

THE Houghton STAR

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Five Houghton Professors Honored by Who's Who

BEN WALKER
STAFF WRITER

Five professors from fields as diverse as mathematics and physical education were included in the 8th edition of Who's Who Among American Teachers, published this October. Bruce Brenneman, Richard Eckley, Harold Kingdon, Bill Swanson, and Paul Watson were nominated by current or former students who are members of organizations such as Who's Who Among American High School Students and The National Dean's List. Nominees were informed of the nomination by the organization and requested to fill out an information form.

Harold Kingdon, Professor of Christian Ministries has taught at Houghton for 27 years, since 1967. Graduating from Houghton a decade earlier, he went on to receive his master's of theology and master's of divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary before returning to Houghton as a faculty member. In 1978, Kingdon also received a doctor of ministry degree from Bethel Seminary.

"I am very humbled – and, of course, pleased. To be nominated by a former student makes this even more of an honor."

-Dr. Brenneman

Dr. Swanson is the chairperson of the Department of Physical Education/ Recreation and came to Houghton from a background that includes accounting and leadership in the YMCA organization and both under- and post-graduate education at Illinois State University, a school well-known for its education program. Swanson describes himself as "a people person" and enjoys Houghton's reputation as a school that emphasizes teacher interaction with students.

"You feel like you can have some sort of a positive impact here," says Swanson, and states that "the best thing [about being included in Who's Who] was being nominated by a former student."

Bruce Brenneman has been teaching at Houghton since 1982. For him, education is "a way to offer my life to God by investing in the lives of students." After being encouraged to look into education in his undergraduate studies at Taylor University, he received his master's degree from Wesleyan University. "It has been a very rewarding career to see students develop skills in communication through the written and spoken word," Brenneman says. About his place in Who's Who, he says "I am very humbled – and, of course, pleased. To be nominated by a former student makes this even more of an honor."

"WHO'S WHO" CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

SGA and SLC finally find common ground

D. ELLIOTT TAIT WITH CHRIS STANLEY
EDITOR IN CHIEF AND BUSINESS EDITOR

For nearly an entire semester Student Government officials and members of the Student Life Council (SLC) have worked toward reaching a consensus on the balance between Student Government autonomy and SLC/faculty's power to approve or veto amendments made to the SGA Constitution.

This past Monday, December 6, that consensus was found when an official proposal outlining the procedure the SGA is to follow when amending its constitution was authored and unanimously passed by the SLC.

The proposal now awaits faculty approval before becoming official.

Discussion regarding the SGA's amendment procedure began early in the semester when Wayne Macbeth, Vice President for Student Life, approached Marisa Roach, SGA President, with his interpretation of the SLC's responsibilities.

To clarify, the disputed statement is listed under the "functions" heading of the Student Life Council and is written in the College Constitution as follows: "[to] consider and recommend policy for co-curricular student activities and organizations." This year's Committee Handbook adds to this, stating that SLC responsibilities include "inter-collegiate athletics, intramural athletics, public programs (film, drama, lecture series, artist series, popular concerts), publications, and student organizations to the faculty."

Macbeth argued that historical precedence, as he understood it, gave him reason to include the SGA as an organization whose "policy" – amendments to the SGA Constitution – would fall under the SLC's power to "consider and recommend." In searching for examples in SLC minutes of an occasion when the council considered and approved of SGA constitutional changes, however, Macbeth found the latest example to be from 1993.

The SGA Senate and Cabinet,

represented by Roach, disagreed with Macbeth's interpretation of the SLC's responsibilities, arguing, first, that the SLC had no grounds upon which to distrust the SGA – and ultimately the student body – and their ability to practice autonomy. Second, Roach argued that the SGA is a unique organization in that the SGA is the student government and hence, has a different purpose and a different function than other organizations on campus. Finally, Roach argued that within the last 10 years the SLC has not interpreted its responsibilities as Macbeth has.

In 1995 the SGA performed a "Major Document Revision" to their Constitution involving the rewording and clarifying of portions of the document. Also, in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2004 SGA Constitutional Amendments were passed. In the months these changes were documented to have been officially approved, however, there is no mention of SLC approval in either the SLC's or SGA's minutes.

After a discussion amongst the SLC – comprised of 3 students, 6 faculty/staff members, and Macbeth – the council decided to seek the will of the faculty. On November 17 Macbeth presented his case and asked of the faculty if they wanted the ultimate power to approve/veto all SGA Constitutional changes. If so, it would then be the responsibility of the SLC to consider all new amendments and vote on their approval before the faculty gave them the final nod.

Roach was permitted to sit and represent the SGA's side in the matter during the presentation and discussion. Her main argument against the procedure in question, an argument that was affirmed by past and present faculty advisors to the SGA at the meeting, was that the time it would take to pass an amendment according to the proposed procedure was unrealistic for a single school year.

Constitutional changes are generally brought to the SGA Senate from the SGA Constitutional Council by early March

and voted on by the Senate in the third week of March. The changes must then be advertised to the student body for a week before student voting can take place. According to the proposed procedure, if the amendment was approved by the student body, it would then need to be approved by SLC, which only has to meet once a month. Following SLC ratification, the faculty, who meet every two weeks, must then give their final stamp of approval. If the SLC or faculty, however, wishes to change anything about the amendment, such as the wording of a single clause, the recommendation is sent to the SGA who then begin the process all over again.

After much debate by the faculty, Dean Oakerson stated that it would be the responsibility of the SLC to present an actual clarifying policy to present to the faculty before any specific action was taken.

The policy, approved on Tuesday, states: "The SGA has the freedom to be a self-governing entity, with the understanding that they operate under the following guidelines:

- The SGA shall not bring any constitutional issues to a vote without first consulting a representative from the Office of Student Life. This is not intended as a policing action, but rather to ensure that language, policies, etc. are congruent with existing college policies. Once all such assurances have been made, the SGA may move forward with their proposed action items.

- The SGA President shall present regular (monthly/quarterly) reports to the SLC for the purposes of sharing information. In the rare instance that an SGA policy is not in keeping with college policy, the SLC retains veto power.

- The Vice President of Student Life or his/her designee shall present a report of SGA activities to the faculty once per semester for the purpose of sharing information."

As of yet it is unknown when the policy is to be presented to the faculty.

Winter Weekend and SPOT chairs selected

ARIEL MATTHEWS
STAFF WRITER

The chairs for next semester's Winter Weekend and SPOT have been chosen, and preparations for those activities are underway. The Winter Weekend chairs, Kendra Ormerod and Nickole Crandell, and the team in charge of SPOT, Adam Kline, Elliott Tait, Larry Petry, and Peter Pasieka, are all hoping to put together a fun, quality weekend of enjoyment.

