

THE HOUGHTON STAR

JANUARY 24, 1992 ♣ VOLUME 84.9

Ivan T. Rocha, Editor-in-chief



RECYCLING: *Myths & Misconceptions*

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THE HOUGHTON
STAR ☆

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THE HOUGHTON STAR 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 Monday, and they should be no longer than two double spaced pages. The editors reserve the right to edit all contributions.

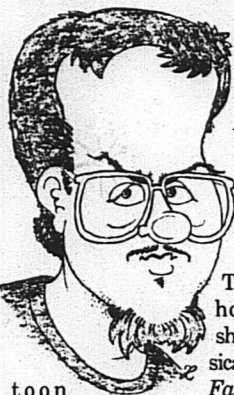
Demystifying the Doonesbury Debacle

by Ivan T. Rocha

My last editorial was a tongue-in-cheek indictment of the cartoon *Fantasia* meant, above all, to lead my readership to consider a little more thoughtfully what my friend and ex-co-editor Dave Wheeler has so appropriately termed "the *Doonesbury* debacle." That many readers (including college staff and faculty members with graduate degrees) completely missed the point of my article is either an indication that the text was excessively abstruse (somewhat unlikely) or that they did not read the entire article. I would prefer not to think that these esteemed readers are merely dense. The point of *this* editorial then (lest any doubts remain), is to make absolutely clear my position as editor-in-chief of this publication regarding the *Doonesbury* debacle.

For the benefit of those who were not on this campus during the fall semester I will provide a brief summary of the events in question. In issue 84.4 *The Houghton Star* published a series of *Doonesbury* strips in which Boopsie and B.D., the main characters, are reunited after being separated by B.D.'s involvement in the Gulf war and, as a result of a pop-psychology counseling group are encouraged to mend their relationship by starting from the beginning. B.D. is a stereotype of the beer-drinking, football-watching, rude, ignorant male, who seeks nothing in a relationship but physical satisfaction (hence the outcome of their first date and of its reenactment: they engage in foreplay — the strip does not actually show sex). Boopsie, on the other hand, represents the equally negative stereotype of the blond ditz, incapable of

thinking of herself and resisting an overbearing male. Both, in any case, are presented as undesirable personality types, although the fine irony of the situation may not be immediately visible to a reader unable to look beyond the apparent crassness of the story line. In the following issues we were deluged with hate mail from readers concerned with



the "filth" we were publishing and essentially demanding that *Doonesbury* be replaced by a less offensive strip. Shortly before the Thanksgiving holidays CAB showed the classical Disney cartoon *Fantasia* which, regardless of its merits as a masterpiece of early animation, presents certain social views which may be construed as quite offensive to women and minorities. The cartoon, in addition, is built around a story of magic, sorcery, and myth — all of which are ordinarily condemned by the fundamentalist evangelical right. Nevertheless, the showing was well-attended and the cartoon elicited few, if any, adverse reactions from the establishment. My editorial then, was meant to point out the fact that the same people who were so gravely offended by our publishing of *Doonesbury* were not phased in the least by the showing of a

cartoon which could be construed as equally or more offensive (politically incorrect, if you will) in a less conservative context.

In writing the article, I chose to adopt a blatantly satirical tone in the hopes that, faced with the absurdity of my claims, my incensed readers would consider the tenuousness of their own position. This apparently was not the case, for I was congratulated several times for taking such a firm position against the showing of such obviously worldly films at Houghton. In fact, I was even approached by a member of the film review committee who hoped to enlist my aid in preventing the showing of a number of other liberal or "worldly" films at Houghton. I was appalled that people had so obviously misconstrued my intent and even more appalled to think that people actually *agreed* with the *ridiculously outdated, sexist, and bigoted* ideas I was seeking to ironize.

Dave Wheeler hit on something pretty significant in his letter to us in issue 84.8 when he said, "And some, of course — through a misunderstanding of art as propaganda/advertising/endorsement rather than expression and comment on one's view of life — will balk at this [looking at the world through someone else's point of view], which is why in many evangelical circles the arts are *still* suspect. This, I think, is the root of the whole *Doonesbury* debacle."

Finally, I do not believe that the strips in question condoned extra-marital sex any more than *MacBeth* condones regicide. These strips make a serious, intelligent, and extremely ironic statement about the degeneracy of Western society, as well as about the socially divisive effects of an armed conflict such as the Gulf war. That is to say, *Doonesbury* will continue to appear in *The Houghton Star*, providing acute, interesting, and humorous social commentary for anyone who wants it — and, if for no other reason because we have a rather restrictive contract with Universal Press Syndicate and have no intention of losing money.

So, like they say, patience.... ☆

RECYCLING

Myths & Misconceptions

THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF SPECIAL REPORTS ON RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENTALISM BY ALAN SHEA

There are a large number of misconceptions about what happens to our garbage, and what should happen to it. Herewith some common myths refuted.

THERE ARE LOTS OF LANDFILLS

The 15,000 landfills of 1983 have been reduced by nearly 10,000 in the last eight years, closed because they have reached the end of their lives or for environmental reasons. These remaining 5,500 landfills (as of 1991)

We spend over \$15 billion a year on garbage disposal — and the cost in dollars as well as to the environment goes up every day.

handle 70 percent of our trash (13 percent is recycled, the rest is incinerated). That does not mean that we are throwing out less garbage, but that we are not building new landfills. We spend over \$15 billion a year on garbage disposal — and the cost in dollars as well as to the environment goes up every day.

A landfill is composed of highly compressed trash which is covered with six inches of soil every night —

to keep out rodents, moisture, and to seal in the odor. High-tech landfills have leachwater collection and sanitation systems, produce as much as 73 billion cubic feet of methane each year nationwide, and have a price tag as high as \$1 million an acre. Leachwater is the highly toxic "drippings" from the liquids in a landfill — leaky batteries, fingernail polish, moisture from organic materials — and is one of the most problematic parts of a landfill, accused of contaminating groundwater around many landfills today.

After covering with a final layer of topsoil, many landfills lead a distinguished afterlife — both of New York's airports, JFK and La Guardia, are built on landfills, as are many shopping malls, golf courses, and even housing developments.

