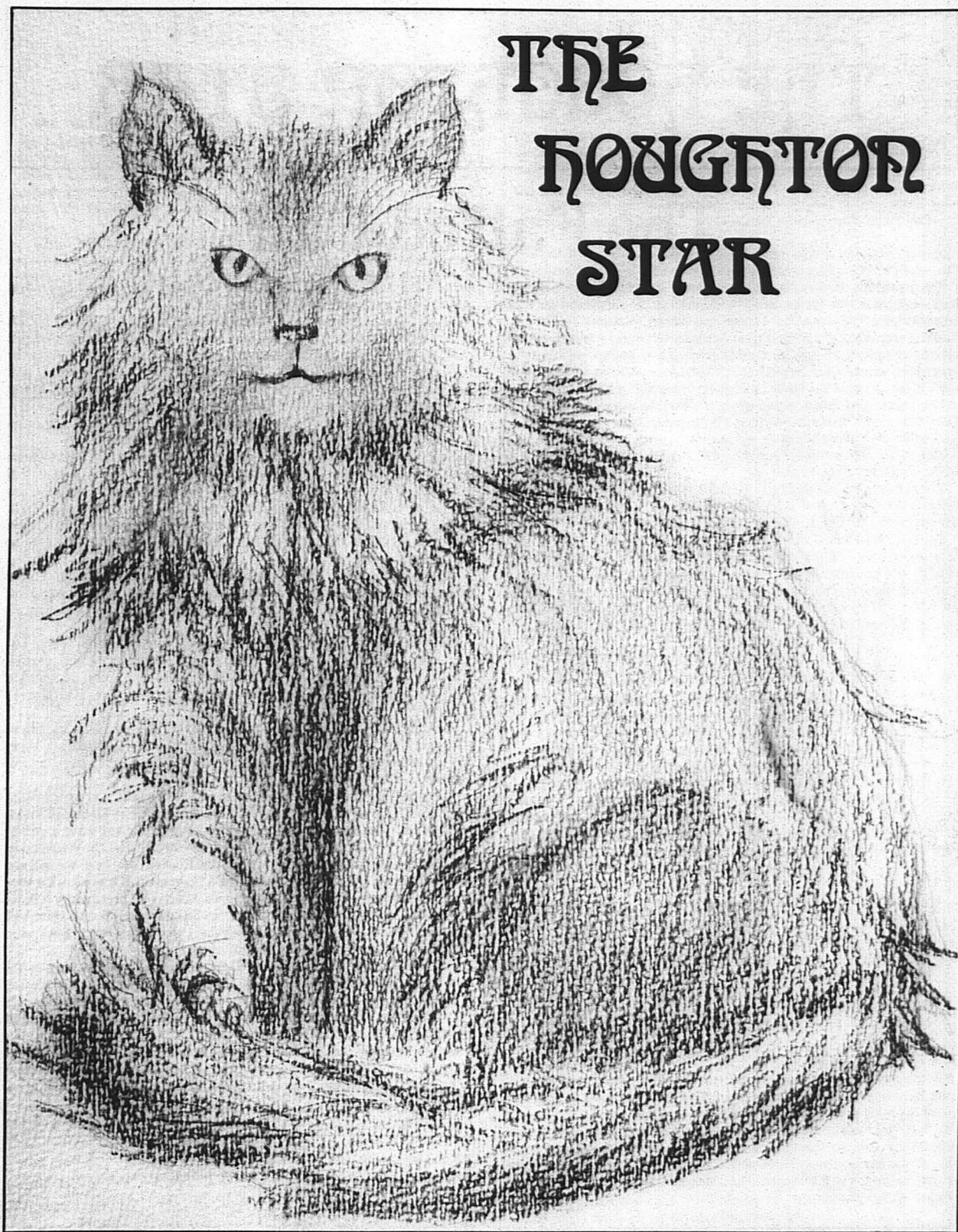


THE HOUGHTON STAR



a, Inc.

m;
m"
ain
he
her
his

est
ck,

in
m.

THE HOUGHTON STAR

February 11, 1983

Vol. 75 No. 12

The Fatted Calf

The missionary flashes the slides of gaunt, emaciated, bloated-bellied West Africans across the screen. The children in the congregation frown and question, "Why are those people so skinny, Mommy?" The same Church is considering a plan to raise funds for the hungry in upper Volta. Like other fund raising projects, this one will die, probably with the advent of the annual Church picnic.

Families come to the picnic, carrying cakes and casseroles, balancing relish trays, and toting picnic baskets filled with goodies usually prepared only for Christmas. At the Church several days earlier, this congregation viewed a slide of an old Malian woman (probably not nearly as old as she looks) who is gnawing on a seed which she has just found under some dry sage-like weeds.

The missionary society has broken into its dust covered fund to buy barrels of honey-dipped chicken and platters of sliced Virginia ham. In the next slide, the Chadian family stands around their last cow; it is dead.

For ten years an old woman in the Church has prepared Texas chocolate sheet cake, double fudge fanciful, chocolate mayonnaise cake, chuck-a-lot chocolate cake, plain chocolate cake, German chocolate cake, chocolate marble cake, cherry chocolate cake, chocolate refrigerator cake, and chocolate dump cake. Every day, the Sahara creeps farther as the sun bakes the soil into a cake which no one would touch; this

slide focuses on what was once a lake in a game preserve in Niger and is now a parched piece of godforsaken earth.

