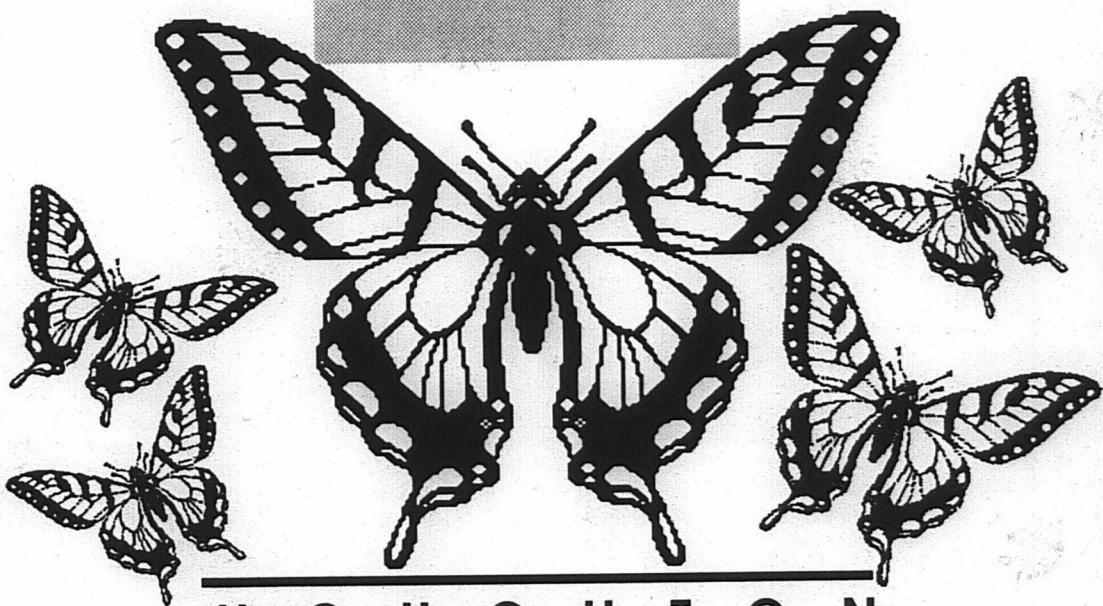


# THE HOUGHTON STAR

SEPTEMBER 1, 1990  VOLUME 83.1

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



## H O U G H T O N FRESHMEN & TRANSFERS

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SPECIAL EDITION

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This issue of THE HOUGHTON STAR is separate and distinct from this year's volume (83) and is dedicated exclusively to welcoming freshmen and transfer students to Houghton College. As such, this issue will NOT contain a number of sections and features which will appear regularly throughout the year. It is a special edition, created late this summer to be a survival kit or guidebook (of sorts) for those who join us in the fall. The editorial staff wishes all of those returning from their summer break an excellent school year, and welcomes aboard those to whom this issue is especially dedicated.

## THE HOUGHTON STAR

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

# WELCOME

an editorial comment

## to houghton college

by ivan t. rocha and l. david wheeler

**H**i, I'm Saint Peter and this is Paradise. Welcome home. Well, maybe not. . . Hi! I'm. . . heh, heh, heh. . . well, I don't need to tell you who I am, do I? But welcome to hell, anyway, heh, heh, heh! No, not quite that either.

Now seriously, folks, I wish I could tell you that Houghton is, indeed, Paradise. Well, it isn't. But then again, it isn't hell on earth either. So, anyway, what is Houghton College? Limbo it certainly is not, and to call it purgatory is not very accurate, so I suppose the only thing left is, well, life. Yeah, I guess Houghton College could be described as a slice of life, a tiny piece of the real world. Before you have a fit, let me tell you what I mean.

OK, so any small Christian liberal arts college you go to is going to be sheltered; I'll give you that. That, however, doesn't mean that you're not going to run into situations where your moral mettle is going to be put to the test. Believe me, people around here don't exactly sport designer halos all the time. And wherever there are people, there are bound to be problems, regardless of how wonderfully Christian they may be. That, by the way, is what I mean when I say that

Houghton is a slice of life out there. Before you know it, even before you make any friends, you'll have run into half a dozen people you absolutely cannot stand. But that's human nature; that's the way it'll be in almost any institutional setting. It won't take long, either, before you become painfully aware of the controversies and battles of words which so often divide this campus over matters that frequently seem hardly worth the effort of discussing rationally, much less fighting about.

