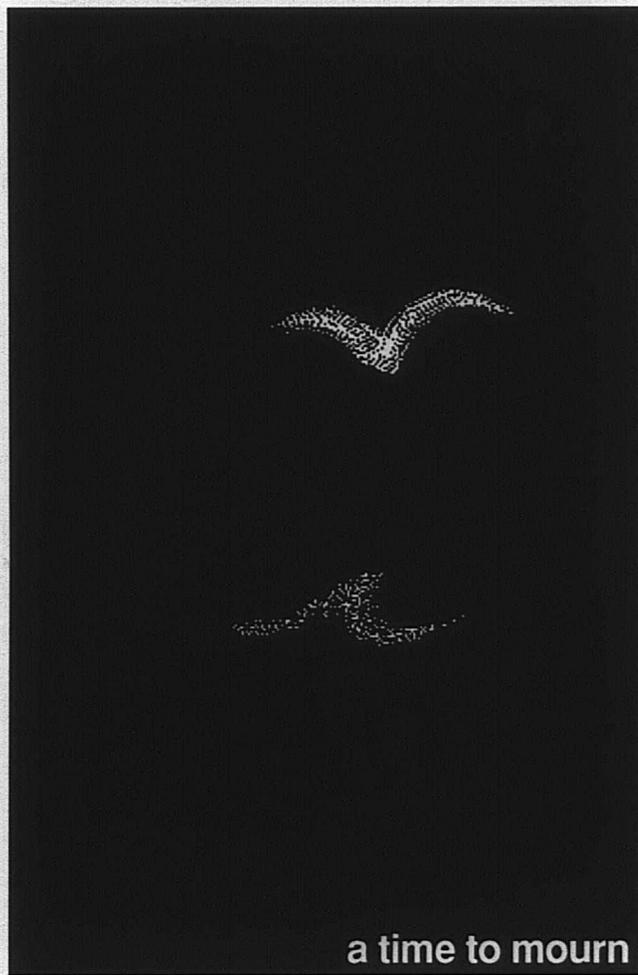


THE HOUGHTON STAR

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Martha Ayres & Ivan T. Rocha, Editors



a time to mourn
reflections on grief following a tragedy
a special report by dr. michael lastoria

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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.

Peaches, Peaches. Ha, ha.

by Martha Ayres

"Don't criticize what you can't understand" Bob Dylan. Confrontation. I have too quickly assumed that if anyone is genuinely concerned, dissatisfied, or offended by anything that goes into the *Star*, the two people who could potentially attend to these needs, Ivan and myself, would perhaps be approached. Some people have come to us, I'll not generalize more than necessary, but, more often than not the criticism we hear is second hand, or by some anonymous notes. I have to say that these two methods of complaining won't get us anywhere.

Anonymous notes. No name screams at me as a statement of a feeble argument. I'm not intending on being intimidating, or even condemning. My real concern is that our readers realize how to voice their opinions so that we will listen. Confidence in your own views on the contents of the *Star* should give reason enough to come and talk to us, or write a letter that you are willing to sign your name to. The way things are now we scarce take much of this hearsay about dissatisfaction seriously. How can we? If you take your feelings seriously enough, and are

actually interested in making a difference and understanding, then we will see you, hear you, and know who you are. We won't bite, to be cliché, and quite honestly we are more than frustrated at waiting for some brave soul to escape from the realms of anonymous suggestion or "quiet" complaining into the world of reality of truth. Honesty. To be blatant, if you are dissatisfied with what we have here, tell us. We are more than willing to listen.

I don't want to push aside those who have taken the minutes to portray to us their encouragement. This is as important as criticism to show us what is liked. And as I've said, thank you to those who have constructively given their input to us.

As one of the editors here, something I must never ignore comes out of Matthew 12:36-37. "But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned." ☆

Regarding the Righteous Ripper And Other Indignant Dignitaries...

a note from the editorial staff

Sometime during the afternoon or evening of Friday, October 11, (the day our last issue was published) someone we will refer to as "the righteous ripper" went through the campus center and tore the back covers of every copy of *The Houghton Star* he or she could find. We have no idea who "the righteous rip-

per" was but would be interested in finding out, if only to chat amiably over a cup of coffee and discuss his or her feelings about the *Star*.

For the time being we would like to say this: no matter how offended someone may be by something printed in *The Houghton Star*, we do not believe they

have the right to destroy what is not exclusively their property. This publication is funded out of student activity fees and is made available free of charge to every student at Houghton College. Thus it seems reasonable to expect that no one student should be able to take or deface approximately 80 copies that his or her peers could be enjoying in full.

We think we understand the motivation behind the actions of "the righteous ripper." To us, he or she was obviously dissatisfied with the content of the *Doonesbury* strips run in issue 84.4, which he or she felt the need to prevent other students from see-

ing. This, it seems, is unsolicited censorship by someone not qualified to make editorial decisions about *The Houghton Star*. In addition, it appears that such zealotry is just as out of place in a community which claims to confront in love as the supposedly immoral content of the strip.

For a more detailed explanation of our thoughts and feelings about the *Doonesbury* series published in issue 84.4 see our response to Elise Munyard's letter on page 20. And, of course, the invitation is still open: we are not afraid of confrontation, so show yourself and let's have a cup of coffee together. ☆

A Time to Mourn:

Reflections on Grief Following a Tragedy

A special report by Dr. Michael Lastoria

"There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven... A time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance." Ecclesiastes 3:1,4

"I felt stupid"... "How's that?"... "Well I didn't even know them that well—and there I was crying—and the family seemed so strong"... "So if you could only have a little more faith, then you would be strong too?"... "yes, something like that."

The above exchange captures the essence of a few conversations I have had with students following the tragic deaths of James Francis and Paul Maxwell. I've had an uneasiness about those conversations since then and have tried to pinpoint the nature of the stirring within myself. The tension, I now believe, comes from a dissonance between certain beliefs as to how a Christian "should" react in the face of tragedy, compared to how one actually experiences the tragedy. In circumstances such as these a "theology of grief" would be helpful. While not suggesting anything as comprehensive as a full blown theology, offered below are a few thoughts about grief and the Christian. In particular, these thoughts pertain to the grief experienced from a tragic loss, but they also apply in general to most forms of grief.

First, the matter of sovereignty. This is perhaps the most difficult concept to merge with the loss experience associated with a tragedy. Job

lost everything and, as his culture dictated, he took to sack cloth and ashes (living in a predominately death denying society, we would do well to learn from the traditional rituals of mourning observed in Jewish and other Eastern traditions). Job's friends weren't much help by offering well intended, but misguided, explanations of God's sovereignty. At one point Job was actually given the cruel suggestion that he must be harbor-

It is difficult to conceive that every heinous crime, tragic death, or so-called Act of God is linked to some specific plan.

ing some secret sin to have caused this tragedy. Even Job's wife exhorted him to "curse God and die"... be done with it, Job. Attempts at explaining a tragedy are often futile. Attempts at combining a mystery as deep as Divine Sovereignty and tragedy can often be harmful—especially if one's view of Sovereignty allows no room for random activity. It is difficult to conceive that every heinous crime, tragic death, or so-called Act of God is linked to some specific plan.

