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The Houghton Star

Volume 77, Number 15

22 March 1985

Senate Tackles SAF

by John Brown

Student Activity Fee allocations were the main topic of the Senate meeting on Tuesday, March 19.

Kevin Simme, current president, began by stating his "personal" suggestions. He suggested that "intercollegiate sports tighten up their budget. In my eyes, they should get no increase." Simme also suggested that Christian Outreach Fund receive an increase of 10¢ in the Student Activities Scholarship Fund, and that the Campus Center Renovation Fund receive a 50¢ increase per student. John Brown stated that the intercollegiate sports allocation has increased \$9.60 per student since 1977-78. Sotiere Savopoulos presented a petition bearing the signatures of over 500 students which read, "We, the undersigned, do not desire the \$1.40 increase in SAF for intercollegiate sports." The cost of tournaments, training trips, shoes, and other items was discussed at this time. Intercollegiate sports submitted no rationale for their request. Savopoulos gave Senate various statistics regarding the involvement and need of the outreach groups. Omar Haedo-Lopez expressed his desire for Senate to increase Christian Outreach Fund to 75-

Jim LaDine then asked for an explanation regarding WJSL's request for a 50¢ increase. Dave Lenehan addressed this issue. He stated that WJSL's SAF was cut 1/3 last year. The plan of SAF at that time was to cut WJSL's allocation by a third each year until they received nothing from SAF. This year's proposed increase would bring WJSL half way up to the level they had a year ago. Reasons behind this increase are that it is a service to both the community and the students; it has received student input regarding programming from a survey taken at the beginning of the year; there are eight student managers compared to four last year; and the station has increased its variety of programming. Simme asked why WJSL should receive an increase or stay the same if WJSL is supposed to be "fully listener supported" or

moving toward that. Jim Kingdon commented, "WJSL is slowly getting underwriting grants, but they are coming in slowly. We can't say, 'Yes, we are going to be listener-supported' and stop now and say, 'Okay, everybody. Support us.' It's not going to work." Kingdon also stressed that WJSL is trying to "move to higher industry standards so that we can be considered a 'real' radio station." Kingdon further replied that "there's a joke around campus and at the station in past years that 'Well, this is a student activity. It's kind of a joke. Nobody really cares if it's professional or not.'" Kingdon believes now that they are reaching a potential audience of 50,000 people. WJSL needs money to sound like a professional radio station and present a good image for Houghton College.

Bill Mirola stated that "it's not like we're cutting everything. It's that we're not increasing." Beth Sperry reacted, "I still don't feel that it's been established that this is a radio station that serves the students, and therefore I don't think the money should be coming out of the Student Activity Fee."

Lenehan then emphasized the idea that WJSL is trying to establish an equal balance between the students and the community. Simme revealed the fact that "according to the WJSL constitution, it is a separate entity from the college because of law. In that case, Student Senate giving money to WJSL would be listener support." This means that WJSL is not a club or organization but rather a separate entity from the school.

Kingdon took an informal poll as to "how many students are back in the dorm wanting to listen to OCM at 3:00 in the afternoon?" After seeing no one raise a hand, Kingdon stated that "WJSL might as well use that time to minister to the community and other listeners."

Karen Majors Mitchell rebutted this by asking, "How many students in this room, right now, listen to WJSL more than two times a week? The result of this poll was two out of the over 40 students present. Sperry then

said, "The argument that a lot of students are listening to WJSL is based on absolutely nothing."

The results of the above discussion are as follows:

- Student Senate voted to reject the \$1.40 increase to intercollegiate sports. Instead, it voted to increase the allocation by 40¢.
- Senate voted to give WJSL no

increase for the 1985-86 school year.

- Christian Outreach Fund was increased by 75¢.

- Student Activity Scholarship Fund was increased by 10¢.
 - Campus Center Renovation Fund was increased by 50¢.
 - Senate voted to decrease the SAF by 45¢.
- The SAF was passed as revised.

Tickets for the May 2 Kerry Livgren and AD concert will be on sale Monday, March 25 through 2 pm, Friday, March 29 at a \$4.00 student discount rate. After the 29th tickets will be available for \$6.00.

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The Houghton Star is a weekly publication representing the voice of the students of Houghton College. The Star encourages thought, discussion and the free exchange of opinion; but opinions and ideas expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Star or of Houghton College. The Star encourages signed letters to the editor; however, the editor reserves the right to edit all contributions. All letters must be submitted by 9:00 a.m. Tuesday. The Star subscribes to the Washington Post Writers' Group

Albany Lobbyists: You Can Fight City Hall

by Thea Hurd

Nine Houghton students traveled to Albany on March 19 to lobby for passage of the TAP Parity and Equity bill which will increase the TAP award by 14.8%. The two-day trip provided an opportunity for the students to speak with over 18 senators and assemblymen, according to Troy Martin, financial aid counselor, who accompanied the students.

The TAP parity bill must be included in the budget if it is to be passed. The legislators will vote on the budget April 1. Passage of the bill "looks good," said Martin. "There is about a 2/3 commitment now. If the bill is on the budget, it will probably pass. It's up to Cuomo and the leaders of the Legislature to put the bill in the budget." Currently, Cuomo does not support the bill.

Students Cheryl Burdick, Dan McCormack, Donna Nasca, Tashna Hendricks, Dave Pezzino, Kim Johnson,

Chatting with Cuomo

by Thea Hurd

"After my appointments, I saw a group of people—obviously press—surrounding Cuomo," explained Dan McCormack, one of the Houghton students lobbying in Albany March 19 for the TAP parity bill. "I figured if they could crowd in, so could I." When Cuomo's aides reminded him of a meeting, there was a break in the crowd. Cuomo started to walk down the hall. "I said, 'Governor,' and he stopped," said McCormack.