As one picnicker heaps her plate with ham, chicken, German potato salad, three bean salad, three green olives, cole slaw, sweet and dill pickles, stale potato chips, macaroni and cheese, macaroni salad with little pimentos, Jell-O delight, Jell-O dream, Jell-O and bananas, and Jell-O and pineapple, she tells onlookers that the Doc has advised her to lose weight because this and that function improperly. In this slide a missionary to Mauritania is writing a letter to his Church district in the States, pleading for doctors, nurses, and nutritional supplies.

Each Family provides a "pitcher of something to drink." Picnickers walk around the table, unscrewing the picnic jugs, holding the neutral plastic pitchers in the sunlight, and pulling the lids from painted glass two-quarts before deciding which beverage has been stirred long enough. An old farmer in the Sudan sits on a stone crying because the waterhole for his animals has dried up. He must leave his birthplace; this slide is perhaps the saddest.

As he pats his stomach, one picnicker says, "You know, I don't have that empty feeling anymore." A bony Senegalase child with a protruding stomach, rattles a rusty, filthy cup at a relief worker who is saying, "I am sorry, but we just ran out of meal."

The picnic ends, but the hunger continues. The slide show ends, but our eating continues. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service," Romans 12:1 (King James Version).

In the Old Testament when people offered a fatted calf as a sacrifice, it was an act of absolute reverence. The days of burnt offerings are gone, and we are still trying to give God a fatted calf. Even the Church is turning out a herd of calves weekly.

The minister reads the announcements to a hungry congregation, "Following our service today, we will be having a carry-in dinner in the fellowship room. Tomorrow the ladies prayer group will have a coffee cake prayer breakfast. Bring your favorite coffee cake. On Wednesday we will have our annual "Fast for Sixteen Hours," and then we will eat like the folks in Upper Volta by having a bean soup dinner to raise support for that area of the world. The youth will have a pizza party following Friday night's basketball game. On Saturday night, the men will have their "Surf and Turf" dinner meeting. Ask your wives to bake your favorite dessert, and we will help you eat it."

I hope that this is an exaggerated illustration, but it represents a problem which I am seeing more often—the food and fellowship syndrome. It begins with tea and cookie prayer meetings and continues through "Surf and Turf" dinner meetings. The people often become overly filled physically while spiritually impoverished.

Oh yes, Scripture tells us to feast together, but must we wave the aroma of a turkey drumstick, a pepperoni pizza, or a slice of maple apple cake to lure people to worship services? God wants a living sacrifice, not a fattened calf anymore.

Melinda Trine

The STAR Staff

Editor-in-chief	Carol LiCalzi Allston
Managing editor	Ann Major-Stevenson
Photo editor	John Nabholz
News editor	David Seymour
Sports editor	Linnæe Cain
Literary editor	Jim Pinkham
Music editor	Mark Nabholz
Arts editor	Melinda Trine
Circulation manager	DeeDee Allston
Business manager	Jennifer Carlson
Advisor	Paul Young

Reporters

Bob Arnold
Christine Campbell
Betty Ganger
Beth Goodridge
Jeff Hansen
Sally Parker
Walt Pickut
Beth Wind

Photographers

Joel Hecht
Peter Schultz
Maurice Sutiono
Marc Troeger
Sarah Verser

Production

Barb Baker

Beth Emmons

Karen Freeman
Mel Guilzon
Becky Klakamp
Lori LaQuay
Kevin Marcus
Kathy Readyoff
Sharon Regal
Beth Sperry

The Houghton Star is a weekly publication representing the voice of the students of Houghton College. The Star encourages the free exchange of opinion; but opinions and ideas expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Star staff, or of Houghton College. Letters to the editor are welcomed, and must be in the Star office by 9:00 am Tuesday. The editor reserves the right to edit contributions. The Star subscribes to the United Features Syndicate.

CAT CONTEST WINNERS

PHOTOGRAPHY: Joel Hecht, John Nabholz
FICTION: Priscilla Chase
POETRY: Laurie Reynolds
ART: Alison Stevens
Kathy Readyoff

Cover Cat by Alison Stevens

Housing Houghton Men

by Jeffrey Hansen

1984. No, not the book by George Orwell; but according to Kenneth Nielson, Houghton College business manager, 1984 is the proposed year for starting a new men's dorm to replace Gaoydeo Hall.

Why 1984 and not 1983? The major reason is cost. In September 1982, the U.S. Department of Education rejected Houghton's application for a \$1.8 million federal grant at 3%, repayable over a 30 year period.

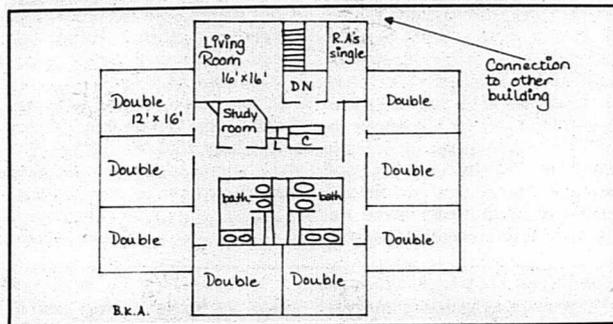
Another reason offered by Mr. Nielsen for the delay in construction, which was discussed by the Board of Trustees on January 13, 1983, was the possibility of a slight decline in enrollment. Many colleges, including Christian colleges, are currently suffering from lack of enrollment, although Houghton is "right on target" for the '82-83 school year, added Mr. Nielsen. Furthermore, '83-84 enrollment projections are encouraging.

