

the
Houghton
Star

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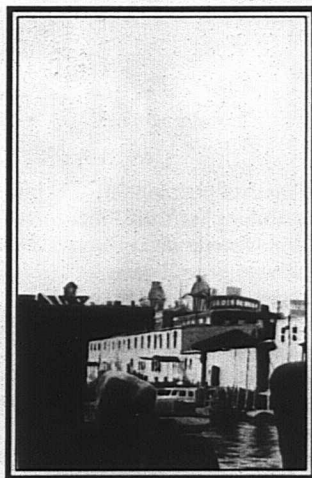
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volume 81
issue 13
24 february 89



August Dock, by Ted Murphy (Wesley Chapel art gallery)

And on your Right. . .

dave wheeler

Student reaction to the ongoing Dr. Meade situation spans the spectrum from vehement to passive to apathetic. One may get the impression from the visible activities of the Student Statement and Student Protest Committees that virtually the entire campus stands united in protest of the Board of Trustee's denial of tenure to Dr. David Meade. This is not the case, however. Although disagreement with the student committees is perceived by some as an "unpopular viewpoint," it does exist.

Some students, like senior Mark Horne, express theological differences with Meade but still believe that Meade was unfairly treated to an extent. "Dr. Meade made his views known from the beginning," said Horne, "and Houghton hired him knowing of them. Meade was 'shafted'." Horne said that he appreciated Dr. Meade's comments in the February 3 Star, in which Meade described Houghton as having a "moderate, slightly left" theological stance. "Dr. Meade has been the only person honest enough to talk about

Houghton's 'liberalization'," said Horne. "If the college catalog, for example, had been as honest as Meade, I could have saved myself time and money."

Horne is not alone in seeing the theological stances and trends of many of Houghton's faculty and students as negative and in seeing the Dr. Meade situation as highlighting this. Some students lament that when they express conservative viewpoints they are labeled "dogmatic," but that the same level of dogmatism is evident in their detractors. "The way I understand openmindedness is that one listens to a viewpoint, determines if it's right or wrong, then dismisses it if wrong or accepts it if right," one student said. "What I see happening is that people predecide the wrongness of a conservative's views, listen to him, and then automatically declare it wrong."

Another student expressed dismay over what he sees as a rejection of revealed truth. "You

— continued on page two

(dave wheeler)

continued from page one

have a large mass of people that claim to be searching for truth," he explained, "but when truth is presented to them, they dismiss it and reject the presenter as 'dogmatic'."

These views relate to the Dr. Meade situation in that some of these students see the protesters as presenting only one side of the issue, and the mass of students blindly following, signing whatever petitions are placed before them without critically analyzing them. One student said, "The petitions are right at the bottom of the (Campus Center) stairs," which makes it easy and convenient for students to sign such petitions and "rejoice in themselves for having done their Christian duty for the day." The same student perceives only a small core of students who he feels are "truly informed" about the theological and legal issues involved in the Meade situation.

Others simply disagree with Dr. Meade's views on pseudonymity as expressed in his controversial book *Pseudonymity and Canon* and consider such views as beyond Christian parameters. "Diversity of viewpoints is certainly to be expected and encouraged, even a wide diversity," said one student, "but not regarding the basic statements of the Christian faith, one of which is the accuracy of scripture."

Whatever the truth or falseity in these claims or those of the committees and their supporters, two negative aspects of the entire Meade issue are clear. One is the



apprehension of people to be named if they express an "unpopular viewpoint." Many feel that if they are

quoted as agreeing with the trustees' decision, people view them as personally attacking Dr. Meade.

The other problem, as expressed by one student, is even

more tragic. In the midst of the rhetoric on both sides, Dr. Meade "seems to have become a concept, a name to be used by either side to promote their particular philosophies, rather than a human being."

What the alumni heard

Once again, questions have been raised concerning Dr. David Meade's tenure denial. This time, the focus is on the *Milieu*, a Houghton publication which is sent to alumni. In the January issue, the situation involving Meade was covered in an article entitled "Tuition rises, Buffalo Campus Sale Eyed." The article, which also discussed a new administrative computer and the addition of ten new trustees to the board, mentioned a "community meeting" held in January.