While it is true that lives may be

turned toward God after a tragedy, this spiritual effect ought not to be confused with a cause or reason. In addition, when all that happens is according to a specific plan, there is little room for God to grieve. In the mourning that I have experienced I have felt no victory.. and have had no desire to worship by way of singing and praise. I have cried out to God in tears and pain, but that didn't seem like worship to me. My sense of Christ during those moments was one of Him grieving with me. This was my comfort.

Second, the matter of "victory". This is another very difficult idea to consider in the face of tragedy. When I think about victory, I think about the final victory that the deceased, in our case Jim and Paul, must have experienced as believers. Victory is to the deceased. They faced the last enemy. As for us? We grieve our losses and live..grief is for the living. The families and close friends of the deceased have had years of a loving relationship ripped away. A gaping wound remains. There is no victory. The victory belongs to the dead whose spirits live on, but as mortals we loved a spirit and a body. That body is missed. there remains a longing to speak to that body again, to see that smile, to touch that hand. At times we may even expect to see that body enter the room at any moment. There is no incongruity with the Christian faith if the living claim no victory. This is a time that God in his infinite caring reaches out and, in some way, grieves with us. To be sure, God comforts us in all diverse ways—some through a song, some through a verse, some through silence, and some through a word. But there is nothing amiss if we are unable to say it is well with my soul, because it usually is not.

Third, the matter of the Christian faith and the grief process. In the exchange cited at the opening of this article the implied truth is that if

faith was ample, then emotional trauma or tears could be overcome. The danger here is adding a spiritual burden to an already emotionally burdened individual. The Christian faith does not circumvent the grief process. On the contrary, it allows one to experience the grief, to bear the wounds, in His presence. The observed ability to be strong in the midst of a crisis or tragedy is often a sign of the beginnings of grief. The numbness of shock and denial. This is especially true when a death is sudden and tragic. This numbness serves to protect us temporarily until we are able to absorb more of the reality. It may well be a

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measure of God's grace. To the survivors of such an experience, no matter how "all-together" they may be, recovery from the trauma of the unexpected death of a loved one will require a great deal of patience and a lot of work. Those touched deeply by such an event will never be exactly the same again.

Many of us are familiar with the so-called stages of grief: shock/denial, fear/vulnerability, physical symptoms, anger, acceptance, and grief spasms (brief episodes from time to time that may last for years). Of these, anger may be the most difficult to deal with when a loved one is killed. This is especially true if the death is senseless and involved some form of negligence. Yes, Jonathan, it is possible for large groups to trans-

fer their grief into anger about totally unrelated situations (ref. "Blackberries", STAR, vol. 84.4, p.18). This is especially apt to occur when the anger is not expressed directly.

However, there is no evidence to support the notion that healthy Christians grieve differently than the healthy population-at-large. In fact, although general stages of grief have been identified, everyone's grief is unique. How a person grieves depends on several things: 1) the way one learned to cope with stress in life before the tragedy, 2) the quality of relationship one had with the person who was killed, 3) the circumstances of the death, 4) one's religious belief and ethnic customs, and 5) the emotional support given from significant other while grieving. The circumstances of an unexpected death can be especially traumatic since there was often no time to say "goodbye", "I'm sorry", or "I love you".

As burden bearers for each other it becomes important to be able to sit with one another in our grief. To wipe the tears, to listen to the anger, to be a very present help in time of need. To disallow or to hinder the grief process, even unintentionally as did Job's friends, only serves to delay the healing. The process takes months, and even years. The process usually doesn't require intensive counseling, but rather understanding friends. Counseling can be of help when one is unable to grieve—not when one is grieving (except to only affirm one's grief and give permission to grieve).

Finally, the matter of moving from death to life. The wounds of grief heal but the scars remain. New tragedies may reopen old grief wounds for a time. Reexperiencing old wounds is not a sign of something gone wrong but rather the recapturing of an important memory. The old pain normally won't last too long and may even help us to bear the burdens of loved ones severely wounded by a

more recent tragedy. If the relationship to the deceased was distant our sorrow will be short lived. Reminded again of the brevity and sanctity of life we face one another, perhaps more carefully now, and return to life. Frightened for awhile as we realize that we can control less than we had hoped. Yet most of us return to Hope again.

For those who were close to the deceased the journey is much longer. It takes time to remember the gifts a loved person has left for us. Many will be remembered in agony at first. An attitude, a saying, a smile, a belief, a way of doing things...these we cherish and keep as gifts. But it takes time. Eventually the bereaved are changed when death and life are somehow brought together as integral parts of a whole. Healing is a promise, but the scars of the wound are forever. Moving from death to life is aided by good friends who can "be with" the bereaved and avoid the need to "make it better" with a well intended cliché. Good friends help by listening and assisting with daily routines without being asked because they know. At times like these, good friends become the body of a living Christ. Eventually things most often

Getting better means having increased concentration for problem solving and studies. It means sleeping well and having energy again.

do get better.

Getting better means having increased concentration for problem solving and studies. It means sleeping well and having energy again. It means valuing our lives and returning to the hope for the future. It means being able to enjoy the beauty and pleasure in life again—a sign that worship is returning. Actually it was never really gone. ☆

So, You're Looking for a Change?

A guest essay about the Buffalo Program by Tami Marzola

Hey—is the semester bringing you down? It's that time of year, you know, the time when sleep is more precious than money—which is also disappearing—professors seem less impressive and roommates leave you to pull all-nighters with strange people...

Well, that's how I remember fall semester last year. I also recall the frustration of poring over my books every night only to be dissatisfied with every test returned to me. When I had time to work on papers I felt more confident about my ability to understand and interpret material, but only one term paper was required in all of my classes and their due dates all fell within the same week, so I can hardly say I put forth my best effort on them. To day I was in a perpetual state of discontent and anxiety is an understatement.

Enter Brian Sayers, the intimidating trouble-maker housed appropriately in the philosophy department. He pitched the Program in his ethics class by listing the highlights: no tests, no chapel, Tuesdays and Thursdays off, townhouse living, cooking meals for ourselves and the city of Buffalo. Sold. I think I ran to his office that day (precious little drives me to run up four flights of stairs). Within a week I'd gotten all the signatures I needed and the rest, as they say, is history. So here's my attempt to share a little bit of history with you.

I loved living in a townhouse, cooking my own meals, being within a quarter of a mile of a thirty-five store shopping plaza, and the fact that we were a

mere ten minutes driving distance away from the city of Buffalo. The atmosphere at the Buffalo Campus was less restricting, which was such a relief from the uptight atmosphere down here ("Shed a tear 'cause I'm missing you..." you finish the song). To the administration's surprise we didn't have wild parties (at least not every night) as rumor may have indicated, nor was there any cohabitation or use of illegal substances (besides candles). We lived comfortably (and morally) and found ourselves able to relax more in that environment.

