

The Houghton Star

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Touching People at the Point of Their Need: A Conversation with Dr. Thomas Nees

by Dave Wheeler

Dr. Thomas G. Nees, of the Community of Hope in Washington, D.C., came to Houghton last week through the Staley Lecture program. In chapel on Thursday and Friday, and in Schaller Hall on Thursday night, Dr. Nees addressed the topic, "The Church Meeting Human Needs: a Wesleyan Theology".

The following is excerpted from a conversation that Dr. Nees and I had Thursday night, regarding the relative impotence which we, as individuals, church and nation, so often display when faced with suffering around us.

Your comments in chapel Thursday about seeing pain and want, and then immediately forgetting about it, struck a chord with me. The image that came to my mind was the African famine and my nonchalant attitude about it—after awhile, the pictures didn't mean

anything; and you'd hear "We Are the World" piped into shopping malls.

Yes, that's true.

Why are we so easily anaesthetised?

I would suppose that there's a certain defense mechanism involved. A lifeboat mentality sets in—the problem seems so overwhelming, so unsolvable, that the only thing to do is store up enough supplies to keep yourself alive.

What I hear among evangelicals is, "what can we do?" We need to point out a few things that are possible in the meeting of peoples' needs. And from a theological point of view, there is a lack of motivation.

By this you mean a lack of interest in involvement with social action?

The prevailing idea has been that if you engage in meeting human needs, you are taking away from your real mission as a Christian—

"evangelism". We've grown up with the idea that soup kitchens and the like take the church away from its true calling. We have so narrowly defined the mission of the church that most evangelical churches don't know *how* to respond to physical needs.

How would you define "evangelism"?

I would define it as touching people at the point of their need with the compassion of Jesus, and inviting people to become followers of Him.

If we look at the problem from a national perspective, would you say that a huge part of the problem of American poverty lies in the fact that the government (particularly the Reagan administration) is similar to society as a whole in expecting that Christians will be actively involved in living out Christ among human-

(continued on page 2)



No, this picture has nothing whatsoever to do with the above article. We ran out of film and met with various and sundry other technical difficulties, and could take no pictures pertinent to the article. Therefore, the above photo makes its first-ever appearance in a Houghton Star.

"Need"

(continued from page 1)

ity? The government (perhaps correctly) expects us to aid the poor, so it cuts social programs; and we don't fulfill this responsibility—and the poor continue living in poverty and hunger. What would you say about this thesis?

I think that there is some truth to that—there is a great awareness that the churches have these responsibilities—but there are problems with it. The main problem I have with it is that the government can do some things that the church cannot. There is a proper role for the government in dealing with social needs, and my feeling is that the government hasn't done all that it can do.

Then you would argue that both the government and the church share the responsibility; and both have, in essence, "copped out"?

Exactly.

To shift gears to the practical, in what practical ways can an average individual at a college like Houghton help to resolve the problem of poverty?

Well, being always comes before doing. People must examine themselves and what they believe about their responsibilities as Christian individuals. Once you know this, opportunities to live that out are at hand. Student life is a very opportune time for getting these things fully in mind.



No Tunnel Vision

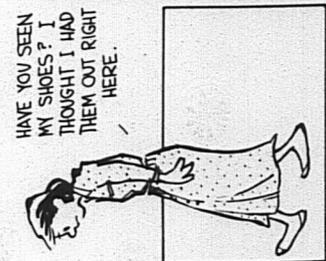
by Mark Thomson

Houghton College's environmental awareness has been greatly heightened by the possibility of a nuclear waste site being placed in the immediate area. Before we develop a tunnel vision, however, we must realize that there are a multitude of other environmental issues to be dealt with; hence, this year's Current Issues Day theme: the environment.

Drs. Cameron Airhart and James Wolfe are working with a faculty committee to organize the details of this "awareness" day. They wish to engage the help of any students who would like to help in this effort. There is a clear message being sent: Current Issues Day is for the students of Houghton College. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Dr. Airhart.

