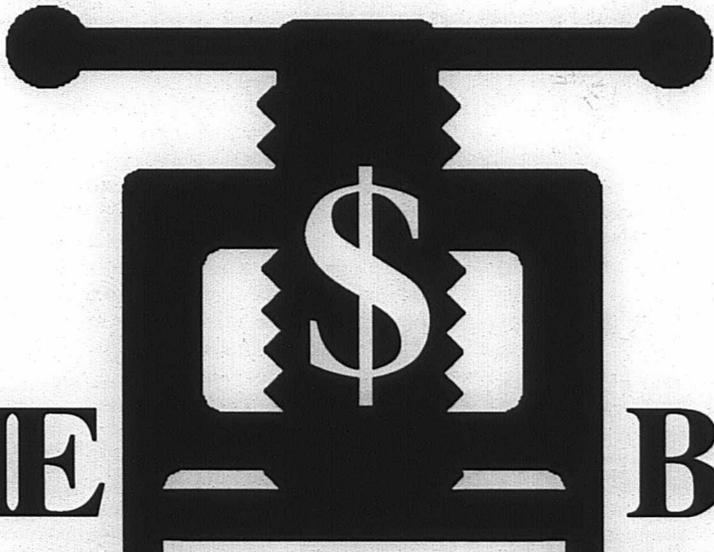


THE HOUGHTON STAR

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L. David Wheeler & Ivan T. Rocha, Editors



THE BIG CRUNCH

**BUDGET CUTS, PROGRAM REVISIONS,
AND PERSONNEL REDUCTIONS:
HOW WILL THEY AFFECT HOUGHTON?**

INSIDE: Exclusive interview with Dean Bence

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THE HOUGHTON STAR

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THE HOUGHTON STAR is a bi-weekly student publication; its focus is on events, issues and ideas which significantly affect the Houghton College community. Letters (signed) are encouraged and accepted for publication; however, they must not constitute a personal attack, they must be submitted by noon on Monday, and they should be no longer than two double spaced pages. The editors reserve the right to edit all contributions.



A Call for Dignity and Respect

by Ivan T. Rocha

Concealed behind the ultra-careful (and occasionally misleading) rhetoric of the administration is the reality that in order to cope with the negative trends in enrollment and the rising costs of keeping the college afloat, Houghton will probably have to shed some of its excess personnel in the very near future. What is proposed, according to Dean Bence, is the elimination of four to six faculty positions by the fall of 1992. The proposal is sensible, for although enrollment has not grown in the past decade, the college has taken on ten new faculty members (all of whom cost money, of course). In other words, in order to keep tuition costs from increasing any more vis-à-vis the decline in enrollment, the only alternative is to eliminate positions. The problem, obviously, is that the potential for interpersonal conflicts as a result of dismissals is enormous. However, the amount of heartache and friction generated by this process will depend largely on how diplomatically it is handled.

As it is, the administration has chosen to pass the buck to the departments. In other words, the departments in need of eliminating positions (among others, biology and sociology) must 1.) come up with a

procedure to determine whose position will be eliminated and 2.) proceed to determine whose positions will be eliminated. Sounds complicated? It is. And by the time you figure in the personal quirks as well as family problems, personal hangups, preferences, savings accounts, and home mortgages of all the professors within a department, things can become even more hairy.

Of course, if the opposite were true—i.e. if the administration simply sacked two or three professors without further ado—there would be no end to the public outcry. Tenured professors, it would seem, are somewhat more worthy of consideration than, say, flies or laboratory rats or what have you. Much resentment still surfaces whenever Meade and Ortiz are discussed—and they were not, for that matter, simply sacked. Obviously, it would not do to generate another such controversy. The administration has, in this case, opted for the lesser of two evils.

Perhaps there are no significant rivalries, hangups, or personal problems within the affected departments, and perhaps the whole process will be carried out with a high level of dignity, respect, and sensitivity. Perhaps.

The bottom line, in any case, is that someone will hurt. It really isn't the fault of any particular person. It really isn't the college's fault either. Demographics, recession, inflation—the culprits all seem so distant, so alien. Yet, as is always the case in a fallen world, someone will get the raw end of the deal. By the fall of '92 two or three professors will be having to pick up the pieces, move elsewhere, and start over.

In a small, insular community like Houghton, pulling up roots is a far more painful process than in a large, cosmopolitan setting. Here relationships run deep and last long. Here the sense of community and of oneness is very strong. Still, someone must go, and there is nothing Houghton the family can do to prevent Houghton the business from surviving—for after all, one would not exist without the other.

What then can be done? We can pray for a miracle. Like maybe, you know, someone will donate \$40 million just like that, out of the blue. No, maybe not. Yet to pray for a miracle is not unreasonable. The miracle we must pray for is a miracle of a different sort. Serenity, respect, dignity, understanding, care—a miracle in a situation where there is no winner.

Yes, well, bad things will happen to good people. Inevitably. It is how we handle these situations with the grace of God that determines whether they will be miracles or interpersonal disasters. ☆

A Call for the Battle of Prayer

by L. David Wheeler

As this issue goes to press, the U.N.-declared January 15 deadline has come, and there have been no visible signs of a peaceful solution to the Middle East situation. It seems inevitable that American and allied soldiers will clash with Iraqis in the deserts of the Middle East. Perhaps by the time you read this the hostilities will

have commenced, and the killing, and dying, will have begun.

In these days of uncertainty, chaos, and fear, we must remember that the LORD we serve remains the LORD—the LORD of all. And we must remember that, uncertain as these times may seem to us, He knows and understands their purpose. Let us not lose faith in the hand of God; let us instead trust Him to bring these events to the close that He, and He alone, knows is best.

And finally, we must pray. We must entreat the LORD's protection and guidance for the soldiers far from home and facing imminent danger. We must pray for

those native to the region, whose peace of mind has been shattered and whose livelihoods are in danger, particularly the displaced Kuwaitis. We must pray for a peaceful solution to this crisis, with a minimum amount of bloodshed and suffering. And we must remember to pray for our enemies, as well, remembering that God loves Saddam Hussein, and the Iraqi soldier caught in a situation larger than himself, as much as He does each of us. We are only truly defeated when we begin to hate, so God grant that we remember to pray for those that spitefully use us. If we remember this, then regardless of what happens in the Persian Gulf, victory is ours. ☆

THE BIG CRUNCH

budget cuts, program revisions, and personnel reductions:
how will they affect houghton?

by L. David Wheeler

Pending approval by the Board of Trustees in April, four to six Houghton faculty positions are to be eliminated over the next two years, according to Academic Dean Clarence Bence. Due to projected trends toward smaller enrollment in the near future, and a desire to refrain from raising tuition costs, Bence and the Academic Cabinet proposed the phasing out of certain faculty positions and the elimination of the sociology major. The Board will consider these proposals at its annual April meetings.

WHAT HAPPENED?

"We've been warned for the last few years about the whole scene in the Northeast," said Dean Bence in a December 17 interview, indicating trends toward lower enrollment in colleges in the private sector. These warnings proved well-founded this fall, as the freshman class of 1994, a significantly smaller class than expected, arrived. Although Houghton's enrollment this year has actually grown, this is due to the influx of transfers from the defunct United Wesleyan College rather than an influx of freshmen.

"Once you have a fall semester freshman class," Bence explained, "that 'bubble' follows through four years. So while our enrollments are

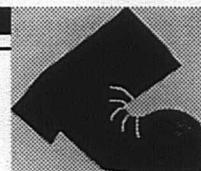
up, they're up because we've got a lot of upperclassmen. But that's going to hurt us three years from now."

It will indeed hurt the college, especially if enrollment rates in the upcoming years are short. The college has reason to believe that will be the case, and is already projecting a total of 1050 students next year rather than the expected 1070.

On Monday, January 14, President Chamberlain announced to faculty and staff that although application numbers are up from previous years, the percentage from New York State has decreased markedly, down a total of 56. The New York State percentage isn't an insignificant statistic; it is New York residents who would be most likely to follow through on their application if accepted and come to Houghton. Chamberlain indicated that residents of New Jersey or Pennsylvania, to give two examples, are less likely to actually enroll; many states decrease state aid to students attending out-of-state schools.

According to Bence, the administration didn't expect such a drastic drop in incoming freshmen, particularly after last year's exceptionally large freshmen class. (See "Freshman Class Among Largest of

Decade," 2 October 1989 *Star*, p. 3.) "We thought we had a good track on where we were going," said Bence. "We were kind of caught cold!"



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ARE THERE ALTERNATIVES?

The large class of 1993 will only temporarily offset the decline in enrollment, for in two and a half years that class will graduate. "We look at total enrollment," Bence explained, "so you get these 'bubbles.' If the bubbles stay, then the college grows. But every time you get a large class like we had last year, then you're already getting uneasy about what's going to happen when *they* graduate and we've got to go out and find all these students to come in as freshmen. What's going out one end of the pipeline needs to be matched."