The world's largest landfill is Fresh Kills on Staten Island (the Dutch word *kil* means stream). Fresh Kills, opened in 1948, takes in 17,000 tons of garbage every day from New York City, six days a week. It covers 3,000 acres and consumes 2.4 billion cubic feet. With the closing of two other landfills and incinerators in the New York City area, it may have to take up to 22,000 tons per day. At that rate, it will be "full" by about the year 2,000. But landfills, like soft

luggage, "can always fit in a bit more." The only alternatives to burying our garbage in landfills is to incinerate it or recycle it. We presently recycle 13 percent of all waste, but could recycle as much as 45 percent.

LANDFILLS ARE MOSTLY FULL OF PLASTIC AND DISPOSABLE DIAPERS

The actual composition of landfills was a matter of educated guess until a few years ago when the Garbage Project of the University of Ari-

High-tech landfills have leachwater collection and sanitation systems, produce as much as 73 billion cubic feet of methane each year nationwide, and have a price tag as high as \$1 million an acre.

zona in Tucson began examining landfills across the nation and analyzing what they contained. Project director William Rathje and his team are archaeologists whose excavations are of more recent origin than that of most archaeologists. Their findings, published in the May 1991 edition of *National Geographic*, are somewhat

astounding.

The composition of the 11 major landfills studied by the Garbage Project varied by only a few percentage points; the national average is shown below:

- Paper (up from 35 percent in 1970) — newspapers alone are 18 percent of the total.

- Miscellaneous — construction and demolition debris, tires, textiles, rubber, and disposable diapers (0.8 percent of the total)

- Plastic, including polystyrene (styrofoam) is 0.9 percent of the total.

- Organic — wood, yard waste, food scraps: rubbish that could be composted

- Metal

- Glass

LANDFILLS CREATE COMPOST

"The miracle is that anything biodegrades at all," says James Noble of Tufts University for Environmental Management.

The Garbage Project has a unique (for archaeologists anyway) way of dating their finds in landfills: they

The Garbage Project has a unique (for archaeologists anyway) way of dating their finds in landfills: they read the dates off newspapers found with the items of interest — they suggest a date within a few moths.

read the dates off newspapers found with the items of interest — they suggest a date within a few moths. They have been able to read newspapers as much as 40 years old, and use them to date layers. This is only possible because of the insignificant amount of decomposition that takes place in a landfill. If the decomposition were to take place, the landfill

would be unsanitary from the odors. Garbage Project also found well-preserved whole steaks (with fat intact!), cabbages, loaves of bread, and most often, hot dogs! "The preservatives

Because garbage in a landfill is so tightly compacted, bacteria and other microorganisms that depend on oxygen to decompose organic material can't do their work — or do is to slowly that it does not increase the overall life of the landfill, as some thought it would.

really do work," says Rathje.

Because garbage in a landfill is so tightly compacted, bacteria and other microorganisms that depend on oxygen to decompose organic material can't do their work — or do is to slowly that it does not increase the overall life of the landfill, as some thought it would. The title of the *Geographic* article on landfills, "Once and Forever Landfills," tells all.

Work is progressing on sanitary ways to allow microorganisms to digest the material in a landfill, but don't hold your breath: it still won't increase the life of a landfill appreciably. A better way to increase the life of landfills is not to put the stuff in it in the first place.

INCINERATORS POLLUTE

Yes and no. Incomplete combustion is what creates pollution — that's why cars have catalytic converters, to ensure complete combustion of the exhaust gases. The higher the temperature in combustion, the more complete it is. Most commercial incinerators operate at a very high temperature, and are fairly clean — but like coal-fired power plants, the exhaust gases have to be filtered before venting to the atmosphere. The great-

est advantage of incinerators is that they get paid to burn otherwise useless garbage, with which they can generate electricity or steam for profit. There are a number of plants in Western Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, France, and California which incinerate trash cleanly and safely. However, like the incinerator near Boston which closed several years ago because of an inability to comply with pollution standards using older technology, many present incinerators (including the one at the Cuba, NY cheese factory) have been closed.

The state of California, which has the highest environmental standards in the nation, has approved a plant which incinerates old tires — normally a notorious source of air pollution — at a temperature of 3000°F, which allows complete combustion to take place. The products are carbon monoxide, carbon, steam, and electric power for the Southern California area. Such plants don't make much of a profit, but they do dispose of an otherwise mountainous headache — tires can't be buried in a landfill because they "float" up like

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rocks in a field.

Many of the wastes we bury, though not suitable for recycling, are a significant source of energy and should be used as such rather than being buried. Some speculate about the possibility of landfills being mined

Polystyrene is less than one percent of the solid-waste stream. It is also very much recyclable.

for their mineral and energy riches sometime in the future when energy and resources become more scarce; that wouldn't be necessary if we we don't put it there to begin with.

STYROFOAM AND MANY OTHER PLASTICS ARE NOT RECYCLABLE

This is one of the great myths of the twentieth century.

Polystyrene is less than one percent of the solid-waste stream. It is also very much recyclable.

We're talking about the meaning of a word here. Recycling does not necessarily mean that it must be remade into the same item, mainly that it be reused, so it doesn't end up in the ground.

There are three points to complete recycling: reduce, reuse, and recycle. It makes good sense to re-

This is a very important point to remember in regards to recycling: there is a "reincarnation chain," a downward spiral if you will, in the way a material can be used and reused, *ad infinitum*.

duce where possible, to reuse when appropriate, and to recycle what is left. It does not require a major change in lifestyle.

Plastics which do not repolymerize well can be ground up and used in fiberfill for ski parkas, scouring pads, car parts, plastic lumber, etc.

This is a very important point to remember in regards to recycling:

there is a "reincarnation chain," a downward spiral if you will, in the way a material can be used and reused, *ad infinitum*. Materials with a crystalline structure like metal and glass can be melted and remade into their previous forms — crystalline structures don't lose their strength through recycling. Others, like some plastics, because they are made of molecules that change each time they go through a heating and cooling cycle (polymerization), cannot be remade into their original forms, but can be reincarnated into new forms (soda bottles can be remelted and reused).

Look at a soda bottle, or other

There are about 15 different kinds of waste paper used in the manufacture of wall-board, ranging from coarse cardboard for the base, to virgin bleached pulp for the surface.

plastic item sold within the last six months. Somewhere on it you'll probably find a recycling symbol with a number in the middle and a four-letter designation of the type of plastic it is made of. This allows recycling plants to sort plastic into like types, which can then be made into something else. This has alleviated a great problem in the plastics industry, that of sorting plastics. Until

these labels were used, soda bottles were the only plastic that could be reliably collected. Now any kind of plastic can be collected and recycled.