The difference is that, despite the many problems which make Houghton very much a part of the rest of humanity, this is a caring community and in that sense, Houghton is, indeed, truly separate from the World. This is a place in which the Christian ideals of unselfish love for one's neighbors are felt rather than seen. Of course people aren't unselfish and loving all the time, but how often have you actually seen communities which very frequently unite in genuine love around members in need? This little town, with its exasperating lack of resources, is a beautiful example of a Christian community that works. True, there are times when Houghton seems to be maddeningly

insular, smug, and immovably settled in its vaguely retrograde lifestyle, but the love of a united community of believers invariably seems to gain the upper hand.

OK, so we've talked a lot about this, and to you it may seem like a lot of hot air because you have neither seen nor experienced the care and concern that this community is capable of dispensing, YET. And that is why I would urge you to build bridges, establish lasting relationships with your peers, get to know your professors (more often than not, they will be delighted to get to know you, too), and finally, don't ignore the community for it is a source of loving support and help in time of need. Yes, I am saying that you will have to do your share by actively participating in the life of the college and by being open to the surrounding community. But rest assured, this small sacrifice is well worth the many small but precious rewards of living here. No, it isn't heaven and I'm not trying to mislead you, but don't let anyone tell you that Houghton is hell on earth until you know for sure what sort of a college you're attending.







One of the many characteristics which make Houghton a unique town is the fact that it has only one church: Houghton Wesleyan, which boasts a remarkably large congregation and regularly holds two services on Sunday mornings and one in the evening. Sunday-school options are plentiful, and service opportunities are not in shortage. Some, however, have a hard time feeling at home in such a large congregation and often look for a smaller, more intimate place to worship. Others prefer not to attend Houghton Wesleyan because of their denominational background. Yet a third group feels the need to worship in an environment which does not remind them of their weekly work and study. It is with these groups in mind that we have compiled this short list (a more complete version may be obtained from the church relations office) of churches in the immediate vicinity (some as far as Wellsville—for the sake of fair representation) which provide alternatives to Houghton Wesleyan. Some of these congregations may be willing to provide transportation to and from Houghton if there are enough people interested in attending. ☆

Source: Directory of Houghton Area Churches  
(Courtesy of the Student Development Office)

#### BAPTIST

**Central Baptist Church**  
Route 305 between  
Black Creek and Belfast

**First Baptist Church**  
Hughes and Chapel  
Belfast

**Rushford Baptist Church**  
9016 Main Street  
Rushford (437-2902)

#### CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

**CMA Church**  
450 North Highland Ave.  
Wellsville (593-5882)

#### EPISCOPAL

**St. Phillip's Episcopal**  
Willets Avenue  
Belmont (268-5295)

#### FREE METHODIST

**Free Methodist Church**  
Angel & Chestnut Streets  
Belfast (365-2919)

#### LUTHERAN

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
470 North Main Street  
Wellsville (593-3311)

#### MENNONITE

**Yorks Corners Mennonite Church**  
Wellsville (593-3287)

#### PRESBYTERIAN

**Presbyterian Church of Wellsville**  
83 Chamberlain Street  
Wellsville

#### ROMAN CATHOLIC

**Immaculate Conception**  
24 Maple Avenue  
Wellsville (593-4834)

**St. Mark's**  
Rushford  
(437-5332)

**St. Mary's**  
Belmont

**St. Patrick's**  
Belfast  
(365-2215)

**St. Patrick's**  
West Main  
Fillmore (567-2282)

#### UNITED METHODIST

**Belfast**  
4 Chapel  
Belfast (365-2529)

**Caneadea**  
Main Street  
Caneadea (365-8213)

**Fillmore**  
25 Minard Street  
Fillmore (567-2293)

#### WESLEYAN

**Fillmore Wesleyan**  
22 East Main Street  
Fillmore (567-8814)

**Houghton Wesleyan**  
Route 19  
Houghton (567-2264)

**North Park Wesleyan**  
13 North Park  
Cuba (968-2347)

#### OTHER

**Salvation Army**  
75 North Main Street  
Wellsville

**First Congregational Church**  
289 North Main  
Wellsville (593-5015)

**Assembly of God**  
Riverside Dr.,  
Wellsville (593-4431)



# PLACES TO VISIT AND SIGHTS TO SEE In Houghton and Beyond



## IN HOUGHTON

### Cross-Country Ski Trails

An interesting hike during the fall and spring, these trails provide plenty of excitement and exercise during the winter months.