At the meeting, Dr. Carl Schultz, chairman of the religion and philosophy department, read a divisional letter criticizing the indirectness of the trustees' actions in not supplying reasons for Meade's tenure denial. The meeting, led by President Chamberlain, was open to faculty, staff and administrators.

The *Milieu* stated: "A faculty member was granted opportunity to read a statement criticizing the confidentiality of the board's tenure discussions." The faculty member (Schultz) was not identified as the chairman of the religion and philosophy department, nor was the letter qualified as a divisional effort. Next in the article, President Chamberlain was quoted defending the trustees' actions. According to the *Milieu*, he "characterized the trustee action as 'a good faith effort on their part to do what is best for individuals and the institution.'"

"I would have appreciated a

bit more precision on the part of the *Milieu*," said Schultz. It is, he asserted, "critical that the statement be recognized as a divisional statement." At the time he read the letter at the meeting, Schultz announced that he was speaking for the entire division of religion and philosophy, seeking to dispel misconceptions of himself as a crusader. The divisional letter was not officially distributed at the meeting, although a copy was submitted to the president's office the following morning.

Mr. Dean Liddick, editor of the *Milieu*, explained that he quoted Chamberlain in the article but not Schultz partly for practical reasons. Chamberlain, he said, spoke more slowly than Schultz, and was therefore easier to quote. The omission of Schultz's quotations was an "editorial decision." "We were on deadline," he explained. "It would have been easier to say nothing."

Dr. Bence, academic dean, and now acting president of the college, also spoke of the *Milieu*'s coverage of the tenure debate. "It characterizes accurately what happened," was Bence's opinion. "There was a time when that [divisional letter] would have been graciously deleted from the magazine." The *Milieu* may cover the controversy more extensively once the issue is resolved.

amy lawrence



the ABCs of Denial

dave perkins

Earlier this month, the Board of Trustees reconsidered their decision "not to share the substance of the rationale" which led to their decision to deny tenure to New Testament professor David Meade. In a letter sent on February 2 by Herbert Stevenson, chairman of the board, Meade was offered "a list of issues arranged alphabetically" considered by the board in making their decision.

Meade, having received the letter, spoke with Dean Bence, a member of the board, "in order to clarify [his] understanding of it." Meade then wrote a letter in response on February 7, which he sent to Stevenson, other faculty, and the Star. Once the trustees respond to this letter, Meade plans to send it to the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, which gives accreditation to a group of colleges which includes Houghton. His purpose, as he wrote in his letter, should not be perceived as "an effort at self-vindication." Rather, his response "comes primarily out of a concern for the ramifications of the Board's actions for the life and witness of the Houghton Community."

Stevenson claimed in his letter that throughout the board's discussion of Meade's tenure, "the values of academic freedom, faculty diversity, freedom of speech and freedom of conscience were clearly appreciated and articulated. . . . We [the board] continue to share [these values] with the faculty and the student body."

Meade disagreed with this claim, however, and wrote, "the decision [to deny tenure] strikes at the heart of the institution's commitment to liberal arts." He

based his response on the board's lack of a written rationale for their decision. Meade believes that the board did not reveal why they denied him tenure because they were "faced with this dilemma: If they granted me tenure, they risked a great disruption between the college and the [Wesleyan] denomination." (Several Wesleyan leaders have asked that Meade be removed from the faculty.) Meade continued: "Yet if either the Board

"The Board was faced with this dilemma: If they granted me tenure, they risked great disruption between the college and the denomination."

or the General Superintendents [of The Wesleyan Church] judged my views heretical, they would be obligated to apply the same standard universally. . . . which would devastate the college and possibly damage the denomination, since many share my views."