During Winter Weekend, there will be a movie shown on Friday night, February 11th, in Wesley Chapel, a campus wide snow sculpture contest on the quad, a CAB coffeehouse featuring Mike Zale on Thursday night, February 10th, the Winter Weekend banquet, on Saturday the 12th of February, and SPOT to follow the banquet. Ormerod and Crandell report that the theme of next semester's Winter Weekend banquet will be "Midwinter Masquerade", where formal dress or dresses in costume are equally encouraged. The chairs are also considering adding a costume competition,

live music, and readings to the activities held during the banquet. They hope to make next semester's Winter Weekend "an interactive, exciting diversion to the normally bleak midwinters at Houghton."

Kline, Tait, Petry, and Pasieka want to make SPOT an entertaining, hilarious night for the student body to attend and enjoy. The four are planning on a special manner of hosting SPOT- by presenting a skit, video, song, or other piece featuring themselves in between each act.

If interested in performing during SPOT, students need only to put together their act, music performance, or video, and go to one of the audition times, that will be held during the month of January. Musicians should bring a recording of the piece they wish to perform, those who wish to produce a video should contact one of the team members to find out if they wish to see a script at the audition or a finished video.

According to Adam Kline, "We [the team] want to encourage all bands, comedy music performances, skits of all kinds, and anything unique and original to come

and audition." After the audition days are over, the team selects the best and most entertaining acts to be included in SPOT, that are also within college guidelines for appropriateness. Dress rehearsals and work with technicians will help to assemble all of the acts together into one quality show, "a non-stop entertainment ride with a quality and diverse line up," as Kline hopes it will become.

Those working to make Winter Weekend a success always need volunteers to help out, anyone interested in helping with the banquet, SPOT, or other activities should contact either Kendra Ormerod or Nickole Crandell for more information.

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"WHO'S WHO" CONTINUED

Dr. Richard Eckley has been at Houghton since 1990. As Assistant Professor of Theology, he is teaching Wesleyan Tradition and Intro to Christianity this semester. He received his bachelor's degree from United Wesleyan College and his master's of divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary. He also completed a master's of theology from Princeton Theological Seminary and a doctorate from Duquesne University.

Paul Watson has been on Houghton's faculty since 2000, and is himself a Houghton graduate, receiving his master's degree from Syracuse University. For Watson "The verse that most influences my teaching is Ecc. 11:4 'Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap'... In the same way, I can't wait for the perfect student or the perfect situation before I decide to invest myself in teaching others...my students deserve that."

Watson also hinted that being included in Who's Who may influence his teaching style "Maybe I will be handing out more candy in my classes."

Brenneman, who joined Houghton's faculty in 1982, received his bachelor's degree from Taylor University and his master's from Wesleyan University. Eckley joined Houghton's faculty in 1990 and received his bachelor's from United Wesleyan College, his master's of divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary, his master's of theology from Princeton Theological Seminary, and his doctorate from Duquesne University. Kingdon, who joined Houghton's faculty in 1967, received his bachelor's from Houghton College, his master's of divinity and master's of theology from Asbury Theological Seminary, and his doctorate from Bethel Seminary. Swanson joined Houghton's faculty in 1994. He received his bachelor's, master's and doctorate from Illinois State University. Watson, who joined Houghton's faculty in 2000, received his bachelor's from Houghton College and his master's from Syracuse University.

Design-a-Highlander Contest INFORMATION

Purpose

The purpose of this contest is to let students, faculty, staff or community members design the look of the Houghton mascot. Houghton wants a new icon and symbol for the Highlander, and your input is desired!

Rules

1. All Houghton students, staff, faculty and community members may enter the contest.
2. The design must be a new icon that represents a Highlander. Think beyond the man in plaid.
3. You can incorporate the words "Houghton," "Highlanders," "HC," "Houghton College," or other spirited language.
4. Designs can be hand-drawn or computer generated.
5. Designs can be color or black and white.
6. Designs should be images that speak to the entire student body, not just one particular group of students.
7. You may provide a paragraph that describes the image and explains why you chose to have your design a certain way. It can rationalize your choice of colors, placement of words, or emphasized parts of the design.
8. Students must submit their design with their CPO. Faculty, staff and community members may use their name.
9. Designs are due in the SGA Office no later than January 30th.
10. A selection committee of staff, faculty and students will choose the finalists.
11. The top three designs by students will win \$300 each!
12. The designs will be submitted to a professional design firm that specializes in visual identity imaging. They will use the input of the top three designs.

Questions

If you have any questions, feel free to stop by the SGA office.

New education club "Teachers of Today and Tomorrow" begins

Virginia Whealton
Staff Writer

This fall has seen the introduction of a new club to the Houghton College campus: "Teachers of Today and Tomorrow" (TOTT), an organization focused on education. TOTT's stated purpose reads: "As scholar-servants, we aim to share God's love by building a support system within the local education community to inform current and future education students of the rewards and challenges of the teaching profession. We hope to serve the community by building relationships with local schools, teachers, and students."

Before this school year, Houghton College had clubs specifically oriented towards music and physical education. Surprisingly, however, there was no club geared towards supporting other education majors, as junior childhood education Rebecca Sharpe, now one of TOTT's officials, noticed when she transferred into Houghton College. Building upon planning

that took place last year, TOTT formally started this fall, with more than thirty in attendance at its first meeting. Officials Alisa Cullum, Lindsey Kestler, Nadine Mitchell, Chris Pierce, Rebecca Sharpe, and Angela Traux have provided leadership; Cathy Freytag, Associate Professor of Education, serves as faculty advisor.

TOTT also hopes to provide an eye-opening experience for potential education majors as to what pursuing the teaching profession might entail.

Although TOTT is still in its first months of existence, club officials already have some specific ideas for the upcoming school year and beyond. Flowing out

of its goal to "serve the community by building relationships with local schools, teachers, and students," TOTT will be hosting a book drive at Houghton College in the near future. Around Valentine's day, the books collected—a gift of love from Houghton College students and TOTT in particular—will be given to a new teacher to aid the development of his or her library. Other possibilities in the near future include collaboration between TOTT and local school districts to conduct mock teacher interviews, which Sharpe notes is "a huge thing for ed majors." Also, TOTT is considering hosting a "character education assembly," which focuses on educating children in morals and desirable characteristics—kindness, love, and friendship—through creating and presenting skits to a school assembly.

In its leadership and goals, TOTT has striven to maintain the interests of both childhood and adolescent education majors. The leadership of the club is equally split between the two majors, and adolescent

education major and club official Nadine Mitchell believes that TOTT is "very applicable for both." The club, however, is not just for current education majors. TOTT also hopes to provide an eye-opening experience for potential education majors as to what pursuing the teaching profession might entail. Furthermore, the club is touching those beyond the immediate Houghton community, as official Angela Traux notes, citing the example of a former intercultural studies major who is involved with TOTT as she completes her masters in education.

