

THE Houghton STAR

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"Highlanders" No More?

BY ARIEL MATTHEWS
STAFF WRITER

Plaid. Bagpipes. The Shen Block dressed up in kilts. Balloons and ribbons of purple and gold. These images spring to mind when phrases such as "the Houghton spirit" and "the Highlander tradition" are mentioned.

Houghton's current school colors, purple and gold, and the mascot, the Houghton Highlander, are a part of the very essence of Houghton College.

These symbols of our institution, however may soon cease to exist, as changes to, or a complete overhaul of, them are currently being considered.

In the early twentieth century, intercollegiate athletics were frowned upon at Houghton. Wesleyans believed them to be frivolous wastes of time and the uniforms female athletes wore to be too immodest. Houghton also lacked adequate athletic facilities. As a result, there were no intercollegiate athletics until 1967, although the idea to allow them had been contemplated many times before then.

Despite the lack of intercollegiate contests, students still engaged in competitions—among themselves, in the form of the "Purple vs. Gold War." In it, the entire school belonged to either the Purple team or the Gold team, and the two sides faced off against each other in athletic competitions. This contest was a long standing tradition that provided the students with an outlet for their athletic abilities.

In 1967, approval for intercollegiate athletics was granted, and with it came the need for a college mascot and definite school colors. Purple and Gold were natural choices as elements from the Purple vs. Gold period. The exact reason why purple and gold came to be associated with that competition in the first place is uncertain, but according to Shea family lore, Laura Whitney, a member of that family, suggested around 1908 that purple and gold would be good colors for Houghton to be associated with. She came up with these colors after viewing the beauty of the purple asters and the yellow goldenrod flowers in bloom around campus.

As for the choice of mascot, the school gathered suggestions and then came up with five options for the students and alumni to vote on, one of which was "Highlander". According to the *Random House Webster's College Dictionary*, the "Highlands" are an actual mountainous region of Northern Scotland, and a "Highlander" is a native of the region.

Since Houghton is located in hilly, high lands, and "Highlanders" are from Scotland, the mascot of a Scottish male seemed to be a logical, perfect fit, and this name received the majority of votes, approving it to be adopted.

After this mascot was chosen, Mrs. Ruth Luckey, wife of Dr. Robert Luckey, wrote a poem about the legend of the Highlander, naming him Angus (later changed to Macmillan), detailing his long history of existence. This poem created a definite character out of the general idea of a Scottish man.

The main question surrounding the debate over a mascot/color change is why

Crane Report: Houghton losing its edge

ANNE MERRY
STAFF WRITER

"Houghton is the best-kept secret in Western New York." This statement has probably been uttered numerous times by students, faculty, and visitors to Houghton College in reference to the enclosed, bubble-like, somewhat protective and close community that characterizes this rural center of learning. Some may consider this advantageous, yet a clear negative overtone surrounds this comment.

Due to the Advancement/Campaign Department's failure to initiate a conscious effort to present Houghton College distinctively and certainly as an academic institution set apart in its standards and objectives, enrollment has steadily declined in recent years as competition with other Christian colleges has become more aggressive, making it increasingly difficult to attract a large number of prospective students.

The Office of Advancement is thus forming a directive campaign aimed at strengthening the college's identity in an effort to establish it as a place of higher education worthy of an intellectual, discerning student's selection.

One must not misconstrue this to mean that Houghton is not already a school of excellence.

In fact, this past summer the national Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) has awarded Houghton with two prestigious awards: the Circle of Excellence for overall improvement—only one of a few given in 2004—and an award for instituting notable advanced programs that further educational goals, including

appreciation of faculty members who display exemplary behavior both for their peers and in communicating edifying values to students in the classroom setting.

The CASE seeks exemplary educational programs to recognize nationally and proffer seminars, expertise, and initiatives to enhance fundraising, marketing techniques, and other campaigning skills.

"With a budget surplus of \$400,000 in [the] 2003-2004 [school year], the advancement department has the means to" work toward the challenging objective of expanding Houghton's publicity and unifying its identity Eric Alcott, Vice President for Advancement said.

As a result of the drop in annual enrollment the Department of Advancement decided to enlist the aid of the Crane MetaMarketing Corporation, an educational board that specializes in conducting national surveys of Christian colleges with the purpose of discovering the reasons for declining enrollment. If the board determines that a trend is developing in which applicants and matriculated students of an institution are steadily decreasing on a yearly basis, aggressive attempts reverse such a movement would be emplaced.