Another plus was the part about not having chapel. I know what you're thinking, but before you get carried away, let me clarify that I have always been fairly indifferent towards chapel; I don't try to skip without getting caught, nor do I cry when I miss one. Anyway, in the place of chapel we volunteered at various agencies. I chose Cornerstone Manor, a shelter for abused women. The time I spent giving there spiritually uplifted me; I felt as if I were doing something for the Lord rather than sitting down piously wondering what I'm going to get from God. That was a valuable experience.

The Program consisted of four courses, taken one at a time for three weeks for four hours on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Each course can be taken for three or four credits, depending on how much work you feel like doing (and how much sleep you require). This year classes will be taught by Brian Sayers ("Images We Live and Die By", "New Maps of Hell: Dystopian

Appraisals of Modern Society"), Cameron Airhart ("Viewing Our Past: History Through Film") and Ted Murphy ("Illusion and Reality: the Shifting Center of Meaning in the Art of Borges, Fellini, and Hopper"). I realize the titles sound intimidating, but don't let that discourage you; it's only Brian Sayers' influence—you learn to live with it (and laugh about it amongst yourselves in the townhouses). Tests are non-existent, but let me warn you, if you are thinking this will be a good way to breeze effortlessly through a semester, think again. You must be prepared to immerse yourself in every class; you must breathe, eat, sleep, walk, and think every course. No, that's not true—you only have to be prepared to think through each course (which is a stretch for some, I know). Let me give you an example of the work some of us did for John Van Wicklin's Depression class: 35 one to three page papers, 9 journals (after each class), a 12 page paper, as well as the readings (four or five of them on average) for each class—all in three weeks. It wasn't a chore to do work (most of the time). Most of us were eager to go to class to discuss the work we had been doing. We looked forward to class because it was discussion based—learning depended on what we said and were we took it. It's a great concept, one I think everyone in the Program would agree should be used here a bit more. It's more conducive to acquiring knowledge about yourself in relation to what you are studying. Because of the extensive writing, the nice thing is that everything we learned we have access to anytime. There are so many other things but I just can't write them down—they're up to you to experience.

So in short, we ate our own food, formed friendships with people we may have never known otherwise, were shown how to ask questions and doubt (without sinning) and did truckloads of work. We did it and we're alive to prove it. And get this (your parents will love this), we liked it and learned from it and that, after all, is what we are in college for, isn't it? ☆

Piano Quartet to Perform Tonight

From a Houghton College News Release

On Friday, October 25, 1991 at 8:00 p.m. the Houghton College Artist Series will present the witty and musically artistic Hambro Quartet of Pianos in Wesley Chapel. Scheduled to perform pieces ranging from Rossini's *Overture to William Tell* to Mozart's *Overture to The Marriage of Figaro* to Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, the artistry and virtuosity of the ensemble will be complemented by leader Leonid Hambro's creative wit, amusing anecdotes and exuberant charm.

Leonid Hambro has combined a solo piano career with his work as a composer, conductor, author, lecturer and teacher. He has been the official

pianist of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra and has appeared as soloist with major orchestras such as Boston, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and London. For ten years he toured with Victor Borge in duo-piano concerts. Now he travels with the Hambro Quartet which has been touring throughout the US and Europe for the past six years to overwhelming audience and critical acclaim.

The other quarter members include: Yolanda Leipa, who made her debut with the Cincinnati Symphony at age eleven and at sixteen was the first prize winner in the National Chopin Competition; Kim O'Reilly, who received the Erno Daniel Memo-



Photo by Columbia Artists Festivals

rial Scholarship in Piano Performance and the Strollers Club Award for Achievement in the Creative Arts from the American Association of University Women; and Thadeus Wolfe, who made his official debut at age 11 with the Los Angeles Wilshire Symphony. He has been a solo recitalist, specializing in performances of Chopin's *Twenty-four Etudes*. ☆

Fall Drama to be Agatha Christie's *Mousetrap*

From Yet Another Houghton College Public Information News Release

The longest running play in London's history, Agatha Christie's, *The Mousetrap*, will be presented by the Theater Department of Houghton College on October 31 and November 1, at 8:00 p.m. and November 2, at 2:00 and 8:00 p.m. in Woolsey Auditorium.

A "top-drawer-who-dunit", the play begins with a pitch-black stage. After a moment's silence, somebody whistles the opening bars of "Three Blind Mice" ... A woman screams ... The first mouse has been caught in *The Mousetrap*. From this startling beginning, the cunningly developed

plot gradually reveals the connection between the tune, the mouse, and a picturesque gallery of guests at Monkswell Manor. Despite the inclusion of many easily recognizable clues, the murderer's identity remains a mystery until Mrs. Christie decides to reveal it.

The student cast includes Erin Beyerle as Mollie Ralston, Dan Utti as Giles Ralston, Jeff Thomas as Christopher Wren, Kim Verrier as Mrs. Boyle, Brian Hare as Major Metcalf, Shari Tyler as Miss Casewell, Matthew Owen as Mr. Paravicini, and Eric Darling as Sergeant Trotter. Directed by Bruce Brenneman and student director, Adam English, *The Mousetrap* promises to provide an evening of suspenseful entertainment.

Ticket prices are: general admission—\$4, students—\$3, and children under 12—\$2. All seats are reserved; call ext. 557. ☆

AND IN OTHER NEWS

by Amy Littlejohn

•The new police chief and power behind the throne in Haiti, Joseph Michel François, has stated that ex-president Aristide would be killed if he came back to the country.

•Ferdinand Marcos' body

may return to the Philippines on November 4. This could be the country's last chance to regain the money the Marcoses stole from its treasury.

•Hostage Jesse Turner has been released, despite ur-

mors that he did not appear at the rendezvous point. It was believed that the negotiations had failed due to an Israeli air raid in Lebanon, which in turn was prompted by the deaths of three Israeli soldiers.

•There has been a major earthquake in northern India, killing between 700 and 1300 people. Landslides in several villages have added to the toll.

•The Soviet Parliament has met for the first time. Only seven of the twelve

republics attended. Ukraine was among those abstaining, perhaps because they felt pressured by Mikhail Gorbachev. The Soviet economy is worse than ever: storage of food for the winter has hit a fifty year low.

•The latest truce in Yugoslavia has been broken. Fighting was centered around the Croatian city of Zagreb.

•Norway has expelled eight Soviets for spying. Only five have left.

Senate Report

by Stephen Virkler

The Student Senate held its most recent meeting on Tuesday evening, October 15. Topics discussed were the election of a student body chaplain, the role of divisional senators, and the 1993-1994 academic calendar.

The Senate unanimously elected David and Judy Walker to the position of Student body Chaplain. The Student senate also accepted a motion to ask for the faculty to decide whether or not to allow divisional senators to read the minutes from divisional meetings. According to Senate President Darren Chick, there is strong faculty resistance to allowing divisional senators to attend these meetings. Chick said that keeping divisional senators out of these meetings "allows them [the faculty] the opportunity to brainstorm" without

the presence of students. However, he, along with the majority of the Senate, feels that the divisional senators should know what is going on in the divisions they represent.