So some means of relieving the college's financial woes had to be found. Although the trustees, in their meetings on January 10 and 11, did approve a 5.8% increase in total charges to students, this does not represent a significant enough increase to offset declining enrollment. The trustees are "particularly concerned that if we keep raising tuitions at the rate that we've been raising them over the last few years, we're going to outprice the market," said Bence, who indicated that several students had commented on the financial stress of coming to Houghton. This creates a problem: Houghton is a "tuition-driven institution" without large endowments, depending on student tuition to meet the college's needs.

A solution lay in reducing the number of "full-time equivalent" (FTE) positions at the college over the next two years. While approximately ten new positions had evolved over the last decade, the



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student population has not grown significantly, only shifted its concentration into different areas, such as art, business, and education. "Nobody came forward to say, 'My department is down. We probably should cut,'" said Bence. "The problem is, art and education have sort of burst, so you see the growth. The losses in other areas have been very, very gradual and imperceptible.

"I spent most of the weekend looking at data," Bence continued, "and I know how many sociology majors were here in 1975 and I know how many are here now. And there's a lot less. There's a *lot* less, and there comes a point where we have to say, 'some of our shrinking programs we've got to pull down on.'"

When Bence convened the Academic Cabinet (the Academic Dean and the six division chairs) in October, he found that an *increase* of 2.23 FTEs was projected. "We tried to get that 2.23 down," Bence said. "If we're going to have the same amount of students, we really ought not to be adding more faculty. You ought to be saying the same number of faculty for the same number of students."

Although the Cabinet lowered the increase number, it was unable to "gain any improvement on it," according to Bence. "At best, we would say we'll have the same number. What the Board wants us to do is somehow get *fewer* faculty here. It would mean to get better efficiency in the system. Although for the past several years, Houghton has tried to accomplish reductions by waiting for various faculty members' retirements or exits for whatever reason, Bence stated that this process was too slow to continue. Concrete proposals to cut certain

positions were drafted and sent out to the faculty.

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT?

These proposals—and it must be remembered that they remain merely proposals until the Board votes on them in April—include:

- ☆ A freeze on several hiring processes. A second political science professor was to be hired for next semester, to begin the political science major (as yet unapproved by Albany, although Dr. David Benedict is optimistic about the state's response). The addition of the professor and the major is to be tabled for a year. A replacement for New Testament Professor Warren Woolsey, who will be going into partial retirement, will not be hired; Retiring music faculty Drs. William Allen and Herman Dilmore will be replaced by one rather than two faculty.

- ☆ The discontinuation of the sociology major, resulting in the reduction of at least one faculty member. This would be handled in the same manner as the elimination of the computer science major, with current students permitted to finish their major. (See article, p. 6)

- ☆ A reduction of one biology professor.

- ☆ A reduction of one faculty member in the education and recreation division.

- ☆ The discontinuation of the teaching of Latin, resulting in a reduction of personnel in the languages and literature division.

- ☆ A reduction in some of the part-time assistants in the language department. Bence indicated that Houghton could probably do with one less POW section, to start.

WHAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE?

The "bottom line," Bence stated, is that Houghton College is looking for a reduction of between four and six faculty members by the

1992-93 academic year. (Any faculty members leaving would be granted full year contracts for the 1991-92 year.)

The dean was careful to indicate that the administration wants to eliminate positions, not target certain individuals. "It's a lot more than semantics," Bence affirmed. "It's the difference between saying 'a biologist' and mentioning a person who lives next door to me." Eliminating positions, however, *does* require losing people, and someone is going to get hurt. "That's why in the faculty offices there's a lot of pain today," said Bence.

At any rate, there are no names attached to the proposals. At this point, the proposals remain "one biology position," "one position in languages and literature," and so on. The selection process is to start within the departments in question (biology, etc.), with Pres. Chamberlain making the final personnel decision subject to Board approval. These decisions, Chamberlain indicated on Monday, have been tabled until April.

This process, Bence lamented, creates a "catch-22." Were Bence and Chamberlain to make the decisions themselves, the decisions would have the air of imperial decrees emanating from Luckey. Leaving the decisions to the departments, however, can generate personal problems and friction within the departments, and calls to mind the term "passing the buck." The latter approach is the one in use, despite its inherent problems, as it seemed more attractive than the former.

"The final goal is what is best for the students and what is best for the academic program," said Bence. "Then the decision *does* have to be made by the people who are academically involved. Not that the decision has to necessarily be *made*, but we have to get input." ☆

Today Sociology, Tomorrow Liberal Arts?

An interview with sociology professor Richard Perkins

by Ivan T. Rocha

A proposal that the sociology major at Houghton College be eliminated has been brought before the Board of Trustees for consideration and possible approval. Although the final decision about the elimination or not of the sociology major will only come as a result of the April meeting of the board of trustees, there is already a significant movement within the sociology department to strongly oppose the termination of the program. When asked how the sociology department would react to the elimination of its major, professor Richard Perkins answered, "We are going to oppose it, and if unsuccessful, one of us will leave." To him, "Prior to this recommendation to eliminate the sociology major, the social sciences at Houghton were anemic. If this proposal goes through, the social sciences will be defunct."

To Perkins, far more is at stake

in this situation than merely the termination of one more academic program at Houghton College. "I think we are buying fiscal stability at the expense of the integrity of liberal arts. . . if these cuts go through, I think what we'll be saying to the world. . . is that for the purposes of educating Christian students, music is about twelve times more important than sociology." Perkins feels that the ideal of liberal arts at Houghton is consistently being stripped of much of its significance as a result of the administration's favoring the growth of certain programs over others. Indeed, to him Houghton is quickly becoming no more than "a trade school."

Perkins recognizes that there is a significant dilemma between "paying the bills" and maintaining intact the ideals of a liberal arts education. He contends, however, that if keeping the college fiscally

sound involves eliminating certain academic programs to ensure the survival of others, then Houghton should

not claim to be providing a liberal arts education. When asked if he thought that in order to be considered a true liberal arts institution Houghton should retain all of the programs it has eliminated as majors, Perkins responded that his is a far more radical solution than that.

"I don't accept the current status quo as normative. . . it seems to me that the ideal of Christian liberal arts education would encourage (if not demand) a curriculum which is organized around problems of living." To Perkins, topics such as justice, power, environmental stewardship, and others should be taught in depth by professors from the vari-

"Prior to this recommendation to eliminate the sociology major, the social sciences at Houghton were anemic. If this proposal goes through, the social sciences will be defunct."

ous academic disciplines. His system would do away with the entire idea of majors and minors which represents a concession to a system instituted by Columbia University around the turn of the century. To him Houghton merely represents a secular model with a thin coating of Christianity. Yet Perkins is not confident that his proposal would meet with the approval of the establishment, because "specialization and rationality and hence career preparation and credentialization. . . are the going thing, and that's what we're heading for. . . If we did it my



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wacko way we would be out of step with just about everybody."

Being out of step with the mainstream,

"I think we are buying fiscal stability at the expense of the integrity of liberal arts. . . if these cuts go through, I think what we'll be saying to the world. . . is that for the purposes of educating Christian students music is about twelve times more important than sociology."

however, does not seem to be a major problem to Perkins. In fact, he suggests that because Christ was very much out of step with his contemporaries ("a wacko wandering in the hills doing good and causing problems") we as Christians (and thus followers—or Christian colleges, for that matter—of Christ) should not be concerned about being out of step with the world. To Perkins, earning a living should not figure prominently among the priorities of Christian liberal arts students. Instead, a better understanding of the problems which inevitably face us all as adults should be the goal of a Christian liberal arts education.

"specialization and rationality and hence career preparation and credentialization. . . are the going thing, and that's what we're heading for. . ."

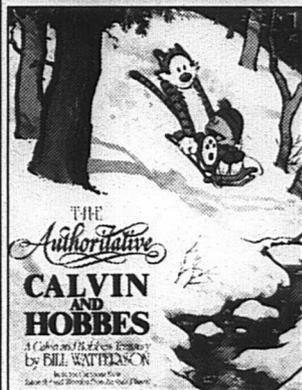
"I don't accept the current status quo as normative. . . It seems to me that the ideal of Christian liberal arts education would encourage (if not demand) a curriculum which is organized around problems of living."

When asked how the department would go about deciding which of the two professors would have his position eliminated, Perkins suggested that the decision should come as the result of a consensus among the faculty as opposed to from within the sociology department. In addition, Perkins suggested that there are far more reasons to retain Dr. Mary Conklin rather than himself: she is a woman (a minority at Houghton), she was hired before Perkins, and she is a member of the Wesleyan denomination. Although teaching here or elsewhere does not seem to make much difference to Perkins, he has suggested that because Houghton is moving farther and farther from the liberal arts ideal, he might prefer not to teach here at all.