McCormack wanted to get Cuomo's attention, so he mentioned the seat-belt law Cuomo had pushed through the legislature. "I said, 'I want to thank you for passing the seat-belt law. My wife and I were in a car accident. Thanks to the law, our lives were saved.' Cuomo responded, 'Good. I'd like you to write me a letter about that for my radio show.' Then Cuomo asked me where I was from."

Editor's note: A line was omitted from Steve Earl's letter last week. The STAR regrets the error and is reprinting the paragraph.

I believe that serious reconsideration ought to be given to the manner of dress to which we in Houghton have grown accustomed; particularly how we—students, faculty, and church leaders—present ourselves in fashion-

Barb Pinto, Kevin Simme, and Steve Bariteau were well-prepared to lobby because they were informed and had a session on tactics before they left for Albany. Working in groups of three, students met with their own legislators.

"We were pretty well-received, but we won't know how well we did until April 1 and see if the TAP bill is attached to the budget," said Barb Pinto. "The legislators said that lobbying is very helpful, and that's what we should do."

"Canisius went to Albany about two weeks ago with two busloads of students. We were the only college there Tuesday," according to Martin. The legislators had heard of Houghton because of the letter writing campaign that occurred about a month ago.

"Houghton was well-known because of all the letters. A secretary laughed when we introduced ourselves. She said, 'We've received so many letters from Houghton and we've been waiting for you,'" said Kevin Simme. "We still have some work to do. That was just a start."

Martin felt that the trip was beneficial from an educational angle. "It helped the students that went because they'll be more willing to talk to their legislators in the future."

McCormack said he was from Houghton College to lobby for the TAP parity bill that will provide more funds for students at independent colleges. Cuomo asked for information on the TAP parity bill. "I explained that under my circumstances [McCormack is married with a month-old daughter] I have to depend on NYS for financial aid or I can't make it. it."

After listening to McCormack, Cuomo told him to write him a letter about the seat-belt law and the TAP parity bill. "He said he would get back to me as soon as he could," said McCormack.

"It was a surprise," concluded McCormack. "Number one, that he stopped, and two, how he listened. He seemed genuinely interested. He also had some action for me to take. It was pretty exciting."

able formal attire every Sunday without fail. Christ does not care about, is not impressed with, and gains no more respect by our suits, dresses, shiny shoes, pendants, tie clips, and cufflinks. While it may feel good to stroll all together into Wesley Chapel, dressed up sharp and spiffy, it creates several real problems.

Oh No, Mr. Bill!

Editor's note: This exclusive interview with Bill Wichterman comes semi-live direct from Wheaton to Houghton via a communication network—the telephone. Thus Wichterman was able to share his reactions, plans, and some general trivia with the Star's reporter.

"I was very excited. That would seem obvious," said Bill Wichterman, next year's Senate president, when asked his reaction to winning the election. "Everyone here was excited. I don't think some of them thought I could possible to do it (running for office while at Wheaton). The campaigns are so different here. There are no chapel speeches, and major campaigns are held. Some candidates spend up to \$200."

Wichterman is excited about next year's Senate. "I'm looking forward to the job. I have a lot of thoughts of what can be done and am excited about the prospects."

Wichterman has thought of some specific plans besides those mentioned in his platform. "I'd like to suggest a policy of students using numbers rather than their names on subjective tests to allow more objectivity in grading. I want to improve faculty/student relations, although I don't have any concrete ideas at the moment. Re-instituting the big brother and sister program for upper-class students and freshmen is another idea."

Wichterman also mentioned a Senate newsletter to inform students of school policies that are not really well known. "The only way I found out about testing out of a language was from a Senate committee I was on," said Wichterman.

Wichterman doesn't foresee any problems in the transition of Senate cabinets even though he will be in Wheaton until the end of the semester. "I'll be writing a lot of letters and Sue will be moderating the first two Senate meetings. Also, I will be in Houghton for Mayterm to work out a lot of things."

Being in Wheaton has been a plus and "not a major setback," said Wichterman. "Overall I think it's an advantage since I can see some things we take for granted that can be improved."

One event that Wichterman will mention to CAB is Wheaton's TWIRP or The Women Initiated Romantic Pursuit. "It's kind of like Sadie Hawkins for a weekend when all the women ask the guys out." Wichterman confided that he actually got a date during TWIRP.

"I'm looking forward to next year," Wichterman concluded. "Student government can be so much more active as it really serves students."

Chamber Ensemble Performs

by Gerry Szymanski

As part of the 1984-85 Houghton College Artist Series and the 1985 Fine Arts Festival, the Ars Musica chamber orchestra will perform tonight at 8 pm in Wesley Chapel. The concert is the high point of a two-week long celebration of the birth of J.S. Bach, George F. Handel and Domenico Scarlatti.

The thirteen member orchestra employs actual 18th century instruments or detailed replicas in their performance of Baroque repertoire. These predecessors of modern instruments

have a thinner, lighter sound which many believe is what Bach and Handel heard in their day.

Fine Arts Festival coordinator Ben King feels the "exciting aspect besides the performers themselves will be the fact that they'll be using original instruments."

The Ars Musica has toured extensively and recorded magnificent renditions of Handel's *Messiah* and Bach's *Brandenburg Concerti*.

Tickets for this evening's event may be purchased at the door.

Enter the Twilight Zone

Houghton College Lecture Series will present Smithsonian astrophysicist Owen Gingerich Monday, March 25 at 8:00 pm in Schaller Hall. His illustrated lecture is entitled, "Let There Be Light: Modern Cosmology and Biblical Genesis."

An outstanding astronomer and leading science historian, Gingerich is astrophysicist at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and Professor of Astronomy and History of

Science at Harvard. He is vice-president of the American Philosophical Society, and has published widely, including "The Galileo Affair" in *Scientific American* and "Modern Cosmology and Biblical Creation" in the 1983 anthology *Is God A Creationist?* He has received the Harvard-Radcliffe Phi Beta Kappa prize for excellence in teaching.

Open to the public, admission is one dollar, free with Houghton ID.