While TOTT's ideas for interactions with the larger education community via mock teacher interviews and character assemblies remain in their planning stages, TOTT already has a promising start. As the TOTT book drive takes place later this year, the entire Houghton community can look forward to partnering with one of its newest organization as it starts working in Houghton and beyond.

For more see: <http://www.ihf.com/articles/2004/12/03/business/ibm.html>

News in Brief

Matt Kuniholm
Staff Writer

Ukraine's court demands election runoff. Ukraine's Supreme Court overturned the results of the country's disputed Nov. 21 Presidential runoff election and ordered a new vote to be held by Dec. 26, in a ruling released last Friday. The court cited misconduct by the central election commission which the court says made it "impossible to declare who won." Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich claimed to be new president, claiming to have defeated his challenger Yushchenko. Yanukovich has been backed by current President Leonid Kuchma while his challenger has the support of Russian President Vladimir Putin, a fact that has provoked protest in Ukraine. Ukraine emerged only 13 years ago after the collapse of the Soviet Union, having no history of democratic rule. Ukrainians celebrated the courts decision, calling it a triumph of democracy and freedom. "We have found a democratic way out of this situation" a Ukrainian member of Parliament said. Analyst note that the Supreme Court 'displayed maturity' by establishing the primacy of constitutionally law over political disagreements.

For more see: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/12/04/international/Europe/04ukraine.html?hp&ex=1102222800&en=842ea15af4d58693&ei=5094&partner=homepage>

Philippines battered by typhoon, compounded by deforestation.

A typhoon devastated the eastern Philippines last week, compounding rescue efforts to help survivors of landslides and flash floods caused by a previous storm. Several weeks of storms had resulted in the death of 500 people, predominantly in the towns of Real, Infanta, and General Nakar. Mass evacuations were reported in an effort to escape the most recent typhoon, the fourth storm to hit the country in two weeks. The United States has donated \$100,000 to the Philippine National Red cross, which, along with government and non-governmental organizations, will seek to provide aid for those affected by the storm and limit the spread of disease due to unsanitary conditions. Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has blamed illegal logging for the landslides and flash floods, the cause of the deaths, and has ordered a 'crackdown' on illegal logging, assigning a former intelligence chief of the military to lead the campaign. Mrs. Arroyo has said illegal loggers will be punished like "terrorists and kidnappers," the BBC reported, since they are responsible for the death of innocent people. Both legal and illegal logging has resulted in widespread deforestation in the country, leaving only 13% of the country's forests intact. However, typhoons occur in the Philippines each year, with similar results, but as Philippine Vice President Noli de Castro said, "we have been criticizing illegal logging for so long. We should not have waited for a tragedy like this."

For more see: <http://www.ihf.com/articles/2004/12/02/news/storm.html>

Changes in Bush's second term cabinet. Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson announced his resignation last week, becoming the eighth member of the Presidents 15 member cabinet to resign since the election. Thompson cited personal and family reasons for his resignation. Among others, the head of homeland security has also stepped down. The Bush administration has been quick to name replacements and has already chosen former NYPD commissioner Bernard Kerik to take Ridge's position. Similarly, Nebraska Gov. Mike Johanns will be the new Department of Agriculture head, and Kellogg Company executive Carlos Gutierrez will be head of the Commerce Department. Changes are also expected in several other positions outside the cabinet. John Danforth, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, sent a letter of resignation to the President last week, saying he wants to spend more time with his wife. Despite calls for his resignation the White House has indicated that Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld will remain at his post.

For more see: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/12/03/politics/main659055.shtml>

U.S. to increase troops in Iraq. The Pentagon announced last week that the American military presence in Iraq will grow by nearly 12,000 troops by next in order to provide increased security for the upcoming Iraqi elections in January. The military has ordered 10,400 soldiers and marines currently in Iraq to extend their tours for up to two months, and will send 1,500 paratroopers for a four month tour. Senior officers have said that they need a more sizeable force to stabilize and reconstruct the city of Falluja, while at the same time do not want to lose momentum in pressing insurgents in other parts of the country. Currently there are some 150,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, the highest level since the invasion last year.

For more see: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/12/02/politics/02military.html?pagewanted=2>

IBM reportedly planning to sell PC business. IBM has put its PC business up for sale according to people close to the negotiations, and is reportedly in talks with China's largest maker of personal computers, Lenovo. The sale would include the entire range of desktop, laptop, and notebook computers made by IBM, representing 12% of IBM's annual \$92 billion in revenue. Samuel Palmisano, who became IBM's chief executive in 2002 has already sold the company's hard disk drive business due to low profit returns and slender growth prospects. IBM has recently expanded to include more service oriented operations for corporate customers such as consulting. As part of Palmisano's strategy IBM recently bought PricewaterhouseCoopers consulting for \$3.5 billion. A spokesman for IBM said last week that "IBM has a policy of not confirming or denying rumors" and has therefore not commented on the situation.

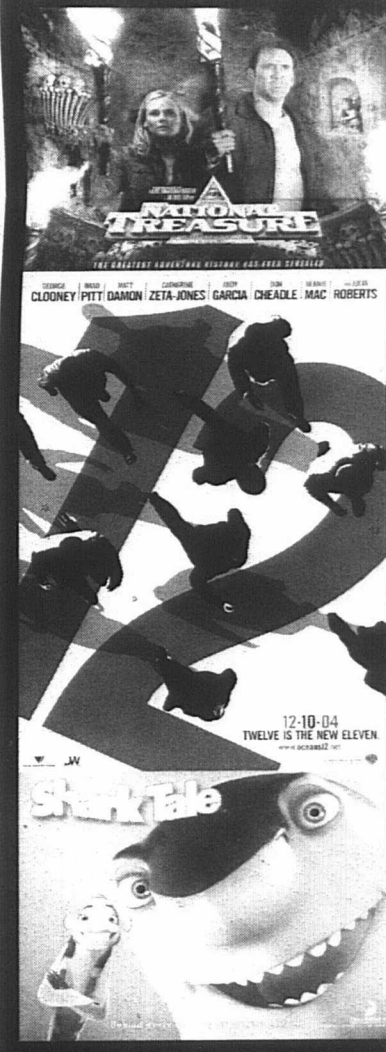
Bono plans lifelong fight against poverty. Bono, leader of the band U2 which recently released its newest album "How to dismantle an atom bomb," has pledged to spend his life fighting poverty. In interviews last week he said he wants the current generation to be "remembered for something other than the internet." He thinks this generation can and should be "the first generation to eradicate extreme poverty," and says he will spend the rest of his life doing just that. Bono, who has had close relationships with some of the worlds most important politicians, including Clinton and President Bush, has been a high profile campaigner for the worlds poor since the hugely successful Live Aid concert in 1985.