"If we did it my wacko way we would be out of step with just about everybody."

Obviously, there are no easy solutions. Should the Board of Trustees approve the elimination of the sociology major during its meeting in April, a careful process of evaluation within the sociology department will have to take place. The least that could be asked of the administration, in any case, is that the process be handled with dignity and respect. ☆

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Demographics AND Decisions

A discussion with
Director of Admissions
Tim Fuller

by Kim Voorhees

A series of meetings between the Houghton Board of Trustees and Academic Dean Clarence Bence (the latter in conjunction with the Academic Cabinet) has recently raised a discussion about budget, personnel, and program reductions. It seems that the administration is concerned with the efficiency of Houghton as an institution as related to demographic projections for the future.

Apparently there has been a population movement from the New York, Pennsylvania, and Michigan areas (otherwise known as the "rust belt") to places like Florida and California. Recession is hitting harder in these areas due to foreign competition in the steel industry. So in addition to weather appeal there is the draw of tax incentives. This has led to a drop in the number of graduating high school seniors.

But despite forecasts of gloom and doom, Director of Admissions Tim Fuller says, "For the most part we have been able to maintain our enrollment." Part of the reason Houghton has been able to prove the gloomy predictions false could

be due to the development of the non-traditional adult market. Houghton has been largely dependent on the traditional students, those between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one. But with the decrease in high school graduates, this tuition based institution has begun getting into the non-traditional student market. In fact, by sometime in late spring the degree completion program is hoped to be in place. Another beneficial fact is this: at the beginning of the 1980s only about half of high school graduates went on to college, whereas now at the end of the 1980s it is up to about 60%. It seems that even though there are fewer students, a higher percentage of them are continuing their educations.

When asked if the fact that state universities' tuitions are so low had any effect on Houghton's policy making, Fuller said that it was not really a factor because only ten percent of all applicants go on to state universities. The rest all choose to attend private institutions. Fuller thinks that because of the college's strong commitment to its mission

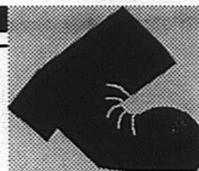
and its concern for the students, competition from state schools is not really a factor. He also said that "there has

been more involvement in general with the recruiting process." Approximately five to thirteen percent of the budget is spent on the recruitment of new students.

The bottom line is this: we are almost to the end of a big decline in high school graduates. 1995 is the end; "the worst years are behind us." Fuller said he "won't say there will be an increase"; he just feels confident that Houghton will maintain its enrollment."

"Houghton has been through some tough times in its 107-year history, which would make times like now pale in comparison." There has even been an increase in enrollment, though small, due to the number of transfers, and stop-outs that have returned. The only concern is this year's sophomore class. It is the largest class of the decade, and when it graduates, there will be quite a few spaces to fill.

The Board wants to do the best for the students, and make the institution as efficient as possible while still making the tuition reasonable. "Because we are all the time working to not only attract more students in the first place, but giving the students who choose to come here more options, we must either try to generate more revenue or cut cost, or do some combination." Fuller said it is a difficult situation because of the closeness of the setting, but "either raise a lot more revenues, charge students a lot more, or find the money in development somehow or some combination." He said that "sometimes you get to a point where you can't be more efficient without maybe chopping some people or majors." ☆



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Down but Not Out

*Leaner times
ahead for
intercollegiate
sports*

by Randy Hoffman

In the current round of budget-cutting, intercollegiate sports would not seem to be in danger, according to Dean of Student Development Robert Danner, but some cuts in staff may have to be made.

Danner disclosed in a January 14 interview that those involved in intercollegiate sports leadership at Houghton were focusing their attention on ways to reduce expenses without killing any sports programs. A "hypothetical planning exercise" being conducted by Danner, Athletic Committee Chairman Roger Rozendal, and Athletic Director Doug Burke is working on scenarios that entail the reduction of staff in intercollegiate sports by one-half of an FTE (full time equivalent). Burke has stated in a separate interview that since coaching and teaching responsibilities are so intertwined the issue is complex, but what will

probably occur is the elimination of an assistant coaching position.

For his part Danner stressed, however, that there may or may not actually be such a reduction, and that discussion with coaches continues. He also tried to shed some light on the rationale for the process, pointing out that student enrollment is now the same as it was ten years ago but that some agencies and staff are larger now than then. Seeing that Houghton is a tuition-dependent school, one has to look at such growth and determine whether it is appropriate. In the case of Student Development, Danner stated that the central office staff is actually leaner by more than one FTE than it was a decade ago; the Health Center staff is considerably reduced; the Career Development Center and intramural sports staffs are about the same;

but intercollegiate sports staff has increased, and therefore that is where the cutback is being explored.

When questioned about making intercollegiate sports more self-supporting, Danner conceded that it might be possible to raise some revenues from charging admission or selling concessions at sports events, but that each of these measures has problems of its own and in any case would provide only "a pittance" compared to what is needed to make up the shortfall.

Danner underscored the fact that though there have been trends of little or nonexistent growth in personnel over the past ten years, Student Development has in that time found ways to offer "more services through creativity." He said he is actually personally heartened about the future of Houghton College based on the level of spiritual awareness and commitment he has

Just two hundred names of people who might otherwise have gone uncontacted, said Danner, would "make a whole world of difference."

seen some students express during the course of the past year. Asked how students might help to solve the current budget woes, he replied that they might try to conserve college resources such as heat, electricity, and dorm furniture. Perhaps equally as important would be an organized student effort to help the Admissions Office in its recruitment efforts, especially by providing names of high school seniors who might be interested in coming to Houghton. Just two hundred names of people who might otherwise have gone uncontacted, said Danner, could "make a whole world of difference." ☆

Gulf Policy Takes Shape

by Matthew Harvey

Two issues ago, the Star reported on the development of a policy regarding the academic and financial fate of Houghton students called to military service in the Gulf. Since then, a formal draft of the policy has been submitted by the Academic Dean's office and ratified in part by the administration, and letters have been sent to Houghton students already serving to inform them of their situation.

The academic side of this policy has already been approved. It will work like this: the professors for each course the student is enrolled in at the time he is forced to leave will recommend one of four courses of action, based on the point reached in the semester and the individual student's performance up to that point.

1) If the student was nearly finished with the course, the professor may choose to figure a grade for

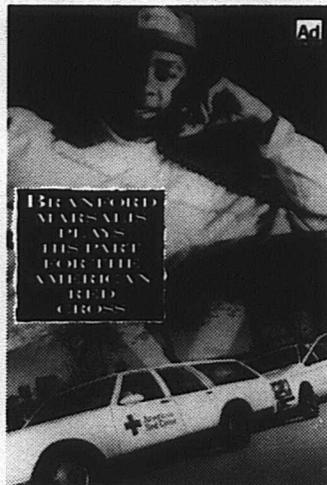
the entire course. 2-4) If the student was not so close to course completion, she may 2) be given a grade for the course but only given partial credit, 3) be given an "incomplete" and be allowed to complete the course at a later time, or 3) choose to withdraw from the course entirely. The final choice will be up to the individual student.

The financial side of the policy has not been given a final form yet, but the college plans to compensate students for any loss incurred by aiding them in paying for their first semester back.

Dr. Richard Wing, Assistant to the Dean for Academic Records and Special Projects, summed up the policies like this: "The spirit of Houghton is to be compassionate, to be fair" and "to let the student have time to make his own decision." Said Wing, "We need to be sane and sensible about this." ☆

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AND IN OTHER NEWS

by mike ballman and ken cole
**Developments in Lithuania
 and the Persian Gulf**

THE PERSIAN GULF

Iraq's refusal to comply with the January 15 United Nations deadline for the pullout from Kuwait greatly diminishes the possibility of a peaceful solution to the Gulf Crisis.

- The last-ditch diplomatic efforts of last week proved futile as Saddam Hussein and George Bush held firmly to their opposing positions. Hussein vowed never to give in to American pressure, while Bush asserted that nothing less than a massive, total retreat from Kuwait would be acceptable.

- The meeting between Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Geneva echoed the firm resolve of both sides. Aziz refused to accept a letter from President Bush to Hussein conveying the United States' determination to see Iraq pull out of Kuwait. Baker refused to accept any alternative other than immediate withdrawal.

- United Nations Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar visited Baghdad last weekend in an attempt to persuade Saddam to relinquish Kuwait. However, Hussein rejected the U.N. proposal vowing not to let foreign nations solve Arab

problems.

- Congress strengthened President Bush's power to use force by authorizing him to use the military to enforce the U.N. deadline. After much debate and agonizing the House voted 250 to 183 in favor while the Senate voted 52 to 47 supporting the President.

