Africa, which he sees as a stable, pro-western nation. Although he thinks the U.S. should work to change apartheid, Bush does not favor disinvestment; rather, he stresses working with the business community of South Africa.

## Education

Neither candidate is likely to concentrate on education once elected. Educational issues have not been a priority in the campaign, and the Reagan administration cut the budget for federal involvement in the nation's schools.

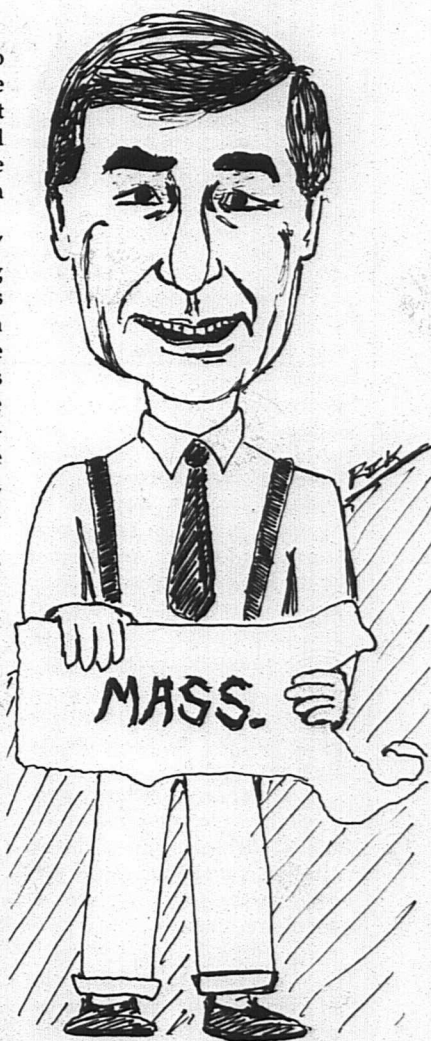
Bush proposes a "merit schools" program: monetarily rewarding individual teachers, administrators and schools for improvements in education. He would encourage parents to save for their children's education by providing "college savings bonds." Using payroll deductions, parents would accumulate savings to apply toward college costs, and the interest on the savings would be tax-free.

He advocates a sharp increase in Head Start funding to open the preschool program to all eligible four-year-olds. He supports prayer in schools and moral education.

Dukakis would focus on teachers; he would use both the Department of Education and increased federal spending to design programs that would draw "well-prepared, enthusiastic, intellectually engaged teachers" into the profession and keep them there. He proposes a national teaching excellence fund to focus on what he calls the 3 "R's" of teaching: recruitment, renewal, and recognition. Included would be scholarships for students planning to become teachers.

He hopes to create a citizens' literacy corps to eliminate adult illiteracy. States and the private sector would provide the funds to team adult education specialists with volunteers.

drawings by  
rick yates



# AGATHA CHRISTIE'S TEN SUSPENSE LITTLE CLASSIC INDIANS

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Directed by Bruce Brenneman

FANCHER AUDITORIUM  
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Tonight is the second of three nights that the play *Ten Little Indians*, a mystery by Agatha Christie, is being performed in Fancher Auditorium by the English Expression Club. Bruce Brenneman, director and EEC coordinator, talked to us about Houghton theater policy.

How do you choose the plays you do? Who makes the final decision?

Most plays are chosen with the audience in mind—what will appeal to them on a broad scheme. I make the choice and run it by the English division to get their responses.

You seem to be doing a lot of comedies or entertainment plays rather than, say, "Antigone," or something Shakespearean in nature.

I acknowledge that we don't have a balance of the great plays that a full-fledged drama program would have. But that's not

my background. I'm not that kind of director. I try, at least, to present a broad experience of plays, so that we don't have all comedies. We try to balance comedies by having serious plays. If we had more faculty members directing, we could have a larger variety of plays. I think we'll eventually get to that point.