In Houghton's case, such a pattern was discovered to be developing and now action is being taken to ensure that the pattern does not become a trend.

The undesirable change that has taken place in the past decade is illustrated by Houghton's past position as one of the highest academic institutions in comparison to other leading Christian colleges such as Calvin, Wheaton, Gordon, and Roberts Wesleyan. Houghton stood firm and unshakeable as a strong oak tree at the top of the mountain of academia, whereas

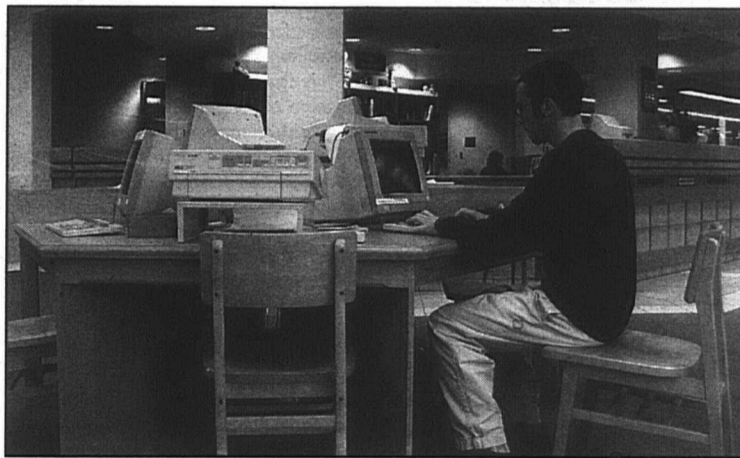
the aforementioned colleges that strove to match Houghton's reputation as a stellar and highly desirable academic institution were mere saplings surrounding the college.

Now these formerly less revered establishments are growing in strength in an effort to equal and exceed Houghton in their quality of education and Houghton is struggling to set itself apart as a unique institution while, at the same time, pushing itself to catch up to these colleges' standards.

In its extensive analysis into Houghton's enormous effort to remain afloat in the rising tide of competition that has emerged between America's most distinguished Christian colleges in recent years, the Crane Organization has noted that "Houghton is not doing all it can to let people know [of the] major areas [in which] we excel." Although Houghton has not changed its academic requirements or lowered our standards regarding the enrollment of first-rate students, Crane stated, research statistics comparing Christian colleges' undergraduate enrollment, mid 50% SAT score, and top 10% of high school class demonstrate the plunge Houghton has taken in conditions for enrollment.

For example, in the 2001-2002 academic year, Houghton's SAT score range of incoming freshmen was 1040 to 1290, in contrast to Wheaton's 1220 to 1440, Calvin's 1050 to 1300, and Gordon's 1100 to 1290. And in the same year, the percentage of students in the top 10% of their high school class was a mere 34%, compared to Wheaton's whopping 60%, and Taylor's impressive 42%; the only institution in Houghton's league that did not exceed its figures was Calvin, with a 28%.

Illustrative of the inaction that Houghton



Library update in the works

ALISON FLAHERTY
STAFF WRITER

Willard J. Houghton Library is that building you walk past from the NAB to the science building for your required courses in math or science. Or, if you are a science major, it is the big stone thing across the street. Everyone on campus has a need for the library, especially towards the end of the semester. But nearly everyone acknowledges the lack of resources, especially recent sources of information, and the obnoxious maze of commands

needed to locate the resources that are available. Well, look out Houghton! Changes are coming fast and furious over on Information Boulevard.

In 1984, Houghton College was on the cutting edge when it acquired the new computerized library database from the VTLS Corporation. Since this was prior to Windows, this database was DOS-based. So for the past twenty years Houghton College students have been agonizing over a dumb terminal (dumb as in it cannot think for itself) and trying frantically to remember the key strokes needed to bring up the information they want and wondering who, in fact, came up with the

word Boolean.

But that will all change in just a few short months. The library has converted over to a Windows-based database system called UNICORN, which is operated by the SIRSI Corporation.

This system is based on a Windows '03 network arrangement and it should be up and running by second semester. Unlike the previous system, no command language is needed. Instead, it is a fill-in-the-blank format that is much more user-friendly, according to the Director of the Library, Larry Reining. Instead of having to know everything, the computer knows it for you. The library has even purchased a new server from Dell, instead of renting, like it has done in the past. With this new server, finding resources at the library should be quick and painless.

But the online database is not the only thing to be overhauled.