A "rough sketch" of the day's activities has been formulated. On the morning of February 20, there will be a seminar in which a succession of guest speakers will present related topics. The different angles of ethics, legality, conservationism, and science will be represented. That afternoon, students will have the opportunity to engage in "roundtable" discussions with faculty and special guests on specific issues, such as global warming, climate change, and preservation of species.

As we fight to "bump the dump," let's remember to be aware of the more general themes to be dealt with on Current Issues Day. It is always wise to make oneself aware of the larger picture.



And now for something completely different...

by Ivan T. Rocha



This year's homecoming celebration represents a clear break with tradition. Instead of resorting to the usual fairy-tale-cum-never-never-land themes repeated time and time again, this year's Homecoming committee decided to center the celebration around a more contemporary theme—the sixties.

According to senior Mary Joy Love, this year's Homecoming coordinator, the idea was to do something "more current, different." The theme, conceived by Vonda Wadhams, was discussed with a number of friends and acquaintances — all of whom expressed their unconditional approval — before being submitted to the powers that be.

The idea was picked out of several other ideas, including a "glamour" Homecoming. This would have consisted of a Hollywood-style glitz-and-glitter festival including movie "premiere" nights and other such ostentatious and expensive entertainments—all, of course, in full formal regalia. The idea, however, was discarded in light of the Homecoming committee's limited budget.

The entire program will last for the better part of three days and will include a number of activities typical of the sixties. The festivities will open with a "protest" for more food from Big Al's around chapel time on Thursday, October 5. That evening there will be a study break, and on Friday night the Paratore Brothers, duo-pianists, will perform in the first concert of the 1989-1990 Artist Series. The majority of the festivities are, however, reserved for Saturday, October 7, and will include the traditional parade, athletic games, banquet, and a special movie. This year's celebration will also include a tribute to the Vietnam dead. According to Mary Joy Love, this is neither a protest, nor a demonstration in favor of war—it is merely a tribute.

Work on the final details of Homecoming is well under way, although a few final aspects, such as acts for the Spot after the banquet, are still being taken care of. In any case, this year's Homecoming promises to be very interesting and attractive, in a "different sort of way."



Freshman Class Among Largest of Decade

A headcount of 1197 leads Houghton College's fall enrollment figures. This inclusive number counts the Buffalo Suburban Campus, non-credit audits and 24 students engaged in off-campus semesters in regions ranging from Western Europe to Washington State.

According to registrar Willis Beardsley, the comprehensive figure includes 454 men and 743 women. New students, including transfers, total 382. Of these, 320 are freshmen. Admissions director Tim Fuller called this "one of the largest incoming classes of this decade." Houghton's freshman class includes 21 valedictorians and 10 salutatorians. Sixty students earned New York State Regents Scholarships, one is a National Merit finalist, and 16 others received letters of commendation. Average SAT scores of the entering freshmen were: 518 (verbal); 544 (math).

Other classes include 253 seniors, 233 juniors, and 291 sophomores (the balance are unclassified). In terms of credit hours, the full-time equivalent figure is 1144.

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Rant

by Mark Shiner

"The Dance"

Houghton College is made up of people who, generally speaking, value security and stability more than they value freedom. This is nowhere as obvious as in the imposed morality of Houghton's *Responsibilities of Community Life* (the "Pledge").

I had a very refreshing experience this past weekend. I was visiting my best friend at Haverford College, and as we walked back toward her dorm around midnight, we came across a group of about fifteen very drunk college students. They stumbled, arms entwined, this throng of joyously inebriated Haverfordians; down a narrow sidewalk near the heart of the campus, singing a pitiful but spirited rendition of the *Brady Bunch* theme song.

What was refreshing about this experience to me, a person who practices abstinence?

It was refreshing because I was finally in a place where people were free to make their own moral decisions and to shoulder the consequences of these decisions. At this crucial stage in their development, these students

were free to experiment, to make mistakes, and, eventually, to have an internalized moral system rather than one imposed from "above."

Houghton College as an institution is more afraid than free—it has fearfully constructed and instituted an ethical system in order to provide a "safe" place for frightened evangelical parents to send their similarly frightened evangelical children. God forbid that we should have to take responsibility for our own actions! Instead, Houghton imposes a frequently anti-Biblical moral system (a product more of 19th-century revivalism than of Biblical revelation) and condemns or suspends those whose ethical systems are not congruous with it.