### The College Farm

Ordinarily known simply as "the horse farm," it is the site of the college's equestrian program. Worth a visit if you care for horses.

### The Ski Slope

Provides an excellent view of the countryside during the spring and the fall and pretty good skiing (as well as other interesting activities—keep your ears and eyes open) during winter.

### The College Art Gallery

In the Wesley Chapel basement. There are usually one or two artists

showing their work in the gallery. In the spring senior art majors have their own shows in the gallery.

### Sunsets on Centerville Road

Go up Centerville Road approximately one mile, or to the top of the hill overlooking town, late some afternoon during the fall and watch the sun set.

### Houghton Creek

Walking up the creek is a favorite activity while it is still warm enough to do so. Enjoy, but be careful not to break a leg!

### Stargazing on the Soccer Field

Grab a friend and see how many constellations you can identify on a clear night.

### The Prayer Chapel

Basement Wesley Chapel; a quiet retreat for undisturbed prayer and meditation.

## AND BEYOND

### Letchworth State Park

Located a few miles up route 19 in the town of Castile, Letchworth is a must for picnics in the fall. The park is also well-known for its awe-inspiring water falls and rapids.

### Moss Lake

A short ride up Tucker Hill Road (just south of town) brings you to a delightfully placid lake, overgrown with weeds and full of rather friendly catfish. Take a loaf of day-old bread to feed to the fish and spend a pleasant afternoon relaxing with friends.

### Scout Haven

A must for horror movie fans, this lake on the road to Arcade was the site of one of the *Friday the 13th* episodes.

### Allen Lake

Whether fishing, picknicking, or simply relaxing, you are bound to be delighted by this small quiet lake. If ever you visit there, take note of the beaver dam.

### Historical Homes

Belmont, Wellsville, and other towns in this area were once prosperous hubs of the oil industry, and many stately victorian homes (some remarkably well-preserved) remain a testimony to better days in a wealthier past.

### Allegany State Park

An excellent option for the outdoorsman, Allegany State Park includes an assortment of camping and recreation areas as well as a number of trails for hiking.

### Swain Ski Resort

A popular choice among skiers in winter, this resort is located in Swain, NY, only a short ride from Houghton.

**Ace's Country Cupboard**  
40 Main Street  
Belfast, NY 14711  
(716) 365-2692

**American Hotel**  
126 West Main Street  
Angelica, NY 14709  
(716) 466-7748

**Belfast Hotel**  
6 Main Street  
Belfast, NY 14711  
(716) 365-2456

**Better Days**  
166 North Main Street  
Wellsville, NY 14895  
(716) 593-9838

**Big Al's Snack Shop**  
Campus Center Basement  
Houghton, NY 14744  
Ext. 232

**Cosio's Restaurant**  
59 Main Street  
Almond, NY 14804  
(607) 276-6633

**Dagwood's Eating House**  
18 South Main  
Andover, NY 14806  
(607) 478-8007

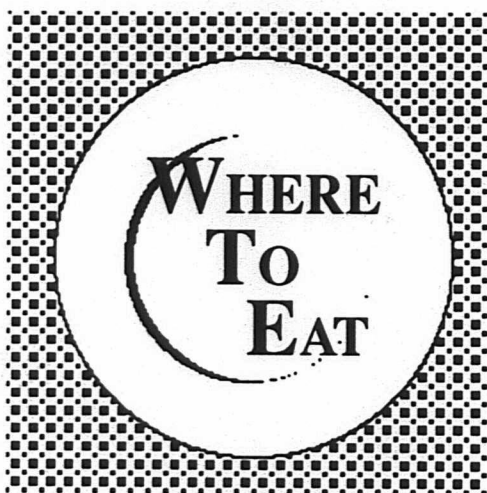
**Dill Pickle Restaurant**  
Andover Road  
Wellsville, NY 14895  
(716) 593-9889