Finally, Heather Forster, reported that the calendar committee has approved the academic calendar for the 1993-1994 academic year. One major change in the calendar deals with the Final Four. In this new calendar, the Final four will stretch from Monday to Friday (instead of from Friday to Wednesday) with Monday and Thursday mornings serving as reading days (the afternoons would count as half test days). This move was reportedly made because some faculty members are against giving exams on Saturday. The Senate cabinet is currently investigating this situation. Forster also said that the calendar committee is in the process of deciding whether spring break or Easter vacation should be longer in 1993-1994. (Basically, they have an extra day that they can include in one of these vacations). If you have any ideas (where to put the day), please contact the senate office or a student senator near you.

Oops, we goofed!...

☆☆☆

In the homecoming photo essay published in issue 84.4 Cadet Captain David N. Walker was incorrectly identified as a sergeant.

In that same article the byline was inadvertently overlooked. The text of the article was written by Jen Garrison. Our sincere apologies to both David and Jen.

☆☆☆

Aphorisms...

So that's what Hell is. I'd never have believed it... Do you remember, brimstone, the stake, the gridiron?... What a joke! No need of a gridiron, Hell, it's other people.
Jean-Paul Sartre

RESHUFFLING THE DECK:

Faculty Propose Significant Changes in the Academic Structure of Houghton College

Report and commentary by Ivan T. Rocha

There comes a time in the life of an institution when those whose livelihood depends on it must scrutinize its structures and decide whether or not there is need for change. More often than not, such institutional self-examination comes as a result of the breakdown or obsolescence of established structures. Pending approval by the faculty is a proposal to restructure much of Houghton's administrative machine in an attempt to streamline processes which have been increasingly slowed by bureaucracy.

This proposal comes as a product of the deliberations of a committee initiated and chaired by Presi-

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dent Daniel Chamberlain and composed of six faculty members beside himself, representing each of the six academic divisions of Houghton College. Of the six, one was a divi-

sion chair (Dr. Darryl Stevenson, of history and social science) two were department heads (Dr. Charles

Evident in these recommendations is the desire to decentralize power by eliminating needless overlaps and middle-management positions and to debureaucratize much of the decision-making process.

Bressler, representing languages and literature and Dr. Claity Massey, representing education and recreation) and three were faculty at large (Professor Theodore Murphy of fine arts; Professor Frederic Parker of science and mathematics; and Dr. John Tyson of religion and philosophy). All members of the committee were elected out of the entire pool of faculty members rather than being appointed directly by the president.

As its mission the committee had to examine the present administrative and organizational structure of the college and point out areas of improvement. Topping the list of reasons for change is the

statement that "The present process seems too hierarchical," which reflects a current trend in business administration toward the decentralization of power and reduction of middle management roles. Other faults brought up by the committee point to the increasing complexity and unnecessary redundancy of the present decision-making structure and suggest that "many...are charged with too many responsibilities to be productive and efficient in their tasks." Also among the faults uncovered by the committee is the fact that in the present system there is little time left for efficient long-term planning and adequate support of the general education program while too much time is devoted to bureaucracy. Finally, it was suggested that the Academic Dean's office and the Academic Affairs Council are considerably overburdened.

In response to these shortcomings, the committee articulated a list of recommendations as well as a proposal for an entirely new academic and administrative structure. Evident in these recommendations is the desire to decentralize power by eliminating needless overlaps and middle-management positions and to debureaucratize much of the decision-making process. There is an effort, as well, "to include and more adequately represent the diverse segments of our academic community."

According to the current proposal, the six academic divisions with their respective departments would be redrawn into twelve departments (the divisions would no longer exist), and two administrative positions of associate dean (accessory to the academic dean) would be created. In addition, a thirteenth department would be created to oversee the the enhancement of the present general education program and would be known

as the Department of Integrated Studies.

The thirteen departments would be headed by department chairs with decision-making power in curricular, personnel, and administrative matters. These positions would be filled by faculty who would receive either a reduction in teaching load or a raise in salary according to a specific formula. Department chairs would be elected to a three-year term by members of their own department out of a pool of names suggested by the academic dean in conjunction with the two associate deans.

The associate deans, one to oversee curricular matters and one to oversee personnel would serve to relieve some of the administrative pressure that now rests on the academic dean's office. Both of these would be filled by part-time faculty, in much the same manner as the department chairs, and both would be elected by all of the faculty to three year terms. The associate dean of curricula would have among his responsibilities 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. The associate dean of per-

What all of this means is that six division chairs are now accumulating much of the administrative work load and mid-level decision-making power involved in the running of Houghton College.

sonnel, on the other hand, would coordinate various aspects of faculty career development, including sabbatical leaves, faculty retreats, faculty evaluations, and would ac-

cumulate, as well, various other supervisory tasks.

The academic dean, according to this plan, would have his responsibilities somewhat reduced but would still be at the head of much of the administrative process. Even reduced in responsibility the position is still one which requires the chairing of and/or participation in at least seven specific committees as well as high-level financial decision-making and countless ceremonial and public relations responsibilities.

In addition, the proposal for academic restructuring includes a proposal for the elimination of the current Academic Affairs Council, to be replaced by three other committees, tentatively named Principal Academic Committee, Curriculum Review and Revision, and Faculty Development. This proposal comes with an elaborate system of committee composition and selection with a built-in safeguard against retrenchment. That is to say, a rotation pattern for the service of department chairs on the academic committees has been designed so that each of the three committees will never be staffed by the same department chairs two years in a row.

What all of this means is that six division chairs are now accumulating much of the administrative work load and mid-level decision-making power involved in the running of Houghton College. This, of course, exacerbates the potential for the overburdening of a few and creates, as well, the potential for strong biases. That is to say, the fewer the people involved in making decisions, the higher the likelihood of there being a uniform bias in one direction. The proposal for restructuring, as it now stands, divides the burden now on the shoulders on six people into fifteen (including the associate deans) more

manageable chunks and reduces the potential for bias by spreading the decision-making power over a larger group.

Some opposition to this program is known to exist, although the reasons for it are not entirely clear. Few faculty have been willing to comment about the restructuring program at all, but some have suggested territoriality and retrenchment as possible reasons for the discontentment with the proposal in some departments. As a result, a compromise may be in order, resulting in turn, in the modification of some of the suggestions contained in the proposal as it now stands.

The clearest and most immediate effect of this proposal on the student body will be felt if the creation of the department of integrated studies is approved. With the exception of students in the Bachelor of Music program, all Houghton students are required to dedicate a sizable portion of their course load to general education

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requirements. Consequently, if there is a movement to improve the quality of the general education program benefits will accrue to a significant segment of the student population.