For 1982, \$40 million was available by the federal government to aid colleges across the U.S. According to an article in the October 7, 1982 issue of St. Bonaventure's "The Bona Venture", criteria for each college were: "previous residential history; use of existing dormitories and housing deficiency." (St. Bonaventure University was also rejected for a low-interest grant.)

bank loan would run 12% or higher, Houghton is left to find other alternatives. At the top of the list is "the possibility of private financing," according to Mr. Nielsen. Furthermore, he added, an important element in financing a dorm, rather than a non-residential building, is that "all dorms are self amortizing." Which means the students living in the dorm will generate enough money for the college to repay the loan without having to use other funds.

Although a dormitory is self amortizing, costs to the students living in the proposed dorm will be higher. As cited by Mr. Nielsen, costs would probably be raised from the current average price of \$350 per double to \$505—equivalent to what a Brookside resident is now paying for an average double. The increased cost will go to cover debt retirement.

The delayed, but not forgotten plans for a new dorm are still a concern of the administration as well as students, although students should be aware that things do not happen overnight. The new dorm may be a ways off, but by taking their time, the administration can properly build a new dorm that will benefit the students and the school as a whole. 1984 is soon upon us. It is not a vision as far away as it was for George O. well.



Out of the total of 164 applications only 40 were given grants—21 for energy conservation and 19 for new building projects. Mr. Nielsen said that, "Houghton was ranked in the top 84 applications, which was good, but not good enough."

What now? Since the federal grant was rejected and a regular

Above is a schematic drawing, representing one floor of the proposed dorm to replace Gao. The proposal is for two buildings (joined or separate) that will house 64 students each. A sight has not yet been chosen for the new dorm. (Drawing from blue print by Beardsley & Beardsley—architects/engineers. Feb. 24, 1982.)

HEMISPHERES

by David Seymour

The drop in the nation's unemployment rate to 10.4 percent of the work force in January, down from 10.8 percent in December, was welcomed last week by the President as "one more sign that America is on the mend." The figure, compiled by the Labor Department, fell for the first time since July 1981, when joblessness stood at 7.2 percent. But analysts warn the rate may rise again this year, as the hard-hit manufacturing sector—which operated last year at only about two-thirds capacity—maintains conservative rehiring policies for 1983.

What will the government do with 848 billion dollars? President Reagan's proposed 1984 federal budget, the largest in U.S. history, will spend over \$3500 per American, funded by taxes averaging about \$2800 per citizen. The largest items in the spending plan, which begins October 1: \$245 billion for defense, \$178 billion for social security benefits, and \$144 billion to finance the interest on a \$1 trillion national debt. The three largest expenditures will all be up from this year, pushing the 1984 federal deficit to a staggering \$188 billion, a figure still lower than the \$207 billion in red ink expected for fiscal 1983. The details of the budget must be hammered out by Congress in the spring.

A plan to save developing nations from drowning in their debts to the West, drawn up by the International Monetary Fund, faces a "battle royal" in the U.S. Congress, the Wall Street Journal reports. The finance ministers of the 146-country organization are working to increase by about 50 percent its loan resources for its most cash-starved members, to head off chain reaction of Third World defaults and to help to preserve the world's fragile banking system. The scheme would increase the IMF's regular lending authority from \$66 billion to \$99 billion, and establish a \$19 billion "international emergency fund." The catch: the reserve plan would require the U.S. to increase contributions to the IMF by about \$9 billion from its current level of \$14.6 billion, a motion federal legislators are reluctant to approve, with joblessness and bankruptcies still problems at home.

The expulsion of over 2 million foreign workers from Nigeria late last month threatens the political stability of an already troubled West Africa. The president of the continent's most populous black nation, now a major oil exporter, ordered the migrant laborers out of the country to ease the unemployment caused by global recession and a worldwide oil glut. The foreigners will have to return to countries also stricken with economic ills, such as Ghana and Chad. U.S. News & World Report claims that "the threat of violence is certain to mushroom as poverty bites hard and huge debts force leaders to impose stiff austerity on disgruntled citizens." Africa's foreign debt, now over \$60 billion, far exceeds foreign earnings—and with faltering economies, the continent's shaky republics will face increasing political unrest.

The Soviet Union is trying to win back the friendship of strategically important Arab states, after having sunk to what may have been its lowest level of credibility ever in the mideast. Russia's prestige in the area has been suffering since the 1979 invasion of Afghanistan, a non-Arab—but Muslim—country on its southern border. Moscow's image declined further when, as the Christian Science Monitor puts it, the Soviets did "virtually nothing" to help Iraq when its war effort against Iran faltered last spring, despite a Soviet-Iraqi friendship treaty. Finally, the Kremlin's failure to help Syria drive Israeli troops from Lebanon last summer reinforced Arab reluctance to side with the Soviets in international disputes.