ALL PAPER IS RECYCLABLE

Not all paper is suitable for being remade into paper. Houghton College collects certain types of paper which are pulped and turned into more office paper, some of which shows up in the bookstore. But many types of paper, particularly glossy coated paper for full-color catalogs and magazines, are not suitable for pulping. Paper plants are adding new technology to allow them to make use of some of these resources, but it will be some time yet — and even then, there will still be paper which is unsuitable for pulping. But they don't need to be buried!

Any cardboard box which is gray inside has been made from old magazines and catalogs. There are about 15 different kinds of waste paper used in the manufacture of wallboard, ranging from coarse cardboard for the base, to virgin bleached pulp for the surface. Old magazines and catalogs are also used in insulation for houses and padded mailers. If it is unsuitable for any of these uses, the paper can be burned and the energy content used, keeping it out of the landfill.

ALL REUSABLE PAPER IS RECYCLED

What's in a Landfill?

Paper	50%
Miscellaneous	20%
Organic Material	13%
Plastic	10%
Metal	6%
Glass	1%

A lot of paper that is reusable is simply thrown out because of ignorance and lack of a recycling program. as much as 18 percent of a landfill's space is taken up by newspapers, which are widely and easily recycled.

No! A lot of paper that is reusable is simply thrown out because of ignorance and lack of a recycling program. as much as 18 percent of a landfill's space is taken up by newspapers, which are widely and easily recycled.

Case in point: several years ago, the dingy hall began purchasing more expensive paper plates, cups, and bowls to replace styrofoam, on the assumption that paper is more environmentally friendly. That would be fine, if that paper were recyclable, were diverted from the waste stream, and cost less to recycle.

It is theoretically possible, but not economically attractive, to recycle such paper. The reason is that it is too soiled by food — the cost of washing the paper pulp would be too high; there are cheaper sources of pulp.

Most disturbing to me is that we often forget about common sense when dealing with environmental

issues. It is often true that less costly solutions are not environmentally friendly, but not in this case. Differences in the cost of manufacture; in the case of paper versus polystyrene disposable utensils, it makes better sense to purchase the cheaper alternative (polystyrene). The raw materials for paper plates cost more than that for polystyrene, paper requires 40 percent more energy to produce, and paper production process pollutes the environment with sulfur dioxide and chlorine bleach. Moreover, paper does not compress as well as polystyrene, taking up more space in landfills.

On top of all that, those paper plates are not diverted from the rest of the waste stream and do not get recycled. ☆

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THE ADMINISTRATION BEAT

by Matthew Harvey

A new column makes its first appearance in the Star in this issue. Written by Matthew Harvey, The Administration Beat will seek to provide clear, concise summaries of the administration's latest decisions. We hope that through this column the student body will no longer be kept in the dark about matters which concern them. On occasion, commentary, analysis, or interviews with administrators may be included as well.

Perhaps the biggest thing going on in the Houghton administration right now is the selection of the new deans for next year. The resignation of current academic dean Clarence L. "Bud" Bence has provided the occasion for a change in Houghton's administrative system; the new system features a full-time "Academic Dean and Vice President of the College," the position to be vacated, as well as two new half-time "Associate Dean" positions.

Dr. Paul Young, currently head of the psychology department will be Academic Dean for the '92-'93 academic year, after which he may be retained or replaced either from within the current Houghton faculty or from outside.

An election for the new associate dean for curriculum (a position which includes the coordination of periodic reviews of academic majors, the preparation of the Final Four schedule, and various other supervisory and operational tasks, including the chairing of two committees) was held over the semester break, ending inconclusively. In a run-off election held last week between the two lead-

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The election for the other associate dean position, tentatively

titled "Associate Dean for Personnel" (a position which involves coordinating various aspects of faculty career development, including sabbatical leaves, faculty retreats, faculty evaluations, and other supervisory tasks) will take place next week. The candidates are Professor John Leax, Dr. John Tyson, and Dr. Darryl Stevenson.

The current academic system, under which the college has six academic divisions with departments as sub-units within each division will also undergo change as of next year. The new system will do away with the divisions, leaving the departments as independent units. The current plan calls for fifteen departments, though several other additional departments are petitioning to be established as independent units.

Two more items of news: first, Dean Bence will be remaining at Houghton next year. His precise title and job description have yet to be determined, but he will be working in the area of campus Christian ministries.

Finally, the executive committee of the board of trustees will meet on campus this Saturday, January 25, to discuss matters of import to the college, especially next year's finances.

Prisoner Seeks Female Pen Pals

Paul Frazier, black male, 28 years old, height 6'1, weight 198 lbs., light skin, brown eyes, curly black hair. Sensitive, warm, sincere, and intelligent. Seeks the same. Write to Mr. Paul Frazier, 86A2871 Attica Correctional Facility, Attica, NY 14011-0149

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AND IN OTHER NEWS

By Amy Littlejohn

•Shamir, whose Likud party currently governs Israel, has lost its Parliamentary majority. Small, right-wing parties which had supported the Likud pulled out of the coalition because they felt Israel was giving too many concessions to the Palestinians. These parties believe that the concessions would have led to autonomy for the Palestinians, which in turn would result in sovereignty, and end in war. Shamir has promised to continue negotiations. The elections will probably occur around June.

•There was a pro-presidential demonstration in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, but now a cease-fire has been declared. Revolutionaries control the western part of the country, and the president has returned to the

capital. Peace has been restored in Uzbekistan after food-price riots in Tashkent, the capital.

•Croatia has accused Serbia of violating the cease-fire and attacking villages along the Adriatic. The independence of both Croatia and Slovenia has been recognized.

•An A320 airplane crashed in the mountains of northeastern France. There were 9 known survivors. This is the third crash in four years for the A320, the most modern airplane on the market.

•A Cuban exile was tried and executed for allegedly trying to help overthrow Castro through guerrilla action. His two accomplices have received 30 year sentences.

•El Salvador's twelve year civil war has apparently ended. The presi-

dent and the FMLN guerrillas have signed a peace treaty.

•A Berlin court has convicted two East German border guards for shooting a man attempting to go over the Berlin wall before it was torn down. His was the last such death.