- As time passes beyond the U.N. deadline the chances for a peaceful solution are rapidly decreasing. (Article submitted January 15)

LITHUANIA

Unrest has continued in the Soviet Union over the past weeks, placed somewhat onto the back burner by the world in the face of the Persian Gulf crisis. History is being made in the Soviet Union: all 15 republics of the Soviet Union have declared some form of independence or Sovereignty, including the Russian Republic. (This would be akin to all 50 states of the U.S. declaring independence from the Union.) The question at the forefront, then, is how Mikhail Gorbachev is going to maintain any control of the USSR.

In Lithuania, the drive for secession began last March 11, when the republic declared its independ-

ence. Last Friday, Soviet troops stormed the main printing plant and national guard headquarters of the republic. The Lithuanians formed a human blockade around the republic's television station; and by Saturday, thousands had formed a human wall to protect their parliament. Overnight on Sunday, clashes between the military and the civilians took place, and 13 were dead and 163 wounded as the military fired into the crowd.

On Monday, the Lithuanian government reached an agreement with the military commander, a Colonel Belovsov, to have a stand-down. Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis called for the 8,000+ civilians protecting parliament to return home, calling it a victory and saying that "we have all defended our right to independence."

It must be remembered, however, that the truce was agreed to only by a local army commander, who does not have the authority to speak for the entire Soviet military. It will be interesting to see what develops, especially if Gorbachev is given the smokescreen of an eruption in Saudi Arabia that would divert the rest of the world's attention. ☆



Photo © Ivan T. Rocha 1990

Sharing the Scarce Commodity of Hope

by David Rhenow

"I remember what it was like to be a teenager without Christ . . . I remember what it was like to be lost." That sums up the reasons why Marty Granger, this semester's Christian Life Emphasis Week speaker, has spent the last twenty years of his life

working with Youth for Christ.

It was a "foxhole prayer" that marked the beginning of Granger's fruitful work for the Lord. After about four months of teaching high school French, he was caught in the woods during a blizzard while on a camping trip with some of his stu-

dents. Although he had never attended church in his life, and, in his words, "had no idea who God was," he promised God he would do anything if they could only make it through the ordeal alive. The next morning, they were rescued safely, and God began to collect on Marty Granger's promise.

Shortly after his dramatic experience in the wilderness, Granger's wife Gerry led him to Christ. The change in his life occurred "almost overnight," he says. The Lord gave him hope and began to give him a sense of mission in his life. He firmly believes that he was called by God out of his non-faith background and into a ministry with young people. He taught high school for three more years, and then started full-time with Youth for Christ.

In 1983, Marty Granger moved with his family to Washington, D.C. in order to establish a Youth for Christ group in that area. He started the group from "ground zero." It was difficult at first, but Granger could not let the tremendous need he saw go unmet. "I didn't have a lot of friends and contacts," said Granger. "We just started from where we were." The biggest challenge he remembers was finding adults who cared about non-church kids. Support for Youth for Christ grew, however, and today it is a vibrant ministry in the capital region.

There have been times of discouragement in Granger's twenty years of service. "The thing that keeps you going in youth ministry," he says, "is that there is a constant stream of need. There will always be more kids than you can reach; there will always be more need than you can meet." Granger helps young people find what he was missing as a young person: hope, which he calls "a pretty scarce commodity among high school kids today."

CONTINUES ON PAGE 11

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Every third summer since 1985 the Washington, D.C. Youth for Christ has hosted a youth conference. Marty Granger is on the leadership team for this summer's conference, "D.C. '91." He is in charge of providing food, housing, transportation, and tours for up to 20,000 teenagers involved with Youth for Christ who will converge on the city in July.

"D.C. '91" will be Granger's last official act of involvement with Youth for Christ. He is now in the planning stage of a new organization called "Faith in the Family." Next month he will attend a workshop at the National Center for Fathering where he will become certified to lead fathering ministries in local churches. "It's sort of like I'm following the generations," he said. "I want to talk to my peers now. Parenting isn't easy for anybody and I think they deserve any help we can give them." A lack of strong family relationships is what Granger sees as the greatest problem facing this nation today. He is receiving a lot of support for this new program and believes it will be a success.

It is with some sadness that he leaves Youth for Christ after twenty years of involvement, but he asserts that relationships within a ministry like that don't dissolve easily. "I'm still involved with the men and women of Youth for Christ," he said. "I hope to be involved with local chapters . . . for some time to come."

Some closing words of advice from Marty Granger: "Do everything you can to strengthen the relationships within your family—with your parents, with your brothers and sisters. Get the most out of it while you have it."

Note: an interview with Marty Granger can be heard on the program "Reverberations," Tuesday night, January 22 at 8:30 p.m. on WJSL, 90.3 FM.

Lundquist Leaves Leadership of Christian College Consortium

A Consortium News Release

After nearly ten years of leadership as the president of the Christian College Consortium, Carl H. Lundquist is leaving the position on December 31, 1990.

The Consortium is a network of 13 private liberal arts colleges dispersed from Boston to Santa Barbara, with its national administrative center at 6 Pine Tree Drive, Arden Hills, Minnesota. Lundquist has led the 19-year-old association since he retired from a 28-year presidency of Bethel College and Seminary in St. Paul in 1982.

During the past nine years the Consortium has guided its member colleges in several major projects: among others, enlarging the pool of minority teachers for teaching in small Christian colleges, orienting current faculty to multicultural teaching in the United States as the white majority gives way to people of color, and—in the light of America's moral crisis—placing an ethics module in every academic discipline so that each teacher will need to discuss the ethical implications of his course with his students. All three of these projects have been funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts

of Philadelphia with a six year grant of \$3.6 million.

Lundquist will be succeeded by Dr. Thomas H. Englund, who has been named as Interim Executive Director of the Christian College Consortium. Dr. Englund, formerly Vice President of Franklin Pierce College, will maintain an office in New Hampshire with the national administrative office continuing in Minnesota during the interim period.

During his 28-year tenure of Bethel College and Seminary, Lundquist led in the relocation of the school from eight and a half acres across from the fairgrounds to a \$40 million, 235-acre campus in Arden Hills. He saw the enrollment grow from 400 students to nearly 3000. He will continue to be located at 6 Pine Tree Drive where he will direct several programs. He will direct a spiritual retreat ministry (The Evangelical Order of the Burning Heart), coordinate the work of the Fellowship of Evangelical Seminary Presidents, and give guidance to the Royal Retirees of the Bethel College and Seminary, the emeriti group of the school. ☆

Koinonia: A Shifting Phenomenon?

by Stephen Virkler

Are the Koinonia groups on campus losing members?

According to Al Gurley, the director of campus ministries (including Koinonia groups), the answer is "yes." Last year, 120 students participated in Koinonia groups, while there are only about 100 students in the program this year, Gurley said.

However, he also said that Koinonia is "a phenomenon that freshmen are responding to more than upperclassmen." Last year 60% of the students involved in the Koinonia program were freshmen, while freshmen make up 75% of the groups this year. Gurley attributes this to the fact that "freshmen don't know anybody" when they get to Houghton and Koinonia groups can help establish a group of friends to whom they can be accountable; meanwhile, upperclassmen are likely to have a group of friends to whom they are accountable without joining a Koinonia group.

Some upperclassmen do stay in the Koinonia program, though. "I've got four or five groups that carry over from last year. . . that's the way upperclassmen stay involved," Gurley said.

Also, he said that there has been "a move away from Koinonia" to "more small groups that develop spontaneously." He explained that these groups form when a group of friends get together informally to study the Bible and pray.

"I'm in touch with maybe a dozen students who represent the group and there are probably a lot more that I don't know about," Gurley said.

Gurley feels that these sponta-

neous prayer groups are "really healthy" and encourages their formation. He "would be happy to meet with the leaders of spontaneous groups" to set up a "spiritual network" among these groups.

Gurley feels that participation in Koinonia will probably decrease further after a chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes is started on campus next year. This organization is "like Koinonia groups for athletes," Gurley said.

Overall, Gurley said that he is not disappointed with the decreasing participation in the Koinonia program because of the many small groups that are spontaneously starting all over campus.

Rich Schelp, a sophomore Koinonia leader, agrees with Gurley. He also said that "Koinonia works better with freshmen." Schelp's Koinonia group is remaining strong because most of the members are freshmen, Schelp asserted. However, he, like Gurley, feels that groups of upperclassmen are more effective when they are friends to begin with. Thus, he too feels that less organized groups are probably better for upperclassmen.

On the other hand, Jon Jankovich, a junior Koinonia leader, feels that his group of three seniors, two juniors, one sophomore, and one faculty member isn't deteriorating; it's growing. Jankovich explained this by saying that "they [group members] were all looking, and they found what they were looking for."

So, although the Koinonia program is losing members, many groups are remaining strong and other small groups are developing as an alternative. ☆

Christian Classics Contem- plated in Chapels

by Joy David

The Devotional Classics Series starts January 22 and continues on alternate Tuesdays in chapel. Chapel Coordinator Dr. Harold Kingdon stated that the purpose of this special chapel series is to highlight some of the great Christian classical names of literature. Most of the people to be talked about in chapel have written significant devotional materials.