For more see: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/entertainment/4068573.stm>

NEED A JOB
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MOVIES

with Adam & Pete

Alexander

Adam Kline
Grade: B+

I must begin this review by admitting that I probably liked this movie more than I should have, but I could not stop myself from enjoying a historical epic with a story that could actually be followed. *Alexander* is the new film by the controversial director Oliver Stone. Stone is admired for always taking on projects that will, by default, be disliked by some. *Alexander* tells the story of Alexander the Great, played by Colin Farrell, the Macedonian King who by the age of twenty-five conquered almost the entire known world, and discovered some of the unknown world. From his birth as a prince to his death as a king, we are told the tale of Alexander's life, although most of the story takes place during the eight years of his worldly conquest and the struggles and relationships that he encountered during that time.

Most historical epics have incredible battle sequences with stories that revolve around them. In *Alexander*, however, you have an incredible story that is the center for remarkable battle scenes. It is a rare occurrence to watch a film where you feel you have, to some degree, really experienced history. Though this film is long, three hours in length, and you feel the length sitting there, you never really lose interest in the remarkable tale of Alexander the Great. When you watch *Alexander*, you not only understand the man behind the myth, but you also understand the empire. Most directors when they attempt to tell history through film will either tell their story by focusing on the ruler or by focusing on the pure historical facts of the

empire. Rarely is there a balance of both as in *Alexander*. Oliver Stone really wants to present the psychology of Alexander the Great, and through many monologues, we are presented with what quite possibly were the reasons for his conquests.

**Yes, we all agree
Alexander was a man with great pressure and burden upon his shoulders, but I still could have done with a little less crying; such a great man would not have cried as much**

Oliver Stone does what all directors should do - take some liberty with the historical facts in order to tell a good story, but not too much liberty and not too little. In addition to his storytelling, Stone enters the historical epic genre without losing his symbolic and artistic edge. With wonderful use of color and sound, Stone tells history in a way most directors are too scared to do, with imagination and ferociousness.

One of the things I was most appreciative for in *Alexander* was the properly filmed and documented battle scenes. For the first time, to my knowledge, we have epic battle scenes with hundreds of thousands of soldiers where we actually understand what is going on. It is not just the clash of swords and body parts with the good guys emerging victors; with this film, intelligence is added to the battle scenes. The military tact is clearly explained and executed. Not only are the battle scenes

experience for the eyes;

they are also food for the mind.

Nonetheless, despite the praises I have for this film, it is far from perfect. Though I appreciated the psychological study of Alexander, I believe Stone went too far when he made Alexander a military genius who cries incessantly. Yes, we all agree Alexander was a man with great pressure and burden upon his shoulders, but I still could have done with a little less crying; such a great man would not have cried as much. As well, in a film with such potential and so many things to be admired, the cast was nothing special. The whole cast did an appropriate job, but other actors and actresses could have done as good of a job or quite possibly better. Val Kilmer, who plays Philip, Alexander's father, is the only actor that would deserve any extra credit.

It is to be expected that most people will compare this film to *Troy* which came out earlier this year, which I gave a "C+" to. My disappointment with *Troy* was that it included too much romance in such a barbaric tale; in *Alexander* you are told a story of barbaric lust, love, violence, and vision. Alexander was a man who loved the people he trusted and had a hope of seeing the whole world.

I call *Alexander* a good movie because it has both great and disappointing aspects. But for this movie critic, the great aspects are far too enjoyable to not recommend you go out and see this movie.

Pete Pasioka
Grade: D+

As Adam stated in his article, Oliver Stone is a controversial director who makes movies that some people will dislike. I am one of the people that disliked the movie *Alexander*. If this article sounds more like a rebuttal than a review, I apologize. Like a lot of movies, Adam and I take completely opposite views on this film. Adam feels that *Alexander* is a good film that is very clear and enjoyable. I believe that *Alexander* is a confusing movie with a focus that is pointless and characters that no one can understand.

First, allow me to address the structure of the film. The story is told in a narration flashback form. Anthony Hopkins plays one of Alexander's elderly soldiers. He is reciting the conquests of Alexander to a scribe, and the story follows the recitation by this elderly soldier. Usually, I would like this creative way of unfolding the plot, but this form just adds to the confusion of the

film. I rarely knew what went on in this film. Just as you may think you know what is happening in the film, the movie hits you with a random flashback which tosses you right back into the deep end of the confusion pool.

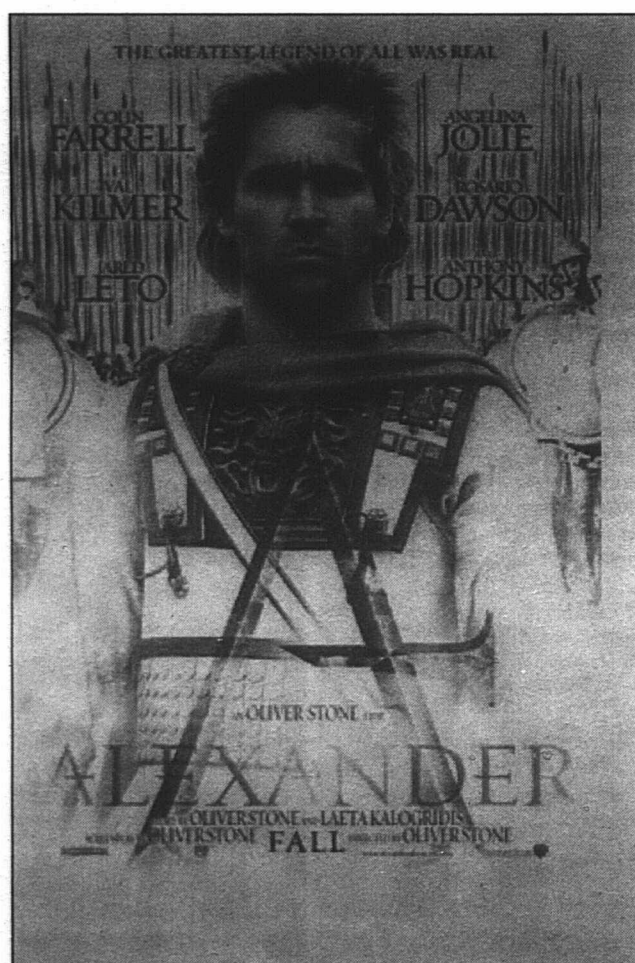
When you hear the name "Alexander the Great," the first thing that comes to mind for most people is his great military conquests. In this film, Oliver Stone chooses to constantly focus on Alexander's immoral and disturbing personal life rather than on what people care about - his conquest of most of the known world. This is a rare point where Adam and I seem to agree.

This film had two relatively brief battle scenes, but that was all. Adam raved that unlike other films, in this movie you actually know what is going on during battles. In *Alexander* the audience knows what the main character is doing in the battle, but for the thousands of other troops, we are clueless. The film tells us what Alexander is planning to do, and he does it, leaving his men stranded, and the audience perplexed.