Now, the Kremlin is trying to resurrect its traditional role as supporter of Arab causes. For example, the Russians sold Syria SAM-5 ground-to-air missiles, weapons with a 180-mile range and potentially dangerous to Israel. Also threatening are the rising number of Soviet military "advisors" in Syria. The Soviet's other attempts at rapprochement include resumption of military aid to Iraq, hints at resolving the too crowded stalemate, and the sending of "unofficial" delegations to Arab countries such as Algeria and Lebanon.

Consortium President Keynotes Conference

Dr. Carl Lundquist, president of the Christian College Consortium, will be the keynote speaker at this year's Houghton Ministerial Conference. Dr. Lundquist and his wife, Nancy, will consider "The Growing of a Pastor." Also addressing the conference will be Rev. Laurel Buckingham, who will receive the 1983 "Pastor of the Year Award," and Dr. Carl Schultz, who chairs Houghton College's Division of Religion and Philosophy.

Dr. Lundquist gained national prominence during his 28 years as president of Bethel College and Seminary. Well-known in Christian circles, he has also appeared in both *Who's Who in America* and the *American Educational Registry*, because of his commitment to a scholarship strongly mingled with faith and devotion. He and Nancy will delve into such topics as "The Person God Uses," "The Person of Prayer," and "Relationship in Ministry."

Rev. Buckingham will conduct a workshop on prayer during the conference, speaking from experience on how prayer affects the struggles and victories of ministry. Buckingham has pastored for more than a decade in New Brunswick,

Berry to Lecture

The Houghton College Lecture Series will present distinguished poet Wendell Berry in a reading of his works Friday, February 11 at 8:15 p.m. in Fancher Auditorium.

Born and educated in Kentucky, Mr. Berry has taught at New York and Stanford Universities of Kentucky. He is an advocate of environmental conservation and the reform of American and world agriculture. He lives and works with his family on a subsistence farm in northern Kentucky. Among the three novels, eight books of poems and numerous essays to his credit are: *A Place on Earth* (1968); *The Long Legged House* (1969); *The Unsettling of America* (1977) and *The Gift of Good Land* (1981).

The poetry reading is open to the public at no charge. Following his Houghton engagement, Mr. Berry will also give a reading Saturday, February 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Olean Public Library, at Second and Laurens Streets.

Canada. There he has been God's instrument in the growth of the Moncton, N.B. Wesleyan Church from the smallest in the city to the largest in Atlantic Canada. He has served in key leadership roles in the Atlantic District and spoken widely in evangelistic crusades, church growth seminars, camp meetings, ministerial conventions, and colleges.

Dr. Schultz of Houghton College will present "A Biblical Perspective on the Family," exploring its link with pastoral growth.

The conference will begin on Monday, March 14 and run through Wednesday, March 16. Meetings will include chapels (11:05), luncheons, and evening gatherings (7:00). For further information contact Church Relations Office, Houghton College, Houghton, New York 14744 or call at (716) 567-2211.

Horses for Courses

by Christine Campbell

Houghton College received a gift of seven horses from Dr. Demostene Romanucci, a surgeon in Albany, NY and father of a sophomore student here. Wanting his horses to be used for a practical purpose, Dr. Romanucci knew there already was an interest here and hoped that this interest would be even more enhanced. The horses—six registered Morgans and one retired standardbred—will be kept on the college farm where Prof. and Mrs. Michael Wheeler have been conducting riding lessons.

Mrs. Wheeler has been planning with Mr. Kettlekamp and Mr. Wells of the physical education department for these lessons to be taken for college credit starting in May of this year. The two-hour course will consist of two hours of riding and one hour of lecture and will run for the full three weeks of May term. Professors will instruct equitation on the flat and over fences, as well as the training of "green" horses. As a part of a total riding package, the college is looking forward to building an indoor riding arena at the college farm so that classes and shows may be held year-round, regardless of weather. Dr. Romanucci is arranging the financing for this structure through private donations. There has been much enthusiasm among the college people for this new project and completion is expected this spring.

Dear women of Johnson House,

I apologize for identifying your house as the place where I overheard an incriminating conversation several years ago. I can only say that this was a mistake made by a newcomer to public speaking. The point of my story could have been made without identifying your house; I'm sorry if you received any razzing on the matter.

Not knowing Jackie or Dianne prior to their letter, I would have felt better about sending in this public apology to the *Star* had either of them approached me to discuss the matter face to face. I finally did meet Jackie this past Sunday and we were able to discuss the matter in a helpful way.

I'm sorry for the unnecessary discomfort some current students were caused by speculation concerning who was involved in the incident. I felt I had included enough details in my anecdote to make it clear that the students I had overheard left Houghton years ago. If "innocent people have been accused", they've been accused by people who obviously were not listening closely to my words in chapel. I also thought it was clear that the main point of the story was the self-deception evident in the conversation, not the location of the incident or the persons involved. Any listener who has since tried to figure out who I was alluding to is doing wrong. Clearly, I should not have given as much information as I did, but any person who would stoop to trying to identify the two women is making a far worse mistake.

Finally, when asked "Why did I sit there and listen so long?", there is an explanation. First of all, I felt that it was no accident to be suddenly and instantly awakened in the middle of the night. As I realized the nature of the conversation, my first response was to leave the room. But then I felt that God was drawing back a curtain and revealing (admittedly in an unusual fashion) something signifi-

cant about sin and self-deception. Furthermore, think a moment about the consequences of my revealing my presence: the two women would have known that they had been overheard and could have easily inquired as to who was staying in the guest room that weekend. Result: they feel guilty and self-conscious every time they see me (and I admit that this could conceivably lead to conviction), to say nothing of my own awkwardness.