**Gallery Restaurant**  
30 West Main  
Friendship, NY 14793  
(716) 973-8888

**Hilltop Resort & Restaurant**  
Messer Hill Road  
Bolivar, NY 14715  
(716) 928-1040

**Jolly Dee's Restaurant**  
Andover Road—Route 417  
Wellsville, NY 14895  
(716) 593-3674

**Kinney II**  
2 West Main Street  
Cuba, NY 14727  
(716) 968-1480



## AROUND HOUGHTON & BEYOND

**T**ired of Big Al's food? Feeling particularly adventurous? Grab some friends, hop in the car, and go in search of the best food Allegany County can offer! Here are a few suggestions you might like to explore. While this is by no means a complete list of restaurants, eateries, and greasy-spoon diners in the Allegany County area, it does include most of the better-known places. This does not mean, of course, that you should only stick to the safe, reasonably well-known restaurants. Explore! You might just discover some delightful, quiet little restaurant with top-notch food. So you run the risk of eating a less-than-perfect meal, but that's half the fun! Best of luck to you as you search for interesting alternatives to the Swedish meatballs (which have the bad habit of turning up fairly often) and to the Saturday night steak and fries! ☆

Source: 1994 NY Chautauque-Allegany Region Travel Guide  
Cattaraugus / Allegany Tourist Bureau

**Kopper Keg**  
11 East Main Street  
Cuba, NY 14727  
(716) 968-1523

**LTD Café**  
South Genesee Street  
Fillmore, NY 14735  
(716) 567-2267

**Manhattan West**  
32 North Main Street  
Alfred, NY 14802  
(607) 587-9363

**Muhleisen's Restaurant**  
60 Main Street  
Almond, NY 14804  
(607) 276-8811

**Papa's Restaurant**  
A & A Plaza, Bolivar Road  
Wellsville, NY 14895  
(716) 593-3630

**Ron's Country Kitchen**  
Bolivar Road  
Wellsville, NY 14895  
(716) 593-6640

**The Belmont**  
40 Schuyler Road  
Belmont, NY 14813  
(716) 268-9884

**The Coffee Mill**  
Route 19  
Belmont, NY 14813  
(716) 268-7222

**The Courtyard**  
26 Schuyler Road  
Belmont, NY 14813  
(716) 268-5646

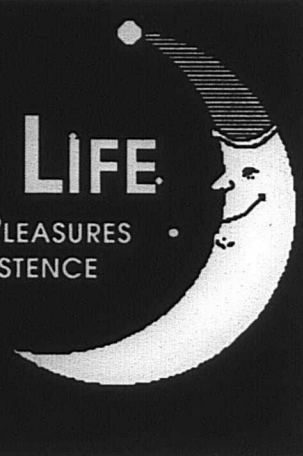
**The Texas Hot**  
132 North Main Street  
Wellsville, NY 14895  
(716) 593-1400

**White House Restaurant**  
31 Schuyler Road  
Belmont, NY 14813  
(716) 268-7777

**The Glen Iris Inn**  
Letchworth State Park  
Castile, NY 14427  
(716) 493-2622

# DORM LIFE

THE PERILS AND PLEASURES  
OF A SHARED EXISTENCE



**M**ost of you have been brought up with private, more or less personal accommodations. That is to say, most of you grew up having your own room at home, sharing it with one sibling at the most. You grew used to privacy and to the liberty to do with your room whatever you pleased (within the limits of what your parents were willing to put up with) without much concern for what other people might think or how your neighbors might react to something you did. Loss of privacy may seem to you the worst of crimes, for after all, if you can't have privacy in your own room, where can you be alone? Welcome to college, friends, and prepare to give up every last shred of privacy you ever thought yourself entitled to, unless, of course, you are willing to fight tooth and nail for your right to a non-collective existence (and run the risk of being labeled anti-social).

Dorm life is anything but private. Depending on the floor you

are assigned to live on during this first semester, you may find yourself being visited by a rambunctious coterie of new acquaintances at all hours of the day and night. Also, depending on the kind of neighbors you have, you may have to periodically migrate to the library in order to get any serious studying done (unless, of course, you can study through five different stereos blaring, twenty different human voices, and an assortment of dull, persistent clunks and thuds normally associated with vigorous physical activity).

The loss of privacy, however, is not the only thing that makes a first contact with dorm life somewhat trying. Rooming with a perfect stranger (no matter how good of a job the student development office does in matching people up) is above all, a learning experience, and a harrowing one at that. Having a roommate means getting to know him and learning to live with him whether you like it or not. It means

learning to sleep through his alarm clock going off at 7:00 a.m. every morning (even if you don't have an 8:00 a.m. class to get up for), it means getting used to his ideas of what constitutes comfort, and it means growing to understand what it is that pleases or annoys him.