The chapel speakers have been asked not just to give a biographical sketch of the artist, but also explain, on the practical level, what that person has left us along the lines of legacy.

Featured speakers include dramatic impersonator and music teacher Deborah Romero on blind hymn writer Fanny Crosby, who penned such hymns as "Blessed Assurance" (February 19); Fine Arts division chair Dr. Benjamin King on the German composer Johann Sebastian Bach (March 19); and Dr. Charles Bressler on the "Oxford Christians," a group of Oxford writers in the 1940s and 1950s including C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, and J.R.R. Tolkien (April 16). Other writers discussed include Thomas Merton, St. Augustine, John Calvin, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Students and faculty of Houghton College can look forward to this informative as well as practical chapel series. ☆

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Aphorisms & Etc. Special Edition

THE WORDS OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

"Let no man pull you so low as to hate him." (Sermon, 6 November 1956)

"But there comes a time when people get tired. There comes a time when people get tired of being trampled over by

the iron feet of oppression. There comes a time when people get tired of being plunged across the abyss of exploitation where they experience the bleakness of nagging despair. There comes a time when people get tired of being pushed out of the glittering sunlight of life's July and left standing in the piercing chill of an Alpine November. (address, December 1956)

"As my sufferings mounted I soon

realized that there were two ways that I could respond to my situation: either to react with bitterness or seek to transform the suffering into a creative force." (Christian Century, 27 April 1960)

"So I say to you today, my friends, even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this Nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creeds—"we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." (Address, 28 August 1963)

"I believe that even amid today's mortar bursts and whining bullets, there is still hope for a brighter tomorrow. I believe that wounded justice, lying prostrate on the blood-flowing streets of our nations, can be lifted from this dust of shame to reign supreme among the children of men." (Nobel Prize acceptance speech, 10 December 1964)

"I'd like someone to mention that day [his own funeral], that Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to give his life serving others. (Sermon, 9 April 1968)

Source: Washington, James Melvin, ed. A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings of Martin Luther King, Jr. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1986.

MANDATORY
CHAPEL in honor of Dr.
King MONDAY JAN. 21

RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS



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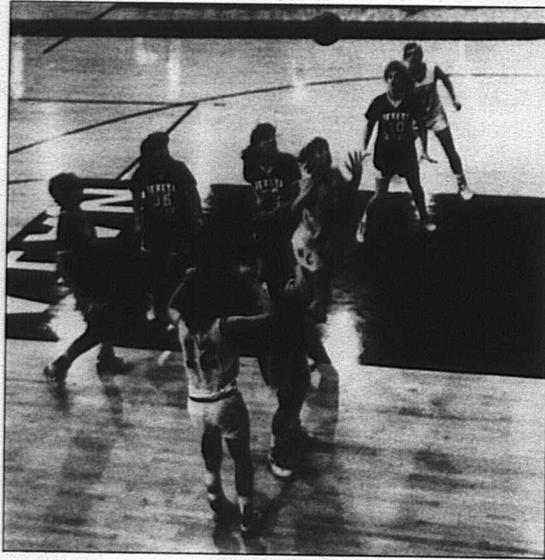
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Women's B-ball Bounces to 6-6 Record

by Nathan Ransil

The record of the Houghton women's basketball team stands at 6-6, after the team played four games during and after Christmas break. The team beat Daemen and Elmira, but lost to Geneva 74-70 and Westminster 77-73.

Head Coach Harold "Skip" Lord pointed out that both losses were to very strong District 18 programs, and said that opponents take Houghton seriously, even though this is the team's first year in the district. Lord has been encouraged

by the team's response to their toughest schedule ever, which includes both district teams and a number of NCAA division III teams.

Houghton's ability to compete, Lord indicated, is largely due to the depth of the talent on the team, which enables the team to match up against the strength of other teams in size or quickness. The depth is evidenced by balanced scoring, with four players averaging close to double figures, led by Stacia Dagwell at 13.3 points per game.

At the moment, Lord is working on the defense, and on putting two good halves together consistently. He hopes the team will reach its peak performance at the end of the season when it matters most. Following a home date against Fredonia, the team plays away for nearly a month, before returning home for five out of their last six games. If you want to see a good, hustling brand of basketball, this is where the action is at.

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THE HOFFMAN Cinematographic Vertex

HOME ALONE

BY RANDY HOFFMAN

HOME ALONE (PG)

☆☆

RECOMMENDATION: Unless you enjoy a mixed bag, stay... what was that title again?

APPROVAL: A young boy trying to be independent in his living quarters and wrecking them in the process... well, maybe for showing in a Shen lounge.

CAPSULE COMMENT: The movie has some good things to say, and if only its makers hadn't mixed its messages and its genres so thoroughly it might have been a really enjoyable film.

I'm sure you're tired of hearing me gripe and complain about movies you thought were the best thing since candied string cheese. As if he could have done any better, you say to yourself. As if he had received a special cinema dispensation and gnosis, you say to yourself. As if he was privy to SECRET, HIDDEN TRUTHS about the UNIVERSE!

Well, you're absolutely correct, and for only \$39.95 you can buy my new tape series entitled "THE PLAIN POPCORN OF THE GODS: Your Guide to Unleashing The Pure Health of Your Inner Light Starchy-Goodness at the Theater Chain of Your Choice"...

Anyhow, I'm going to proceed as usual to voice my gripes about this particular film before I grudgingly admit to some good qualities it might have, as follows:

There's an old adage that I made up a few seconds ago that says, "If you're going to star a kid in a film, make sure the range of activities he or she is required to perform are directly propor-

tional to his or her acting talent." Macaulay Culkin is very good at delivering straight dramatic lines, passable when it comes to sitcom-style dialogue and one-liners, and quite proficient at the "kid-playing-adult" stuff that makes me cringe. But physical humor eludes him like tunes eluded Alfalfa, and of course the filmmakers have him engaged in exactly this sort of awkwardness for at least forty percent of the picture. The repeated scenes of his dancing around slapping aftershave on himself are as amusing as those "reaction shot" photo posters of babies with bowls of spaghetti dumped on their heads.

There's an older adage that I made up last week that says, "If you make a film for kids, be honest, even honestly funny, and don't be condescending." The filmmakers seem to have been operating at all times under the assumption that if they didn't exaggerate everything the kiddie-widdies wouldn't get it. So when our little hero's family is uncaring they're *really* uncaring; when our young protagonist is resourceful he's *incredibly* resourceful; when our villains are stupid, they are *amazingly* so; and when we finally get to the big ol' nasty slapstick scene at the climax of the movie, you can see the exploding pies coming from miles away. A hot iron falls for ten seconds, while we watch the bad guy stand looking up at it and yelling, and then it hits him in the face. Similarly a blowtorch has to fry the other bad guy's hair for a long long *long* time (while he rolls his eyes and hollers) before he decides to pull his head out of the open door, run around frantically, and stick his head in the snow. Shades of Wile E. Coyote—I haven't seen such

subtle, effective use of the illusion of violence to create humor since the kung fu fight scenes in SILENT RAGE.

And then, most important by far, there's the Iron Law of Storytelling, which better minds than mine discovered long ago: "BE THOU CONSISTENT!" And this movie just isn't, no nein nada. For the most part we have situation comedy as Mr. Culkin's wiry character tries to survive the perils of modern housekeeping until his parents figure out he's missing and come back from France to retrieve him, but then suddenly out of the blue we're treated to absolutely serious dramatic scenes involving a mysterious old man, a couple of completely misplaced fantasy scenes in the house basement involving a hungry furnace, then twenty minutes of brutality passed off as slapstick (would you want your children to watch a guy walking across a floor while Christmas tree ornaments shatter under his bare feet?). The mix just doesn't mesh, no more than plaid, stripes, and polka dots.

Let me conclude by amplifying on this theme of consistency while I offer my scrap of grudging praise. This picture does have something to say about loneliness and the way we so often needlessly isolate ourselves from each other; there is a simple, touching scene in a church that neatly points up a child's perspective. The movie also underlines the importance of the family and familial love, a message whose values I much appreciate as a precious commodity in today's entertainment. And if the kind of thought and tenderness that characterize some scenes were spread throughout, I would be hailing this as the best family film in years.

But the good messages are heavily undermined by careless characterization and execution; most notably, the boy's family is painted as so heartless and obnoxious during the first ten minutes that all the concern and remorse they express later seems hollow and unreal. Ah, well. This particular effort at family programming isn't great, but it's probably the best we can get. For now. Maybe a new generation of young people will come out of college and decide to do it right.