Stevenson wrote that the board had questioned whether Meade's views regarding Biblical inerrancy were "sufficiently compatible with the present range of definitions of this topic within the evangelical movement with which The Wesleyan Church and other constituencies identify." He went on, however, to write, "The Board did not see its role as requiring any determination that your views were or were not consistent

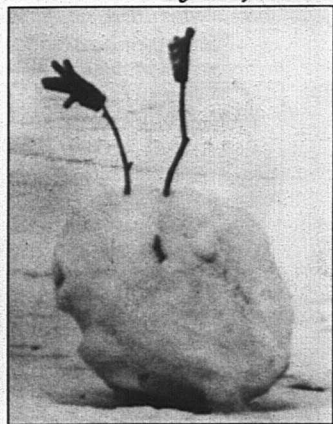
with The Wesleyan Church's position on inerrancy, nor was the Board equipped, nor did it attempt to make such a determination."

It astonished Meade that the board decided not to evaluate his theological position, although it did raise questions "regarding the focus of [his] teaching and scholarship," since, Meade presumed, "the focus of these issues. . . is my views on inerrancy and pseudonymity." Since "one of the criteria for employment and tenure [is] doctrinal fidelity to the. . . Wesleyan Articles of Religion," and since "a number of my colleagues hold and teach views very similar to mine," Meade thinks that "the Board would want to speak decisively on this issue."

Stevenson's two-page letter and Meade's nine-page response are available in the Star office for anyone who would like to read them in full.



*the losing snow sculpture
by the juniors*



LETTER

To the Student Body:

Although it may seem that the issue concerning Dr. Meade's denial of tenure has been put on the back burner, the ad hoc Student Protest Committee has been meeting regularly to discuss new information and possible actions.

Due to the sensitivity of the subject, it has been difficult to get information to the student body as quickly as we would like. Beginning this week, the Student Protest Committee will provide weekly updates.

Please stay informed, keep asking questions, and above all remember that your physical, intellectual, and spiritual input is the power behind the students.

To the right is a copy of a letter sent to the Board of Trustees. We will inform you of their response.

Student Protest Committee

Eric Buck, Pete Hise, Myriam Sauchuk, Mark Shiner, Juli Neudeck, Steve Rannekleiv, Kurt Brown, John Morris, Ingrid Marcroft, Audrey Vitolins, Shannon De Lay, Ann Bruce, Becky Bruce, Beth Brotzman, Dan Walsh, Juli Bray, Nolan Huizenga

To the trustees. . .

20 February 1989

To the Members of the Board of Trustees:

As a continuation of our endeavors concerning Dr. Meade's situation, the Student Protest Committee would like to sponsor an open forum between interested students and all available board members. Our purpose for this meeting is to promote communication and a better understanding of the issue influencing the student body now and the future of Houghton College.

We realize this is short notice; however, our goal is to meet with those who are available and who choose to attend this meeting. As a result of a continued unrest and student concern, we feel it is crucial that this meeting occur.

Two proposed dates are Saturday the 4th of March or Saturday the 11th of March, 1989. Please RSVP to Eric Buck CPO # 537 or phone (716) 567-4326 by Monday the 27th of February. We will inform you by phone of the date that receives the most favorable response. We welcome any further questions.

Please be conscious of the importance that we are placing on your response.

Respectfully,

Student Protest Committee

cc/ Dean Bud Bence
Dean Robert Danner
Houghton Star



the Minefield

the Demise of Dissent

I came to work for the Star at the very beginning of last semester. I was given but two conditions for my *opinion* column; specifically, that it: a) focus on the issue at hand, and, b) come out each week without fail.

During the first semester there were a few times when stylistic changes in my column were requested, but they were minor. During the first month of the second semester, however, things changed. I have enjoyed writing for the Star, but I also agree with the editors that they have spent too much time editing my column. The editors sent me a letter on Feb. 15 containing censorship criteria thinly veiled as eight different "until now undefined expectations," which is a farce. My opinion column has, from the beginning, been radically conservative from a fundamentalist perspective, and I have made no attempt to disguise my views or intentions for the column. If they had wanted someone else, they should have added him to the paper. Since they asked me, I concluded they wanted the real Mick Williams. Apparently not—now they wish to remake my column to fit some other mold.

If the "Minefield" is to be a real opinion column, it must not simply include those opinions Mick has that are also held or tolerated by the editors. It must also be printable when it contains those the editors dislike. Two sides of the argument are indeed important, but such balance need not be achieved in each and every

piece. It can be achieved also by having Mick Williams take one position and the rest of the writers take the other. I believe the value of the column is in the number of students who bother to read it, talk about it, and/or review their own thinking as a result.