Speakers Argue Nicaragua Debate

Bringing Nicaragua to Houghton for just one day is no small task. But seniors Carmen Ranalli and Becky Hutton decided to try and, by most standards, the Current Issues Day they produced was successful.

Preparation for March 13 began early first semester when Student Senate approved the "US in Nicaragua" topic. Hutton and Ranalli then set about calling prospective speakers. Under the guidance of advisors Paul Young and Jon Balson, student organizers obtained the following speakers: Kenneth Bleakley, US State Department representative; James Buschman, the Director of Latin American Studies at Michigan State; Humberto Belli, once a Sandinista and former editorial page editor of the leading opposition newspaper of Nicaragua, *La Prensa*; and Glen Silber, a graduate of the American Films Institute, who has produced several Academy Award-nominated documentaries on Nicaragua and Viet Nam.

A week prior to CID, Evangelicals for Social Action offered students the chance to read up on the Nicaragua issue by providing copies of news articles. Over 120 order forms were completed and returned.

The following is an outline of what each speaker said about the situation in Nicaragua, students' reactions to those statements, and what one person believes are our responsibilities as Christians aware of the problem.

—Sally Parker

On Bleakley

by Bryan Vosseler

Mr. Kenneth Bleakley of the US State Department said that the only legal argument for the US intervention in Nicaragua is to prove that the Sandinistas are threatening its neighbors.

Bleakley discussed "our friend" El Salvador. "El Salvador is a poor country with Duarte as the elected president since 1984. In El Salvador there are 10,000 guerrillas fighting against the government." To help El Salvador, the United States has given three million dollars in aid a year—\$100,000 or so a year is for arms from the US. Nicaragua is a threat to El Salvador because "Managua [the capitol of Nicaragua] holds the leadership of the Salvadoran guerrilla fighters."

Not only is El Salvador threaten-

ed by Nicaragua, but Honduras is as well. Through Honduras to El Salvador, "Nicaraguans have built 'Ho Chi Ming' trails to bring arms to terrorists in El Salvador."

There is also the threat to other countries because "Nicaragua's army is growing. There are 800 Cuban military trainers in Nicaragua, and airfields are being built which can only be used for military purposes. Also, a KGB delegation warned that if there are missiles in Europe, there could be missiles in Cuba or Central America."

Therefore, "if we don't support the *contra*'s who are fighting to bring democracy into Nicaragua, then there will be threats to all of Central America and to the United States," concluded Bleakley.



On Silber

by Sally Parker

Representing the pro-Sandinista stand was Glen Silber, an American Films Institute graduate and producer of several Academy Award-nominated documentary films.

Silber began his talk by asking his audience to take the viewpoint of a peasant, not of a political elite. He then stated that Nicaragua has a history in which the government of the US has played a manipulative role. At one point, claimed Silber, US Marines occupied the country for 22 years. This fact, said Silber, is not discussed much.

The US's policy, then, has been to support governments that publicly endorse democracy, such as El Salvador. Thus it endorsed the Nicaragua regime of Anastasio Somoza. Somoza, unfortunately, held 60% of the nation's land and was infamous for his poor treatment of the people. His regime also left the country \$1.2 million in debt.

Today, the US supports Nicaragua's counter-revolutionaries, or *contras*, who fight against the Sandinista government that came into power after Somoza left the country. Reagan calls the *contras* "freedom fighters," but Silber pointed out that much of



their leadership is composed of former Somoza military men. Silber believed that the "most horrible" terrorist acts are committed by the CIA-supported *contras*.

The US, then, looks inconsistent when it does three things: sponsors a secret war, produces a CIA warfare manual, and claims it does not support terrorism. Silber stated that the US prides itself on being "the most democratic country in the world," and agreed with Kenneth Bleakley, US State Department representative, on wanting democratic revolution in Central America. But, said Silber, this "shouldn't be done by the US."

"Has support of the *contras* been productive?" asked Silber in conclusion. "Has it made Nicaragua more democratic?"

On Belli

by Thea Hurd

"I decided that unless people worked to change inside, the past would come back again," explained Humberto Belli, former editor of the editorial page of *La Prensa* and a Christian. He was explaining his switch to support of the Sandinistas. Belli is no longer welcome in Nicaragua because of his stand against the Sandinista government.

Belli supported the Sandinistas as they opposed Somoza and was part of their movement until 1975. At that time he realized the Sandinistas "could destroy Somoza and yet establish a new oppression under a new name."

After the 1978 death of the editor of *La Prensa*, the Sandinistas gained leadership of the government. Belli believes they ascended because of their military power. "They [the Sandinistas] believed themselves to be the

people," said Belli.

Soon the Sandinistas began to censor the media, including *La Prensa*. "The Sandinistas did accomplish some good under the Sandinista Defense Committees, such as vaccinations," Belli feels, however, that the SDC was also used for political work and spying. The Sandinistas began to move toward closer relations with the Soviets in 1980, said Belli.

The Sandinistas used a theology that the church should support the revolution since the revolution supported help for the poor. This was to promote their strategy to deal with religion. Belli explained that although there are four priests with the Sandinista government, they are Marxist.

Belli concluded his lecture by reminding the audience that Christians must support their brothers in other countries as they struggle to present the truth and the gospel.

Belli Presents La Prensa

by Matthew Hess

Star: Could you give us a brief history of *La Prensa* (when started, purpose, current state and circulation)?

Belli: *La Prensa* is the oldest Nicaraguan newspaper. It has kept a tradition of independence. Under Somoza, whose rule lasted for 42 years, *La Prensa* was the symbol of opposition and it was closed down a couple of times. In 1978 the editor was murdered under still unclarified circumstances. But most Nicaraguans suspected that Somoza or his friends were behind the murder.

After the revolution, there was an internal dispute in *La Prensa*. One section wanted to support wholeheartedly the Sandinista revolution, and another section wanted to remain independent of the Sandinistas and be able to criticize whatever they saw as wrongs committed by them. This led to an internal dispute which paralyzed the paper for some weeks and led to the creation of a new newspaper where those who were very supportive of the Sandinistas took refuge. This newspaper was called *El Nuevo Diario*.