Reining is looking to drastically alter the mindset of the college, as well as the

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LIBRARY CONTINUED

library. A study conducted by former director George Bennet showed that the library's book-buying peaked in the late 1970s to early '80s. This is why so many of the resources found in the library are from this era.

With the advent of new technology, namely the web databases such as EPSCOHOST and WORLDCAT, the library began to decrease its focus on traditional resources like books and periodicals. This is also the reason why many of the periodicals the library has collected in the past seem to stop in the mid-1990s. At that time, periodicals became available online and since the library was already paying fees to the databases, it seemed like a waste of funds to buy the hardcopies as well.

Unfortunately, as Reining puts it, the library had an "either/or" policy when it came to web databases vs. traditional resources.

This has persisted for the past twenty years. But "now we have to have a both/and policy." The library's funds need to be used equally for access to web resources and the acquisition of books, periodicals, and microfilm. This will require creativity, to be sure, but Reining seems intent on keeping to his vision of purchasing 2,000-3,000 books a year.

This does not mean brand-new books right away. The library needs to do a "retrospective fill-in," to quote the director. This means going back and acquiring books that should have been acquired over the past twenty years. And this means money. Unfortunately, the library's budget increases do not keep up with inflationary prices. And so the library must come up with ways to raise money itself. One way in which it has done this is to write up grants and hope some benevolent person decides to pick up one of these grants.

Part of the Greatbatch grant allows the library to acquire resources for the new music graduate program. But this is a special grant and it cannot be used for any other reason. Other outside sources must come forth to aid in Reining's vision.

Until these efforts in grant-writing come to fruition, Reining will continue to make a "coherent, consistent, annoying case" to the school on behalf of the library, in order to bring Willard J. Houghton Library into the twenty-first century.

MASCOT CONTINUED

one is being considered in the first place. According to Rebecca Crouch, Assistant for Institutional Planning, the college administration has consulted with an outside company that has done research to find ways of improving Houghton's image, making it more appealing to prospective students and the public.

One of the problems found by the company was the lack of knowledge that exists about what a Highlander is exactly. There is no one main logo or image to represent the mascot so many people have a hard time connecting the name "Highlander" with something tangible.

Also, the colors sports teams wear are not consistent. Instead of designating purple and gold as the colors for every team's uniforms, teams compete in a variety of different colors, further breaking down the connection between Houghton and its official colors.

No definite decision has yet been made on any changes. A committee of faculty, staff, and students has been entrusted with the task of carefully considering all input and making a decision. This process will take an indefinite amount of time, and there are no certain ideas of what the college's mascot and colors may be changed to.

In speaking with several students and faculty members on this topic, The Star has heard a myriad of opinions. The prevailing view seems to be that no changes should be made to the mascot or the colors.

Heather Bennett, a Houghton freshman, feels that "The Highlander and our colors are fine the way they are. More work could be done towards increasing our mascot's visibility, so that people will know what it is, but overall I don't think anything should be changed." Other students listed the originality of the mascot and name, along with the fact that the mascot has been the Highlander for so long that it is now tradition, as reasons to keep it. The colors, although mostly well-liked, have not meant as much to some students as the mascot has, because several of those questioned advocated dropping one or both of the colors.

A petition to keep the Highlander, begun by three college freshmen, has already received over 400 signatures.

Continue reading The Star for new developments in this story.

Faculty Profile—Dr. Douglas Gaerte

Title: Chair, Department of English and Communication. Professor of English.

Current Courses: Oral Interpretation, Intro. to Mass Media, Interpretive Communication, Organizational Communication

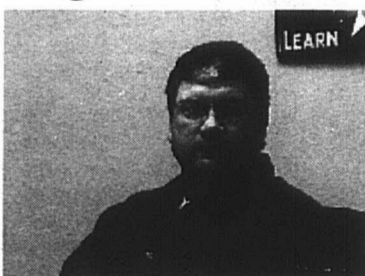
Yanks or Red Sox? Red Sox

Been here long? Since 1988. The only other place I've taught is at Indiana University, when I was getting my Masters in Public Speaking.

Why you chose teaching: I went to a Christian Liberal Arts school, and it was a great experience. I thought it would be a great way to use my gifts of communication.

Why you should drop your major and declare Communications: Everybody communicates. "It's one thing to have knowledge, but you always have to share it with other people."

Why you chose Houghton: Mostly for its location.



Favorite joke about Houghton: When I first came here, someone told me there were two seasons here, winter and the Fourth of July.