•The UN is likely to pass a resolution asking Libya to turn over suspects for the bombing of Pan Am flight 103, which crashed over Lockerbie, Scotland. If Libya refuses, there will be an air embargo.

•Imelda Marcos is running for president of the Philippines, and Corazon Aquino will not be entering the race. The middle class detests Marcos, but there is no way of knowing how the poor will vote.

•A town in an isolated valley of central Peru, Uchiza has become the world cocaine capital. The valley produces 65% of world supply. Worse, there is new evidence of the army supporting the traffickers in return for political power.

•In Indonesia, a man has agreed to sit in a room with hundreds of poisonous scorpions for four weeks, in order to get into the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

Sources: CBS, CNN, and *Newsweek*

Spring Performances

by Joel Tate

Houghton's School of Music has lined up a series of musical events for this semester that is certain to please many of the students on campus and draw people from the community as well.

There will be student and faculty recitals from some of

Houghton's most gifted musicians. February will have two Fine Arts Festivals to offer. Music appreciators can look forward to concerts from the Young Composers, the College Choir, the Calvin College Orchestra, the Women's Choir, and, at the very end of the semester, the Parents. The Music Department will also offer a Chamber Music Concert and two Instrumental Ensemble Concerts. Houghton College's Artist Series Program is going to bring to the college the Albert MacNeil Jubilee Singers on the four-

teenth of February. The Jubilee Singers are 13 African-American vocalists from Los Angeles conducted by Albert MacNeil. This highly regarded group performs a wide range of styles including spirituals and calypso.

Then, on April 10, the Artist Series Program will present the Rochester Philharmonic with the Houghton College Choral Union. They will be performing W.A. Mozart's *Requiem* along with other orchestral pieces. The Rochester Philharmonic, conducted by Melvin Butler, the

organist at the Episcopal Cathedral in Seattle, and the Houghton College Choral Union (comprised of the Chapel Choir and the College Choir) will perform twice in Rochester before coming to Houghton on the tenth. The performance will be in conjunction with the observance of the 200th anniversary of Mozart's death.

Students are admitted to Artist Series Programs free of charge if they pick up their tickets at the music office before noon on the day of the concert. ☆

Marvin Bjurlin: Ecologically Conscious Ceramics in Houghton Gallery

report and commentary by June M. Johnson

Upon viewing the current show in the Houghton art gallery it becomes obvious that ceramist Marvin Bjurlin can also be titled (in trendy global awareness lingo) an environmental activist. Bjurlin has fully incorporated his concern for humanity into his series of terra cotta

Bjurlin has fully incorporated his concern for humanity into his series of terra cotta vessels entitled 'Earth Without Friends'.

vessels entitled 'Earth Without Friends'. An explanation and summary of Bjurlin's thoughts and observations in regard to the work shown is posted in the brochure 'Personal Territory - Artists From the Southern Tier' and is included in the display. In hopes that both those who have and those who have not yet visited the gallery recently will be inspired to do so by not only the works but also by the words of Marvin Bjurlin, the following is taken directly from his own description of his work as read in the Personal territory brochure.

"In our terrestrial landscape, next to water, clay is the most common substance to be found. It is no wonder that the inventive human mind and hand throughout all time have been intrigued by what can be shaped when these two materials are combined. A comparable interest in fire ultimately yielded the medium we now call ceramics. An early somewhat unrefined, high iron bearing variety of ceramics is called terra cotta (baked earth). Before glaze was invented, superfine clay slips were used to coat or seal vessel forms. This process is called terra sigillata. The Latin term "terra" is found in other contexts like terra firma (solid ground) and common terms such as terrace, terrain, terrarium, and, of course, terrestrial. I find it entirely reasonable that after twenty-five years of making pottery or pot-like forms the primary subject matter of my creative investigations has become the earth itself. These earthenware forms are "earth aware."

The landscape has often been a compelling subject for artistic expression. At times the artist has tried to glamorize the image, to improve upon nature, to remove the blemishes. The resulting artworks have served to

draw attention to the magnificence of nature, perhaps even contributing to our taking the abundance of our planet for granted. Contemporary society, however, is having a devastating effect on much of our environment. In many places flora and fauna

"In our terrestrial landscape, next to water, clay is the most common substance to be found. It is no wonder that the inventive human mind and hand throughout all time have been intrigued by what can be shaped when these two materials are combined."

both are endangered. Ultimately, the very existence of humanity is at risk. Perhaps it is time for artists to draw attention to the issue. I have an ecological concern about our planet based upon an awareness of the potential disaster resulting from careless use or outright misuse of our natural resources. We have readily squandered our earthly assets assuming that they were inexhaustible. The vessels I am currently making offer the viewer the chance to imagine the consequences of continued disregard for our planet."

A closing gallery talk given by

I have an ecological concern about our planet based upon an awareness of the potential disaster resulting from careless use or outright misuse of our natural resources.

Bjurlin and a reception will be held at 7:00 pm on January 31st. All are welcome between now and then, and on the 31st also...admission is always free! ☆

From Dr. Brian Sayers Concerning His Resignation

by Dr. Brian Sayers

With the beginning of this semester came the announcement that Dr. Brian Sayers would be resigning his position in the philosophy department. In typical Houghton fashion, rumors have flown left and right. Dr. Sayers, however, has released a statement explaining his decision to resign. Below are excerpts from his letters to Academic Dean Clarence Bence and to Dr. Carl Schultz, head of the Division of Religion and Philosophy.

1. "During the last 25 years (my days of college education and teaching) I have lived a life that seems to me characterized by considerable structure, discipline, and self-constraint. I have worked very hard and very consistently to emerge from a poor and uneducated background. While I have largely accomplished this goal, I have become increasingly unwilling to adapt to the requirements of educational institutions even though they have been my path out of poverty and ignorance. That is, I have become dissatisfied with the life of a professional academic and I would most likely have become so no matter what institutions had been the locale of my studies and teaching. This life feels too structured and too narrow for me now. [This is a comment about the professionalizing of academia in modern western societies—it is not a criticism of Houghton in particular.]"

"And so, I am planning to enter a new, yet still creative part of my life, by

leaving full-time academia and becoming a member of the educated working class. I envisage expanding my tree business in the spring and summer months and then spending the fall and winter engaged in some part-time teaching and various writing projects. I am a little apprehensive of my future, but also looking forward with some excitement to the changes.