I believe it is time for us, as the body of Christ, to step out of the fearful confines we have impressed upon ourselves. It is time for us to open ourselves fully and freely to the God who turns our "mourning into dancing" (Psalm 30). It is time for us to join in the dance.



What is Real?

by Jenna Gieser and Miriam Danielson

"What is real?" asked the Rabbit.

"Real isn't how you are made," said the Skin Horse. "It's a thing that happens to you. . ."

"Does it hurt?" asked the Rabbit.

"Sometimes," said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful. "When you are Real, you don't mind being hurt."

"Does it happen all at once, like being wound up," he asked, "or bit by bit?"

"It doesn't happen all at once," said the Skin Horse.

The Velveteen Rabbit

As we daily grow as people, we make choices and ask questions that determine whether or not we will become Real like the Velveteen Rabbit. Although we may not feel confident about the process of becoming Real, our daily life determines if or how it happens.

Some of us are attracted to the life of a shiny new mechanical toy. After all, such a life provides the greatest acceptance and ease. The mechanical life is for all who need to experience the security of living the social norm without fear of being ostracized. Unfortunately, they never experience freedom from being manipulated by someone else. Mechanical toys can never become real.

For many of us, a cold, programmed life holds no appeal. All who remain must ask questions in order to decide which life to pursue. At this point many come to the question: "What is REAL?" In order to find an answer, often many more questions must be asked.

(continued on page 5)

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What is Real?

(continued from page 4)

Pain is often involved in becoming the persons we were created to be. We rarely escape the pain of inner crisis which hurts so deeply we never believe it will heal. As we heal, it becomes apparent that a scar will remain. Such a mark is not a blemish; it remains as a reminder of where we have come from in order to attain "REALness."

There is also a time factor in this process. It is not a few days or hours. Rather it begins in a moment but continues over months and years. Endurance is essential to the concept of evolving into the real you. The process does continue across a lifetime.

For those of us hoping to become Real but are surrounded by questions, may we find hope and peace in the words of the Skin Horse: "You become. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't often happen to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are Real, you can't be ugly except to people who don't understand."



(After you have read this article, please come talk to me if you think I have been unduly harsh or unfair. I am not pointing my finger at any one individual, nor is my intent to alienate anyone. But this subject has been on my mind since my freshman year, so I vent my frustration here.)

Just who do you think you are, anyway? All of you people who parade about in front of your professors and the deans and display your "Christianity," and once back in the dorm. . . Well, I suppose this could be described as the "Dr. Jeckyl and Mr. Hyde Syndrome."

Now, I'm not the kind of person to really hate something, but there is one thing I detest: a hypocrite. And, yes, even Houghton has its share. I see the two sides of you people, and frankly, it makes me want to throw up.

Those of you who know me, know that I am not by any means the "good Christian." As a matter of fact, I feel that I have failed miserably. But at least I'm honest about this! No, I don't always make it to church; and no, I don't have a good excuse for this. But when I go, I prefer the 8:30 service or somewhere off campus. Why? Because the 11:00 service is a fashion show for many who attend. Everyone dons their Laura Ashley and J. Crew Christianity, and pretend to be holy for about an hour (less time for those of you who fall asleep). It's difficult to worship among people who look down on those in the congregation who don't dress according to the latest styles.

Do you understand what I am trying to say here? "By their fruit you

Letter: Who is Real?

will recognize them" (Mt. 7:16). Thank God for all you people on campus who actually are committed to the ways of Christ. By the fruits you display, we know you, and we admire you.

You people display: Love - for the person rather than the clique; Joy - even on the worst of days, you remember that the joy of the Lord is your strength; Peace - in the midst of the day's hectic schedule; Patience - even when your floormates are loud after quiet hours; Kindness - helping that prospective find his way instead of laughing at the little white folder; Goodness - listening to your roommate's problems when you know you should be studying; Faithfulness - to your ACO kid; Gentleness - you carried the books for the girl on crutches; Self-control - when someone offers to tell you the nasty details about so-and-so, and you say, "Thanks, but no thanks."