Most Annoying Thing students do in class: Miss class, then ask "Did we do anything today?" ("No, we didn't. We just wasted another hour.")

What would you most like students to take away from your courses? The importance of being sensitive to others, encouraging them as together we try to become more like Christ. "I hope that people learn to communicate positively."

CRANE CONTINUED

has perhaps unconsciously given into in recent years is the observation made by Alcott that prospective Houghton students are sometimes frustrated because admissions officers reduce the complexity of their diction which they believe these potential Houghton scholars may not understand, thus underestimating the intellectual capacity of the very students they are trying to recruit.

What the admissions team may not realize is that these students do not want the language used in letters, e-mails, and conversation to be simplified; the fact that contact people have done this has dissuaded some prospectives from making Houghton their college of choice, thus contributing, however slightly, to lower enrollment rates.

Lest one begin thinking, however, that Houghton College will never again attain the impressive level of distinction it was once characterized by, slow improvements are beginning to show forth, including the encouraging 404 incoming freshmen that flooded in for this 2004-2005 school year. This was a remarkable progress when considering last year's barely 300 newly matriculated students.

Although this figure is certainly promising, it is imperative that Houghton's Advancement and Admissions Departments do not drift into complacency, Alcott emphasized, but maintain an aggressive stance on pushing Houghton into the public eye so that individuals (parents of prospectives, high school students, sponsors, alumni, and others) know what Houghton College is, resulting in a healthier quantitative and qualitative enrollment. Houghton is still considered an excellent academic school in and of itself and in comparison to other exceptional Christian colleges on the East coast. It just needs to begin talking about it.

The Houghton Higher Ground (H2G) team, which is dedicated to developing and implementing an integrative marketing plan to aid in student recruitment, academic planning, co-curricular programming, and interaction with the college's alumni, churches, free supporters, and prospective students' parents, is working to effectively represent the college's mission of scholar-servanthood, which is the recommended benchmark by which Houghton establishes itself as a school that is unlike any other Christian college.

Techniques that the team is using include compiling a branding questionnaire that will measure whether the money spent for public relations activities contributes anything significant to the overall goal.

A more noteworthy tactic has been the consensus on a slogan that will appear on the college's nameplate — "Houghton College, A Higher Purpose in Mind" — a tagline that has already gained universal acceptance by advertising agencies, such as the marketing firm, Randall and Co (which the college has an official contract with), which is "placing hands and feet on the concepts, making them real," according to Alcott.

Also, the Crane Study investigated and reported on the unique and marketable attributes of Houghton that the study recommended the admissions department use to increase enrollment.

This first of these is Houghton's blend of academics and Wesleyan spirituality. The study found that the college has not clarified its religious affiliation, something which parents and prospective students should know. Crane also recommends tapping into the benefits of the often criticized isolated location, which includes limits on distractions and increased community and reflection.

Another unique and marketable characteristic of Houghton is its plethora of small groups and relationships that are internationally diversified.

Rounding out the list is the mark of the scholar-servant, which Patty Crane, chair of the Crane Committee, states should be our chosen distinctive. The latter concept is one of stewardship, accountability, discipline, and personal, intellectual, and social holiness. Ideally, students leaving Houghton and entering the world will incorporate their intellect with their servant's heart to reform the world for Christ.

The college administration has taken bold steps in responding to these goals, aiming for 1,400 full-time students by fall 2008 and seeking to retain this number in future years. These potential students, according to Cindy Lastoria, assistant to President Chamberlain, should be based upon selective recruitment of students marked by academic excellence and aspirations to humble themselves by utilizing their intellect and abilities for servanthood.

Kingdom Bound, an organization that coordinates Christian concerts nationally, is Houghton's exclusive college representative and is playing a prominent role in publicizing Houghton's identity and purposes by distributing myriad leaflets to 5000-8000 students attending concerts each year. A total of 130,000 students are on Kingdom Bound's mailing list and receive Houghton pamphlets, doing much to ensure the possibility of a large amount of quality incoming students.

When asked how Houghton obtained Kingdom Bound's sponsorship (and other major support), Alcott said, "They offered us spots at 5, 10, 15, and \$20,000. So we took the \$5000 and ran with it."

This matter will be brought before the Board of Trustees later this month for ratification.

Favorite class to teach: My specialty area is Seminar in Public Speaking. Interpersonal Communication "Mainly because it has such a practical value in developing healthy relationships."

Strangest student speech you ever heard? I once heard a demonstration speech by Mike Arenson on how to survive a wild animal charge.