"Why didn't you confront them?" For two reasons: first, I had no existing relationship with either of these women. This was a very serious, very sensitive matter. I don't believe that you just go up to virtual strangers (even if they are fellow Christians) and confront them with fornication. This issue must be dealt with by people who have committed, caring relationships with those entrapped with sin. Second, I believe that one must have a clear sense of God's guidance before confronting another person, especially with a matter of this consequence. I honestly did not feel any leading to face these two with their sin. This lack of guidance may seem a little mystical to some. However, confrontation cannot be seen as an automatic, knee-jerk response to sin. A measure of discernment and guidance must be sought, otherwise the whole process of confrontation could backfire. Lacking any prior relationship with these women and any clear sense of God's directing me to confront them, I felt it wiser to glean what insight I could from the situation. I had never shared this incident in public before, wanting there to be a significant cushion of time between the incident and any recounting of it on my part.

In conclusion, while I do apologize for some unwise words, I sincerely hope that the point of the story has not been lost in the controversy surrounding my methods.

Sincerely,
Mark Cerbone

Dear Carol,

Rich Perkins wants to make a request of the STAR but since he cannot figure a way to make it graciously, I, as a friend, want to do it for him.

He requests that all females who are planning on sending him Valentines day cards kindly do not send them intra-campus. Beaver inevitably discovers them first and gets very upset. Rich does not wish to go through this

again as he is having lots of trouble already and their marriage cannot take much more upheaval.

So, please deliver the cards and notes by hand to his office door or send them to me and I will relay them.

Rich will send a note back to all those who sign their name.

Thank you
Brian Sayers

Letters

Dear Carol,

Last week *The Star* contained several articles dealing with vital events and moral questions. One of those articles that caught my attention was Fred Havener's "The 'Christian' Solution." The specific question of a Nuclear freeze didn't interest me so much as Fred's contention that we dare not formulate a "Christian view" of such current ethical questions.

I agree that God is not a Socialist, he certainly appreciated Karl Marx no more than Marx appreciated him. I also agree that God is not a Capitalist. Owning all the capital in the world, all that stuff about supply and demand can't possibly concern him. But Fred jumped from these premises to some rather weak conclusions.

The Bible says nothing, explicitly, about Socialism or Capitalism (although God does have an opinion about our personal economics). But does that also apply to Nuclear arms? Granted, there is nothing about the MX missile in the Sermon on the Mount, but Jesus did say, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God" (Matt. 5:9). Promoting Nuclear arms is peacemaking only if the end (an uncertain one, at that) justifies the means: mutual terror. Such a stand represents simple situation ethics. But let's move on. Fred alluded to Matthew 7:12, "So whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them." Even a "general" application of this verse causes Fred's point to fall. Do we really wish that the people of the Soviet Union promote a Nuclear arms build up? If we follow Fred's conclusion then the "golden rule" goes out the window with the Beatitudes.

What a majority (moral or immoral) of Christians believe never

determines what is the "Christian view" of any issue. But what the Bible says, what Christ says, must govern our outlook, even on "Worldly" issues. If not, we call ourselves Christians without reason.

Consider Matthew 25:40 in the context of this discussion. We have heard this verse many times (though I know I seldom prove it by my actions), "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

There are less than 16 million Communist Party members in the Soviet Union, and a little over 5 million Warsaw Pact troops in Europe (J. Arthur, *Socialism in the Soviet Union*, 1977). There remain, then, over 200 million people not active in the oppressive political system of the USSR. Most of these people are themselves oppressed beneath the weight of that government, and don't deserve to die for the sins of their oppressors. No one has suffered more under that system than the Russian people.

Does Matthew 25:40 allow for the incineration of school children in Leningrad? Or elderly peasants outside of Moscow? Behind the statistics are real people, living, breathing human beings for whom Jesus Christ gave his life. Such is Christ's view of the worth of any child, woman, or man. If we do to these people what we did to the citizens of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, what are we saying about Christ's view of life? It doesn't matter as much as our political system, our land, our own personal well-being.

"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me," says Jesus.

Peacefully,
Jeff M. Jones

Dear Carol,

I have been besieged by criticism since my WJSL play-by-play of Monday night's game (Houghton 141, D'Youville 78). The overwhelming consensus is that I was obnoxious and demeaning, apparently to players on each team. In fact, the response has been distinguished by the complete absence of any positive comments, making it much harder to ignore.

Any defense I attempt will sound

like an excuse, and so I will not try. I sincerely apologize to anyone I have offended; I meant only to report the game—the bad things that happened as well as the good.

I love basketball, I love Houghton, and I love my job. It's a hard job, but I think I do it well—even if I didn't Monday night. I take my function as a reporter very seriously.

Specific criticism is welcomed. I'm really crushed by all this feedback; I've replayed the game

Dear Carol,

A liberal arts education succeeds only when the students are exposed to a wide range of thought and opinion. At Houghton, the aim of the liberal arts has been subverted by the administration's cancellation of lecture series speaker Father Berrigan.