The editors should print the column and hold to this year's Star's original purpose, or delete it as a feature and revise the editorial philosophy to something like, "Everything that's fit to print (if

also left of center)." They shouldn't, however, try to nickel-and-dime the column to death with censorship masquerading as technical objections.



mick williams

A Farewell to Arms

Mick's opinions, as well as anyone else's, are a welcome addition to the Star. A variety of *opinions* is provoking. In almost every one of the twelve "Minefields" we have printed, Mick drew conclusions with which neither of us agree. Nonetheless, we printed his columns consistently, on the basis that a diversity of opinion is healthy. Thus, it is not fair to say that we have insisted that Mick's opinions match ours before we printed his column.

Earlier this week, however, we began to insist that Mick *argue fairly* in his column. Often, even in the edited versions of "the Minefield," he has not done so. His conclusions are not always supported by his reasons, and the reasons that he does provide are not always accurate or valid.

When we talked to Mick last Monday, he pointed out that we cannot be objective

judges of what makes an argument fair, and thus, if we edit one of his reasons on the basis of its accuracy or validity, we are changing his column into one that we "like"—namely, one that we agree with. We stressed that we never tried to take his opinions out of his column, but instead asked him to support his conclusions clearly. The role of editor, we said, involves the responsibility of determining what makes an argument fair.

Mick told us that he cannot tolerate the idea that we can be the judges of what makes an argument fair. Since we insisted on having this right, he told us that he will not write any more "Minefields" for the remainder of the semester.

thom satterlee
dave perkins



beaver perkins

(photo by don tremblay)

Beaver Perkins died about a year ago (February 25, 1988). I speak for her friends when I say that since that awful time we have been unable to fill the void that her death left in our lives. We have tried! Sometimes we have been desperate and we have despaired. Other times, remembering her calmness and her love for us, we have felt even closer to her than when she was here. In those times we have found comfort. Often, members of the Houghton community have felt our distress and have consoled us with their pity and sympathy. We thank them for that.

I speak for her friends, also, when I say that Beaver's life is a greater influence upon us than her death. As I feel her loss in more areas, the sorrow increases—yet I live, I love, I enjoy most everything I enjoyed before. I have found some "integration" through the events surrounding her death. That is, while many occasions in life used to be sweet, and many others used to be bitter, nearly all of them are now bitter-sweet. That is an integration of a sort. I can live in this way, and as long as I do, Beaver will live on as well.

I am still ambivalent, though. I recall some lines from a poem by Edna St. Vincent Millay:

Down,
Down,
Down,
Into the grave.
I know,
But I do not approve.

And then also I remember a conversation I had with Rich Perkins about praying to God. Rich asked the question (without rancor), "You mean pray to the One who didn't heal Beav although I asked constantly? Pray to that One? That's the One?" As we sat there weeping, I heard myself say, "Yes, that's the One." I have come to believe those words, and my lost confidence in life has been replaced with hope.

And so, Beaver's death continues to reverberate through our lives. We have had no trouble at all realizing that "the Lord giveth; and the Lord taketh." By His grace, and by the luminous example of Beaver's life, we are finding the ability to say as well, "Blessed be the name of the Lord."

brian sayers



Anastasia, a drama in three acts, is the English Expression Club's spring production. Performances continue in Fancher Auditorium on Friday

and Saturday evenings at 8:00.

Patty Carole viewed the Wednesday night dress rehearsal and wrote the following reaction.

The posh court life of Czarist Russia has ended. Glasses of vodka toasting the "good life" are only a sweet memory of ten years for an ex-prince, a ex-banker, and an ex-scenic designer for the Russian Imperial Opera, some of the main characters in the play. Since the day the Bolsheviks established communism in Russia and took all the Faberge jeweled eggs, these characters have lived in a modest house in Berlin.

The play *Anastasia* allowed me to remember with these disposed and disinherited a time of furs, operas, and black caviar. Each character recollected a grand past except for the one who lived in the most luxurious palace of all: Anastasia, the daughter of Nicholas XI.