True, it sounds like a game of politics on a microcosmic scale, but many times the experience turns out very well. A good roommate is not unlike the proverbial pearl of great price; once found, he should be treasured and his friendship cultivated. The bond that results between two roommates who learn to live with each other well is a very strong one and very useful as a source of support in times of emotional or physical stress.

Even if your relationship with your roommate is a very good one, you will have to be adaptable in yet another area. Life in most dorms does not begin until approximately 10:00 p.m., or later, which means that if you are what is ordinarily referred to as a "morning person" you may quickly have to become either a very heavy sleeper or what is known as a "night owl." Either way, flexibility and patience will be the determining factors in your success or failure as a dorm resident.

Patience, above all, is a necessary virtue in successful communal living (for that is more or less what dorm life consists of): patience with the excessively gregarious person next door who insists on popping in on you whenever it suits his fancy; patience with the people down the hall who insist on listening to their Petra albums after quiet hours; and patience with your roommate, his idiosyncrasies, and his stone age clock-radio. Learn to adapt to constant change and sometimes uncomfortable or inconvenient circumstances. It will be tough at first, but you will be a better person for it. Have a good one! ☆



**EMERGENCY  
NUMBERS**  
Contacting Necessary  
Help in Houghton

**FIRE DEPARTMENT  
(Houghton)**  
567-2522

**AMBULANCE  
(Houghton)**  
567-2522

**MEDICAL CENTER  
(Houghton)**  
567-2285

**HOSPITAL  
(Warsaw, NY)**  
716 786-2233

**HOUGHTON COLLEGE  
SECURITY**  
Extension 333

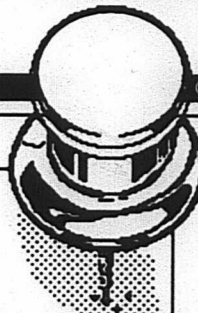
**STATE POLICE  
(Fillmore)**  
567-2283

**HOUGHTON COLLEGE**

# Student Organizations

LOOK FOR  
YOUR FAVORITE  
ORGANIZATION  
AT THE ACTIVITIES FAIR  
SEPTEMBER 11

Which ones  
are for you?



## MUSIC ORGANIZATIONS

Choirs: Most of these rehearse at least three times a week and can be used for academic credit.

- College Choir
- Chapel Choir
- Women's Choir
- Men's Choir
- Chamber Singers

Instrumental Groups: Some of these also rehearse often enough to be taken for credit.

- Philharmonia
- Concert Band
- Jazz Workshop
- Wind Ensemble
- Handbells
- Flute Ensemble

## CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

• **Allegany County Outreach:** A social ministry organization working with the less privileged families of Allegany County.

- **Amnesty International**
- **Art Club:** Organizes periodical field trips to museums, art exhibits, and lectures.
- **Black Student Outreach**
- **Christian Ministries Organization**
- **Christian Student Outreach**
- **Der Deutsche Verein (German Club)**
- **Education Club**
- **English Expression Club**
- **Evangelicals for Social Action:** stimulates active participation of Christian students in matters of social concern.

• **Habitat for Humanity:** works to build homes for the economically disadvantaged.

- **International Students Association**
- **Le Cercle Français (French Club)**
- **Music Education Club**
- **Psychology Club**
- **Spanish Club**

• **Swordbearers:** Active in Bible memorization and study.

• **World Missions Fellowship:** Stimulates community awareness of and involvement in world missions.

• **Young Administrators Organization:** Provides opportunities of active service for students interested in business.

## COMMUNICATIONS

• **The Houghton Star:** The Houghton College news magazine, its focus is on events which significantly affect the Houghton College community. Contributions are always appreciated and letters are well-received.

• **The Boulder** is the college yearbook.

• **The Lanthorn** is the Houghton College literary magazine, accepting contributions in the areas of poetry, drawing, and photography.

• **WJSL:** Provides work and learning opportunities for students interested in radio communications.

## POLITICAL

- **College Republicans**
- **College Democrats**

In 1883 the Lockport Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America founded Houghton Wesleyan Methodist Seminary. The school was established largely through the efforts of Willard J. Houghton. It began with elementary and academic departments in 1884 and added a department for training of ministers in 1888.