Last week's article pointed out that Berrigan had been canceled due to his "controversial" nature. But who, praytell, labeled him controversial? Certainly it was not the students, many of whom have never heard of Berrigan or his actions during the Vietnam War. The faculty extended the invitation, so evidently they felt that Berrigan had an important message. Unfortunately, the administration felt otherwise.

The administration's reasoning that Berrigan's appearance would be "probably more divisive than constructive" needs some explanation. To whom would Berrigan's lecture be divisive? To the students who have never heard him, Berrigan's lecture would be informing. To the faculty who know of him, Berrigan's lecture would be a chance to acquaint themselves again with a peer who has achieved a bit of notoriety. The administration, though, would see Berrigan as a threat to their control of thought at Houghton College. Conservatism is encouraged, no others need apply.

The administration's need to preserve the conservative status quo at Houghton College prevented Daniel Berrigan from speaking on this campus. College officials should remember that Houghton College exists to serve students by providing a quality education. Inclusion of a speaker in a lecture series, like inclusion of a book in the library, does not imply endorsement. It merely shows that the school is open-minded enough to allow diversity of thought as part of the educational process.

Sincerely,
Jeff Kushkowski

dozens of times and can think of nothing I wouldn't say again. If anyone can cite a specific instance I will either explain it satisfactorily or make a public apology in the pages of the *Star*.

I thought about quitting, but that would serve no constructive purpose, particularly with one game left. Some have told me, "Say what you want; who cares what people think?" I do. Public opinion to the contrary, I do care about the feel-

Dear Carol:

We were distressed by the lack of sensitivity demonstrated by CAB's decision to show the movies *Rocky* and *Rocky II* on Afro-American Weekend. On the one weekend of the entire academic year specifically allocated for activities that will increase understanding, awareness, and appreciation of Black culture, films were shown that incorporated many of the negative stereotypes this weekend tries to address and to eliminate. That the pitting of white against black, where white triumphs at the expense of black, was one of the messages of the film which was demonstrated in the 1979 race riots in Philadelphia which erupted after the film was shown. Showing these films made a mockery of the weekend.

The procedure for selection of films on campus is complicated. I do not wish to suggest that the explicit motivation of CAB was to show films that depict Blacks in a disparaging light, a view substantiated by the fact that *Fame* had been the original choice of CAB. However, not appreciating the social implications of films shown on Afro-American Weekend is inexcusable when the content of the films can be easily ascertained (only a few minutes were needed in the library to locate several sources for reviews of both films).

CAB made a choice; other alternatives did exist. We are concerned about what can be inferred from the choice that was made. Did the money made justify the offense given? The fact that it was so well attended suggests that the social insensitivity of CAB is similarly found in the college community. When the issues of larger society occur in this college setting, we lack adequate awareness to act in socially responsible ways.

It is the hope that this issue is not and does not become one that evolves around personalities, but one that addresses issues. Such is the intent of this letter.

Sincerely,
Mary Conklin
John Tyson
Keith Gallagher
Warren Woolsey

ings of my fellow man.

I am sorry for falling short. Anyone willing to tape the Feb. 19th home game can get a blank cassette from me. I want to improve, in my broadcasting and my testimony. But help me rebuild, don't just tear me down.

Sincerely,
Mark Warner

The Conversion of Croonus Swoonus

As a follow-up to last week's article entitled "Crass Commercialism" (pg. 7) I hope to expand your horizons by reprinting a chapter from *The Philippiian Fragment* by Calvin Miller. Copyright 1982, by Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of the U.S.A., used by permission of Inter Varsity Press, Box F, Downers Grove, IL, 60515.

Supposedly a word-for-word translation of an ancient manuscript found at the bottom of a wine vat in a secluded monastery (since destroyed by an earthquake) on Mt. Arphaxed, the book reduces controversies ranging from Christian show-biz to control of the church board down to their lowest common denominator: human nature.

Here, straight from the pen of Eusebius of Philippi, we can read about the remarkable conversion of Croonus Swoonus.

1. It is certain now that all the lions are gone. The first wave of persecution is over, and we are enjoying a new period of peace and security.
2. But security is never the friend of faith. It is peril that produces steadfastness. When the church is secure, she gains too many freedoms. She enjoys the freedom to doubt, the freedom to major on minor issues and the freedom to indulge herself in community acceptance.
3. The most ghastly freedom of all is the freedom from the utter dependency she must have to weather the crisis. Since the lions are gone, the people are speaking openly of being born again.
4. Even the mayor of Philippi is speaking unguardedly of being born again, and while these pagans have no idea what the term really means, they are sure it has some connection with Christianity.
5. Others in our community are printing the words on their togas "Born Again" and "Try God".
6. I tell you, Clement, it all started when they took the lions to Rome. You may be sure that when they bring them back there will be much less open talk and toga signs.
7. But now we are into it. It is almost a fad.
8. Some of the local actors are also saying that they have been born again. One of the tragedians in the local theater says he will never again do Greek tragedy, his joy is so great.
9. He is going to become a joyous comedian and act in a thousand theaters to the joy of the Christ who has saved him. He is born again!
10. But the most notable conversion has been that of Croonus Swoonus. Yes, that is right; he too, is born again.
11. It all happened when his hairdresser who is a member of our church stuck a scripture parchment in his shining toga telling him how to be born again. And thus it happened.

12. He was famous before for his homespun ballads like "Back Homa in Roma" and "Nighty, Nighty, Aphroditie." But he is through crooning that he "found his thrill on Palatine Hill."