You are an inspiration to me. I wish there could be more people on campus—heck, in the world—like the previous description.

There are three things I have learned from all of this: 1) How to constructively vent my anger within this article; 2) That no one can claim to be perfect, and I have no right to expect anyone to be the perfect example of Christ, that would be ludicrous, and 3) That you hypocrites may be able to fool many of us, but it is impossible to fool God. And in the end, that is what will really count.

"Because you are lukewarm, I am about to spit you out of my mouth" (Revelation 3:16).

Carol Chaffee

Shining in Tribute

an essay by Wendy Hoke

So what's new? Anything changed? Your father died? Your mother? But you're all grown up now, out on your own. Maybe you do live at home—but you work, you have a social life, you vacation with friends now. Your activities and hobbies no longer require Dad on the sidelines to cheer you on or Mom fussing because you may get hurt. These days, if Mom fusses like that, you probably get annoyed.

But now one of them is gone, maybe both. And what changes? It's business as usual. Your friends are all around you; you still run and play soccer. Maybe you stop at Mom's to mow the lawn or throw Dad's stuff in the laundry with your own. Time heals the hurt—even quickly, if we're willing to accept

God's sovereignty. But is this what we're left with?

So Mom learns to pay the bills, or Dad learns to cook (or eat out). That guiding hand that raised you is reduced to a headstone, a few photographs and one less friend you need to keep in touch with.

Then the realization comes! You're not wearing a sign that says, "My dad died." He didn't win any government honors or achieve fame—who really cares that he's gone? It's barely changed your life!

Well, let me tell you something. Your mom and dad have left in this world one very obvious medal—you! If nothing else significant—you!

How does that make you feel? If you were angry because God took a parent away from you, or because it

didn't seem as significant as it should be, consider this. Every time you meet someone, you're showing in some way the greatness of your parents! Scary? Challenging?

I want people to know just how great my dad was—as a dad, as a person, as a Christian. What a responsibility (and you thought looking after your kid brother was bad).

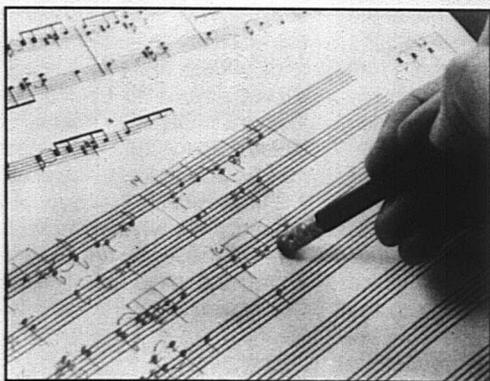
Let me remind you now of another Father, who, in a very similar manner, we represent. Are you showing His greatness when you meet others? Are you a sparkling medal or have you become tarnished? Pick yourself up, polish yourself, and shine in tribute to your parents!



Houghton Composers Concert:

Music for the Houghton Masses

by Patty Carole



Jan Wayner's flute creates ripples of water kissed by beams of silver moonlight. Then morning rises into the air. Dave Miller will start the robins tweeting until Susan Dellas wakes everyone up with a fresh pot of coffee. Michelle Pike's computerized percussion will make your body hum to the amazing rhythms of a new day.

By mid-afternoon you're ready for the crazy antics of Miriam Danielson. She'll have you resting, walking, and running in less than five minutes. Just when you're practically flying off your seat, Kerry Harker brings you to a dead stop. Your professor wants to talk to you again. Listen to your professor talk and talk and talk. Kerry's viola has never been so very . . . well, uh, so very . . . talkative. After this lump-sided conversation you go home, kick open the door, slam it shut, and fling your bookbag hard against the wall. Anger! Jedidiah McKee makes you feel it.

Sound like a typical Houghton day? Well, that's what it is: "A Day

The Birth of Alternatives

by Jedidiah McKee



The Campus Activities Board brings contemporary Christian musicians to Houghton. If you want to listen to classical music, you go to an Artist Series Concert. But if you prefer jazz, vocal *a cappella*, and other genres, there is the Side Artist Series. Dr. Bruce Brown, who coordinates the Artist Series, created the Side Artist Series as a medium for "alternative" music.