I realize that so far I have completely torn this movie apart, and I will continue in a short while, but there is a reason that I give this film a "D+" rather than an "F". Two actors really surprised me in this film by giving fantastic performances. Colin Farrell and Angelina Jolie were great as Alexander and Alexander's mother, respectively. One of the final scenes where these two carry on a long discussion is one of the better parts of the film. The way this film strived to be as realistic as possible in regards to history is another factor that provoked me to give this film a "D+" rather than an "F".

For me what makes a great film is a great main character. The biggest problem with *Alexander* is that we never know who this guy was. One minute his life is devoted to his father, but in the next he could care less about him. In one scene, his army hates him and is on the brink of mutiny, and in the next, everyone loves him, and he is the biggest hero ever. The audience never knows where the film is going with the main character. Should we like him or hate him? The result from the ambiguous personality of the character is that we simply do not care about him.

In short, this film was a long, confusing mess. After the second hour of this dreadful film, I was hoping that Alexander would be killed. His death would mean I could stop watching the worst movie I have seen in the theatre in a long time. I recommend that you do not see this movie, because when I left the theatre, I felt like that film had stolen three hours of my life that I will never ever get back.



Online resource

The Grading System
A+ = Perfect, no complaints
A/A- = Great movie, worth owning
B +/- = Good movie, worth seeing
C +/- = Disappointing, maybe on video
D +/- = Bad movie, not worth the money
F = One of the worst movies of all time

Coming Soon...

In Theatres Friday, December 3rd
- Closer starring Julia Roberts and Jude Law
- Blade: Trinity (Opens Wednesday, December 8th)

On DVD Tuesday, December 7th
- The Bourne Supremacy starring Matt Damon
- DodgeBall: A True Underdog Story

CD Review: U2 Explodes on the Scene

Mike Mordenga
Staff Writer

Before I was handed this album, I knew very little about U2. Their new album, *How To Dismantle An Atomic Bomb* (HTDAAB), is my first experience with U2 (besides hearing "Beautiful Day" about 1000 times). HTDAAB's title has personal meaning for the band as it represents the relationship lead singer Bono had with his dad.

I have to say that U2's rock style, voice and tempo are unique. They are so unique that I can understand why Hillsongs would emulate it for all their albums. Seriously, contemporary worship sounds a lot like the beginning of a U2 song. HTDAAB is a fresh return to its original sound found in albums like *The Joshua Tree*, deviating from the more experimental 1997 album *Pop*.

**Seriously,
contemporary worship
sounds a lot like the
beginning of a U2 song**

The songs range from action packed and quirky to heart-felt and slow. What I liked about this album is that the heart-felt songs were creative and catchy. Songs like *Sometimes You Can't Make It On Your Own*, *Yahweh* and *City Of Blinding Lights* have spiritual overtones that could even be mistaken for evangelistic. I think U2 are in a perfect position to give their secular audiences a taste of spirituality with talent to back it up. Overall, HTDAAB is a good album. If you are a U2 fan, then I suggest you get it. If you're not a U2 fan then I suggest you still check this album out because it might be worth your time.

contains something similar to blues/jazz lyrics – simply stated yet creative poetry that sticks in your head for a long time. Their fast paced rock



influenced songs were worth the price of the CD as well. *Vertigo*, *Love And Peace Or Else*, and *Crumbs From Your Table* represent some of the album's witty guitar scores and good pacing. My favorite song, hands down, is *Miracle Drug*. You can have your *Beautiful Day*; *Miracle Drug* contains the most fluid exchange of words and music on the album. Some of the choruses were a bit lame in comparison to their verses, like on the song *All Because of You*.

U2's Christian content has sometimes seemed to be in shadow in some of their recent albums, but now it is highly devoted to the religious experience. Songs like *Miracle Drug*, *Sometimes You Can't Make It On Your Own*, *Yahweh* and *City Of Blinding Lights* have spiritual overtones that could even be mistaken for evangelistic. I think U2 are in a perfect position to give their secular audiences a taste of spirituality with talent to back it up. Overall, HTDAAB is a good album. If you are a U2 fan, then I suggest you get it. If you're not a U2 fan then I suggest you still check this album out because it might be worth your time.

Top ten spring courses next semester

Mike Mordenga
Staff Writer

10. Enjoying Leviticus 403
9. Pastor wives of the Bible 236
8. Non-Wesley theological views (a 1 credit course) 110
7. Special Topics: Psychology of geeks 360
6. The ancient history of G.R.A.C.E. 450
5. foundations of Youth Ministry and early retirement 256
4. Video game Lab (your textbook is an Xbox) 312
3. Special Topics: Ring By Spring statistics 300
2. Accelerated history of the theology of the foundations of educational calculus 1,000
1. Chapel Attendance Ethics (seniors only) 777

Making a List, Checking it Twice

Elaine Tooley
Staff Writer

It's the holidays, and everyone is making a list. We are making our lists of work to do before the end of the semester. We're jotting down our list of presents we want our parents to buy us. And of course, that naughty or nice list that means that either a sackful of presents or a stocking of coal is on its way. Not wanting to feel out of the loop, I too, have come up with a list. It's a list of items the SGA is dealing with at the moment! I'll even number them to keep them straight.

1. DESIGN-A-HIGHLANDER CONTEST

Throughout the semester, the question of the Houghton mascot has gotten quite a lot of press. The Houghton Higher Ground Subcommittee (H2G) has listened to the students. They understand that we want to keep the Highlander. So, they have asked something of us.

The Design-A-Highlander contest is being held to find a new look for the mascot. Students, faculty, staff and community members are invited to design a Highlander and submit it to a selection committee by January 30th. The committee will then decide the top three designs. Those three designs will be submitted to a professional design firm where they will take aspects of the designs to come up with a new Highlander.

The top three student designs will receive \$300 each, but anyone in the Houghton community is invited to participate. Think beyond the man in plaid, and be creative.

2. BLOOD DRIVE

The second blood drive of the year was on Thursday, and proved to be a resounding success. Eighty five people registered to give blood, and everyone who donated gave a full pint. The Red Cross set our school goal at 66 pints, but our school goal was 85 pints. We donated 83 pints in total. In October, we gave 78 pints.

A new option at the blood drive this year was the Double Red Cell Donation. This means giving twice the amount of blood – two pints of blood from each donor. Five Houghtonites did that.

Thanks to all who took the time to donate or volunteer at the blood drive. You do make a difference. The next blood drive will be January 27th. Look for sign-ups during meals the week before the drive.

3. SLC POLICY

This semester, the students and administration have been in ongoing discussion about what the SGA does, how they do it, and if that is the correct way to do things. One major concern was how the SGA constitution was amended and reviewed. We currently have a three-step process: 1) Constitution Council, 2) Senate, and 3) Student Body.

The staff and administration asked if this process was good enough as it stood, or if

it needed changing. In the current system, there are no real no checks or balances for the faculty, staff or administration to determine whether or not a proposed amendment is in line with the college constitution.