13. Now he is born again, and he intends to give his entire life to singing songs in the traditions of the church. He has a stunning new composition called, "Pleeze Jesus, Just Seize Us and Heal Our Diseases."

14. Well, that is how it goes when one is born again.

15. How authentic Brother Swoonus is would be difficult to say. I know he means well, but there were numerous rumors that his singing career was about over when he had the good fortune to be born again.

16. There is something about his deportment that suggests that the good fortune was really all God's and that the Almighty was certainly lucky that the golden throat once "given to the world" is now "committed unto God." 17. I suppose it was God's lucky day all right. At least the amphitheater is being packed night after night to hear Croonus "lay 'em in the aisle for Jesus."

18. A single verse from his big-hit musical testimony will tell you more than I can:

I've been set completely free
Since the man of Galilee
Died upon the cross for me . . .
Yeah, Yeah, Yeah.

Deaf and mute I had no sight.
Life for me was just a fright,
Till I stumbled into light . . .
Yeah, Yeah, Yeah.

Now I'm giving up my sin,
Love commandments one through ten,
Praise the Lamb, I'm born again . . .
Yeah, Yeah, Yeah.

19. As you can see, Clement, this song is not quite up to the one the beasts and elders sing in the Apocalypse.

20. In the interest of Christian art it might be better to have the lions back. 21. Pray for us that the faith that has such surface popularity may grow deep. Pray for Swoonus that his lyrics may improve even if his commitment does not.

Have a good, thoughtful week.

Mark Nabholz

The Houghton College School of Music
presents
Joanne L. Fagerstrom, clarinetist
and
Christine J. Hall, violinist
in Senior Recital
assisted by
Janice Kibbe, pianist; Laurie
Fiegl, pianist, and the Houghton
college String Quartet
February 14, 8:00pm
Wesley Chapel

Joanne Fagerstrom, a senior music education major, is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Fagerstrom from Norwell, MA.

Last fall she student taught at East View Elementary, Ivers J. Norton Elementary and Olean High School. During her stay here at Houghton she has actively partici-

MUSIC

pated in Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble, Wind Ensemble, College Choir and Flute Ensemble, serving as Social Chairperson of Wind Ensemble for two years, and chaplain of that same organization for one year.

She is assisted by Janice Kibbe, pianist, a Junior church ministries major from Wellsville, NY.

Joanne's part of the program will consist of:

- Bernstein - "Sonata for Clarinet"
- Brahms - "Sonata in Eb"
- Mozart - "Trio VII in Eb" (with Chris Hall, viola, and Laurie Fiegl, piano)

Christine Hall, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. N. Ward Hall, District Superintendent of the Wesleyan

Church (Central NY) also student taught last fall, in the Wellsville Central School music department. She has participated in Orchestra, Chapel Choir, Chamber Orchestra, Women's Choir, and has taught private beginning violin for three years.

She is assisted by Miss Laurie Fiegl, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Zane Fiegl, who reside in Canisteo.

- Miss Hall will perform:
Haendel - Concerto I
Bach - Cello Suite I (in G)
Vaughan Williams - Christmas Dance
Faure - Elegy
- Miss Hall will also be assisted by the College String Quartet.

The Houghton College School of Music
presents
The Houghton College
Wind Ensemble
in a
Concert of 20th Century Music
Wednesday, February 16, 1983
Wesley Chapel
8:00 pm
Dr. Harold McNeil, conductor

The Houghton College School of Music
presents
The Houghton College
Philharmonia
under the direction of
Mr. Herman Dilmore
Thursday, February 17, 8:00 pm
Wesley Chapel

Cats...

SARAH BETH

Spit hissing in hiding
a roughed stolen
shadow
aligns limbs
for a preying
and waits... waits.

A staredown in
silence (but for
quick flick of tail)
turns the glass eyes
to greedy
narrow slits of
suspicion.

It is not in a patience
but in truer instinct
to poise
above moment
that's fast siezed,
gone.

Kathy Readyoff

A pitiful cry vibrates through the air-vent in my bedroom. In the dark cellar, twenty claws tic-tac across the furnace pipes and up the stairs. One powerful furry leg savagely kicks an orange plastic bowl down the stairs, step by step. The creature bounds up the stairs again, hooks a paw under the locked door, and bangs the door back and forth, at 6:30 a.m.

I get up and stumble down the hall, trip over a "dead" canvas mouse, and send it skittering across the floor leaking entrails of catnip. As I open the cellar door seven pounds of cocoa-colored persian-Angora fur tumbles out. Two almond-shaped emerald eyes, outlined with cream fur, blink at me in the lighted hall. One pointed ear flattens against a feline head. The other ear, once broken and now healed, tilts at an absurd angle.

I pick up the cat. He lies back in my arms like a baby. I can feel his misshapen rib, the souvenir of a ten-foot dive from the Box Elder tree in our yard. The kitten who teethed on lighted strings of Christmas tree bulbs and chased St. Bernards is now a nine-year-old veteran scrapper. Maybe Sarah Beth, like the "Boy Named Sue", has had to be tough. His young mistress refused to change his name to Sam after she found out that the difference between male and female cats has nothing to do with whether or not they have pointed ears.