"So we lived under an atmosphere of fear where we knew this kind of physical aggression . . . could take place."

It was just after this that I was called by the head of *La Prensa* to work with it and take responsibility for the editorial page. Our staff was mostly catholic Christian, and my key purpose for joining *La Prensa* was to defend Christian values throughout the revolutionary process.

Our circulation started to take off, and just a few weeks after *La Prensa* had again become the independent newspaper it used to be before the revolution, we were the leading newspaper circulation-wise in Nicaragua. By 1980, our circulation was around 70 to 80 thousand copies per day which was more than the circulation of the two existing Sandinista newspapers combined.

La Prensa began to be censored as early as 1980. The Sandinista government started to issue some decrees prohibiting *La Prensa* from covering information regarding the Atlantic coast, and they started to expand and add new fields where we couldn't make any comment or offer any news. This would include in a few weeks anything about working strikes, riots, price increases, economic problems, scarcities, etc. And they kept adding to these new decrees, which narrowed what we could report. Before I left Nicaragua, close to the middle of 1982, *La Prensa* had been closed down by the government on six different occasions, claiming that *La Prensa* had violated one of the decrees that the government had issued regarding freedom of information.

But on March 15, 1982, the Sandinista government imposed complete censorship of the press. From then on, we had to take *La Prensa* everyday to the Minister of Interior before we could print it. They would read the paper carefully, and they would eliminate whichever news or commentary they didn't like. Then we would have to take back the paper to our headquarters, replace the censored material, and take it back to the Minister of the Interior. They would read *La Prensa* a second time, again censor whatever they didn't like, and then we would have to repeat the whole operation all over again.

Star: How did you, as editor of the editorial page and as a Christian, combine your beliefs without giving an unbiased—if an unbiased point of view can exist—point of view?

Belli: Well, in my commentaries as a writer of the editorial page, I tried to give the readers a Christian perspective, or angle, on the events occurring in the country, and especially give a Christian view on the ideological debate taking place in Nicaragua between the proponents of the so-called Marxist Liberation Theology and the Christian leaders.

I don't think that trying to offer a Christian perspective on things would introduce a bias, if we understand bias as implying some kind of deformation of the truth. I think that a true Christian perspective on things and true

Christian reporting should be, above all, truthful to objective reality and facts. When you make a commentary, though, it is very obvious that you then judge things from the values that you hold.

Star: What were your main objectives as editor of the editorial page? Were you ever threatened or in immediate danger?

Belli: My main objective when I joined *La Prensa*, as I said before, was to contribute to the preservation of Christian values in the process of the Sandinista revolution. I was aware that the Marxists, who were controlling the Sandinista revolution in alliance with some Marxist ties—so-called 'revolutionary Christians'—were attempting to present a view of the gospel whereby Christianity was reduced to commitment to the Sandinista revolution, a view that I found was worshipping revolution, or turning revolution into an idol. One of their most prevailing beliefs was that the Christian had to support the revolution because the revolution was to rescue people from oppression, was to break away from bondage, was going to break the bondages that kept people oppressed. So revolution was beginning to be seen by many as a salvific event, as something that by itself would be able to truly liberate Nicaragua.

I think that for a Christian, holding this view would be tantamount to turning revolution into an idol. I think, as a Christian, that only Jesus Christ can really break the chains of oppression, can really change the hearts of men and women, can really contribute to a marriage of new people, and affect in a profound way the social system. I don't think a revolution which doesn't get to the root of men can really achieve such liberation. Wherever mankind has tried through social-political means to free itself from oppression it has failed, as the world record of most revolutions shows.

Under the Sandinistas, we in *La Prensa* came to be one of the main focuses, if not the main focus, of the Sandinistas' anger against dissidents in Nicaragua. They began to portray us as agents of the CIA, of the ideological arm of US imperialism, as people who were all the time plotting to destabilize the revolution. They kept saying this night and day through the powerful government-owned media. Sometimes they would send mobs to *La Prensa* to shout all kinds of threats. My home was visited a couple of times at midnight by Sandinista mobs who cried, "Let us kill the reactionaries," "Take the reactionaries to the firing squad," "Pardon—that is firing squad—for Humberto Belli," and these kinds of threats. We in fact felt threatened, and shortly after I left the country in 1982, the second editor of *La Prensa*, Oracio Ruiz, was kidnapped by some Sandinistas—armed men—and was brutally beaten and left unconscious on a highway. He was nearly killed, but he survived. The reason they did it is because of his contribution to *La Prensa*. So we lived under an atmosphere of fear where we knew this kind of physical aggression, or things even worse, could take place.

Star: How can newspapers and other media accomplish anything under censorship? What are the options available to a newspaper under censorship?

Belli: Any newspaper, radio, or media outlet under censorship has very few options. It is like asking a bird what options he has if you cut off his wings. I think that the area in which the press can thrive and exist as a meaningful means of expression is freedom. Deprived of freedom, no newspaper or radio can play any meaningful role.

"Any newspaper. . . under censorship has very few options. It is like asking a bird what options he has if you cut off his wings."

The only thing we could do in Nicaragua under the censorship of the Sandinistas was sometimes to stop publishing altogether. Not to publish an issue was a way of showing our protest when they didn't allow *La Prensa* to print news we considered essential to be printed, and that we considered a right of the Nicaraguan people to know about.

For instance, the first time we did that was when the Sandinistas prohibited *La Prensa* from printing a letter that the Pope sent to Nicaraguan bishops in 1982. *La Prensa* then closed down in protest, and after some pressures, the Sandinistas had to back up. They allowed *La Prensa* to print the Pope's letter. Well, I think that the more a newspaper tries to foster, in the public respect, a love for democratic values, turns this into a major philosophy of the paper, and is able to communicate this in a meaningful way to the people, the more the paper can contribute to democracy. Sometimes this involves taking very clear and bold steps against all those forces of influences that try to undermine freedom of expression and democratic values, or repress them if they would ever gain power.