Hint, hint, wink, wink, say no more, right? ☆

THE WHITE DWARF

By M. L. TAYLOR

As you may have noticed, the title to this week's article is different. This is because I wish to take a slight departure from "The Black Hole," the column that nothing escapes, to take a lighter approach. For those of you that don't know what a "white dwarf" is, it is not a Caucasian midget. It is a stellar object that is a collapsed star, so heavily compressed upon itself that it has an immense gravitational field and infinite amounts of mass per part. What does this have to do with a magazine article? Well, let's just say that I would rather have this article reflect the weight and mass of this type of star, while at the same time reflecting its humility in size.

Last issue, Thomas Woods made the point that there are two ways to confront a person: the correct way, going directly to the person and expressing your concerns; or the *Star* way, writing a letter to the *Star* and expressing your views publicly. The latter point is what I wish to address here, for I have made the critical mistake of doing just what the latter point states.

I will not cite quotes from my last article, nor will I cite those whom I have wronged. These points are not of importance any longer. I have taken matters up with them. But, unfortunately, I believe that by doing this, I have created scars upon these relationships that may never disappear. For this I am sorry, both to those I have wronged and to you, my readers. My motives were wrong, my intentions were foul, and my conscience was rebuked. I made a mistake that I have to live with, whether I like it or not, and I cannot say whether the healing will take place in time for those I have wronged to ever reconcile with me.

People, please don't make the error of doing what I have done. Please never use public means to destroy bonds or to rebuke others. This paper is supposed to address issues. I am supposed to address issues. I will never again use this method to voice my opinion about a person, specifically attacking the person. I will restrict my methods to address the person's ideas, issues, and opinions. Never the person. Please, people, don't you do this either. It is unbiblical, impractical, bad arguing and generally unGodlike.

Always, before approaching a person, even if you decide to attack his or her ideas, pray first. Think of what Jesus would do. Use your reason and your heart. And if you ever have a personal problem, confront that person one to one. Don't make it the county's problem too.

I made a big mistake by doing what I did. I don't want any of you to do the same. Be a Christian at heart. Use your love to mend relationships. Let God mediate for you. And, please, never use this publication for your own personal vendettas.

Shalom.

Now, as to address that rebuttal:

I believe that it was Mr. Buck's intention to impress Dr. Fisher before that fatal Critical Thinking final last semester. (Was that comment called for? I don't think so! And neither were certain others appearing in the rebuttal that I won't mention here.) As for the research and the general argument, I must seriously commend him on his endeavors to be accurate (seriously, I'm not kidding, the boy really did his research). But, any argument that begins with a quote from Webster's dictionary needs help, and, Mr. Buck, do the words "ad hominem" mean anything to you? I believe, ladies and gentlemen, that the good Mr. Buck completely missed the point.

May I say that the particular article addressed by Mr. Buck was brought to my attention by people that I had never known to read my article, owing to the conviction to their energy consciousness. This fact in itself denotes the impact that it had on others was as I had wished, and this is sufficient for my conscience. I will go on writing about those little things that you may wish to attack viciously, and you may rebuke (that word seems to pop up a lot, doesn't it?) them. But, let's not make a war out of a 4.8 watt-hour-a-night ordeal, shall we? And, never, never sign a letter "respectfully yours" after comments like those. Above all, thank you for your support.

Crossword Companion

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ACROSS

- 1. Gorilla
- 4. Paid in addition to salary
- 9. Amount (abbr.)
- 12. Friend
- 13. Mature
- 14. _____ West
- 15. Prophecy
- 17. Verb identifying predicate with the subject
- 19. Father of Am. short story
- 20. Drive away
- 21. Hurt; toss; fling
- 23. Meridian (abbr.)
- 24. Remove from set type
- 27. Mineral
- 28. Devotee of famous person
- 29. Wand
- 30. 3rd Note in musical scale
- 31. Awful
- 33. Books of Bible (abbr.)
- 34. Vinegar ether
- 36. Pale
- 37. Enzyme (chem. suf.)
- 38. Unit
- 39. Will
- 40. One who does (suf.)
- 41. Character judgment
- 43. Scrap of food
- 44. Mars
- 46. Not on shore
- 49. Lubricant
- 50. Ethnic division

- 52. Dove sound
- 53. Small
- 54. Copy
- 55. That girl

DOWN

- 1. Army Post Office (abbr.)
- 2. Equal
- 3. Gone by
- 4. Wrap hay
- 5. Poem
- 6. 13th Greek letter
- 7. Result of stress
- 8. Halt
- 9. Charm against injury
- 10. Bad; wrong (pref.)
- 11. Brewed drink
- 16. Bed
- 18. Treadle
- 20. Restore service
- 21. Haley's _____
- 22. Get up
- 23. Damage
- 25. Not tight
- 26. Come in
- 28. Evergreen
- 29. Bread roll
- 31. Devil
- 32. Ardent follower
- 35. Mexican food
- 37. Add to
- 39. Provide food
- 40. Standing Room Only (abbr.)
- 42. Payment for occupancy
- 43. Reed instrument
- 44. War prisoner (abbr.)
- 45. Untruth
- 46. Bowed; curved
- 47. Fish eggs
- 48. Beetle
- 51. Southern state (abbr.)

Answers to this week's puzzle on page 10

Puzzle #131

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Catch your attention? Look it up.

A few people have asked me what in the name of Cranston P. Snord the title of this column means. Well, here goes: Think back to the last time you watched the movie *The Wizard of Oz*. It's near the end. Dorothy's already done her little trick with the Wicked Witch of the West. (Talk about *deus ex machina* ... I mean, if any substance would melt you on contact, would you leave a bucket of it just laying around your living room?) At any rate, Dorothy et al approach the Mighty Oz looking to collect their reward. The Mighty-Floating-Head-Kick-You-Screaming-Into-The-Pit-Of-Hell-If-You-Say-The-Wrong-Word Oz is in the process of weaseling out of his bargain when Toto, Dorothy's faithful dog, rips away a curtain, revealing the Great Wizard of Oz to be nothing but an old man. The wizard frantically operates the machinery that runs TMFHKYITP-OHIYSTWW Oz and makes it say, "Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain!"

There are two reasons I chose this as the title of the column. One is that when Dave "I told you I'd squeeze your name into a column sometime" Wheeler asked me to do this column last year, I had a hard time believing that anyone would "pay attention to" anything I had to say in a *Star* column. This title takes the pressure off of me. Keeps my ego in check, too.

The other reason is theological. I see a parallel between the wizard of Oz and God. (Mr. Baum is spinning in his grave as I write.) You see, when the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodsman, and the Cowardly Lion perceived Oz as a Peel-Your-Face-Off-If-You-In-Any-Way-Fail-To-Satisfy being, they were without a brain, a heart, and courage (respectively). When Oz came out from behind the curtain, and was perceived as he was, the trio was able to receive what Oz offered them. In fact, Oz made it a point to say they had had these things all along, only the perspective had changed.

If humanity continues to perceive God as Dorothy's companions did Oz, then we will never find our own brains, hearts, or courage, let alone peace, joy, or the fulfillment that can only come from a restored relationship with a loving Creator.

Peace, Love, and Understanding,
Rand

MAIL

Dear Student Body:

In talking with a number of students, I find something disturbing in what they have to say about the people at Houghton. It seems that, for all that they claim to be Christians and love one another, Houghton students rarely, if ever, show it to others.

One freshman said that he thought it would be different here, but when he was really in need, no one had time to listen or help; they were all too busy. Another student said that after three years of attending Houghton, she is finally disgusted with the student body: they make judgments about others based on physical appearance or stereotypes and never give anyone a fair shot unless that person is exactly like they are. Does that sound like Christian love to you?

What about Jesus's command to love one another? To me, that doesn't mean that we should only love those we like that are exactly like us. If that were the case, love would get pretty boring at times!

I realize it's hard to love some people, especially unconditionally, but when someone is in need, we should at least help them. Who knows, if you continue to help that person, you may be surprised and find that he or she is not the person you had thought.

So my thoughts are aimed at you, the student body of Houghton College. Think about what you say and what you do. Take time to listen to people and don't judge them before you get a good chance to know them. Love them in whatever way is appropriate, but love them nonetheless. If we all work at this, Houghton College will be a better place than it already is. People will want to come here and stay here because of the love that we show, the Christian love that is missing so much in our world.

Sincerely,
Bethann Mitchell

Dear Editors:

A couple of questions to ponder:

Why are "Kill Saddam Hussein" and "Assassination" dirty words and political taboo when "1000 dead Americans" is just a conservative estimate?

Why is the official reason for American presence in the gulf "to protect human rights" and to counter an unjust invasion when America has failed to do so, many times in the past, under the circumstances of even more cruel oppression?

Curiously,
Jim Fleming

If armed men invaded a home in this country, killed those in their way, stole what they wanted and then announced the house was now theirs—no-one would hesitate about what must be done.

And that is why we cannot hesitate about what must be done halfway around the world: In Kuwait.