Rest assured that I will do whatever I can to aid the process of arranging for someone else to take up those of my current duties which Houghton wishes to continue. I leave Houghton with a sense of gratitude for the opportunities I have had in its employ."

2. "I feel that I have grown stale and captive to my own inertia. I lack the willpower to say no to requests which eventually keep me from more intellectually challenging and pleasing activities (such as writing), and believe that I need to escape the milieu of academia in order to give myself a chance at a genuinely fresh start."

"I plan to spend more time on the fringes of society and thereby become less subject to as much institutional structure as I am now. I have been offered a part time position at Medaille teaching prisoners two evenings a week. I think I will like that. I think I will continue to enjoy my tree work and look forward to doing more of it. The free time I hope to have in the off-season is time that I am quite sure I will use wisely. I have no

trouble motivating myself outside of the usual incentive of job and job-related duties. I will earn less money but I think I will be more whole mentally. I hope so. In general, the anticipation of this new direction does make me feel happy. If it works out, I believe I shall be quite a bit happier than I am now."

3. "I want to do many things which I have not yet tried. I want to ride my motorcycle across Canada. I want to gather some of the thoughts I have entertained over the years of study and teaching and see if they do not make some coherent whole which I could leave to posterity. I want to decide each day what I shall do that day—at least for a year or so, maybe longer. I want to be an amateur. I want to be less careful about how I behave. I have some affinity for what Thoreau said about behaving:

"The greater part of what my neighbours call good I believe in my soul to be bad, and if I repent of anything, it is very likely to be my good behaviour. What demon possessed me that I behaved so well?"

I know what he was talking about. After my son's skydiving accident he said somewhat ruefully to me, "Well, by the time I die I will have emptied all the water out of the bucket." That hit me. I decided that I could take a lesson from him on that. I have always been a student first, a teacher second."

4. I shall miss those people who were my colleagues at Houghton and I shall miss those students who were naïve enough or confident enough, or intrepid enough to sign up for my courses. They have exasperated and occasionally exhilarated me. I tried to reciprocate. I know that I will often lament the absence of that "dash."

†From the official letter to Dean Bence
‡From a more detailed explanation to Carl Schultz ☆

Binkowski Breaks Scoring Record

by Ron Whiting

On Wednesday, January 15th Dave Binkowski became Houghton college's all-time career shot maker, bypassing Ted Smith with 1,803 points. The feat came during an away game at Pitt-Bradford as Binkowski led the team to their 10th win of the year, the best start for Houghton in Binkowski's four years.

The highlanders found out about the milestone after the game, when head coach Steve Brooks spoke to them in the locker room. "I knew I was close, but I really didn't think about it much, it's a nice honor," said Binkowski. The coaches tried to make sure he didn't know how close he was, so he could just concentrate on playing. "It probably won't hit me until after the season when I have had time to sit down and think about it," he added.

That attitude of playing for the team and not yourself is what has turned the men's basketball program into a force.

"It was a great honor, but we as a team are just concentrated on the season and winning. This is the best team us seniors, Mike (Kinslow), Brian (Adams), and I have been on, so we just to win and make it to the post-season," Binkowski said.

Before Houghton's game against Penn State-Behrend, Houghton College president, Daniel Chamberlain

presented Binkowski with a ball that commemorated the event. Also on hand for the ceremonies were Binkowski's parents, Smith, and dean Robert Danner. Smith was given his number 21 jersey by Danner and he



Player of the week and alltime leading scorer D. Binkowski

and Binkowski hugged at mid-court after the presentations. Binkowski then led the Houghton team to a 62-

55 victory that ended with a dunk at the end of regulation by Binkowski, who finished with 17 points.

He also has a chance of scoring 2000 points in his career by the end of the season, but again he hopes the best for the team, rather than seeing his own name in the spotlight.

When Binkowski was at Seton-Lasalle high school in Pittsburgh, he played on the Pennsylvania AAAA State Championship team his Senior year. He was ultimately not recruited by many schools due to his lack of size and the interest generated by his teammates. Included on his team were players who now play North Carolina and Holy Cross.

"When I recruited him, he was probably the third best player on his team, but he's a great athlete and I knew he could help us," stated Brooks.

This has turned into a good investment for Houghton, as not only is he the best scorer in the school's history, he is a team leader and a threat from anywhere on the floor. This is what has made Binkowski such a great player. When watching him, one thinks of success on the court, but that has not always been the case.

"When I was in Ninth grade, I was always benched, so I wasn't going to go out for the team my sophomore year. But my dad got me to sign up and I ended up playing and eventually became a starter on the squad," Binkowski said. That is what he attributes to being the main factor in the success that Brooks hopes will continue for Binkowski.

"I hope he'll look back and be proud of what he did at Houghton, not only in basketball, but in the classroom and how he has grown as a person," added Brooks. ☆

Record-Breaking Season for Men's Basketball

by Ron Whiting

After last Saturday's home victory over Penn State-Behrend, the Houghton men's basketball team stands 11-4 which marks the best record that head coach Steve Brooks has seen in his five previous seasons and also a possible shot in the District 19 playoffs.

If the men do well in their regular District 18 season, they will move to district 19 where they would play other NAIA Division II schools (District 18 is composed of Division I schools).

During Christmas vacation, the Highlanders dropped only two games, both which were to tournament hosts. The first loss came at the Defiance Tournament as the Highlanders went down to their host in the first round of competition. However, the Highlanders later came back to capture third with a win over Hanover.

The second loss came in Maryland at the Frostburg Tournament in which Houghton was downed by host Frostburg in the championship game. Houghton did advance to the final game however after blowing out Oneonta State by 20 points.

The break was good to the Highlanders as they came away victors over Penn State-Behrend, Keuka College, and St. Vincent College, while beating Pitt-Bradford, as well as Penn State-Behrend for a second time last week. During the first game against Pitt-Bradford, senior

forward Dave Binkowski became all-time leading scorer for Houghton, bypassing Ted Smith with 1,803 points.

Last Saturday marked the first time most students had seen the team play in over a month, and a packed house saw the team down Penn State-Behrend, 62-55. Two Houghton seniors received special ceremonies, the first, for Dave Binkowski who received a ball commemorating his achievement of all-time leading scorer. And the second ceremony for Stacia Dagwell, a standout on the women's team, who received a ball for being only the second woman in Houghton history ever to score 1,000 points.