On this year's schedule is the New York Salvation Army Staff Band on October 20, upperclassmen's parents' weekend (tickets, \$4.50). On March 24, the Eastman Jazz Ensemble, lauded as the "best jazz

band in the country," will be performing. Tickets are \$7.50. Negotiations are still going on as to the exact date that Take 6 will be here, probably in late January or early February. Tickets for this vocal jazz ensemble are \$8.50.

Dr. Brown wished to express that the college is not hoping to make money on the Side Series, merely to meet the expenses of bringing quality music to Houghton. Season tickets, which can also be used to reserve seats for Artist Series, are available in the Music Office for \$20.

in the Life." It could be me or you (or a dog named Boo). That's what makes this concert so different from most. The music isn't composed by some 17th-century herdsmen in a remote Rumanian village. We see these composers every day going to chapel, classes, and Big Al's. Yes, they might even be your roommates. But now you're thinking that their cruel music professors are making them compose like herdsmen from Rumania. You're in for a shock! Telephone rings, Latin drums, and violin knocking are a few of the unexpected musical treats.

That is what the Composers' Concert is mostly about. Plain fun. Dr. Allen told his composition class

not to be too serious about their assignments. As a result, many of the students said that they liked composing and wanted to do more of it.

So, end your day at Wesley Chapel on Monday, October 2 at 8:00 pm. Gently pull open the door, slip your bookbag under the seat and enjoy. Then, hopefully, your day won't end up as miserably as Jed's.



Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson

Persistence Rules

by Becki Burrichter and Nancy Metzler

Last Tuesday's field hockey game was a splendid example of tenacious play and model unity. Mansfield, coming from Pennsylvania, was the rival with a 1-4 record. Both teams appeared evenly matched. Alert defensive players kept the ball out of the net throughout the entire first half and most of the second.

In the second half, Houghton was granted three corners in a row, but couldn't score. With 19 seconds remaining in the game, however, the Houghton offense made one last rush for the goal. Sophomore Janet Kirschner passed the ball to freshman Lori Sheetz, who scored the sole goal of the game and the first goal of her college career. After the final whistle, the team was unanimous in their excitement.

"It was just an awesome game," Amy Burcaw, senior, commented. "It was an incredible team effort, our unity pulled us together, and everyone did their part." In a huddle after the game, the team sang, "I Will Call Upon the Lord."



Last Inning Heroics Lift Flamingo Knights

by Kevin Fuller



The race for the intramural softball championship continued last Monday afternoon as the L.C. Sat. W., piloted by Dave Squitieri, were hosted by Dru Christian's Flamingo Knights. Chris Daniels, starting pitcher for the Knights, was touched up for three runs in the first inning due to two crucial Knight errors combined with singles from Squitieri and Steve Royce. In the bottom of the first, the Knights scored twice off L.C. Sat. W. pitcher Julie Riley. Matt Hull, Matt Roth and Chris Daniels all singled, while Roberta Pierce delivered with an RBI.

Despite the early offensive fireworks, defense proved to be the key factor in the game. With the score tied at four in the fifth inning, the Knights threatened to break open the game with runners on second and third. Pierce hit what appeared to be a single to center field, but L.C. Sat. W. outfielder Tom Noyes made a spectacular diving catch on the sinking line drive to end the inning. The Knights maintained a strong infield throughout the game, with shortstop Roth and second baseman Pierce consistently making

impressive plays to keep their team in the contest.

The Knights took the lead in the bottom of the sixth inning when Hull drove in Chris Haskins to make the score 6-5. Despite ill-advised baserunning by Tom Hill, who failed to stretch a ground ball into a double, the L.C. Sat. W. managed to tie the score at six. Squitieri, having reached base on a single, scored on Noyes' triple to center. Noyes attempted to score from third, but met the same fate as Hill.