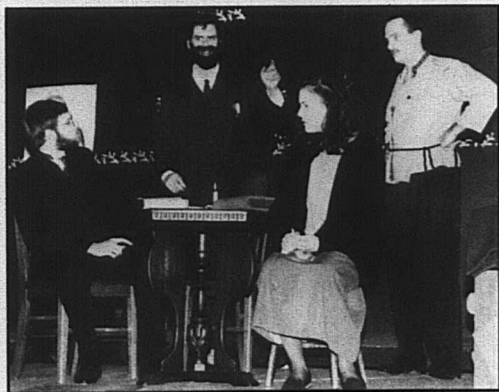
On one level, Anastasia does remember her past. While in the hospital suffering from amnesia, she asserts that she remembers being Her Imperial Highness, Princess Anastasia Nicholaevna. But no one takes her seriously. No one, that is, except the former Prince Bounine, who now drives a taxi. Yet,

once a prince, always a prince, and the guy is used to his caviar. Therefore, when the English and Swedish banks offer ten million pounds to whomever locates the lost princess, Bounine smells an opportunity that he can not ignore.

He believes that he can transform this wandering amnesiac into a complete likeness of Anastasia and cash her in for ten million pounds. Yet, throughout this transformation process there is a mystery within Anastasia's troubled eyes which indicates that Bounine may not be staging a hoax after all. This might really be Princess Anastasia.

This gnawing uncertainty is engaging and keeps one listening and looking for clues. On the other hand, Anastasia, played by Maila Niemi, remains elusive and strongly suspicious, contributing to the intrigue that Marcelle Maurette (the author of the play) intended. Niemi plays well against the Dowager Empress, performed by Deb Gray, whose role is Anastasia's "grandmama." Gray, too, gives an impressive performance, making it clear that her character is an Empress: even on hard, wooden chairs, her seat is a throne. Gray is supported by a minor character that I hope to see and hear more of. Christina Cortright plays the Empress' young escort, whose roaming eyes belie her former dignified title of Baroness.

The thrust of the play is suspenseful, as each of the characters probe the red-haired woman to see if she is the real Anastasia. For some of the characters this knowledge is essential to their very lives. Personally, I didn't take the quest quite as seriously, but the journey was fun anyway.



Left to right: Eric Brown (Boris Chernov), Adam English (Prince Bounine), Maila Niemi (Anastasia) and Eric Darling (Petrovin)



Adam English and Maila Niemi

Dear Editors:

It seems to me that in the celebration of Black History Month, many significant events in black history have been left out. I, of course, could be wrong about this assertion, so let me present my argument for critical examination.

First of all, let me share my definition of black history. Black history is the history of blacks since they came to America. If we can accept this definition, I would then ask if the freeing of the slaves after the Civil War by Abraham Lincoln through the Emancipation Proclamation was a significant event in black history. This sounds rather significant to me. Why, then, have I heard nothing about it?

We can look further back in American history to find even more events in black history that may be considered important. How about the Missouri Compromise, passed during James Monroe's administration? This act

created Missouri as a slave state and Maine as a free state in order that there be an equal number of slave and free states. However, its *major* contribution to black history was its provision making the North forever free of slavery. This event, made possible largely through the efforts of Senator Henry Clay, was very important to black history as well. All of a sudden, half the Union was free—a giant step toward total freedom of all slaves. The question is, why have these events been all but ignored? How can we forget about events like these and then put up posters on the windows of the campus store about the black man who made the first traffic light?

Does one have to be black to be recognized in Black History Month, despite the contributions one has made to make it possible? It would appear so.

jamie lindsay

Track

Results of the Roberts invitational women's meet on 4 Feb:

Team scores

1. Fredonia State	135
2. Geneseo State	102
3. Alfred University	54
4. Roberts Wesleyan	51
5. Alfred State	46
6. R. I. T.	24
7. Houghton	14
8. Brockport State	4

...and the Roberts invitational men's meet on 11 Feb:

Team scores

1. Brockport	210
2. R. I. T.	100
3. Niagara	70
4. Buffalo State	42
5. Roberts Wesleyan	32
6. Houghton	30
7. Erie Community	28
8. St. Bonaventure	4