At the half way point in the season, looking at statistics, we see that no opponent has shot over 55% and only two opponents have scored over 80 points against Houghton. This shows an outstanding defensive effort that sometimes gets overlooked by fans. Houghton suffered a set back when grades came out in early January. "We are going to miss Chris Morris, who we lost to academic eligibility rules," said Coach

Brooks. He had been averaging close to five points a game as a freshman coming off the bench and was named to the all-tournament team at the Defiance tournament.

Overall, the team has looked sharp and has played with a lot of consistency. "We're taking it one at a time, we still have 11 games to go and our kids have to come mentally prepared," said Brooks.

The team returns to action with two away games before returning home January 31 to play Geneva College. This is the first of six consecutive home games.

Brooks added, "When we do have games, we want the fans to come out and be loud and vocal, and make this place a tough place to play. We need that with big games coming up against Daemen and Westminster Colleges."



Darren Berkley, number one in the nation for free-throw percentage goes in for a basket. (This and other photographs in this section are courtesy of Professor William Greenway). ☆

An Outstanding Start for the Lady Highlanders

by Nathan Ransil

The Houghton College women's basketball team is off to their best start ever. Depth, balance and experience has propelled them to an outstanding record of 10-3.

Head coach Skip Lord said, "we're excited about our start and hope things will continue during the semester as we aim to peak at the playoffs."

The lady Highlanders gained some valuable experience over Christmas break as they traveled to Florida to face top-flite NCAA division two's Florida Institute of Technology and the University of Tampa. Though they dropped both games. The team played well and junior Tricia Atkinson

scored a season high with thirty five points and 13 rebounds against the university of Tampa.

Back in NAIA competition, Houghton convincingly downed Michigan-Dearborne and returned home to defeat defending District 18 champs Seton Hill 73-60.

Under the new NAIA District 19 system for determining play-off seeds. The lady Highlanders are currently tied for second place with Wilmington. According to the new Dunkel index the two teams stand with a rating of 34.6 only 2.2 points behind district leader Holy Family. At the close of the season these ratings will be used to determine the top six district seeds

who will play in the District 19 tournament. The winner of which will proceed to Oregon for Nationals.

Balance and a number of consistent contributors seem to be the key in the highlanders' success thus far. Five players are shooting over 45% from the field. Six average over 3.5 rebounds per game, and three players swish better than 80% from the foul line. However there are some individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the team. Senior Co-Captain Stacia Dagwell was honored Saturday January 18 for being only the second woman ever to score over 1000 points at Houghton. Tricia Atkinson, the teams leading scorer was named District 19 player of the week as well. Tricia has been on a tear ever since Christmas, scoring over 20 points in each of the three Florida games.

Although the ten remaining regular season games should be challenging, coach Lord feels confident his team will be ready. he added that he appreciates the fan support shown thus far and hopes it will continue during the drive to the playoffs.

The next home game for the lady Highlanders will be January 31 against Geneva.

SPORTS BRIEFS

NAIA National Basketball Stats

Houghton Men's Basketball

•Darren Berkley is currently ranked number one in the nation for free throws with a percentage of 96.5. Congratulation Darren!!

•The men's basketball team is now ranked number one in the nation as a team for 3 point shots. With a percentage of 50.5, and they are ranked tenth in the nation for team field goals

with a percentage of 48.5.

Women's Basketball

•Houghton's women are currently ranked fifteenth in the nation for team defense. Averaging 48.5 points per game.

NAIA District 19 players of the week :

•Women: Tricia Atkinson - January 20

•Men: David Binkowski - January 13

Congratulations to both Tricia And Dave!

Mail

To the Star,

Thank you for a most interesting article on charismatics at Houghton. Born a fourth-generation Free Methodist, but now attending the Assemblies of God, I felt it was very fair in presenting both sides of the issue. However, I wish to address the notions of Mr. Towers, the candidate for ministry in the Wesleyan denomination. Specifically, I wish to address his claim that charismatic worship is "anti-intellectual."

Considering the fact that he is apparently representing the Wesleyan denomination, I'm a bit skeptical that his statements arose from an open-minded and honest look at both sides of the issue. Of course, in all fairness, as we both are presenting opinions based on our choices of worship, his opinion is equally as valid as mine. Nevertheless, I feel he have been unfair in his estimation of the charismatic movement. Were there truly an "anti-intellectual" attitude, why would there be charismatic students at a liberal arts col-

lege? Either we are betraying our home churches or Mr. Towers has made an error of judgment.

Being pro-intellectual, I am willing assume that this is not what Towers meant to say. To be fair, it can be argued that while charismatics themselves are not anti-intellectual, their church services are. To respond to this I would first have to ask: have you ever attended a charismatic service? Have you done the pro-intellectual activity of examining for yourself, or have you made your decision based on what others have told you?

Secondly, if you have attended one service, have you attended any more, and at other charismatic churches? As any scientist would tell you, one experiment doesn't prove a conclusion, but rather several that make the same conclusion. Quite frankly, I doubt Mr. Towers has attended any such services, because I daresay he would have found a fervent and highly detailed study of the scriptures within the church services. As for Mr. Towers' statement to the effect that charismatic worship is

high in emotion, I would ask this: have you ever heard of hellfire and brimstone preaching? That is to say, preaching designed to, quite literally scare people out of hell? It's a common element of charismatic churches, especially in the birth of the American charismatic revival. It, along with the doctrine of separation and holiness was the backbone of the Assemblies of God (for example), but it did not start there. It started with the Methodists, in part as a reaction to the Anglican church's emotionless services. Charismatic worship is nothing new (it is definitely biblical), in fact, quite often it was the start of many break-away denominations, including Wesleyanism. If Mr. Towers has a problem with charismatic worship, he has a problem with elements of his own denomination.

In conclusion, I do not wish to come across as saying, "Worship my way, or you're wrong!" Not at all. What I am saying is that before insulting someone else's beliefs one should check them out first. Finally, don't discount the place of emotion in a walk with Christ. I could have just as easily accused Mr. Towers of being cold and dead in faith (for not worshipping emotionally), but *that* would be anti-intellectual. I would be willing to discuss the matter further with Mr. Towers if he so desires.