Most of the other administrative changes will have few short-term effects on the student body. In the long-run, however, they may allow faculty more time to dedicate to teaching resulting, in turn, in greater quality in the classroom. ☆

FLIP AIDS

by Kelly Patterson

Road trips—road meaning, “long, endless pavement with mesmerizing white dots in the middle.” Trip meaning, “a voyage with a destination.” My new Webster definitions. Anyway, I’m writing this article while on a, you guessed it, road trip.

With the radio blaring and the inspiring scenery of New Jersey screaming by me with the beauty of the ballerina hippo in *Fantasia*, I’m quite content. But then, who wouldn’t be?

“I’m never where I want to be...” A segment of a song by Peter Gabriel. So appropriate right now—I mean, we want to be in Houghton and now we’re somewhere in the middle of nowhere going to the northern tip of nowhere.

And in life I find myself feeling the same anxiety. To reach my goals and achieve my purpose within the appropriate time frame. The lifestyle which some, myself included, sometimes fall into, surrounded by the endless planning and rushing and running through the toilet paper at the finish line, is all a trap. It not only makes you forget where you’ve been, but also who brought you there.

Words and phrases pass through my mind like, “stop to smell the flowers” or, “Carpe Diem”—and I wonder how many of us ever do? I mean, how many of us take time out of our “busy schedules” to just take a walk

with God? One of the best quiet times that I have ever experienced hasn’t been in a room with the Bible, but out at nine at night walking through the leaves. Talking to God and touching his creation. Those who experience this “communion” with God on a regular basis have definitely gained my admiration.

And the whole idea of communion is that it confirms the existence of your personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. The belief that He has put you here to praise him through your interaction with his creation, and that through this communion, growth as both a Christian and individual begins.

A world of God—given sights, sounds and feelings is just outside the door waiting to be seen, heard, and felt. Some are good, some are bad, but the feeling of pain is so much better than the numbness that comes with the desensitization. And some of you might be thinking, “She is just a Freshman and she’s telling us about the world, and how to live in it.” That’s a valid point, but for some reason I’ve never learned to shut my mouth in the face of doubt. Maybe that’s also why I grew up laughing at myself and hoping someone would catch on.

And when we chose to shun the experiences and feelings, both good and bad, we are shunning the out—stretched hand of

our Lord. To focus on our lives without realizing who gave them to us does not sit well with God. He is referred to as “the Jealous God” and who can blame him? He made this world and put us here, and we try to take control. We turn it into a functional object to utilize towards our purpose. To reach that pinnacle of achievement in our minds and stay there. But is God there when we finally get around to him? Yes, but that is just because of his unending mercy. He doesn’t have to cater to our needs. It’s not like the shipping company... Guaranteed Overnight Delivery... we don’t pay to receive, we just receive.

So, through all the muck of fragmented ideas, what am I trying to say? Maybe just to invite everyone to rejoice in everyday things..to feel like a fool once in awhile just to have something to remember. To open yourself up to the praise and criticism of those of those around you and your God. And then, never to be reduced to the baseness of everyday monotony by picking up that liquid marker pen and “writing” someone in for dinner.

In closing, I’d like to quote from a song by Simon and Garfunkel. I find that this characterizes my attitude towards life at times. Whenever I start to feel myself drifting from the comfort of the known to the vast expanse of uncertainty, I find myself withdrawing. And in reflection, I find the loss to be my own, and the consequences irreversible. Anyway, learn from your mistakes, and I hope this speaks to you: “And a rock feels no pain, and an island never cries.” But a rock never laughs either and no man is an island. Reach out, reach up and touch someone. And laugh at yourself, it works. ☆

Smalley Builds Champion Cross- Country Team

The winds of change have been blowing upon the Houghton College cross-country program for the past few years. Four years ago when Bob Smalley was hired, there was not a team to coach but in the past four years Smalley has built a championship program.

As they faced the challenge of Districts on October 19, the team seemed both eager and ready. As the start of the race grew near, Naomi Castellani last weeks athlete of the week prepared to go up against district eighteen's best, while last years district champion Marion Austin got ready to defend her title. Heather George who was sick for most of last years season had placed eighth the previous year, but seemed eager to show what she could do while healthy.

T. Demperio also prepared to run despite her current injuries. Edie Barringer, the surprise improver of the team, captain Sue Crafts and newcomer Tammy Bence could also be seen readying themselves for the vigorous race ahead of them.

As the women lined up to begin the race, one of the men's cross-country captains, senior Jon Cole said, "as I watched the women line up at the starting line-up at the starting line I could see in their faces the hopeful determination which each one had for the challenge before them. If you've never run a cross-country race you may

not understand the pain involved," he said.

The women ran with great heart with Naomi and Marion taking the lead from the start, and after some course misunderstandings Naomi took control of the lead and cruised across the finish line with a winning time of 20:37. Marion was not far behind finishing at 21:02. Not far behind Marion came Heather who definitely showed what she could do by placing third with a time of 21:26. They had taken the top three places, now it was up to the rest of the team to come through with the win. Trish finished eighteenth in 23:15 and behind her was Edie in twentieth at 23:47. Sue was twenty-fifth in 25:23 and Tammy twenty-ninth with a time of 27:10.

It looked like the championship would be close. Westminster College had placed fourth, sixth, tenth, eleventh, and fourteenth. And as times were tallied, the ladies narrowly escaped with a one point lead, yet nevertheless came out victorious.

Meanwhile, the men were lining up for their race, Jon Cole had been the teams leading runner for most of the season and was looking to win the race. Tim Thurber just behind Cole was determined to chase him down. Eric Runion although running injured was hoping to place high as well. Mike Jones, the other senior captain was hoping to go to Nationals again,

while surprise freshman Mike Ockrin was hoping to place as well. Doug Gillham, one of the teams top runners until an injury in September although still injured wanted to run a good race as well. Jim Harshman and Dan Uitti along with Mark Munro would be running in their first district race.

As the men left the starting line, they were striving to repeat as district champions. As they crossed the finish line, Jon Cole narrowly out-sprinted a Geneva runner for second place and a time of 27:55. Pushing hard to accomplish a fourth finish and a time of 28:08 was Tim Thurber. Eric Runion with an amazing kick in the last 400 meters passed two Geneva runners for an eighth place finish and a time of 28:52. Freshman Mike Ockrin finished a strong eleventh with a time of 29:15 while Mike Jones finished thirteenth for the second year in a row with a time of 29:27. Doug ran through his injury to finish eighteenth in 30:14. Jim Harshman was twenty-fifth in 30:45 with Dan Uitti close behind in twenty-seventh with a time of 30:57. Mark Munro closed out the highlander runners at twenty-ninth in 31:26.

Geneva's top five had finished third, fifth, ninth, tenth, and seventeenth. It looked as though it would be another close one. But in the end, the men pulled out a six point lead over Geneva College to win.

Senior captain Mike Jones would like to thank Peter Torraca, Chris Rice, Todd Nelson and Paul Skinner "for working hard and pushing us in practice, even though they couldn't run in districts."