Nicaragua: Options for Action Abound

by Craig Henry

In any arena of thought, absolute conclusions elude all of us. When the issue involves the combined complexities of political, economic, ideological, and religious debate, a firm discernment of truth is nearly unattainable. But as Christians struggling to live a kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven" we are obligated to search for truth as it applies to earthly issues. Current Issues Day may have been frustrating for many, but it was enlightening to some degree, and the arguments led to a few tentative conclusions. If those conclusions were reached with any semblance of conviction, their holders probably desire some means to bring their opinions into effect.

The question of US aid to the *contra* forces in Nicaragua is an issue that doesn't need to end after the debate and discussion are over. Even when sides have been drawn upon weighing the facts, more needs to be done. The voice of the individual needs to be heard in a way that will constructively affect the problem. If we are to exercise the democracy which was

heralded as the ideal through so much of last Wednesday's events, we must capitalize on its means for individual expression of interests. This means effort and thought on the part of the individuals involved.

The best way to start solidifying one's views, as well as exercising them, is to communicate with government leaders. As a constituent of congressmen and senators, each person has a voice in governmental policy and a concerted vocalization of approval or disapproval of US aid to the *contras* would have a substantial impact on the policy-making.

Bills related to the issue are close at hand, and the Houghton chapter of Evangelicals for Social Action (ESA) is planning a letter writing drive for next week (Mon. 3/25-Wed. 3/27). Information will be available about writing letters to government representatives. This will include practical information in the letter writing itself, as well as addresses. Not all letters are positively effective, and it is important to learn the best way to sound one's voice in policy making

procedures.

Another option is open for those who have taken a decidedly anti-aid stance: a pledge of resistance. In August 1984, Sojourners announced the "Pledge of Resistance," a contingency plan in the event of a US invasion in Central America. The effort is a national movement which has already gathered 42,000 people together for commitment to resistance. A number of groups across the country are fostering the organizational tasks of pledge signings and phone chains. The organization, Clergy and Laity Concerned, is working with the resistance movement in the mid-Atlantic states and more locally from an office in Buffalo.

The purpose of the pledge is to band together a coordinated force of resistance to the US's escalation of military aid, effort, and intervention in Central America. The national movement is broken down to the organizations that coordinate each region, the regions to states, and the states to individual centers (such as the Peace Center in Buffalo). Each center

is a communication link for smaller affinity groups—groups of resisters in verbal contact with each other who, operating by group consensus, work out the practical ramifications of resistance.

The "Pledge of Resistance" offers two forms of resistance in two pledges that may be taken. One is for legal protest and the other, non-violent civil disobedience. Both pledges focus on non-violence as an optimally effective witness for peace.

ESA will be making the "Pledge of Resistance" available for reading and/or signing at the table in the campus center Monday, March 25th, through Wednesday, March 27th. The "Pledge of Resistance" should not be taken lightly as an option. A signed promise to publicly protest governmental policy legally or through civil disobedience is not child's play. It may, however, be a viable option for those who are firmly convinced that US military intervention in Central America is an unacceptable way for a "peacemaker" to behave.

Letters

Sorry, Marc

Dear editor,

In reference to the letter from my "Lone Goldfish"...forget it. He hath succumbed.

In mourning,
Marc Troeger

we remember our own sons and daughters, victims of drunk driving, who will never again be part of Spring break.

Sincerely,
Florida Mothers Against Drunk Driving
Beckie Brown, President

CID Response

Dear Editor:

Kudos to Carmen Ranalli and Becky Hutton for planning an excellent Current Issues Day. The last-minute reshuffling of the afternoon schedule due to a circumstance beyond their control left us, unfortunately, without opportunity to critique the video program on life in Nicaragua, and gave the final two hours to a refugee from the revolution who represents the wealthy class and speaks for only one of the four major factions of the Nicaraguan church. A rebuttal from the experts would have served the cause of fairness and accuracy.

Sincerely,
Ray Host

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

I had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Kenneth Bleakley of the US State Department as I drove him to the Buffalo Airport for his return flight to Washington. Bleakley had a few very interesting comments about Houghton and the students who attended CID.

Bleakley, impressed with the high student turn-out, said, "I have never spoken before an audience, especially students, and I felt as though they were following everything I said. They showed agreement and disagreement to my ideas by their gestures. Basically, they listened very intently." He felt as though he were speaking to quality students. Bleakley was also impressed by the number of missionary and foreign students at Houghton.

Bleakley inquired about Houghton's student recruitment. I said that some students are involved in the Adopt-a-Student letter-writing campaign, while other students make personal phone calls. Overall, there is a basic attitude at Houghton that "we want you and we want to help you in making that tough decision about college." Bleakley said that such an attitude is impressive, and he could see that manifested in the students at Houghton. He could tell that we really do care about others.

I think that here at Houghton we often accept the fact that we are normal college students. That's not true. Because we are Christians, we are very special and different. People can see that by the way we act. Isn't it great that someone who travels all over the world could be on campus for just over four hours and get this impression? His comments made me proud to be a student at Houghton.

—Ralph Kerr

Sober, Not Sorry

Dear editor,

Spring break is almost here, and we hope many of you will come to Florida for well earned vacations. We hope you will unwind on our beaches, try boardsailing, if you haven't, get great tans, and return safely.

But please do not come to Florida to drink and drive. Drugged and drunk driving have caused too many needless tragedies in our communities. Drugged and drunk driving are not welcome.

We are parents and we look forward to your being here because we share your love of good times even as

Publication Platforms



Jeff Crocker, J. Craig Henry, and Gerry Szymanski thrill to the prospect of gnashing teeth with the Star.