Sarah Beth wriggles in my arms. I carry him to the side door and let him out onto the porch steps. His bedraggled tail measures the wind for a moment. Then he ambles toward the hayfield in search of a tiny skull to add to his graveyard under the birch trees.

Priscilla Ann Chase

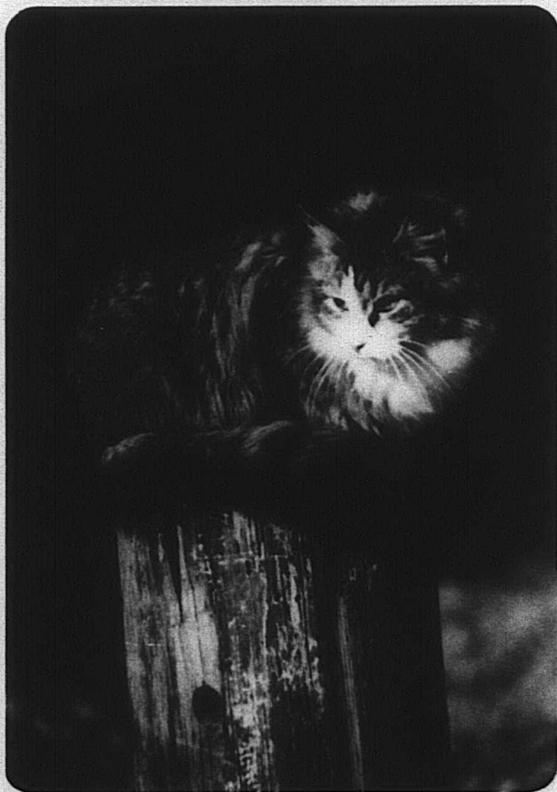
Cautiously stepping onto the porch,
Hoping to avoid the fluffy, soft blurr,
Treasure held high, starting across the way,
When- all at once, it appears,
From house, barn, field,
Consolidating at, around, on
My feet, ensnarled.
I'm carried along by thirteen furry felines,
Unable to stop, unable to stay,
Propelled toward the barn
By the mass of brown, black, yellow, white,
Claws, paws, hungry jaws;
And me,
To lift the latch, to stumble inside,
To release the treasure-
Potatoes, eggs, chicken fat,
Carrots, corn, Captain Crunch,
Juice, milk, Blue Seal choice morsels,
Feeding time.

Laurie Reynolds

MY CAT

I've got a cat
he's really fat
he caught a rat
imagine that.

He ate that rat
that's why he's fat
I like my cat
I really can't say the same for
the rodent.
Rich Perkins



Photograph by Joel Hecht



Twéedledum,
Only 162 days of freedom
remain. Madly, passion-
ately, and fervently yours,
Valentine!

Twéedledee

Chuck Edwards,
Rock meeting rock can
know love better
Than eyes that stare or
lips that touch
All that we know in love
is bitter,
And that's not much.
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

Davy-Drops,
Happy Valentine's Day!
(Burp)

Bethy-Boops

Dear Bethy-Boops,
If you only knew what
your burps do to me.
Davy-Drops

Dear Fran,
Don't B-sharp, don't B-
flat, just b-natural (and
mine, Valentine!)

Love,
the Music Editor

The Guru's answer to
Perkins:

I have a dog
It ate a frog
As it sat on a log
In front of a bog
In a thick soupy fog

I like my dog
I really can't say that for
the mangled amphibian.

Joel,
You can't run away from
your side-kick because
like honey to you she'll
stick, the note down your
sleeve was for kicks but
this one's for real—no
tricks. Be my Valentine.



Dear Glen,
43/ 61 21 93/ 62 63 81/
72 32 61 32 61 22 32 72/
61 82 23 42/ 21 22 63 82 81/
81 42 32/ 91 21 73-
73 21 43 53/ 71 21 72 81 93/
22 82 81/ 43/ 91 43 53 53/
21 53 91 21 93 73/ 72 32 61-
32 61 22 32 72/ 93 63 82!
Happy Valentine's Day!
Melinda

Tom,
We publicly acknow-
ledge that we have no
morals.
Love,
Wes, Jeff, Jamie, Jack and
Tessa.

Dear Rich Perkins,
We know Beaver never
reads the *Star*, so this
should be okay.

We realize how kind it
is of Brian Sayers to gra-
ciously accept the fact
that he just can't set fe-
male hearts a-flutter the
way you do, and having
accepted his lack of sex
appeal to pave the way for
your Valentine's Day hap-
piness.

We love you, Rich, and
we're rooting for you in
your hour of emotional
and psychological dis-
tress.

all womankind

Financial Consultant,
Happy Valentine's Day!
(I think I believe you).
Ed.

Dianne Johnson,
Thanks so much for
everything.

love,
A.C.

To You:
Hapy valintines day!!
Lucinda

From Father Nav
&
the Nites of the Round Mesa
Congratulations
Ms. Hobbit
and
Han Solo
May you enjoy many years
of Wedded Bliss
(Pinkos)
P.S. Frodo lives!

John,
Happy Valentines Day!
Happy 162 day! I love you!
DeAnne

2nd New and The United
States Air Force are plea-
sed to announce the en-
gagement of
Ellen Olson ('85)
to
Lt. Gregg Nesemeier
Congratulations!

**The
Houghton
Star**

ENTERED AS
FIRST CLASS
POSTAGE AT

HOUGHTON
NEW YORK 14744