By winning the district championship both teams qualified to go on to the NAIA National meet November sixteenth in Kenosha Park, Wisconsin. "We would appreciate your prayers as we go on to represent Houghton at Nationals," said sophomore Tim Thurber.

Happenings at the Horse Farm

by Joanne Young

Houghton's equestrian program offers a wide variety of activities, from classes and free practice times to competitions and clinics. The program has hosted many competitions already this year, and expects to host many more in the upcoming months.

On October 5, Houghton hosted a horse trial which drew area competitors as well as college students. Those skilled and courageous enough to make it through all three phases of the trial without getting eliminated became eligible for the Abdullah trophy and scholarship. They included; Kathie Christensen (third), Michelle Long (fourth), Jessica Dodge (fifth) in the novice horse division, Trishia Demperio (second) in the pre-novice division, and Katie Owen (fourth), and Ginny Oskowski (fifth) in the pre-novice division.

The winner of the scholarship will be the one who has maintained at least a 2.0 cumulative average as well as at least a B in her horsemanship course while showing a strong christian character and helpful attitude toward others.

The following weekend three Houghton students competed at the Expressway Hunter-Jumper Circuit show in Rushford. All place in the ribbons. The day was highlighted by Katie Owen winning the reserve championship for the novice hunter division at her first "real" horse

show.

October 18 and 19 saw the return of Sue Maioriello to Houghton's indoor arena for another dressage clinic. Maioriello who has earned champion or reserve championships a dozen times in the United States Dressage Federation horse of the Year awards served as an instructor at the clinic. All riders who participated expressed great satisfaction with the progress made by themselves and their horses under Sue's gentle guidance.

Tuesday November 12 will see caravan of vehicles heading from Houghton to the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. Tickets are available at the discount rate of \$12 to students, faculty, staff, and supporters of the equestrian program. Departure is scheduled for 2:30 pm and return will be after the evening performance of the international horse show.

November 23 will bring competitions from across Western New York to a dressage competition here in Houghton judged by Sharon Grefrath of Windswept Trakehner Farm in Byron, New York. Houghton students will also be riding. Admission for this event will be free.

December 7 will round out the fall semester competition schedule with a schooling show judged by Julie Cleland of Kane, PA. The show will include classes for beginners as well as more experienced riders. ☆

Field Hockey at 8-3-2

Last weekend, Houghton's field hockey team traveled to Philadelphia, and returned home with it's first N.C.C.A.A. title in four years. Houghton used 3-1 wins over Eastern College and Philadelphia College of the Bible to claim the title.

In the Eastern game, Houghton got off to a 2-0 lead at the half with goals by Lori Sheetz and P.J. Buonocore. Eastern goal late in the second half by Buonocore to settle the win.

"This is definitely the best we've played all year," said co-captain Janet Kirschner.

The P.C.B. game was a little tougher, as they led 1-0 at the half. Houghton then put P.C.B away with a goal by Betsy Frey, assisted by Lori Sheetz. The goals by Frey and Kirschner were their firsts of the season.

"I was very, very pleased with the team," said coach Connie Finney.

With Houghton's victories in the round-robin tournament, they placed four members on the all-tournament team. Buonocore and Kirschner were selected for the team along with Sally Dillon, Karen Reese, and Julia Adams.

These two victories raise Houghton's record to 8-3-2, a slight improvement over last years mark of 9-5. Houghton closes out the season on October twenty-third at home against Slippery Rock. ☆

Blackberries

by Johnathan Wydysz

Dear puppies, humans, and dogs,

Hello. I am a dog. I tell you this so things don't get confused. If you think that all dogs are capable of doing only eight or nine different things, most of them disgusting, you are half-right. Not all dogs can write, then not many humans can either. Ask any professor who has had to teach a gen. ed. course. I also, aside from writing, play chess, read Russian, fetch and, when the mood strikes me, cross-dress. (Ha! A little tail-wagger there.)

I am not a young dog. I still have my bite and will raid trash cans with the best of 'em. I've learned a lot in my several years as a dog. I have set down to impart some of the wisdom I've accumulated. Mind you I'm not Pluto, but I have learned a few things and continue to learn the odd lesson now and again. Who ever said that you cannot teach an old dog new tricks was just making excuses because they probably owned a cocker spaniel. The idea of this letter came to me on a minus 15 day in January after trying to lick up some sweet syrupy stuff spilled on a drainage grate. It would have been nice to have known not to do that.

Before I embark on the main reason behind this letter let me share with you some practical wisdom I have excavated. The first bit of advice I will impart is recently acquired, and that is that you should never, ever begin to lick out a sentence on a keyboard until you have made sure the keyboard is properly grounded. (You didn't seriously think I could write did you?... No opposing digits). The jolt is enough to make you as curly as a nasty poodle. Another valuable lesson I have learned from a

young dachshund friend of mine is that you should make sure you know how to back up before you go chasing a beastie down into its lair. Either that or you'll have the humiliating and dangerous experience of being dug out by a bunch of humans who have a weird affinity for fire and piebald dogs.

The bone I have to pick is with you puppies out there. One sure way, short of a good sniff, (I'll never understand why the Creator gave us cold wet noses...nothing wakes you up quicker) to find out whether a dog is a puppy or not, no matter the size, age, color, breed, or age, is by the dog's bark.

The puppy barks about everything and anything. The content is quantitative and seldom qualitative, more often than not their barks are founded on a whim and lack forethought. I have found that these barking puppies more or less fall into four categories. Check yourself, young hound, to be sure that you are not among these.

First is the nervous puppy who has nothing to say and must say something, anything, as though the quiet might cause something dreadful like the realization of the fact that they should be hearing themselves think and all there is silence. This kind of noise is almost a tedious and acerebral as the second sort of barker. There is then the puppy that hears his own bark forgets what it was he was barking at, forgets that he even barked, but remembers there was a bark and so responds to the bark with another ill-fated bark and so sets off an unending chain of senseless racket. Thirdly, there is the pup who is pleased with the sound of his bark and, though what he is barking about may be of merit it is still just like so many fleas

picnicking on my hide in an unitchable place. Why? Because there isn't anything that he cannot find something to focus his wonderful woof about. Finally there is the worst sort of puppy who whimpers and whines convinced that it is not only their right to moan and howl, but the politically correct thing to do. Ah yes, these dogs of license who are convinced they have a corner on the TRUTH. They make the rest of dogma wish this was truly a dog eat dog world. To these PC pedigrees I only wish that they would close their gaping, drooling yaps open their miniscule minds and say, "Ah ha!" I know its difficult to imagine, but outside your tail-chasing world, pups, the rest of us don't want to hear it!

I don't mean to bitch at you, but I believe I am marking the right tree. Don't roll in something that stinks and then expect humans and people alike to receive you well.