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew Owen

Etc...

The evil that is in the world always comes from ignorance, and good intentions may do as much harm as malevolence if they lack understanding...The soul of the murderer is blind, and there can be no true goodness nor true love without the utmost clear-sightedness.

—Camus, *The Plague*

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

I	N	S	A	P	A	C	E	P	A	R
T	O	T	M	A	D	A	M	R	T	E
S	T	U	P	I	D	P	E	T	A	L
D	U	D	T	E	R	R	I			
A	C	I	D	D	A	Y	I	E	L	D
G	R	O	S	U	B	S	E	R	I	E
O	F	M	O	D	U	L	A	R	B	E
R	A	N	I	E	L	A	N	H	E	M
A	M	I	S	S	A	T	P	A	L	S
M	E	T	E	R	G	A	R			
H	E	B	R	E	W	M	A	N	A	G
O	W	L	R	E	M	A	P	S	O	N
W	E	E	F	R	O	O	S	T	E	

FLIP SIDES

By Kelly Patterson

Fruitcake, fruitcake...I eat, therefore I am. Actually, I didn't have any fruitcake this break, but you get the point. Glad to be back, at least I thought so until classes started up again.

This semester, I've decided to start a regular segment entitled "Kelly's most embarrassing moments." I figured this will not only be amusing but I could never possibly run out of material.

Picture it...Bochum, Germany...1987. It's spring, and I'm on one of those infamous exchange programs that sadistic language teachers dream up. I guess I was really impressionable, because I jumped right on that plane with only one year of German under my belt. I ended up staying with this really interesting family whose only problems were that they couldn't speak any English and

they fed me 24 hours a day. I had to act out everything I wanted, needed, or thought... it was like one big charade extravaganza.

Now, there were some minor cultural differences that I had to adjust to when arriving. They didn't wear the same type of clothing, eat the same type of food, or use any deodorant. As you can imagine, the third was a bit difficult to adjust to but, being the chameleon of travel that I am, I handled it. The other difference is found in their idea of privacy. It seems that the Germans don't really value it as much as we Americans do. And that's the central idea around my first embarrassing moment in the Flip Side...the setting being the hutch of privacy itself, the bathroom.

It was early one morning when I arose with the idea of taking my daily shower. I then proceeded to lug my

shampoo and accessories into the family bathroom, and start my usual pre-shower ceremony. Of course, I was so drowsy that I forgot to lock the door behind me. BIG, HUGE, MAMMOTH-SIZED, SO-BIG-IT-COULD-ENGULF-YOU in one PHAGOCYTIC INGESTION MISTAKE!! O.K. so I'm in the shower, singing the usual Pavarotti hits when I noticed that the door handle was beginning to turn. Questions rang in my mind, such as "Did I hear a knock...NO," "What am I going to do?" and "Can I reach my towel...NO." By this time the door was half open, and a partial arm had appeared around its edge. The arm was large, hairy, and masculine, and recognizable as my foster father for the past weeks. Well, being the multi-lingual genius that I am, I handled it in the only way possible...I screamed my head off. The arm went stiff, the door slammed, and I suddenly thanked God that screams were universally translated.

So, I learned to lock doors, to expect the expected, and the translation of "Excuse me, this facility is occupied" in German. Until next time, this is shorty signing off for the French fry forecast...sorry, that's a whole other story. ☆

Inferiority complexes...the feeling that you're not good enough, not talented enough. It seems that this complex creeps in everywhere and anywhere we'll let it. Whether it be academics, art, or our different relationships with, and acts of worship for God.

When I first went into my Painting I class, I was very excited. The only other time I had touched a paintbrush or paints was when my parents trusted me with a set of watercolors (a decision they regretted soon after). In any case, it was going to be a totally new and enlightening experience. Before the first week was over, though, I was really enlightened. Suddenly I realized that I

didn't belong in this class, and my still life looked more like a still death than anything else. I started to feel very, very inferior. I rushed over to Luckey and dropped the class like a hot potato, but I still had that 'not good enough' feeling. Why?

Sometimes I don't see what I have compared to what I don't have. I guess you could say that I'm a pessimist looking at a glass of water that's not full. In my mind, I always seemed to fall short of everyone else. I can't sing well, I can't paint, I can't even make interesting noises with my nasal passage. A lot of times, I felt bankrupt of viable talents. Then, I thought of Sunday School.

One of the most well-known Sun-

day school lessons was the Parable of talents found in Matthew chapter 25. Jesus was pointing out that everyone has talents, and although some have more than others, all of them are just as important. Everyone has a vital role in God's service, and without the fulfillment of that role, a gap is created. There's no room for inferiority complexes, and besides, there's no reason for them.

So, I've decided to leave the art to the experts and focus on utilizing the talents that I was given. For one reason, I can't wait to hear God say to me, "Well done good and faithful servant! You have been faithful...come and share in the master's happiness!" (Matt. 25:21). ☆

The Black Hole

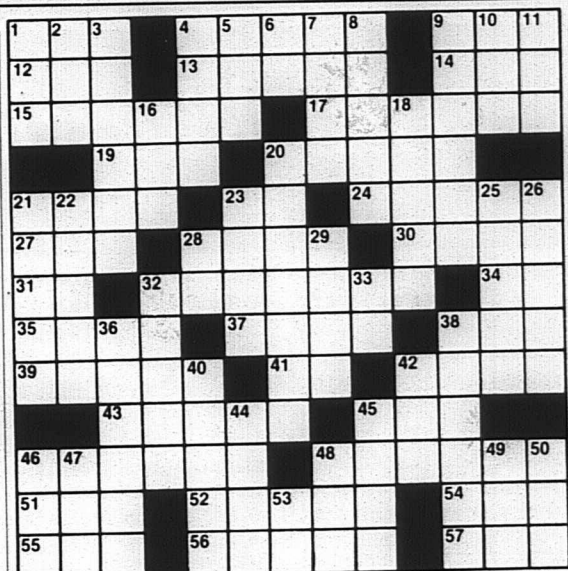
M. L. TAYLOR

Hi! I'm back again for yet another semester of stuff to rant about. For the record, I wish to start this semester with a brief note to all those that have any opinion of my column whatsoever: if you don't like it, don't read it; save yourself the self-inflicted agony on your own expense, not mine. But as far as that goes, there's more important stuff to attend to, so let's shall. . .