In 1896 the school was placed under the management of the Wesleyan Educational Society. The first college-level courses were offered in 1889. Beginning in 1909,

James Seymour Luckey, president of Houghton College from 1908 to 1937, provided the leadership and constructive planning that brought Houghton's emergence as a strong, properly equipped and completely accredited liberal arts college. Dr. Stephen W. Paine, now president emeritus, was president from 1937 until 1972. During these years the student body grew to its present size of approximately 1100, including the Buffalo Suburban Campus.

The college development program has added several major

# A B R I E F HISTORY OF houghton college

advanced standing was allowed to college students transferring to degree-granting institutions. From 1909 to 1923, three years of college work were given.

A provisional charter as a four-year liberal arts college was granted to Houghton in 1923 by the Regents of the State of New York, and the first four-year baccalaureate degrees were awarded in 1925. Houghton College received its permanent charter in 1927. In November 1935, the college was given full accreditation through admission to membership in the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

buildings within the past several years. Among these are a well-equipped science and mathematics center, attractive dormitories, a spacious campus center, and a fine physical education center. Substantial increases in endowment have also been realized.

The leadership of Houghton College continued under the able guidance of Wilber T. Dayton from 1972 until 1976. President Daniel R. Chamberlain assumed the leadership of Houghton College in September, 1976. ☆

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1989 Houghton College Catalog

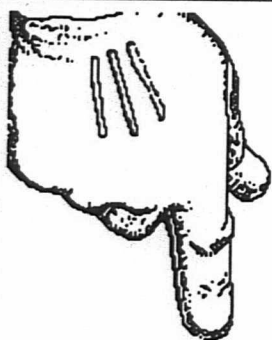
## Houghton Trivia

by Jen Garrison

This quiz will help you familiarize yourself with the Houghton College Campus...the answers can be found by asking any unsuspecting upperclassman who is wandering around looking bored.

1. What does Charles Bressler do if you call him "Chuck"?
  - a. Laughs
  - b. fails you
  - c. frowns
  - d. no one knows...they're not stupid enough to try
2. True or False: Houghton has a formal appeals policy for grades.
3. The maximum time you will have to wait for security is:
  - a. 5 minutes
  - b. 2 hours
  - c. 4 days
  - d. huh?
4. True or False: Houghton provides front door keys automatically to men, but not to women.
5. What percentage of Houghton students have actually read the pledge?
  - a. 99%
  - b. 50%
  - c. 2%
  - d. What's the pledge?
6. The swimming pool is:
  - a. on the quad
  - b. in the gym
  - c. upstairs Campus Center
  - d. the basement of Fancher

Continues on page 10 →



### Houghton Trivia (Continued)

7. Guess the number of bats in Fancher belfry.

8. Houghton has \_\_\_\_\_ shops.

- a. 1
- b. 6
- c. 12
- d. 19

9. Name your answers to number 8.

10. The tallest building in Houghton is:

- a. the Food Co-Op
- b. the science building
- c. Lambein
- d. the laundromat

Don't worry, most people at Houghton don't bite, and we have a good veterinary clinic just down the road if you DO contract rabies.... Most of our upper-classmen can remember what it was like to be a freshman or transfer and not know anyone, and they ARE willing to make friends, you just have to make the first move sometimes.



# WORK

## AND THE FINE ART OF OBTAINING

## PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT



**Y**ou've always heard you'd have to work in college, haven't you? Well, now that push has, indeed, come to shove, we thought you might be interested in knowing one or two things about getting a job at Houghton College.

To begin with, it is a good idea to confirm your eligibility for the work/study program. If all of that is kosher, you can look for a job which will be limited to a maximum of twelve hours of work per week and, depending on your course load and academic standing, may have to be limited more. As a rule, the college pays minimum wage, payments are usually on the twentieth of each month, and you may withdraw your entire salary at once or deposit it towards payments on your bills. Even though you will be hired by a department or agency of Houghton College, Troy Martin, in the student employment office (extension 328) must give his approval to all student employments.

Now that you know all this, you'll probably want to know which departments and agencies regularly hire students. We have put together a short list of the most frequent employers of students, but these

are not the only possibilities worth exploring. Should you not be able to find a job with one of these employers, by all means go to the student employment office; they will do their best to find you a job.

### •Custodial Department

The single largest employer on campus, the custodial department has approximately 70 openings for the fall semester. Contact Ange Szymanski at 486.