There's something to supply and demand as it pertains to barking. The greater number of barks you dispense the less value they will have. Weigh your barks well young dog, for even a Chihuahua that muzzles itself can be mistaken for a Russian Wolf Hound, in the dark. The point is, the less you bark the more often you will be heard. If you bark your lungs black and blue day in and day out it is hard through the yimmering and yammering to find out what may be truly worthwhile. Remember the story of "The Wolf That Cried Boy"? You'll be surprised what a well placed woof will do for a dog who practices moderation and self-control.

Remember, before you feast, you are what you eat. May your tummy be scratched forever. Avoid cats.

Sincerely,
Gapo Sobaka



The Black Hole

M. L. TAYLOR

Dear Mr. Taylor,

I am writing this letter in reference to your unscrupulous column that I vehemently deplore with all of my being.

If I may say so, I have the utmost disgust for your so-called writings that continually slam everything everywhere that chance arises. You obviously have no sense of prudence in any manner of speaking OR writing.

How dare you bring up subjects that we just simply don't want to read about? I mean, who wants to know what all is bad and shameful in this world? how can you bring these things up when we are supposed to be thinking only upon what is right and good? How can you, with so much complacency, shatter our realities and make us feel guilty about things that simply just don't apply to us? We don't want to hear about it, okay?!?! We just want to go on with our lives, and be what we came here to be: college students. That's all, nothing else.

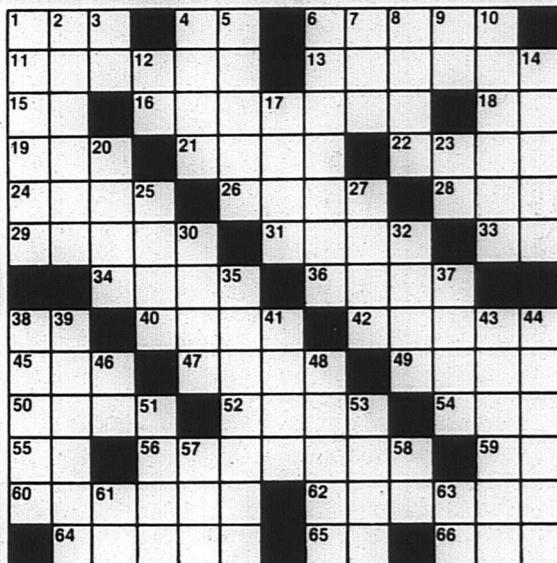
I hate reading your column. I can't stand to look at it. I hate your title to. Just what exactly are you trying to imply with the "The Black Hole?" Obviously there is a dark element here. We don't need this here wither, Mr. Taylor. black holes are destructive forces that can destroy whole galaxies of stars and planets. Are you, with your title trying to say that you wish to destroy everything? Or are you simply going to suck all that is bad into Houghton to plague us and riddle us with guilt? Remember, Mr. Taylor, nothing escapes a black hole.

I don't really know you, sir, but from your columns I can infer with great accuracy that you are a pessimist, a defeatist, a misanthrope, a CYNIC, sardonic, contemptuous, disdainful, scornful, derisive, caustic, corrosive, sarcastic jerk and I think that you should be ousted from the Star and from the Houghton community. we don't need your kind here. We don't need to think of all the bad things of this world. We only need to set our goals for OUR lives and keep our sights on God and forget about this world. What you stand for is purely evil and must be ignored. That is what your supposed to do with evil, and that's exactly what I'm going to do to you and your nasty column.

Very Sincerely,
Mr.W.S. Rolyat

Mr. Rolyat,

thank you for your demeanor (and I do mean deMEANor). I will seriously consider what you have screamed and take your attitude to heart. You have given me insight on how to handle my column in the future and I will do my best to make sure that you, and those who share your views, always find something in my column to meditate so finely upon. I appreciate your candor and respect your views [kein] and hope that you can forgive my estrangement from the true path to righteousness. Oh, always remember that the opinions expressed...well, you know.



ACROSS

1. High card
4. Western state (abbr.)
6. Flower
11. Persistent uproar
13. Scraping sounds
15. Western state (abbr.)
16. Feeling
18. In the matter indicated
19. Reproductive cell
20. Send forth
22. Daze
24. Lease
26. Anatomy (abbr.)
28. Doctor's group (abbr.)
29. Sleep image
31. Arrival estimations
33. Someone who performs (suf.)
34. Cable car
36. Fencing sword
38. Mid-Atlantic state (abbr.)
40. Snare
42. Provide with property
45. Summer drink
47. Scottish garment
49. Disastrous
50. _____ Turner
52. Den
54. Explosive
55. Exempla gratia (abbr.)
56. Eye covering
59. Expression of relief

60. _____ Sandwich
62. Family property
64. Small twig
65. Street (abbr.)
66. Each

DOWN

1. Bring into harmony
2. Three-leaf plant
3. Each (abbr.)
4. Advance toward
5. Odor
6. Move with violence
7. Standing room only (abbr.)
8. Browns
9. Extraterrestrial (abbr.)
10. Start again
12. Myself
14. Detects submerged objects
17. Fork prong
20. Needed for fishing (two words)
23. Tantalum symbol
25. Small open pie
27. Adhesive
30. Sign, symbol
32. Dispatch
35. Posting
37. Change written copy
38. More pallid
39. Proverbs
41. Scheme
43. Excessively decorated
44. Gelded male sheep
46. Forms verbs from adjectives (suf.)
48. Levels of oceans
51. Abbreviation (abbr.)
53. Take a nap
57. Hawaiian garland
58. Right (abbr.)
61. Above
63. News organization (abbr.)

Answers on
page 18

MAIL

To the editors of the Star:

I was greatly disturbed to read the *Doonesbury* column of the October 11, 1991 issue of the *Star*. Perhaps I misunderstood the conclusion, but the unmarried couple end up in bed at the end of their date.

The comic strip condoned fornication and adultery, which is against the Houghton College philosophy of community living and more importantly against Biblical standards. The mass media feeds us the lie that fornication and adultery are "ok" these days. I would expect that in our own campus publication we could perhaps escape some of this trash. But obviously, worldly standards are infiltrating our thought patterns blatantly.

What happened to "whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable,—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things" (Phil. 4:8)? It is sad to think that our own *Houghton Star* may be used as a tool to lose our saltiness.

Please consider the message presented by some of the *Doonesbury* comic strips. I would rather look at two blank pages, than to read lies that numb my mind to the truth.

Sincerely yours,
Elise Munyard.

Editorial note:

In publishing this particular series of *Doonesbury* strips, *The*

Houghton Star took a calculated risk which, in hindsight, may not have been altogether wise, given the reaction of certain readers. It should be understood, first of all, that *The Houghton Star* does not always necessarily agree with or condone what Gary Trudeau chooses to address in his comic strips. Nevertheless, we choose to publish *Doonesbury* because of the wise (and often very subtle) social commentary it contains as well as for its intelligent humor.

The strips in question, when taken in context, make several rather pointed statements about American society as a whole. 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). Boopsie, on the other hand, represents the equally negative stereotype of the blond ditz, incapable of thinking for 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 unwilling or unable to look beyond the apparent crassness of the story line.