The Knights took the lead once more in the bottom of the seventh. Roth drove Riley's first offering deep into the right-center field gap for a stand-up triple, and scored moments later on Christian's infield hit, giving the Knights a 7-6 victory.

The Knights' captain was very pleased with the victory. "We played a smart ballgame," said a smiling Dru Christian, celebrating his team's 2-1 record. "Everybody did their job well."

The L.C. Sat. W., despite playing a good game, falls to 1-2 on the year.

PHOOEY. MOM AND DAD LEFT. NOW WE'RE HERE ALONE WITH THE BABY SITTER FROM THE BLACK LAGOON.



HEE HEE! DO YOU THINK SHE REMEMBERS HOW LAST TIME WE THREATENED TO FLUSH HER SCIENCE NOTES DOWN THE TOILET?

HA HA HA! OUR FINEST MOMENT



OK, YOU, GET IN BED.

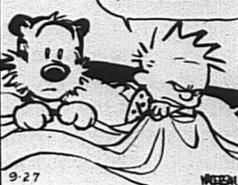
WHAT?!

IT'S NOT EVEN 6:30!



SHE REMEMBERS, ALL RIGHT.

SHE CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THIS. WE'LL CALL THE RESCUE SQUAD.



Fisher Defeats Highlanders

by Dan Noyes

Sometimes it doesn't matter how badly you want it. Sometimes the neighborhood bully takes your milk money, pulls your hat over your eyes and hits you in the face with a slush ball.

The Highlanders hit the volleyball court with determined looks and their hands on their milk money. St. John Fisher (with a 21-0 record) took an early lead with excellent team play. Houghton couldn't seem to find the right combinations or put the good hits together. That was the first game.

In the second game, the momentum shifted. Houghton began to put it together, only to be outlasted by their persistent opponents, who won the game 15-13.

Kris Beukam's impressive serving and Christie Brown's excellent play off the bench highlighted the second and third games. Despite the team's never-say-die attitude and the encouragement from their loyal fans, Houghton lost the last game, 16-14.

Houghton played well against a team that had earned its reputation for being the best in the league. The next game will be at 7:00 on Wednesday, October 4 at home against Fredonia.

The Good Race: The Houghton Cross-Country Team

by Kevin Fuller

There are few undertakings which seem more grueling in my mind than running on a cross-country team, especially on a collegiate level. Running up steep hills, ducking under branches and jumping over roots for fifteen miles every day does not appeal to me in the least. It does, however, command my respect, which is what I have for the fourteen Houghton students who devote a great portion of their day to maturing their skill as a cross-country team.

"Believe me, it's tough!" smiles junior runner Jon Cole, whose 6'7" frame appears perfect for the sport of running. "The most important thing, aside from practicing, is to concentrate on improving your pace. If you run too fast, you become burned out very quickly; but if you run too slow, you save too much energy. It's a challenge to find a happy medium."

Cross-country, although it has not been one of the more successful sports at Houghton College of late, has had a notable reputation over the years. The college consistently fielded a strong team through the 1970s and early 1980s, but has recently suffered from lack of participation. In 1987, for example, the team was composed of a mere three students.

"I think the program's main drawback has been the inability of the college to provide a stable coaching staff," says Coach Bob Smalley. "The sports which are experiencing success at this moment have had only one or two coaches over a number of years. Cross-country has had a different coach with nearly

every season."

The team, according to both Smalley and its members, seems to be maturing rapidly and competing laudably with much larger schools. Houghton has participated in three invitationals so far this year, and Smalley is pleased with their progress. "We are improving with every invitational," says Smalley. "Our times are consistently being brought down; and considering our young age, we are doing very well."

Houghton's first home invitational will take place on Homecoming weekend, and people are urged to come out and take a look at this exciting sport. "We have an exceptional course here," says Cole. "It is great to ruin past all the trees and hills which are located in this area, and it is certainly a challenge."

An eye-catching addition to the team's warm-up jackets is a very large reference to Hebrews 12:1-4. This serves the purpose of reminding the runners of the much larger race that they are running with Christ, and sparks members of opposing teams to inquire as to the significance of the insignia. "The passage of scripture reminds us to be good witnesses to others," explains Smalley, "and to strive for excellence in what we are involved in."