As far as what plays can be chosen, do you run into problems?

We do. We are concerned with a few plays from a language standpoint. The language would almost have to be laundered to be acceptable. In the past, we discussed a play a student had chosen which was such a put-down on women, religion, and morals that we, the English division, decided it was not what we wanted to present to the Houghton audience.

Is the decision to produce a play the decision of the English division, or is it affected by the "higher powers"?

Oh, I think it is basically a

decision of the division. When I first came to Houghton, the only drama that could be presented on the Houghton stage was either a religious drama or a locally written drama, which is a very narrow parameter. We have made great strides since then. We have performed *Godspell*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *J.B.*; we have done a great number of different types of plays. Although theater, I would say, is still suspect in Wesleyan tradition, I honestly believe we are heading toward the point where we will offer a theater minor.

You spoke of students suggesting plays. Do you take our suggestions seriously?

Definitely!



dave  
stevick



# Swan Lake

patty carole

If you were in Wesley Chapel on that cold autumn night of October 28, congratulations! Now you can tell your great grandchildren that you saw Houghton College's first ballet. They will surely marvel. They will, however, be even more amazed if they hear of the age-old debates over whether Houghton should have any form of dance on the chapel stage. I talked to Dr. Bruce Brown about this issue.

**Q:** What was involved in the process of bringing a ballet to Houghton?

"Swan Lake" had to be approved by the board of trustees. The college has always been antagonistic to dance. It's a longstanding tradition among evangelicals. In the past, dance was equated with a certain kind of immorality, or with a life-style that evangelicals don't think is appropriate. Yet the realization has come over the years that there are at least two different kinds of dance: artistic dance and social dance. The college's prohibition

has always been against social dance. There has been a change in attitude among evangelicals toward culture in general, and particularly toward ballet. This change has finally filtered down to the college, so Student Development has given the impulse to divorce the two (artistic and social dance) and make it possible for us to bring ballet companies to campus.

**Q:** Has it always been okay to watch ballet or folk dance?

Yes, I think it has been okay. I have been taking students to New York City for ten years, and the big thing that was mentioned about that was that we would see ballets.

**Q:** Some ballets are more erotic than others. Who will decide what ballets should be performed?

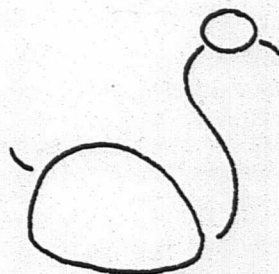
As far as the Artist Series is concerned, what we do is subject to the control of the Cultural Affairs Committee. They have to be convinced that what we bring to Houghton is appropriate to the Houghton standard. That is my concern, too, when I think about

what companies to bring, what ensembles. I am concerned that we bring productions that are new and beautiful and lovely, not productions that test the limits of how far we can go in eroticism.

**Q:** How would you feel, then, about presenting ballets that tend toward eroticism but are considered to be masterpieces by most music critics, such as the "Rite of Spring"?

I imagine that we'll have to look at every production that would run into those sorts of difficulties, whether it be ballet or opera or drama. We'll have to look at how each company presents the material. Do they present it in the most erotic way they can present it? Do they minimize that aspect and stress other aspects? Each choreographer makes the decisions of how each

(continued on page 8)



# Swan Lake

(continued from page 7)

dance will be presented. When we approach any production that may test the limits of the local community's traditions, we have to be very, very careful.

**Q:** Do you think jazz or modern dance will be shown in the future?

Yes, there's potential. Some companies will, in the same evening, perform quite a variety of genres.

**Q:** Are there still people on the administration or trustees that are opposed to having dance on stage?

I suppose there are. They haven't talked to me, but there again I'm not the one who made the decision of whether or not we would have ballet. The board of trustees makes decisions with votes, and there are some who vote no.

**Q:** Do you know if a great majority voted yes on "Swan Lake"?

I don't have the foggiest notion. It's not something that is likely to be rescinded.