As a result, we do not believe that

the strips in question condone extramarital sex any more than Mr. Butts (a lobbying cigarette butt—another Trudeau character) serves to condone smoking. Instead, these strips make a serious, intelligent, and extremely ironic statement about the degeneracy of American society, as well as about the socially divisive effects of an armed conflict such as the Gulf war.

We had hoped that the majority of our readership would be able to understand the context and purpose of the strip without being offended by it. Nevertheless, this and other reactions (in the form of anonymous hate mail and torn-off covers) demonstrate that subtly obscurantist tendencies still infiltrate even the most academically serious among the frankly conservative in evangelical academia.

We regret the offense this strip may have caused to elements among our readership and hope that the above explanation is a satisfactory response to their concerns.

Doonesbury will continue to appear in the *Houghton Star*. In the future, however, we may be obligated to employ greater editorial discretion for the sake of those among our readership who may be unprepared for Trudeau's highly confrontational style. Our apologies to those who, like ourselves, think otherwise.

The editors.

☆☆☆

To all Houghton students:

I have noticed a disturbing trait emerging upon campus as of late. This trait has reared its [sic] head into arenas such as the *Star* and the CAB Spot. It has no other name than cynicism.

A cynic is described by Daniel Webster as, "a sarcastic, pessimistic person." Another way a cynic could be described, then, is—one who finds

fault with anything and everything. Most times it would not be a complement [sic] to call someone a cynic or cynical. But I find I must do so now, seeing as we are being inundated with it all the time.

Recently, the *Star's* editorial, "The Black Hole", carried an article blatantly slamming the new chapel format. Basically, the author expressed his dislike of some of the aspects of it and wished that the students had been consulted before the changes were made. First of all, if more research had been done on the subject, the author would have found that the committee in charge had asked for suggestions through a letter that sat on every table in the dining hall for months last winter. Secondly, it is bad journalism to point out wrong and not leave the reader with a suggestion or two (especially one that has merit). Thirdly, what was done couldn't be called "pointing out fault" at all. It was large scale pummeling of all the efforts of Dean Bence and crew. This is cynical and it is wrong.

Even more recently, the campus was treated to a Spot. I say treated because most of the acts we saw were fabulous. But just after a stirring and moving song by a group called "Jazzman", senior Eric Darling took the stage. He commenced to tell a wonderfully written allegory about the plight of two students that were having trouble with the college because their housing wasn't college approved and because they weren't on the board plan. We had no trouble with the story and we side with the two students in their fight. The problem came with the descriptions of some people in the Student Development. Even though her name wasn't mentioned, it was plain that Dianne Janes of Residence Life was the one being described as a bloodthirsty dragon, devouring everyone in her path. My heart goes out to her and I fervently hope that she wasn't present

to hear herself slandered in this way.

Lastly, a song was sung by senior Adam English that was a parody on a praise song. He began by making a joke about his infrequent attendance at Celebration, and promptly launched into a song entitled, "And the dead beast shall be his" taken from Exodus 21. The tune was neat, the idea was funny, the attitude was bad. Most took it as a rip on praise songs and many, as a result, walked out. I'm not saying it was Adam's intent, but it looked to me like another pessimistic view of Houghton.

I said earlier that if faults were pointed out, suggestions should be made to the reader. Well, here I go. In Ephesians 4:29, Paul tells us: "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." Clearly, calling Miss Janes a dragon and ripping her down does not build her up! Instead of finding fault with things and putting them forth in a sarcastic manner, let's build each other up, helping each other out with gentle suggestions using Christ as our model.

I hope that my position upon this matter is clearly stated and well understood. I feel that, if allowed to continue, it may hamper our own spiritual growth and turn us to bicker and groan against each other.

To the writers of the *Star*, let me add that although freedom of speech is constitutional, it not always biblical. Instead what we write must be tempered by a love for Christ and for each other. Please take these thoughts into consideration and act accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Runion, sophomore

Editorial note:

But seriously, the opinions expressed in Mr. Taylor's column (and

for that matter in any op-ed column in this publication) do not necessarily reflect the official position of *The Houghton Star*, its management, or of Houghton College as a whole.

☆☆☆

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to Dan Crawford and Mike Kessler for their temporary victory over Student Development. Now that the story is known, I would like to make a few points about this subject from what I think is a very relevant perspective.

You see, one week before I came to school, I received a note from Housing telling me that they had no record of housing for me. I called them up to tell them I had an apartment with a roommate in Maple Manor, the white barnhouse near the Academy. That was a mistake. They told me I couldn't live there. When I protested, they told me to take it up with Dianne Janes. (...)

She said that I could live there, but then I would have to make "choices." I asked her point blank if that meant that if I lived there it would mean suspension from school. She replied with the "choices" comment again.

So I talked my situation over with my parents for a few days. My dad convinced me that my education is more important than an apartment. I decided to give in. Now I'm living in Shen.

When I look back at the whole mess, there are two things that really bother me. First, if students lived in apartments in the past (and some others are even doing so now!) why crack down on me, Mike, and Dan? A rule or law that isn't enforced isn't a rule or a law; it's just words. It isn't fair to let some people live in apartments and some not. It seems to me that the whole system is royally screwed up, and that it needs to catch

MAIL

continues...

up with the times.

Secondly (...) What happened to treating students like they were people? What happened to discussions? Why am I, a 21 year-old American citizen adult being treated like a grade school kid? (...) She only cared about the rule.

Mike and Dan fought for their rights, and I am ashamed that I gave in so easily. Suspending them over an apartment is ludicrous. It's an injustice. And I am a part of that injustice because I gave in. Only through unity can injustice be overcome; the student body must stop idiotic things like this from happening again.

By the way, Student Development got someone to replace me in the apartment. The only difference between me and him is that he is a few years older. That's justice for you.

John Percy

In accordance with the letter policy stated in the staff box of every issue of The Houghton Star, passages designated by a (...) were considered to constitute a personal attack and were edited out.

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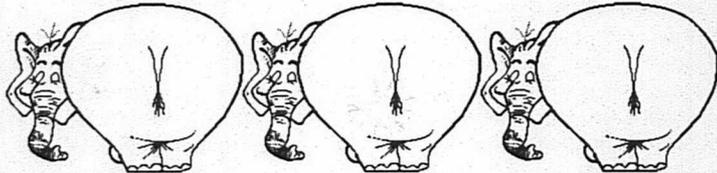
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P	A	T	R	A	P	E	N	D	S	W	
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L	A	N	A	L	A	I	R	T	N	T	
E	C	B	L	I	N	D	E	R	A	H	
R	E	U	B	E	N	E	S	T	A	T	E
S	P	A	I	G	S	T	P	E	R		

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The United States: Want to see a change for the better? Then use your right to vote! Don't forget to vote November 5 or by absentee ballot.

Any questions? Contact Larry Wilson, Allegany County
Commissioner of Elections at 567-2672.

This message is sponsored by the Houghton College Republicans.