### •Pioneer Food Service

Also a significant employer with positions available in several capacities. Extension 231.

### •Mall Room — ext. 249

### •Library — ext. 240

### •Campus Store — ext. 620

### •Audio-Visual Office — ext. 474

•Miscellaneous offices and departments: Admissions, Student Development, and a number of other offices employ, guides, proctors, and drivers. A little legwork on your own would be helpful if you can't find work immediately. ☆



# THE *Best of* both worlds

memories of my freshman experience  
by amy danner

**A**pproximately three to five minutes. That's how long it takes me to walk from my home to my dorm. Am I the bionic woman? No, I LIVE in Houghton. Simply incredible, isn't it? I am proof that people can live in Houghton, go to school here, and still survive. Even more amazing, I like living here. That's why "going away" to college wasn't too difficult for me. I'd have to say that moving 500 feet away was not a huge adjustment, yet it was an adjustment. Admittedly, I could toddle on home anytime I wanted, yet at times I might as well have been a thousand miles away. You might say, "Well, you have the best of both worlds!" However, living locally does have its privileges and pitfalls. To name one disadvantage, I can't, as so many students like to do, get away from school and go home for the weekend. I suppose I could, but I wouldn't

be getting very far away. Also I don't have the advantage of being a total stranger and not having anyone know me or my family. (Not that I have anything to hide!)

I remember at the beginning of my freshman year friends said jokingly, (since I hadn't moved into the dorm yet) "Come on, Amy, you have to break the bond." Yet being close to my parents is a great luxury for me. Being the youngest I see how my older siblings have moved away, and that puts me in no rush to "break the bond." I could have gone to any number of schools, in other

Amy Danner is the youngest daughter of Dean of Students Robert Danner and is currently a sophomore art education major here at Houghton College.

places, but I felt the Lord wanted me here. I'll have plenty of time to get away from Houghton, but now I'm at peace about staying here. Surprisingly, I did shed some tears about leaving home and going the short distance to my dorm for I knew I wouldn't be spending as much time with my family any more for a while.

I can honestly say that my adjustment to college was an easy one. I had taken classes at the college my senior year in high school, and was often mistaken for a freshman. I could hardly wait to be in college for real.

My biggest adjustment was having a father who works at the college, and feeling defensive of college policies yet wanting to be a normal student. I felt torn between deciding whether I held opinions about the college because I *really* felt that way or because I felt I must defend it. I didn't have the advantage of being anonymous as other students did when they came to Houghton. Therefore, whenever I got a job or any position it was said

Simply incredible, isn't it? I am proof that people can live in Houghton, go to school here, and still survive.

that it was because of whose daughter I am and not on my own abilities. Yet, I hope I have proven myself.

I truly believe that for all students college is a difficult transition and even a sacrifice. We all have our own personal struggles and none of us have it easy. We must all learn to be sensitive to the changes that each of us is making when we come to college.

I wish everyone could just walk home whenever they need a hug from Mom or some good advice from Dad. I know that isn't possible, but I'm sure my parents wouldn't mind if you visited them! ☆

# The Black Hole

M. TAYLOR

"Almost anything is easier to get into than out of."

-Agnes Allen

Welcome! Welcome, welcome one and all! Welcome to the wonderful world of (you guessed it) **HOUGHTON**! Since I have been given the opportunity to welcome you here to Houghton, and you're new and all that, let me briefly introduce myself. My name is Matthew Taylor and I am a junior here at Houghton (where else?). My major is psychology, but don't let that scare you. I will be writing a monthly column that I will be describing in more detail in the next issue of the *Star*. Suffice it to say that I have lived in and around the Houghton area for all but two of my 23 years (pity me later). I am here to lighten a little the burden of registration and settling in with a few words of wisdom that might be helpful as you settle into our little community. So, sit down, *relax*. This may be the only recreational reading you will do for the next nine months.

Ah, Houghton! The name brings to mind some very interesting memories: laughing, crying, living, studying, goofing off, studying, goofing off, sleeping, goofing off. . . those long belchful nights after a chicken wing excursion to Big Al's. Certain things unmentionable that a certain number of my fellows will refrain from divulging lest I get the royal boot from this establishment (shut up, Flex, Goose & Ralphie!). When the sweet sound of the name graced your virgin ears for the first time you probably uttered a surprised "Where!!". Right now, many of you may still be wondering just where it is that you are. Fret not, dear soul! You are still on earth, you are still on the same dimensional plane, you are still within the boundaries of the U.S., and no, this is not what Hell looks like on a good day! Although you may be far, far away from civilization as you once knew it, you are still human, sane, alive, existing, and a free person. Even though the tee-shirt may say that "It's not the end of the world, but you can see it from here," you are far from the end. This, as they say, is only the beginning.