**Q:** Do you see Houghton taking big steps in recognizing the validity of dance?

I don't think they are big steps. They are steps, to be sure, but they are minor steps. It has to do with the general mood that says that people can make their own decisions, that you're not dealing with

children. These are young adults. And there's a general recognition in churches that dancing is a relatively unimportant thing to deal with. Also, the churches from which our college kids are coming are changing. These churches have a high cultural tone already.

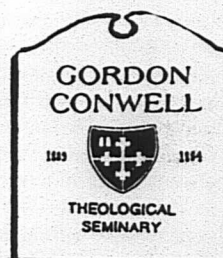
So it seems that, in fact, "the times, they are a-changing." Perhaps by the time our great grandchildren attend Houghton College (and they will attend this illustrious school), avant-garde modern dance in spaceman costumes will be old hat. Then they will marvel not because you were at Houghton's first ballet, but because Swan Lake was first shown in 1988 instead of 1938.

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The Houghton Star is a weekly publication dedicated to printing news of consequence. The attention of the Star is turned inward upon Houghton College. Signed letters should be submitted by 12 noon on Tuesday. They should not exceed one double-spaced page in length; the editors reserve the right to edit all contributions. The editors are also willing and eager to hear criticism.

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The needs of the Third World pull at us from TV news, Time magazine and other media sources. The problems of hunger, poverty, homelessness and disease tug at our conscience; fly-covered eyes, protruding bones and empty bowls reminding us that we ought to do something. Our dilemma is that we students don't know how to help, and anyway, we are already overcommitted and too far away to make a difference.

ODN is a solution. The Overseas Development Network came about as students' concern grew for using their education and abilities in an immediate sense. Since 1983, student-run chapters have been developed on the campuses of Yale, Harvard, Houghton, and 46 other institutions. The focus of these chapters is threefold: to educate students concerning needs and solutions in the Third World, to provide internship opportunities and to support grassroots development projects here and overseas.

The Houghton chapter provides education through monthly forums using films and speakers. We also work with other campus groups as a resource in areas of community development, overseas opportunities and social concerns in the Third World. ODN seeks to coordinate its resources with the needs of campus groups and individuals interested in such programs.

Partnership projects are chosen each year from a listing provided by ODN national. The organization receives requests for college partners that, in order to be accepted, must be developmental in nature, originating from the needs of a community as they perceive them. Representatives are sent to assess the need, and a local agency is founded to oversee

the project. This year we have taken on a rural community in Nicaragua to provide the resources for a self-directed agricultural project. We will accomplish this by funds raised at Houghton, and matched by the national organization. Money goes directly to the community effort, with minimal administrative costs. Misuse on site is minimized by the assisting agency. Appropriate technology is the key concept in our development; instrumentation which is

nonviolent to the culture, the people, or the land. Non-violent technology is a concept that is as relevant to industrialized world powers as it is to agriculturally based Third World nations.

Both the needs and solutions are closer than a busy, overcommitted student might expect. Learning and application do not have to be done sequentially. It is possible through ODN to do while learning and to learn by doing.

## The Minefield

student apathy? I don't care!

mick williams

The politics of the Houghton student body are the politics of apathy. I have found through personal experience and years of questioning that there is relatively little that excites students. Perhaps 50 students out of 1100 actually stand out as rallying points for divergent opinions; everyone else blends into the woodwork, more or less.

This majority has distinguishing characteristics, some of which will probably apply to any given apathetic student: 1) they absorb what their teachers deliver as "received wisdom" (almost by osmosis) and never ask a question; 2) they are strictly utilitarian in their approach, wishing no wasted effort on things not directly relating to their schoolwork or private social life; 3) they are willing to receive but not give of their time, energy, and talents; 4) they avoid arguments, claiming that standing up for what one believes is either a

waste of time, a sign of eccentricity, or embarrassing.