Something that has been on my mind and into my life, as well as the lives of others over the past, oh-say-decade or so, is the one thing that I would expect to never fully permeate the structure of this campus the way that it has. What the heck am I talking about in such a semi-tactile, run-on sentence? Why, THEFT, of course! Who could not guess? Was I too vague? Oh, I see now. My last three sentences (that won't get printed) just came up missing.

"Oh, how juvenile," you muse. Well, maybe. But when you leave something of yours in a fairly remote area in, say the confines of the Campus Center during lunch, you would expect those that are doing their thing would at least have the common, human decency to watch out for other's stuff, right? Yeah, right! Since 1988, I alone have had the great fortune of being enlightened by the mystical experiences of larceny in that four pairs of gloves, two rather expensive pins, three books (also rather expensive), an audio tape, three scarves, and a few other things that may not have been of great value to others, but eventually ended up in their pockets or on their dressers anyway. Plus, three totally good sentences turned up missing just three minutes ago! I am sure that you or someone that you know has had similar experiences. If you don't know anyone, I suggest that you exit the confines of your bedding a bit more frequently.

Why? Nothing is sacred. What's mine is mine and what's your's is mine, I suppose. But these things aren't supposed to happen here, right? Well kiddies, yes they do. This you cannot deny. It is not as complicated as leaving your window shades up or your doors unlocked. It is as simple as taking something in public from someone else's belongings while others passively go about their business. So, is it the other people's fault or is it the fault of the people that leave their stuff open to pillaging? Do you really have to ask? The point is that this topic shouldn't even have to be addressed by this columnist especially, here at Houghton. It really shouldn't *ever* have to be addressed. But this place is supposed to be a bastion of Christendom. Can it truly be such if theft continues to flourish? To me, theft is a major issue that seems to have been pushed aside for things such as DANCING. Theft not only hurts the victim but the community as a whole and it seems to me that if Houghton is truly concerned with "community" more should be done to prevent theft from reproducing itself at a geometric rate on campus. It may be number eight on The Great Scale, but it seems to be number one here. Maybe we should make it at least number two, then it might just eventually be reduced to zero.



ACROSS

1. Officeholders
4. Rapidly
9. Equal
12. Small child
13. A lady
14. Route (abbr.)
15. Dull
17. Flower parts
19. Unexploded bomb
20. Pile fabric
21. Dissolving solution (chem.)
23. Prosecutor (abbr.)
24. Give in
27. Gross (abbr.)
29. Substitutes (slang)
30. Great Lake
31. Old English (abbr.)
32. Standardized units
34. Exist
35. Rajah's wife
37. Dash
38. Edge of cloth
39. Out of proper order
41. Near
42. Friends
43. Measurement instrument
45. Elongated fish
46. Semitic people
48. Exert control
51. Night bird
52. Rechart

54. Male offspring
55. Very small
56. Wash away
57. Female saint (abbr.)

DOWN

1. Impersonal pronoun (pl.)
2. Negative word
3. Artist's workshop
4. Among
5. Cushion
6. Paid notice (informal)
7. Sleeveless garment
8. Used for grinding
9. Petition to God
10. Atlantic (abbr.)
11. Reticuloendothelial system (abbr.)
16. Easy (slang)
18. One who attempts
20. Flat
21. Greek marketplace
22. Choicest part
23. City person (informal)
25. Written defamation
26. Judges
28. Thus
29. Narrow strip of wood
32. Cheap person
33. Article
36. Agile
38. Pester
40. Equals one cubit meter
42. Cooking container
44. Wide-mouthed jug
45. Yawn
46. In what way
47. Female sheep
48. Angry
49. Received
50. Direction (abbr.)
53. Mid-West state (abbr.)

CROSSWORD
ANSWERS ON
PAGE 15

Blackberries

by Johnathan Wydysl

To the few and faithful, my readers:

I thought that I would skip trying to be clever for this issue. It takes some time and energy neither of which I have much of at this moment. I'm in the middle of trying to finish two incompletes by the January twenty-fourth deadline. By the time you read this, that mess will be taken care of, one way or another. I can tell you what I was planning on doing and that was turning Dylan Thomas' poem, "Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night" in to a sort of pun-laden send off poem to the various faculty and staff who are moving on to better things inside and outside Houghton.

Perhaps prudence and being too tired are one and the same? We'll let sleeping dogs lie (couldn't resist) and watch three excellent faculty members be dragged away from us and into administration, and say farewell to another for good. Are these that we are loosing replaceable? No, sadly enough all people are not created equal, professors aren't exceptions to this. Will they be replaced at all? My money is on the idea that they will try to swing a semester or two without adding to the faculty. The fiscal results of such a move would make it seem wise, but there are costs in this big switcheroo.

There is a fiction that I find rather comical like the ending of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" is a sidesplitter. The fiction is this: we now will have two part-time deans who will teach two classes on top of their administrative duties. You cannot serve two masters — academics and administration are worlds apart. It seems inevitable to this casandrite

that our associate deans will be swallowed alive by the bureaucracy beehemoth. Something or someone will suffer. I'm not criticizing anyone's decision-making ability, it just seems to me that this is a short-term solution at best and it will effectively take a neat chunk out of one of the things that has traditionally made this school such a strong academic institution: student-teacher ratio.

Houghton must realize it will not survive making knee jerk responses and patching old clothes with new patches. Were is Houghton heading? Do we want to get bigger? Do we want to become stronger academically? Do we want to become a world changing force for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? Do we want to maintain and just eek out an existence and remain virtually anonymous untouched and ineffective? Of course we don't want the later. (I sort of overstated the case) The point is that our actions corporately and individually are quite telling.

I'm as guilty as anyone, my flagging grades attest to that. The success or failure of this institution rests with the students. That's what Houghton is here for...the student. I'm afraid that there's a lack of a sense of ownership for this place from its students. It is hardly a wonder when student petition is ignored, (i.e. Dr. David Meade). The best history has shown us that we can do is to excell academically and by our reputation of outstanding scholarship in all disciplines and attract both serious prospective students and dedicated faculty that don't mind teaching with their arms tied behind their backs. See you on the dean's list. ☆

"I went from house to house, getting any food or clothes they would give me. I handed it all out to any needy people in the neighborhood."

—Jack Powell
Salisbury, MD

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