Yes, I know what you're thinking: "Sheesh! How cliché can you get?" Nevertheless, it is true. You are now free! Free, I say, Free! You now run your own life and can do almost anything you please. You can follow the rules, or you can break them. Rules? Didn't anyone mention those? You know, the Pledge and all that? Yes, yes, I know. It may seem demeaning, childish,

and generally infantile, but, believe me, you don't know how good you have it here! Think of Bob Jones University or Pensacola. Houghton is a virtual Mardi-Gras compared to those schools. Houghton: the land of the Free and the home of the Liberal! This where you come not only to learn, but to live! You can actually experience life here! This is a liberal arts college. You can be you and still come out being you! There will be some changes here and there, of course, but you will still retain your "youness" and not become a "pseudoyou" as many do at other colleges.

Enough slamming (even though it is fun)! I want to wish you a happy, healthful, and generally okay time now that you have joined the rest of us wonderful people here at Houghton monastery. It may seem like that at times, being forty-five minutes away from the nearest mall and/or theater. But, there

**Fret not, dear soul! You are still on earth, you are still on the same dimensional plane, you are still within the boundaries of the U.S., and no, this is not what Hell looks like on a good day!**

is always Fillmore! Those of you that came in from the north via Route 19 know what I'm talking about. That place with the grocery store, affectionately known to many as the "Garbage Basket" (a.k.a. Market Basket, a.k.a. The Store, a.k.a. that stupid @#%&!!! place up the road where you get the food). If you don't have a car on campus, I suggest that you make friends with someone that does. If you don't have a car or you can't find a person that has one, I suggest placing your head in the nearest toilet basin and flushing three of four times. (One usually feels better around the third flush.)

Houghton. We here like to call it home, and we hope that you will eventually come to the same conclusion yourself. I'll lay it on the line for you, though: things aren't easy all of the time here. You're not in Heaven yet! The academics are quite rigor-

ous (how do you think I discovered the toilet thing?) and you may have a failing relationship or two, but always remember: this IS a Christian institution. Although at times things may seem quite hellish for you, remember who you're really here for. There are people who care here. They may be obscure, but they are here. Whether you go to the available counseling services or to a friend or to a stranger, you will find relief. Besides, life here isn't all that bad. Hey, look at me. Do you really think that these people would let a reprobate like me write for this paper if they weren't such a wonderfully generous bunch?

So, again I say to you: **WELCOME!** Get used to your surroundings, because they will be with you for a long time to come. Get used to the food (that'll be with you for quite some time, too!) Get used to hard work and long nights of continuously adjusting the vertical-hold on your eyes. Get used to your roommate's incessant slamming of that snooze button at 6:00 a.m. Get used to living life on the cutting edge of Christian education. And, above all, get used to being you. You finally have a chance to be yourself without any constraints, so, in the immortal words of the Nike Corporation: "Just Do It!"

I'll let you get back to whatever you were doing before you picked up this paper and read this commentary. Some last minute advice to make your life here at Houghton a bit easier.

1.) Never leave your dorm, knowing that you're going to return late, without a late-key. Houghton security is not very secure! You will wait for twenty minutes at the very least. This wait tends to increase when one waits in typical Houghton weather (i.e. rain, cold, snow, wind, rain).

2.) Always check the toilet paper dispenser before actually committing yourself to a stall in your floor's restroom.

3.) Never leave without telling someone where you're going and who you'll be with if you plan to be gone long. People have been seen skulking around the campus pretending to be students. But you shouldn't have to worry too much since they keep me chained pretty securely in the campus center basement during the night.

4.) Read your guide-book! It contains some interesting rules you can ignore completely.

5.) Remain calm; do not panic! Whatever it is, you'll probably be able to find somebody on campus with a higher blood pressure.

6.) Pray constantly!

7.) Finally, always remember there is a God who cares about you!

I hope this has helped to take a bit of the heat off for a while. Remember some of the things I mentioned, and good luck to each and every one of you! Now, go away, I'm busy. . . !