An example of this lack of student interest is the failure of Houghton's liberal student intelligentsia to form a College Democrat club. Never let it be said that I don't support certain Democrats: I stand foursquare behind Andrew Jackson, James Knox Polk, and Grover Cleveland. If there were a College Democrat club, the College Republicans would have a clearly defined counterweight. Diametrically opposite parties gain strength from their continual struggles, whereas unipolar political systems eventually degenerate, like a muscle that is never flexed. The current approach of Houghton's liberals is similar to that of the turn-of-the-century Fabian Socialists: infiltrate other groups and work silently within.



## letters

Dear Dave and Thom,

Your October 28 issue was like *deja vu*! It took me way back to '68 when I was a freshman in a Christian college. That year, three of the guys I graduated with from high school died in Vietnam, the cities of America were on fire (literally) with racial unrest, and all around me on campus were people who needed someone to care. But in the hallowed halls of our dorm, we were not easily sidetracked. With uncommon valor we defended the faith against the devil's music.

Then there was 1974. Different location, different Christian college. Watergate, international terrorism, and the initial impact of Roe vs. Wade didn't distract us. Nor did the needs of those immediately around us. We were still vigilant, protecting the Holy City from the dreaded beat.

Can you believe it? Here it is, 1988. Black husbands and fathers are disappearing in South Africa, natural calamities have devastated Bangladesh, Nicaragua, and the Philippines, and we're in the middle of a presidential election. The people we rub shoulders with every day still hurt and wait for someone to care. Meanwhile, back on the Christian college campus the beat goes on! Or off, depending on which side wins this mammoth struggle.

The world's falling apart but the joke's on it. It can't distract us from the real issues that easily! I'm just glad to know that at least my ears won't be assaulted in the snack bar as my conscience already is. Thanks for the memories. I think.

mike walters

Dear Amy Lawrence,

While I agree that what occurred on October 26 was a kidney stone of a chapel, I wonder about your call for compassion (Oct. 28 issue). I have been taught that God is omnipotent and omniscient. These attributes are ascribed to God in Scripture. But, if you agree that God is all-powerful and all-knowing, why do you question that "the residents who were mangled and slain at the close of WWII somehow brought about their own torture?" It obviously happened by God's permission. According to the Bible, death is inflicted on us as divine punishment (Gen 3). We deserve it.

When Jesus talked of those who died "by accident," he insisted, "Do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men? I tell you,

no, but unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:1-5). Using examples from history of God's wrath in order to motivate people to repent is a Biblical practice. To do otherwise is to give people a false sense of security that may cost them their souls. Such an action can hardly be called compassionate!

What I do not understand is why more people have not expressed outrage at the speaker's implicit dualism and explicit millenarianism. Such doctrines do indeed lack compassion since they render meaningless all attempts by Christians to obey their Father's command to subdue the earth (Gen. 1:28, 9:1, Matt. 28:18-20), the foundation of all Christian action.

mark horne

## bulletin board

### Cook stories

sue crider

Canadian short-story writer Hugh Cook will be featured in a two-day "Fiction Encounter" at Houghton College on Thursday and Friday, November 10-11. Cook will read from his collection Cracked Wheat Thursday at 8:15 pm in the Alumni Dining Room (yes, there will be refreshments). Cook's stories depict in precise detail and with warm affection the experiences of Dutch Canadian immigrants and their offspring. His book will be available in the bookstore.

On Friday at 1:15 pm, Cook will be joined in Fancher Auditorium by professors Jack Leax and Jim Zoller for a Roundtable Rap on the topic "I Love to Tell the Story: The Christian

and the Writing of Fiction." Leax, poet-in-residence at the college, is the author of two books of poems, Reaching Into Silence and The Task of Adam, as well as a non-fiction journal, In Season and Out. His first novel, Nightwatch, is due this spring. Zoller has published poetry and fiction in magazines such as Antaeus, Oxford Magazine, and Blueline.