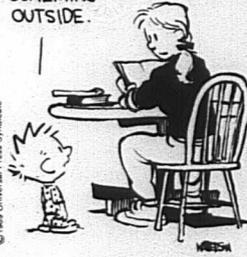
If you are interested in cross-country running, or are just interested in the prospect of becoming familiar with a new sport, watch something a little different this year during Homecoming. You will be guaranteed the chance to expand your athletic knowledge (besides, the team will love you for it).

Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



I THOUGHT I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING. I HEARD SOMETHING OUTSIDE.



IT WAS KIND OF A THUMP. WILL YOU GO LOOK, AND MAKE SURE IT'S NOT ANYTHING SCARY?

I'LL CHECK, BUT I DIDN'T HEAR ANY THUMP.



YES...YES! GO OUT THE DOOR! TWO MORE STEPS! OH PLEASE, OH PLEASE! YES, YES, YES!

SEE? THERE'S NOTHING OUT HERE.



BUT I KNOW I HEARD SOMETHING! GO LOOK, OK? PLEASE?



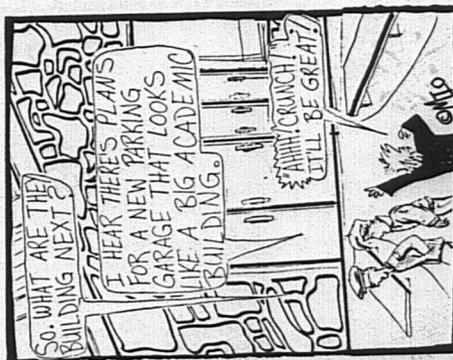
HOBBS! I LOCKED HER OUT!



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Far Worthier Substitutes

compiled by Dave Wheeler



First things first: the staff box on page 2 did not contain the standard editorial statement, due to a number of factors, all of them preventable. So in the interests of uniformity, and of filling blank space, onward with our editorial statement:

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 Wednesday, and they should be no longer than two double-spaced pages. The editor reserves the right to edit all contributions.

I feel better now.

Secondly, I must inform you that there is no editorial this week. I have been in a mental fog for days, perhaps months; and such is not conducive to the analysis of snippets of life running around my brain. I have, however, turned the page over to a panel of guest columnists. Each of these has expressed my thoughts more clearly and eloquently than I could hope to.

By Christianity, I here mean what is accounted such by all churches and sects—the maxims and precepts

contained in the New Testament. These are considered sacred, and accepted as laws, by all professing Christians. Yet it is scarcely too much to say that not one Christian in a thousand guides or tests his individual conduct by reference to those laws. The standard to which he does refer it is the custom of his nation, his class, or his religious profession. He has thus, on the one hand, a collection of ethical maxims which he believes to have been vouchsafed to him by infallible wisdom as rules for his government; and on the other, a set of everyday judgments and practices which go a certain length with some of those maxims, not so great a length with others, stand in direct opposition to some, and are, on the whole, a compromise between the Christian creed and the interests and suggestions of worldly life. To the first of these standards he gives his homage; to the other his real allegiance.

John Stuart Mill
On Liberty

...It is vanity to follow after the desires of the flesh, and to labor for that for which thou must afterwards suffer grievous punishment. It is vanity to desire to live long, and not to care to live well. It is vanity to mind only this present life, and not to

make provision for those things which are to come.

Thomas A Kempis
The Imitation of Christ

And I'll tell it and speak it and
think it and breathe it
And reflect from the mountains
so all souls can see it
And I'll stand on the ocean until
I start sinking
But I'll know my song well be-
fore I start singing
Bob Dylan
"A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall"

In reality there is perhaps no one of our natural Passions so hard to subdue as *Pride*. Disguise it, struggle with it, beat it down, stifle it, mortify it as much as one pleases, it is still alive, and will every now and then peep out and show itself. You will see it perhaps often in this History. For even if I could conceive that I had completely overcome it, I should probably be proud of my humility.

Benjamin Franklin
Autobiography

I'll be back next issue, with my very own snippet observations.