Like doing interviews? Generally, yes.

Coffee drinker? Oh yes.

Is your home town snowier than Houghton? No. Houghton is a lot snowier than Fort Wayne Indiana, though not much colder.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MATT KUNIHOLM
STAFF WRITER

A year in Iraq: a briefing by the numbers.

Iraq civilian fatalities - 10,000-13,000
Iraq police fatalities - 750
U.S. troop fatalities - 914
U.S. troops wounded - 6,990
U.S. troops in Iraq (as of Sept.) - 138,000
Coalition troops in Iraq (as of Sept.) - 23,000
U.S. Military helicopters downed in Iraq - 27
Foreign nationals kidnapped in Iraq - 148
National unemployment rate (August) - 30-40%

-Find more statistics from the Brookings Institution at: <http://www.brook.edu/dybdocroot/fp/saban/iraq/index.pdf>

Prime Minister Tony Blair on Iraq. Tony Blair, the Prime Minister of Britain, recently offered a partial apology over Iraq in a recent labor party convention. He told hundreds of party leaders that "the evidence about Saddam having actual biological and chemical weapons as opposed to the capability to develop them has turned out to be wrong." However, the prime minister showed no regret that Saddam Hussein had been removed from power, saying, "the problem is, I can apologize for the information that turned out to be wrong, but I can't, sincerely at least, apologize for removing Saddam." Mr. Blair went on to say that the world is "a better place with Saddam in prison, not in power." With approaching national elections in mind many believe the Prime Minister is all too aware of popular criticism of his country's support for the war in Iraq. He had no intention, he said at the convention, to be fighting terrorists in "a remote part of the Hindu Kush," or worse, be caught "pandering to George Bush in a cause that's irreverent to us." But he also said that he sees the need to confront terrorism, prevent the use of weapons of mass destruction, and protect his country from harm.

For more go to: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/09/29/international/europe/29blair.html>

The Kyoto Treaty: Politics, economy, or the environment? Russia recently announced that it will ratify the Kyoto Treaty, a 1997 treaty on global warming and climate change. Among other things, the treaty requires that the industrialized nations, responsible for 55 percent of the world's carbon dioxide pollution, reduce their emissions by just over 5 percent by 2012. Currently 124 countries representing 44 percent of global emissions have ratified the treaty. Russia's sudden decision to adopt the treaty, however, could have more to do with politics and economics than environmental protection. The pro-Kyoto European Union accounts for over 50% of Russia's foreign trade and the Kyoto treaty has increasingly become a factor in international relations. Some hope that Russia's acceptance of the treaty may put pressure on the United States to do the same. However, the Bush administration insists that economic growth comes before environmental conservation.

For more go to: <http://www.christiansciencemonitor.com/2004/1001/p07s01-wogi.html>

The power of oil. The Nigerian government and rebel militia fighters have come to a truce regarding production of oil in the Niger Delta, the country's top oil producing region, halting several weeks of gun battle between troops and rebels. The rebel forces, led by Mujahid Dokubo-Asari had warned of an "all out war on the Nigerian state" if the government did not grant autonomy and oil revenues to the poor Ijaw people of the Delta. Asari advised international oil companies to halt oil production and leave the Delta, although few companies have taken the threat seriously. Amnesty international has reported that as many as 500 civilians were killed in related fighting in the first three weeks of September. With oil prices exceeding a record \$50 a barrel any decrease in Nigeria's oil production, currently the world's seventh largest source of oil, could have global effects on the price and supply of oil.

For more go to: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/09/30/international/africa/30nigeria.html>

Space Flight: The new private industry? Last week in the Mojave Desert the first privately funded sub orbital spacecraft reached a record altitude of 67 miles above the earth's surface. The California based team that created the craft, called SpaceShipOne, is now only one flight away from claiming the \$10 million Ansari X prize. The prize is part of a contest designed and funded by Peter Diamandis, a wealthy space entrepreneur hoping to spur the private sector towards the creation of a new space tourism industry. Market research has shown that there may be a multibillion dollar demand for this new concept in extravagant tourism. A new space venture, called Virgin Galactic, has recently announced that it plans to offer suborbital flights aboard crafts similar to SpaceShipOne for around \$200,000 per flight within the next 5 years. However, new legislation regarding space flight regulation is currently pending in Congress, and it remains to be seen whether SpaceShipOne will successfully complete its second flight and provide the prototype for a new privately funded industry.