Star

Co-Editors:

Gerry Szymanski

Qualifications:

Extensive experience with the Star

Fine Arts Editor 1984-85

Reporter 1983-84

feature columns

layout

typesetting

photography

print shop interaction

Music Theory-Composition Major

With right glasses looks like Bob Dylan

Dorm council member 1983-84

Looks like Abbie Hoffman

ESA member 1984-85

Librarian for Orchestra

With hair peeled back looks like Ghandi

J. Craig Henry

Qualifications:

layout 1984-85

photography

Humanities Major

Chaplain for Philharmonia 1984-85

Steering Committee for ESA 1984-85

appeared upside-down in Pete Schultz's car for seat-belt article

English Expression Club: Spring, Mayterm 1984; Fall 1985

Appeared prescient in *Man on the Street*

Has never owned a boa constrictor

Applicants for Editor of the 1985-1986 Lanthorn should contact Beth Sperry at Box 1553

Managing Editor:

Jeff Crocker

Qualifications:

Extensive experience with the Star

Reporter 1983-84

Photographer, Reporter, Editorials 1984-85

Celebrity weekly feature columnist (MOTS)

layout and production

History, Pre-law Major

Member of "Wicked Good Band" in Senate Spots

ESA member 1984-85

Appeared as "Wolf" in 2nd grade production of "The Boy who cried Wolf"

Photographic Editor for Admissions 1984-85

Freelance photographer for Belmont High School yearbook

Incited cafeteria food riot—Midnight Breakfast 1984

Our platform regarding the Star next year is a threefold policy. We want to utilize the format of the newspaper to its potential in the areas of news reporting, student expression and creativity, and editorial policy.

In regards to news reporting, specifically campus news, we want to expand our news gathering sources on campus. We will communicate and utilize Student Senate, faculty, students, and administrators as potential news sources. We also want to avoid the use of press releases as ultimate sources of news and encourage perceptive student journalism and photography, utilizing the diversity of the reporting staff. We will develop a balanced perspective on campus news, covering piscatology taking place on campus as well as basketball. There are stories relevant to the student body—these stories will be stressed. Editorializing belongs on the editorial page and has no business to be winding its serpent-like subjectivity through world and local news. We will strive to report the news with clarity and objectivity.

We also want to open opportunities inherent in the format of the paper for student expression through art, photography, and essay. We want to emphasize the Star as an avenue for student creativity with the re-establishment of photo and essay contests. We also see the value in focusing on campus cultural events, especially those involving student creativity. Coverage and review of art exhibitions and recitals would increase the visibility of student work. Also, we want to be aware of cultural events in our area such as Olean, Rochester, and Buffalo. Entertainment and education in movies, lectures, readings, and exhibitions should be announced.

With regards to our editorial policy, we see the Star as the main vehicle on campus for discussing and questioning events—and when necessary airing a critical voice. This voice needs to be exercised constructively, and must enjoy and respect the rights and privileges of a free press. Editorials are seen as a catalyst for interaction between the Star and the students, and between the students themselves. Letters to the paper are a public medium for student response; we will strive to elicit that response.

Oh! And yeah. We intend to dissolve Students for Idol indefinitely.

Boulder

Editor:

Wesley C. Dunham

Qualifications:

Yearbook experience

Sports editor, 1984-85

Layout

Photography

Bible and Physical Education Major

Member of Track and Cross Country teams

WJSL

Fine Arts

"Charlie Brown": Uneven but Enjoyable

"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" played Houghton for the last two weekends. And I was there. I was there with the kids and the autograph hounds. And what I've got to say is the result of hours of searching and meditation: This was a real cute play.

I hope none of you went expecting a probing analysis of life's dark mysteries or an eye-opening confrontation with *The Existential Question*. (I hope none of you are expecting such revelations from this review.) Because you didn't get it. (And you're not going to get it now.) "You're a Good Man" was an hour-and-a-half of lighthearted entertainment which brought the familiar "Peanuts" comic-strip format to life, replete with Schroeder's piano-playing, Snoopy's doghouse, Linus' blanket, Lucy's crabbiness and Charlie Brown's inferiority complex.

The really interesting thing about this play is the kids, see, 'cause they're not as dumb as they look. Heck, call it precocious. On the one hand, adults will find this play really cute 'cause, see, it's a child's play. On the other hand, a really cute thing about this musical is the adult-worthy sentiments these children spout. Witness Charlie Brown discussing faith: "Suddenly I know that with the strength of his convictions a man can move mountains." From a six-year-old? And my, oh my, the words floating around in this sandbox! These tots know about "resentment," "enigmas," and "sociological implications." Of course, that was always a large part of "Peanuts" charm: its fresh, out-of-the-mouths-of-babes perspective on grown-up problems. This cast and its director, Jamie Weiner, have preserved that charm with panache.

However, this play's comic strip origins and subsequently disjointed nature demand a coherence and energy capable of holding diverse elements together and keeping alive a momentum. Unfortunately, Weiner did not fully manage to pull this energy or sense of unity from his cast. As director of a play which already veers dangerously close to the saccharine, Weiner could also have taken greater pains to keep his ensemble from crossing that border.

As Snoopy, Weiner portrayed the wise-cracking but fallible sophisticate (no, really, that's how I see it) whose perspective on these fresh and far-seeing children is itself fresh and far-seeing, because, well, he's a dog. And dogs are, well, sort of outsiders. To humans, I mean. Regrettably, Weiner's performance suffered somewhat from a lack of earnestness and continuity. Posed, painted gestures and repeated breaks in his character — often caused by smiling to himself at inappropriate moments — made Snoopy a bit too wooden to be disarming.

Charlie Brown, played by Todd Carr, seemed just a little too wild-eyed initially, but it soon became apparent that his portrayal of a child had a genuine ring. Carr accomplished this task better than most in the cast, especially in the earnestness department. He made us feel the Charlie Brown — that insecure, unfairly maligned innocent — present in all of us. (Well, in most of us.)