After students and administration had gone back and forth on the issue quite a bit, the Student Life Council proposed a process that will increase communication and accountability between the students, faculty and administration. The SGA Cabinet and Senate have reviewed it, and it will go back to Student Life Council next week.

The proposed policy includes having the SGA discuss any suggested constitutional amendments with a Student Life representative to make sure that students are not violating college policy. The policy also gives the SGA the opportunity to present what is happening with the Student Life Council regularly. Lastly, a report about SGA activities will be given once a semester to the faculty.

4. APATHY

One of the main problems that Houghton has had to deal with is student apathy. It's no surprise to any of us. In fact, as the SGA Cabinet ran for their positions last year, they talked of trying to solve student apathy. That attitude, while commendable, is frankly quite naive.

I cannot make you be involved in this institution anymore than I can make snow fly in the winter. I could give you compelling reasons why you should want to care, but I can't make you care. I can give you information so that you know what is going on, but I can't make you read this column. I can ask you to serve on a committee, but I can't make you participate in the meetings. I can ask you to serve on the Senate, but I can't make you care about what you are discussing.

Frankly, the only change that can be made is among you – individually. The Cabinet has been fighting for student causes all semester, but it is worthless if the students don't grab ownership of their college experience and do something. I suppose it comes with maturity. Soon, you'll be out in the world – you'll have to grow up and take responsibility. If you are expecting others to make your time at Houghton meaningful, then you are looking in the wrong place.

It's kind of like voting, if you don't vote – don't complain about who is in office. Here at Houghton, if you don't get involved and make your time here worthwhile, don't blame it on someone else.

What I really want to say to you all is, take initiative. Get involved, and stop making others wait on you. Stop thinking about yourself, and serve your fellow students. Don't blame others for your apathy. Do something about it.

So here's some of what SGA has been doing. This list, of course, is not complete, but it is a start. If you need anything from the SGA, let us know. We are here to serve.



Rees receives prestigious selection as Army Chaplain

Heidi Sprunger
Staff Writer

Just this November, Houghton College Senior Lucas Rees was one of 8 cadets selected by the military out of 4500 candidates to be an Army Chaplain.

The process for Rees, up to this point, has not been simple; however, he is confident of God's calling. Rees says, "Things have fallen into place in ways they don't normally do." To be eligible as army chaplain, there were a number of qualifications Rees had to meet. First of all, he had to do well on his Order Merit List. The Order Merit List involves a personal file of evaluations for each cadet in the ROTC program. These evaluations range from physical training, to combat skills, to GPA. Also included in the file is a questionnaire that Rees had to fill out as to what branch in the military he wanted to work. His file, along with 4500 others, was sent to a board for review and comparison. If a cadet did not do well on the Order Merit List, the military could place him wherever officers were needed. In contrast, if a cadet did well, he had a greater chance of being placed where he requested.

Second of all, Rees is required to earn a Masters of Divinity to be an army chaplain, so he needed to apply for an Educational Delay from the military, meaning that the army would let him take four more years to complete his education before serving his time.

Rees applied to grad school last year and was accepted to Asbury Theological Seminary over the summer. However, he did not find out if the army was giving him the educational delay to go to grad school until a month ago during a Wednesday night ROTC class. The cadets had waited in anticipation, because it was the night they would find out what their careers would be. Rees ended up being the only one to find out his placement that night. He says that

everything just came together for him while he has been at Houghton, from success in physical training, to good grades, to a ROTC scholarship within three months of his arrival.

In light of all the success Rees has had, he has seen the work of God throughout the whole process: "This is God's choice for me, not my choice for God...The knowledge that when the time comes I will be prepared, and God will be holding me up, is really encouraging...but the greatest thing is just the knowledge that this is the way that I can serve God using the abilities that he has blessed me with."

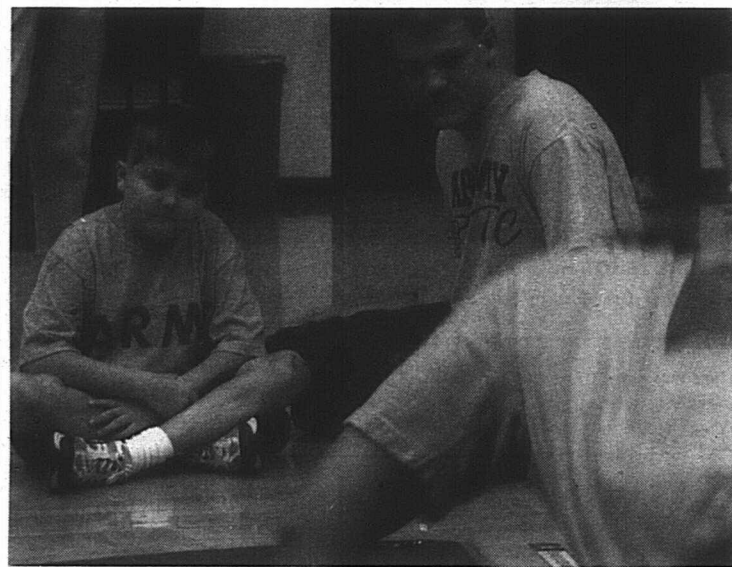
"[B]ut the greatest thing is just the knowledge that this is the way that I can serve God using the abilities that he has blessed me with."
-Lucas Rees

Rees's main responsibilities as an army chaplain will be career and event counseling. He says, "It is a little bit different than just a pastor position, because to be able to connect with the men and women that you are ministering to, you have to have a common experience with them." This "common experience" includes every activity from jumping out of airplanes to riding in the tanks. Why? He explained that situations will come up where people need counseling, and the chaplain must already have a basis and understanding with the soldiers where he can connect quickly.

Furthermore, Rees is looking forward to the military atmosphere in which he will be working in as chaplain. "I have never seen any organization in the entire world where a servant's heart is required as to the extent as it is in the military," he says. "Being a chaplain in the Army is very unique in that everybody you're ministering to already has their first priority to serve, so to be a servant to those who serve is really incredible."

ROTC Cadets Raise Money for Tyler

This past Wenesday, December 1st, Houghton ROTC cadets participated in a fundraiser for the family of Tyler Bihler. Tyler, a third grader from Olean, NY has been diagnosed with inoperable brain cancer, and has been receiving treatments in Baltimore Maryland. His parents have quit work to spend more time with him as it is suspected the cancer is terminal. Cadets took sponsors to complete as many pushups as possible in five minutes, and raised nearly five thousand dollars for the Bihler family. Tyler counted pushups as cadets completed as many as 260 individually. Cadet Steve Jennings, who completed nearly 200 pushups stated "this is what the Army is all about: helping other people. This is why I'm a soldier, and I feel that we're doing something here that is truly making a difference in this family's lives. Airborne, whoah." Pledges are being collected this week, and the Bihler family will be presented with a check from Seneca Battalion ROTC on Monday December 13th.