There is much in the modern world that is subject to doubts or questions—washed in shades of gray. But not the brutal aggression of Saddam Hussein against a peaceful, sovereign nation and its people. It's black and white. The facts are clear. The choice unambiguous.

The terror Saddam Hussein has imposed upon Kuwait violates every principle of human decency. Listen to what Amnesty International has documented. "Widespread abuses of human rights have been perpetrated by Iraqi forces . . . arbitrary arrest and detention without trial of thousands . . . widespread torture . . . imposition of the death penalty and the extrajudicial execution of hundreds of unarmed civilians, including children."

Including Children. There's no horror that could make this a more obvious conflict of good vs. evil. The man who used chemical warfare on his own people—once again including children—now oversees public hangings of dissenters. And daily his troops commit atrocities against Kuwaiti citizens.

This brutality has reverberated throughout the entire world. **If we do not follow the dictates of our inner moral compass and stand up for human life, then his lawlessness will threaten the peace and democracy of the emerging New World Order we now see: this long dreamed-of vision we've all worked toward for so long.**

A year after the joyous dawn of freedom's light in Eastern Europe,

a dark evil has descended in another part of the world. But we have the chance—and *we have the obligation*—to stop ruthless aggression.

I have been in war. I have known the terror of combat. And I tell you this with all my heart: I don't want there to be war ever again. I am determined to do absolutely everything possible in the search for a peaceful resolution to this crisis—but only if the peace is genuine, if it rests on principle, *not* appeasement.

But while we search for that answer, in the Gulf young men and women are putting their own lives on hold in order to stand for peace in our world and for the essential value of human life itself. Many are younger than my own children. Your age, most of them. Doing tough duty for something they believe in.

Let me tell you about one of the soldiers over there, S.F.C. Terry Hatfield, a young man from Georgia. He sent me a Christmas card. And this is what he wrote.

"Mr. President, I just wanted you to know my soldiers and I are ready to do whatever mission you decide. Freedom as we know and enjoy has been taken away from another country and must be restored. Although we are separated from family, friends, loved ones, we will do what must be done . . . We stand ready and waiting. God Bless you and the U.S.A."

Terry understands the moral obligation that has compelled our extraordinary multi-national coalition to make this stand in the Gulf. To look this international terrorist straight in the eye and say: *no concessions*. To proclaim for now and for the future: *no compromises*. To bear witness by our presence to the fact that *aggression will not be rewarded*.

Terry waits thousands of miles from the White House, yet we share

the same thoughts. We desperately want peace. But we know that to reward aggression would be to end the promise of our New World Order. To reward aggression would be to destroy the United Nation's promise as international peacekeeper. To reward aggression would be to condone the acts of those who would desecrate the promise of human life itself.

And we will do none of this. There are times in life when we confront values worth fighting for. This is one such time.

Each day that passes means another day for Iraq's forces to dig deeper into their stolen land. Another day Saddam Hussein can work toward building his nuclear arsenal and perfecting his chemical and biological weapons capability. Another day of atrocities for Amnesty International to document. Another day of international outlaws, instead of international law.

I ask you to think about the economic devastation that Saddam Hussein would continue to wreak on the world's emerging democracies if he were in control of one-fifth of the world's oil reserves. And to reflect on the terrible threat that a Saddam Hussein armed with weapons of mass destruction already poses to human life and to the future of all nations.

Together, as an America united against these horrors, we can, with our coalition partners, assure that this aggression is stopped and the principles on which this nation and the rest of the civilized world are founded are preserved.

And so let us remember and support Terry Hatfield, all our fine servicemen and women, as they stand ready on the frontier of freedom, willing to do their duty and do it well. They deserve our complete and enthusiastic support—and lasting gratitude.

President George Bush

Dear Ed

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MORE MAIL

Dear Editors:

I am writing this in response to the letter of Eros Ripoli Altheia. In his letter he espoused vegetarianism. While I have nothing against people who are vegetarians by personal choice, I have problems with those who wish to force their personal preferences on others.

Mr. Altheia's arguments have a number of weak points. First he claims that religious people disdain the Sixth Commandment by the killing of animals. In response I would point out that it was God who killed the first animals to clothe Adam and Eve. In Genesis 9:3 God tells Noah that "every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you." Moving on to the people of Israel, God did not just give them the Ten Commandments, but also the sacrificial system. Thousands of animals were killed a year for sacrifices, all by God's command.

Mr. Altheia also claims that "most commercially raised animals spend their lives in a miserable, abject slavery and die a merciless death." While it is true that some animals are treated that way, most are not. I have seen animals slaughtered. It is not necessarily pleasant but it is necessary, and I still eat meat. He also says that vegetarianism is a possible solution to the food shortage. However in countries like India people are starving because they will not kill and eat the animals around them.

Mr. Altheia claims that animals have the same right to live as humans. However, it is only of humans that God says in Genesis 9 if any man or beast kills a man his blood will be required of him. It is only man who is made in God's image. I do not believe we are descended from primates but that we are created by God.

If you wish to be a vegetarian that is fine. However do not force on me your preferences. I assure you that I will continue to eat meat and do so with a clear conscience.

Respectfully yours,
Richelle Olive Lightfoot

Dear Esteemed Editors:

Would you please read your statement at the bottom of the masthead concerning letters?

"[Letters] must not constitute a personal attack."

It seems to me that a lot of personal attack has been going into your "mail" lately. I speak of the letter concerning the Spot a couple issues ago [November 30]. It's fine to criticize the Spot staff, CAB, or the overall quality (lack of . . .) the Spot—but leave names out of it! Perhaps a certain man was on stage with a guitar because his friends on the Spot staff thought it would be humorous.

Most recently, however, I was appalled by the derogatory comments made about the author of "The Black Hole" [mail, pages 16-17]. If the author was incorrect in his statements, say so. But there is no need to compare the author to "an invisible region in space. . ."

As to the comment about a "zenith of ignorance," if Mr. Taylor does not live in the dorms (he doesn't) and does not frequently visit offices, he may not see the constant recycling efforts. So suffice it to bring the errors to the surface and correct them—and keep the comments about the person's mental capacity to yourself.

I appreciate the editors' future efforts to curtail personal attack in the mail they publish. If anything is to be published criticizing WJSL or Senate, I do not want my name plastered along with them.

Sincerely yours,
Jim Hilliard

Dear Dave and Ivan:

For the most part, I've enjoyed reading the *Star* this year. I think there's been a definite improvement over last year. In fact, I look forward to reading the update on the Mid-East crisis, as well as some other articles. In this issue (December 14, 1990), however, I was irritated by one of the articles that was published, that article being "The Black Hole."

Don't get me wrong—I think Matt is a nice guy and has good ideas, etc., and I have made a point to read the *Star* with an open mind to others' thoughts and opinions. However, I did not enjoy reading that article. Was there a purpose besides what seemed to be an angry man venting his frustrations at the world? Or did I just miss it?

Christ calls us to love one another and encourage each other. I don't think being told to "shove off" because someone's got "better things to do than spout off at [me]" is either loving or encouraging. Where's the caring and the concern???

As an example, let me say that I really enjoyed the guest essay by James Lindsay. It didn't condemn me by saying I'm a snobbish, rude, uncaring jerk. It didn't harp on Houghton's lack of whatever (or excess, whichever the case may be). It was just a sharing of something found through introspection. It encouraged me to look at my own life and realize how much I need God and how much He cares for me.

I realize I'm generalizing from specifics, and that can be dangerous, but I'd really like to see more edifying articles and less put-downs. What a place Houghton would be if we were considerate, caring, loving, and encouraging!

Sincerely,
Kathy Merchant

MAIL CONTINUES

CONTINUING MAIL

An open letter for "any Houghton College student":

Thank you for the cards, letters, boxes, and prayers. You don't know how happy you made our camp.

Today is Christmas Day. We are about to partake of some turkey. It might be a little gritty because we are in the middle of a sandstorm (*shamal*) but nevertheless it will still be turkey. Before I bow my head in thanks to the Almighty, I wanted to write some thank-yous to some people who made this Christmas memorable.

I had to kickstart this place into a Christmas mood. For many of us, it was the first away from home. For most of us, this was the furthest we have been from home on Christmas. I began the holiday with a pep talk. If we achieved nothing else this Christmas, I wanted to teach my soldiers what Christmas is all about. Christmas isn't receiving, its giving. Most of us had no material gift to bring. That didn't matter, because if you give from the heart and with love, nothing can top it.

My gift to my soldiers was a hot breakfast this morning. It is a tradition I have upheld since I entered the military. The small inconveniences of Saudi Arabia weren't going to stop me. I don't have a mess hall (dining facility) so I had no way to cook. I was not authorized fresh food, but that had never stopped me before. On Christmas Eve morning I left the camp promising not to return until I found something to eat.