Lucy, played by Tina Ripley, did a fine job at "loud, obnoxious and crabby" (which is actually a compliment), but didn't do so with complete consistency, breaking character from time to time (for instance, a smile in the middle of a scene in which she angrily slugs Linus), and unleashing emotions in a fashion which bordered on the convulsive. Some good lines also were not delivered to their best advantage, such as the parting shot in the scene where Linus advises Lucy to apologize to their mother.

Brian Lewis' characterization of Linus was one of the high points of the production. His gentle, cerebral character was never administered to the audience in jerky spurts; nor did he ever self-consciously play to the crowd. Lewis' timing and delivery on humorous lines was impeccable (his book report and his blanket bossa nova deserve still more applause). He also possesses the nicest singing voice in the cast.

Neil MacBride, as Schroeder, is also a natural on the stage — remarkable for an initial thespian outing. Schroeder's earnestness and childlikeness were always visible, though difficult to attain in a character who in many ways is the most adult of the entire Peanuts gang: reserved, dedicated to music, almost . . . mysterious.



MacBride's rabbit hop and piano playing were executed with imagination and style.

Doris-Ann Iradi (Patty) also knew how to deliver a line or gesture in just the right way to call up that most elusive of intangibles, *The Laugh*. Her portrayal of a child never seemed forced or uneven. And as an added bonus, she proved that she can wield a jump rope with exemplary viciousness.

Many sketches revolved around musical numbers sung by individual performers and the cast, all of which were superbly accompanied by a piano, flute and percussion ensemble (Linda Yarnall and John Brown; Heidi Best; and Doug Chapin respectively). John Brown, the production's musical director, deserves much credit not only for assembling a talented group of musicians and seeing that their playing remained clean and downright sprightly; but for assuring that each entrance was perfectly on cue, even those that occurred in pretty wacky places.

To my ears and eyes, the cast itself didn't fare quite as laudably in this department. Singing was occasionally off-key, but that's a pretty mild observation as this did not happen consistently and never reached anything like untouchable offensiveness. Also, no one expects a bunch of pre-pubescent cartoon characters to produce Pavarotti-like jewels of resonance, projection and diction. But one would expect them to sound like the children they portrayed, which involves enthusiasm and a resolve to avoid resembling anything even remotely dirge-like. Certain individual characters seemed the essence of musical youth, notably Schroeder (MacBride) in "The Book Report" sequence. But a few others were lackluster. Snoopy's "Supper time," originally conceived and usually performed as a bring-down-the-house extravaganza of unrestrained joy, conveyed no excitement or drive, and all at half-tempo. And this is a song about food! Some ensemble numbers also exhibited a marked sluggishness, especially the opener. This tendency was only reinforced by unimaginative "company front" blocking on "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," "Glee Club Rehearsal," "Happiness," and the first half of "The Baseball Game." Other group sings were imaginatively executed, however, such as "The Book Report" and the last half of "The Baseball Game" (a regular live-at-five sports action clip).

The lighting plot consisted mostly of simple offs and ons to accommodate the play's skit-composite character: nothing extraordinary. The set, however, seemed like a darned good idea to me; big red, yellow and blue shapes (which, I suspect, were intended to evoke memories of wooden blocks, primary colors and kindergarten naps) served multiple purposes, masquerading as a piano here and a pitcher's mound there.

Costumes and makeup were certainly better than those of most plays I've viewed in Fancher Aud thus far. Cheeks had apple color instead of apple geometry. The natural, balanced makeup job was a welcome innovation. Patty even displayed a nice set of freckles. Jumpers and little-boy prep graced the children, while Snoopy sported a sophisticated ensemble of winter white sparked solely with a spartan touch of black at the throat and elbow. Actually, he looked more like a penguin than a beagle. But penguins are nice, too.

As musical drama, "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" was uneven. As light entertainment, it was an enjoyable way to pass an afternoon or an evening.

But where was the zigzag on Charlie Brown's shirt?

—Beth Sperry

Sports



Equestrians Don't Horse Around

by Renee Potter

On Saturday, March 15, the Houghton College Equestrian team competed at St. Lawrence University against riders from eighteen other colleges. The members of the newly developed group, sponsored by the intramural department, placed in eight of the twelve classes in which they participated. Heidi Piper and Renee Potter each earned a blue ribbon, Andy Topolnycky earned a second place, and Becky Banker was awarded a third place ribbon. Fifth place ribbons were awarded to Betsy Dyer, Laura Minard, and Heidi Piper, while Kim Harker placed sixth in her class.

Other riders competing for Houghton

in intercollegiate shows are: Pattie Baxter, Karen Entingh, Sharon Regal, Melissa Knox, Wendy VanDyk, Ruth McKinney, Peggy Wraight, and Jim Egan. The group, coached by Carol Wheeler, is gaining experience competing intercollegiately and is looking forward to co-hosting a show with Alfred State University on April 13 at Brentwood Stables in Angelica.

The annual spring schooling show, in which college students and faculty are invited to participate, will be held by the Equestrians on Saturday, April 27. Spectators for the schooling show, as well as the intercollegiate show, are also welcomed.

Coming soon to a *Star* near you:

★An indepth look at Highlander stand-out Jodi Carlson

★The crowning of the intramural soccer champs

★A salute to HC's senior hoopsters

Hike the Grand Canyon

Houghton College students will have a chance this summer to tour 17 Western states while at the same time attempting to develop their philosophy of a Christian approach to environmental stewardship. Christianity historically has not been at the forefront of the environmental movement in the US and has indeed been blamed for endorsing various misuses of our natural resources. Have you ever really thought about the true definition of man's "dominion" which appears in Genesis 1? Can Christians be blamed for pollution, erosion, poisoning of our lakes, streams, land, and air? Why hasn't the Church taken a strong stand on environmental issues? These questions and others will be discussed in different settings around the US such as Grand Canyon National Park, Mesa Verde National Monument, the Kaibab National Forest, and the

Colorado Rocky Mountains. The course will focus on surveying federal land management practices and will be used as a basis for a critical analysis of a Christian approach to environmental stewardship.