Faculty Profile – Dr. Woolsey

1. What is your position at Houghton, and how long have you been teaching here?

I am a professor in the English department. This is my sixth year at Houghton.

2. What do you most enjoy about the Houghton community?

I don't live in Houghton, but enjoy working here. Best: opportunities to talk with all sorts of bright, interesting people with wide-ranging interests and to work with people who share a Christian faith commitment and deep concern for students.

3. Who is your favorite author and why?

I've got dozens of favorite favorite writers. Among poets, one of my current favorites is Czeslaw Milosz, whose *Facing the River*, translated by Milosz and Robert Hass, explores Milosz's experience of the darker side of twentieth century history and his return to his native Lithuania after a fifty year absence. My all-ptime favorite novelist is probably George Eliot (especially *Middlemarch*), but I am also really fascinated by the work of A.S. Byatt (*Possession*), and Hilary Mantel (*Fludd* & *A Change of Climate*). My all-time favorite playwright is Shakespeare.

4. What are your hobbies?

Cooking, hiking, gardening.

5. Who did you vote for in the election?

John Kerry and John Edwards. Pat McGee. And others.

6. Name one classic film and one contemporary film that

you are passionate about.

Classic: *Les Enfants du Paradis* (*Children of Paradise*). Contemporary: I can't think of any I am passionate about, but I have liked "The Sixth Sense" "Memento" and all three "Lord of the Rings" films.

7. What is your favorite season? Why?

Spring, especially in Cornwall and in Southern Appalachia. Snow melts. Great time for wildflowers, hiking, and wind.

8. If you could spend a day with anyone from the 18th century, who would it be?

Mary Wollstonecraft.

9. Favorite ice-cream?

Homemade: Vanilla.
Storebought: Cherry Garcia.

10. Which Scripture passage do you cherish the most?

Micah 6:8. A gift from my Dad, really.

Meditations on "Thanksgiving"

Sarah Kuziomko
Staff Writer

The ironic thing about being thankful is that, the more we have, the more we take for granted. It is always the ones who have the least who are truly thankful for what they do have. As I sat and thought about everything I am thankful for I realized the most important things can be attributed to my family in one way or another. When I look at them, I am truly grateful for what they have taught me, whether they know it or not. So here it is: Top Ten: What I'm grateful for, my family has taught me. You might surprise yourself and come to appreciate your family a little more.

10. Service: Besides worshipping God, as Christians, we are called to be of service to others. When I was little I can remember my parents dragging me to nursing homes to bring cookies or play the piano. I cannot lie, I would rather have been with my friends, and frankly, this made me a little uncomfortable. But what really struck me as I grew older was the way my family unselfishly gave their time, energy and love to others. My mom does not visit the older lady down the street to impress me, but she has no idea how much it does.

9. Humor: If you can think of anyone in your family with a sense of humor, thank God, for it is a gift. Laughing is good for you and just smiling makes you feel better. Fortunately for me, my family can laugh at most anything. We are ridiculously funny. Oh wait, I am supposed to talk about being humble next. What I meant to say was we make each other laugh. I can remember coming home from school one day crying my eyes out because I had spilled milk all over my pants in lunch. Oh, the horror! But before I had even finished telling my story my mom and sister were cracking up, and before long I was too. My family taught me what true happiness is, and that includes being able to laugh at yourself.

8. Humbleness: The Lord calls us to be humble. One day, all we have gained, our possessions, our looks, our titles, will be taken away and all we will be left with is our souls. That-- is a humbling thought. It is not easy; we are trying to be thankful for all God has provided us with and yet be humble at the same time. My parents never set out to directly teach me humility, but instead showed by example. All they have accomplished in life and should be able to brag about, they do not. You cannot will yourself to be humble. It is something achieved through prayer and the giving of oneself wholly to God.

7. Friendship: Growing up being the youngest you learn to deal with a lot. Mainly, getting beat up, getting blamed for everything, and getting tickled until you cry. As I grow older I find my sisters and I becoming more than sisters, and becoming friends also. Through all the fights, talks, more fights, and laughs, I have learned how to deal with other people. That is why God gives us siblings, we need the practice. From them I have learned to talk. I can go to them for advice, support, and even the occasional wedge in front of the hot waiter at The Olive Garden.

6. Perseverance: Oh to only have the gift of perseverance. When I think of my family I see a strength that I rarely see in others. I have watched them deal with the hardest trials life can give and have watched them handle it with grace. What I admire is what they do when a problem arises. They never freak out like I would, but calmly think of what they can do to help the situation. I have never seen a problem too big for my family to handle. I have to admit, I am not at that point yet. There are a lot of problems I over-dramatize and think it is the end of the world. God has a wonderful way of using these trials to strengthen us. Every morning that you wake up, God has another day planned for you. So push forward.

5. Friendship II: Although not blood-related, I consider my closest friends family. I hate clichés but it is true, "to have friends, you have to be a friend". And from them I have learned the true meaning of this word. They are not my siblings, therefore they have no obligation to try to get along with me. That is why a friendship is so special. A true friend will walk around campus dressed up in black, with a skeleton mask, scaring people, at 2 am---just because they know you want to. A true friend slaves over grilled cheese after grilled cheese because you are too afraid to try a family dish called "Fake" /fie-key/. As much as we like to think so, we do not choose our friends, they actually choose us.

4. Compassion: (kem-pa-shen): sympathetic feeling. While this may be part of it, Webster had a little ways to go. To me, compassion is a very profound feeling of sympathy where one would be willing to do anything for even a stranger. My sister, for one, has so much compassion that I have seen her moved to tears by it. My family also has an uncanny compassion for animals. Every stray cat and dog in the state of New York has found its way into our home. My mom and sister one day passed a homeless German shepherd in the street and to quote Dumb and Dumber shouted, "Pick 'em up!" Hundreds of dollars spent and adjustments are made to accommodate the dog. Somehow this did not surprise me; it was the only choice. I can only hope that I can feel the same compassion.

3. Christian Home: I am ashamed to admit to it, but sometimes I take this for granted; then I stop and think about how I am truly fortunate. If I had not been placed in a Christian home and tried to find my salvation through other means would I have been strong enough? I cannot answer that. I would like to think I would have found my way to Him either way, but I do not know. My family has been a constant support system. My mom has read the Bible more times than I can say and read every commentary available. When ever I have doubts or questions I know I can go to her and get some feedback. If you were also placed in a Christian home that is one thing you can thank God for everyday.