I drove from unit to unit trading and bartering until I found enough. I even found *ham* in Saudi. I crashed the mess hall of my former

mess sergeant, who is now in the 18th Airborne Corps, and told him to fire up the ovens; we were going to make Apple Strudel. He is from an all-male unit; as word spread throughout the camp that I was there, soldiers started coming in to see what was going on. They had nothing for Christmas. Everyone that peeked in the tent was detailed to help. We made a "tree" out of a camouflage net draped off the center pole of the tent. Some guys strung popcorn that had been used for packing. Others started cutting out ornaments from newspaper. I put my Santa hat on the biggest humbug and put him to work rolling dough for cookies. Ever have a Christmas "tank" cookie? We had the traditional cookie shapes because one soldier used his mom's cookies to trace with, but we also had C141 planes and trucks too.

The center of activity was the Strudel project. I had these artillery men (gun bunnies) chopping, snipping, mixing and baking. The first batch was the test. It came out great; the apples were juicy and hot and the cake was moist and light. We were able to make 28 9X13 pans of Strudel. I had to hurry to get back before dark, so I left them singing and gave them a gas lantern to light up the tent so they could keep the party going.

We drove back and noticed the lack of light and Christmas decorations. It was odd to see Saudis out and about just like it was any other day. It *was* to them, but not to us. I got my driver to share with me his Christmas memories. He is a father of three from West Virginia. This is the first year he hasn't been home for his children and wife.

We are far off the main road, so we don't mingle with the local populace, and tactics dictate that we drive with our lights off when we are off road. My night vision goggles picked up a light that was far in the

distance. As we drove closer, we saw that it was a "Christmas Tree" made out of a pole with lights strung down to the ground. Our maintenance company had had a tree-lighting ceremony. We missed Handel's *Messiah* (sung by some talented soldiers) and Santa's visit. We did get back in time for the party. I missed even that because when I went into my tent, I found a big lump on my cot. It was my husband. We shared a half-hour together and he had to go. He is moving on so I probably won't see him again until we get home, for he will be too far away and across many lines. It was a bittersweet visit.

All night I kept waking up to the wind, hoping that we wouldn't get a sandstorm (because I had to cook outside) and that we would have enough to eat for everyone. I finally said, "Lord, I dedicate this meal to you, I definitely can't make this happen by myself."

We set the grill up for eggs, hash browns and grilled ham. We had only so much coffee and some of the eggs had broken during the cross country ride. Just as we were ready, the sand storm hit. I said, "Jesus, you got me this far; this wind has to stop." It didn't, but a Texan friend of mine drove up and said he had cleaned out a big tent for me to cook in. We piled into the truck, drove to a new location, and set up again. There were some hungry soldiers there so I said "hop in line". We also fed the soldiers from the unit who let us borrow the grill. My soldiers came through the tent, and on top of that we called some soldiers who are at remote sites who don't have someone to care for them. I looked outside and saw a line of troops that extended into the haze of dust.

I thought of how many I had to feed versus how much food I had scrounged. My mechanics, who were cooking, looked at me as if to say I

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was crazy. I told them to have faith and start serving. We piled the food on the plates for 2 hours. When the last soldier came through, I finished up on all the pots of potatoes, ham and eggs I had. Then my sergeant pulled out another set of pots full of some more food. We had set out to feed 100 soldiers. We fed 150 soldiers all they could eat, and had enough for 30 more plus eight pans of Strudel left. Talk about fish and loaves! I loaded the extra food into the back of my jeep and went to the tank company that was guarding our perimeter. We fed them all and gave a Strudel to each of the three command posts for a Christmas present.

I didn't know the guys on guard duty. I just drove out of the blowing dust, pounded on their tanks and hollered, "Breakfast is served". They had been cold from staying up all night and were looking forward to "C-Rations." They asked me how I found them in the storm and why did I drive over to strangers anyway. I told them, "It's Christmas and I heard your stomachs growling." Then I disappeared back into the storm.

So Christmas came without presents, without trees, without snow, without tinsel, without TV, without money, without bows. It came from within and was shared throughout. That is what Christmas is all about.

Happy New Year and keep the faith. Love,

Royce (Anderson) Brand

P.S. The girls from 2nd Main are heroes. The package they sent went to a soldier whose sister-in-law died suddenly. I couldn't send him home because of the strict leave policy. The package helped cheer him up. Also, the soldiers enjoy the mail they have been receiving. They can sense the difference in character and enjoy hearing from people with a solid faith.

To my fellow believers:

There seems to be a problem on this campus which is probably true of a lot of Christendom. There are many people I have met who are saved, but do not know the Lord in a personal, intimate way. They may want to know God better, but are unsure about how to go about this.

Some people would say, "You need to go to church to know God." Well, regular church attendance is required by God, but it is not the root of the problem. Others might say, "You need to join some prayer group or something." Prayer groups are great, but a lack of such is not the root of the problem. Still others might say, "You need to do more for God, like joining Habitat for Humanity or some missions group like that." All of the above things are good, but the real answer to having a great intimacy with God is so simple that it doesn't seem right at first: if we wish to know God better, we must spend personal time with Him. If you do not spend daily time in the Word and in prayer, and have no real desire to do so, then you have no relationship with God. I am not discussing salvation here, or what you need to do to be saved; all I am saying is that if you do not seek time with God daily, you do not know God and have no relationship with Him.

The whole idea behind a relationship is that one spends time with another. If you truly have the desire to know God in an awesome way, you need the discipline and desire to set aside time each day in order to learn and grow from the Bible, and also to pray for your friends, your family, your own situations, and anything else God directs you to. I have seen many people who are confused and troubled, exclaiming that there is nothing to look forward to in life. Is not our daily time with the Lord some-

thing which we can look forward to and praise God for? Of course, I sometimes neglect the Bible and prayer time, but it is my desire to do both of these things each day. The Word and prayer go together—they cannot be separated. If you enjoy prayer but neglect the scriptures, you need to change that. And if you do read the Bible, but do not pray all that much, this also needs to change. Prayer and Bible time are equally important.

Now it is true that some discipline will be required in order to get in our time with God each day. But is it worth it? Of course it is. There is no reason why our faith should be limited to abstract ideas and thoughts. Our faith can be a living, energetic relationship with God—but this only comes from daily time in the Word and prayer. There is no other way. So if you have been wondering just what it means to be a Christian and how you can know God better, what are you waiting for? Start praying and digging into the treasured of the Bible today, and do it everyday. If we can all do this, this college will see some incredible changes, and true revival will come.

Sincerely,
Bill Hinman

**Residence Life Staff
Selection: Information meetings—January 21, 9:00 p.m.
Schaller Hall (RAs), 9:45 p.m.
(RDAs). RDA Applications
available January 18, 1991
at the Office of Student Development.
RA Applications
available Jan. 22 at the Office of Student Development.**

MORE WATER, HOBBS! WE'LL FREEZE THE SNOW GOONS RIGHT WHERE THEY SNOOZE! DIE! DIE!



LET OUT MORE HOSE! HA HA! THESE MONSTERS WILL BE POPSICLES THROUGH JULY!



THERE! WE GOT 'EM ALL! I'LL SPRAY A LITTLE EXTRA WATER AROUND, JUST TO MAKE SURE EVERYTHING'S ABSOLUTELY FROZEN.



PSST, CALVIN! YOUR PARENTS' LIGHT IS ON! I THINK YOUR DAD'S COMING!



UH OH! MAYBE I SHOULD GET HIM WITH THE HOSE, TOO.

THAT IS CALVIN! HE'S OUTSIDE WITH THE GARDEN HOSE!



IT'S AFTER MIDNIGHT! WHAT DO WE HAVE TO DO, CHAIN HIM IN BED?!

CALVIN GET IN HERE! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE...



WAAUGH!! THE WHOLE YARD'S ICE!



RUN, HOBBS! DAD'S A SNOW GOON TOO!



DAD, DON'T KILL ME! I CAN EXPLAIN THIS! HELP! HELP!



SNOW GOONS! I FROZE 'EM! THEY WERE GOING TO GET ME, SO I HAD TO GET THEM FIRST! ASK HOBBS!



CALVIN, IT IS AFTER MIDNIGHT. BELIEVE ME, WE WILL DISCUSS THIS VERY THOROUGHLY TOMORROW. YOU GET INTO BED THIS INSTANT.



LIKE I'M GOING TO GET ANY SLEEP NOW.



SEE?? SEE THE SNOW GOONS? I DIDN'T MAKE THEM! I MEAN, I MADE ONE, SORT OF BY ACCIDENT, BUT THE REST MADE THEMSELVES! THEY WERE BUILDING AN ARMY, SEE?



SEE, THAT'S WHY I HAD TO FREEZE THEM LAST NIGHT! I HAD TO GET 'EM WHILE THEY WERE SLEEPING! IT WAS MY ONLY CHANCE, SEE? SEE. IT ALL MAKES SENSE!



THEY NEVER SEE.

INSIDE:
Has the
dump been
bumped?