Course professor will be Dr. Thomas Kettelkamp. Dr. Kettelkamp has led various college groups around the Americas including Honduras, Central America, Upper Peninsula Michigan, Vermont, the Everglades, the Colorado Rockies and the Grand Canyon. He recently received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois where he was an instructor in the Institute of Environmental Studies specializing in Administration of Environmental Recreational Services. This will be the fourth group that he has led to the Grand Canyon. Total cost will be \$278 plus tuition. Dates for the course are June 1st to the 16th.

Houghton Hosts Fifth Annual Soccer Tournament

by Thea Hurd

Houghton College will be hosting its fifth annual indoor soccer tournament Saturday, March 23 in the Physical Education Center. Over 15 teams will participate including four teams made up of current and alumni players from Houghton, according to men's varsity soccer coach Douglas Burke. Play will begin at 9 am and run throughout the day until the championship match scheduled for 8:50 pm. Houghton teams will be playing in most of the early morning and early afternoon matches.

"We have some good, strong teams coming," said Burke. RIT, which won the tournament last fall, Fredonia, ranked second in Division III, and Buff. State, ranked third, will also attend. "Monroe Communi-

ty college [who will play in our tournament's Division III], was one of the best community college teams in the state and even the nation this past fall," according to Burke.

Two Houghton teams start current soccer players and two teams field alumni. Houghton I lists next season's co-captains Jamie Mullen and Doug May, goalie Tim Kangas, Gregg Gidman, Mark Ashley, and others. Houghton II consists of yet to be decided players. The two alumni teams include players Dan Ortlip, playing for the Houghton Alumni, and Bob Chiapperino, who is travelling from Tacoma, WA to participate on the Sports Life team.

The tournament should provide fast-paced and exciting action to tide over soccer fans until next fall.

Editor's Note: In last week's *Star*, page 4, the sentence on Western disease reduction should have read: "Diseases such as tuberculosis, polio, diphtheria, and rickets have almost disappeared due to better inoculations,

sanitary measures, antibiotics, and fortification of foods." (Rickets, a vitamin D deficiency disease, has declined at least in part because of the fortification of milk with vitamin D.)

Editorial

Persevering Under Pressure

Someone asked me tonight why I put all my energy into the *Star* for one half of every week. I paused, laughed, and replied, "I don't know!" I took us both by surprise. There is no logical reason to put off my homework for three days each week in order to suffer unduly Wednesday night. My motivation comes from one source only—perseverance. And I can only persevere if I have perspective.

In the middle of second semester senior year (or junior, sophomore, freshman year), it is easy to lose perspective. Why are we in school? Why work at grades, outreach groups, jobs, relationships? All we want to do is sleep uninterrupted for six months. We tire of being talked at. Friction sparks in friendships. We start worrying about final grades and summer jobs. We run out of pizza money. Our grades plummet.

John Guest, who's used to talking to college students, spoke in chapel Tuesday and Wednesday. He reminded us that we are created with the desire and the need to worship. His solution for a lack of perspective was to recognize the holiness of God. God is the one to whom our actions, our relationships, our lives are to be directed. Our reliance on Him gives us the perspective we need to persevere.

For example, I cannot walk into the *Star* office every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday to face a group of equally exhausted students if I don't have some idea that this is all going to be worth it someday. It's not just for the experience in editing and managing. It's a way in which I can learn to worship God by doing what I do best. If I try to work on the *Star* as an end in and of itself, I'll tire of it. This is true for all of us—those involved in sports, clubs, outreach, music, and those not involved in anything. If we try to "worship" our activities or ourselves, we will accomplish very little. It's like riding the stationary bike instead of the moveable one. You can peddle all you want, but you won't get anywhere.

It's the middle of second semester, and most of us are tired. We need to do more than go through the motions of our lives. If our friendships are suffering, we need to work at reconciliation. If we are falling behind in schoolwork, acquiring bad eating habits, forgetting God, we need to gain the perspective which only worship of God can bring. If we can't use our talents to worship the God who gave us those abilities, we are worshipping ourselves. In the weary times, then, we will persevere because of the perspective God provides.

—Sally Parker

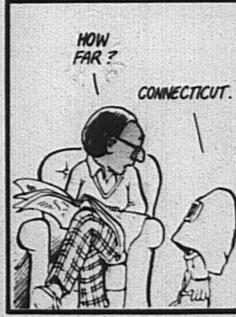
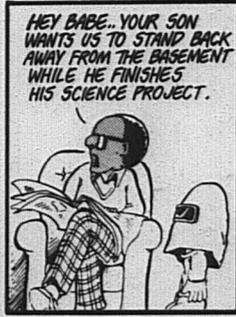
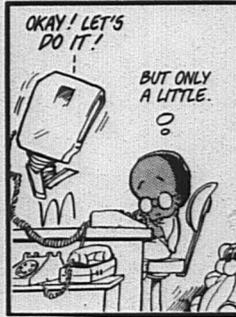
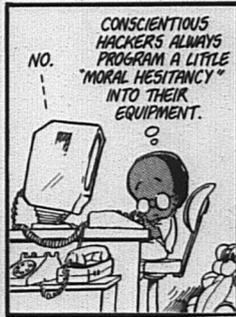
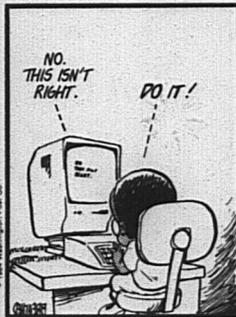
BLOOM COUNTY



by Berke Breathed

BLOOM COUNTY

by **Berke Breathed**





Classifieds



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where we can find
information upon it."**

Boswell, Life of Johnson (1775)

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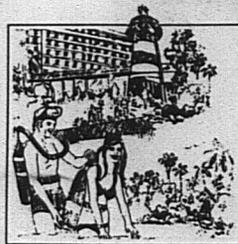
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