On Friday at 8:15 pm, again in the Alumni Dining Room, Cook will be joined by students Alicia Beckford and Annie Wong (and more refreshments) for readings from their work in progress. The college and general public is cordially invited to attend these events.



Men's soccer : 9-6-1  
coach Doug Burke

L	Fredonia	3-4
W	Elmira	3-0
W	Behrend	2-1

## By the way,

If you have comments and criticisms that you want us to know about, but don't want printed, write us at **box 378.**

From now on, the **Star** will come out on **Monday nights** rather than Friday, mostly because on Monday's, you may be more in the mood.

editorial:

# An apology

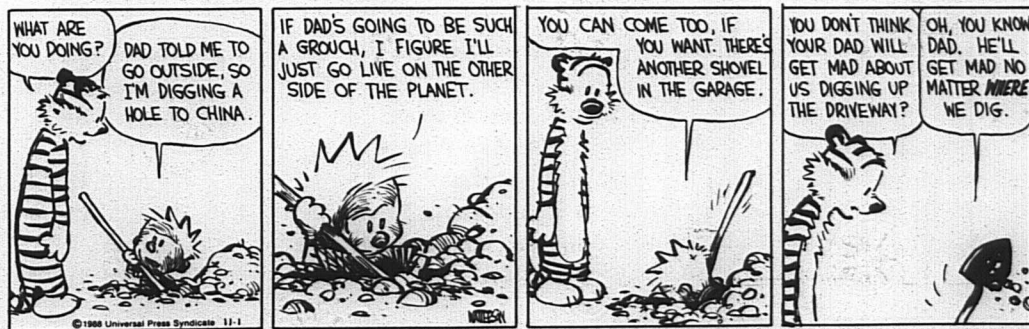
thom satterlee

I want to apologize for myself and some others who are, to use the popular term, "apathetic" about the upcoming election. We have not studied the **Christian Science Monitor**, listened to Ted Koppel or arranged a lunch with anyone from College Republicans. It may seem that we are delinquent (some of us don't even know who Dukakis' running mate is). And you may have ascribed other characteristics to us: lazy, bored, indifferent, dispassionate. Relative to the upcoming election, you would be right. But don't go too far.

Maybe there is such a thing as excusable apathy. It would be wrong to blame a downpour for not being a scattered shower, and for not, therefore, soaking the whole countryside. Choosing to concentrate on anything, by that very action, excludes other things. This is how it is with some of us—at some point, we were convicted that the important thing was reading Plato, playing the piano, studying the history of science or writing poems. And there we send our downpour.

But this is not a sufficient apology. Maybe we are wrong in what we've chosen. Being deliberate in the direction one chooses doesn't make one's direction a right one. Here I can only speak for myself. Intuitively, I would rather read Plato than listen to a presidential debate. And after thinking it over, it seems proper to me that I come to some idea about what freedom is before I bother listening to a promise someone makes to assure me his version of freedom. Literature informs my thinking and affects my actions. Time is finite, so I put my attention on what seems most important. And I mean to put it there hard. Meanwhile, I am disinterested with many subjects, some worthwhile and interesting.

Many people work this way; in fact, even those who devote their attention to this election do so only at the exclusion of other important things. The College Republican should take a walk down the hall to where his friend labors over *Moby Dick*. Either could say, "Look at you, you're so apathetic!" Both would be right. Yes, and both would be wrong.



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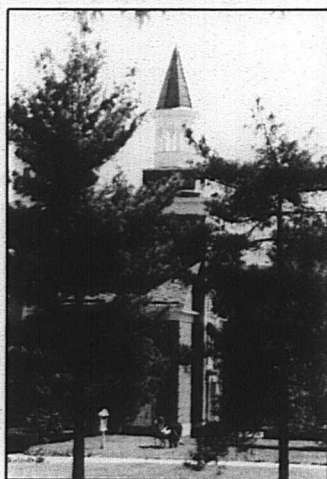
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