2. Thankfulness: Whenever I complain about something in my life that is not going well, my parents always do two things. First they tell me to suck it up. Second they always remind me of what I do have to be thankful, and there is

a lot. Whenever you need to be reminded of gratefulness yourself, read The Hiding Place. This book will change you. At one point in the story two sisters are praying in a Nazi prison when the one sister tells the other to thank God for the fleas they had. "Betsie, there's no way even God can make me grateful for a flea." But she prayed anyway. As the weeks went by in the barracks their cell was the only one that was not being beaten and raped. Why not? The guards did not want to go near people with fleas. Give thanks in all circumstances, not just the pleasant ones.

1. Love: At first glance of my family one would think we are a cross between the Osbournes and My Big Fat Greek Wedding. Dr. Gaerte would label us as "volatile." Pretty much this means we like to get into heated debates, a lot. But our little debates are always filled with humor, and yes love. We also show our love through our actions. Love is a verb after all.

My dad works hard to provide his family with whatever they need, and often want. My mom has nothing of her own because she gives it away to everyone else and my sisters have put up with me for 19 years. Surely that is love!

"And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love." -1 Corinthians 13:13. Do you know why this is so? When we are with God in Heaven, we will have no need of hope or faith, but love will still remain. That is why it is our greatest commandment for life.

The greatest advice I can give on continuing to be thankful is to concentrate on what you do have, instead of what you do not. Then, you will rarely be disappointed. "Count your blessings, count them one by one. Count your many blessings. See what God has done."

GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Readers are encouraged to write responses to any portion of *The Star* in the form of a letter to the Editor. Letters should be no more than 500 words in length and should be sent to david.tait@houghton.edu. All letters are subject to editing or dismissal at the Editor-in-Chief's discretion depending on their content and relevance. Letters should be sent to the Editor by noon on the Sunday before the next issue. Anonymous letters will not be printed.

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Women's Soccer Nation Tournament Houghton Highlanders 0, Lee University Flames 3

Kristen Niemi
Staff Writer

Santa Barbara, California—It was described as the most physical and aggressive game of the season as the Highlanders ranked no. 8 took on the Flames ranked no. 9 in this second round of the NAIA national tournament. Highlander head coach David Lewis commented that "It was a disappointing result . . . because the final score fails to give an accurate picture of how closely contested the game actually was." Lee recorded 6 shots over Houghton's 5, while Houghton led in corner kicks with 7 over Lee's 4.

The first goal was scored in the 39th minute by freshman Janaina Novaes, making it her 32nd goal of the season, as Erlene Thelot sent a cross into the right side and Novaes put the ball in the net from around 10 yards out. The other two goals were scored in what Lewis described as a "one minute glitch" as both goals were scored on "routine balls sent into our box that we typically would easily handle, but we uncharacteristically misplayed the ball on both occasions and Lee took advantage of the mistakes." Defender Amanda Harkings scored in the 77th minute with an assist from Nadine McCorry, and in the 78th minute Thelot brought the score to a final 3-0 with an unassisted goal.

Jessica Stack commented that "It was a tough loss because we had high hopes for nationals and I wish we had a chance to go back out and redeem ourselves. Every other time we get that chance, but this time it's the last game and we don't get to show that we really did deserve to play in that tournament and we deserved a win. The team played with a lot of heart. . . ."

This was Houghton's sixth national championship appearance as they received a well-earned automatic berth after winning the battle for the Region IX Championship. Lee moved on to play against no. 1 Lindsey Wilson and was defeated after a very close game in which they were tied 0-0 and moved on to two scoreless periods of overtime, and Lindsey Wilson came out on top in a shoot-out, 6-5.

Letter to the Editor

Star Editor and Staff,

Houghton College tends to be a rather international place; Intercultural Studies is one of the most popular majors and minors, and there are many international and third-culture students. Additionally, Houghton has an annual international banquet in the spring and coffee house in the fall, events that cause us to consider other cultures.

However, there is something here at Houghton that reminds us of other cultures even more frequently than the things mentioned above; the near death of numerous students each day trying to cross roads at Houghton. In most other cultures, pedestrians cross roads at their own risk. The bigger vehicle gets the right away. Here in America though, generally pedestrians are given a bit more value. If a person is crossing the road, usually cars stop; but Houghton often breaks that cultural norm. Students will be at the edge of the road, ready to cross, and cars will fly by.

Before I continue to expound on the perils of crossing roads on foot in Houghton, I would like to look at another incident and apply the logic back to the current issue. Students are no longer allowed to walk on the road that goes uphill to campus—the road between South and Fancher. The reason for this is that many years ago, a student died along that road, leading to the prohibition of pedestrians walking up that road. I believe that there is a great deal to be learned from this rule.

As Winston Churchill said, "The farther we look back, the farther we can look ahead." Had a law been in place beforehand preventing people from walking up the road (which is evidently dangerous), that death would have, in all likelihood, not have happened. So also with students crossing roads now. Hundreds of students cross the roads daily here at Houghton. This is a college with students going to classes; pedestrian traffic is to be expected.

I believe that drivers traversing the Houghton loop and townhouse/apartment stretch should slow down, look for people crossing the street, and stop if there are people about to cross the road or in the road. What's a few seconds in the face of the termination of a human life?

Many times I have been in the middle of a road and a car will be coming and won't even slow down. While so far their calculations of my speed and theirs have been correct, it is not safe to assume that that will always be the case. By acknowledging the presence of hundreds of students crossing the road and by taking precautions to avoid killing them as they are in the midst of going wherever they are trying to go, I believe that we can maintain a 0% death rate of students crossing roads at Houghton College.

Will it take another death?
Chelsea Kinsman

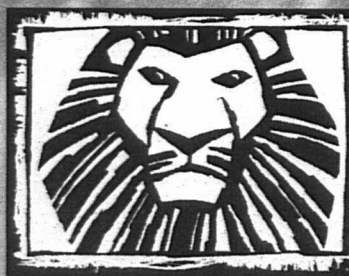
U.G.'s Charter Bus Trip Series

NYC - Washington DC - Shea's in Buffalo - Mystery City



New York City
Saturday, December 4th

Washington D.C.
Saturday, February 26
Students: \$30
Community: \$50



Lion King @ Shea's
Friday, March 4th
Students: \$50 or 2 for \$90
Community \$65
Includes bus and mid-balcony tickets

Mystery City
Saturday, April 16th
Students: \$30
Community: \$50
Includes bus trip and 2 museums



Sign-up at the Student Programs Office
(basement of campus center)
Questions? E-mail: greg.bish@houghton.edu or call 585.567.9222
http://campus.houghton.edu/orgs/student_programs/bustrip/bustrip.htm
Sponsored by: The Student Programs Office and CAB

Quotes around campus:

"The Child Tax Credit. Have a kid, get \$1,000! Best investment I ever made!"
~ Prof. Bradshaw

"Solomon's [the common] painting of Jesus, which is in basically every church, looks like a Swedish tennis player."
~ Dr. Tyson

"Pastors charging a set rate to perform weddings is either a step above or below prostitution, I'm not sure which."
~ Dr. Walters