For more go to: <http://www.christiansciencemonitor.com/2004/1001/p01s02-usgn.html>

Childhood obesity: Only in America? A report recently released by the Institute of Medicine shows America's children are getting fatter, watching more T.V. and need help from parents, schools, the government, and advertisers to get back in shape. Approximately nine million children over the age of 6 are considered obese. The report suggests that the growing problem of child obesity needs to be addressed on a broad scale in order to effectively address the situation. The report recommends that the food and beverage industry should self regulate on how they sell food and to what extent junk food should be advertised to children, that restaurants should voluntarily provide healthy alternatives to high calorie meals, and parents should encourage their children to exercise. The FDA is currently examining how to revise food labels to ensure people know how much they should be eating. However, with the average child under the age of 6 watching around 2 hours of television each day, typically watching about 40,000 commercials per year, most for candy, cereal, soda, and fast food, many wonder whether the studies recommendations will lead to healthier youth.

For more go to: <http://www.reuters.co.uk/newsArticle.jhtml?type=healthNews&storyID=6380964§ion=news>



Beginning next week Dr. Brittain, our beloved Dean of the Chapel, will be replacing Chris Austin as The Star's advice columnist. He will be answering real problems and questions that we the students have every week, and to begin his column Dr. Brittain needs letters to answer.

Have a problem or a question that you want answered with the wisdom, humor, and unique flavor of Dr. Brittain? Write to The Star at star@houghton.edu. Letters should be no longer than 250 words.

TOP TEN changes in Houghton you didn't see ...

MIKE MORDENGA
STAFF WRITER

TOP TEN REASONS WE SHOULDN'T BE THE HUSKIES

10. HUSKY IS A SIZE!
9. HIGHLANDERS= WARRIOR, HUSKIES = SLOBBERING DOGS
8. DO YOU REALLY WANT THE SHEN BLOC BARKING?
7. DOG COSTUMES ARE HARD TO MAKE
6. HIGHLANDERS IMPLY COURAGE, HUSKIES IMPLY FUR
5. DO YOU REALLY CLEAN UP AFTER THE TEAM MASCOT?
4. HUSKIES WILL MAKE HORRIBLE SLOGANS LIKE, "MARKING OUR TERRITORY TO VICTORY"
3. THE GUYS WILL CHANT "GO HUSKIES" TO THE GIRLS. THAT'S SO WRONG!
2. HIGHLANDERS ARE REVERED AND RESPECTED, HUSKIES ARE PETTED AND PAPER TRAINED
1. MEL GIBSON WAS A HIGHLANDER, WHAT FAMOUS STAR PLAYED A HUSKY?

MOVIES

with Adam & Pete

Pete Pasioka's Review - Grade: B+

Ladder 49 is a very inspirational film. The use of many realistic action scenes will leave you anything but bored. This is an emotional movie that incorporates a lot of action as well. I found little about this movie that I disliked. The plot is somewhat predictable in parts, but the twist ending completely makes up for it. *Ladder 49* is not an excellent film but it is very good and worth checking out in the theatres.

While battling the most fierce and dangerous fire of his career, Jack Morrison, played by Joaquin Phoenix, reflects back on his life. Throughout these reflections we see Morrison developing as a firefighter and as a man. Morrison remembers his first day on the job, some specific instances of courage, friendships he has developed at the firehouse, and his responsibilities as a husband and father. This film attempts to show us what the life of a firefighter is truly like.

Although I did enjoy this movie very much, there were a few minor aspects of the film that I was not very fond of. First, was the casting of John Travolta as Mike Kennedy, the captain of the firehouse. In this role Travolta lacked leadership, which is a fundamental quality of his character. I did not get the impression that Captain Kennedy was a man worth respecting. Secondly, I thought the film could have used more character development, especially in Morrison's wife, played by Jacinda Barrett. Most of the characters were

underdeveloped so I didn't really care what happened to them. If they were hurt or in a bad situation, it was not a big loss because I did not really feel like I knew them. The only two characters I truly cared about in this film was Morrison, mostly because the plot revolved around him, and Morrison's son. Spencer Berglund does a surprisingly good acting job playing the young son of Morrison.

The two minor negatives I listed above in no way overshadowed the high-quality of this film. I really liked the unique way the plot was portrayed. The use of extended flashbacks to follow the storyline was unexpected and gave the film a distinctive quality.

I have seen Joaquin Phoenix in two other roles before this one. I absolutely loved him in *Gladiator* but I thought his character in *Signs* was shallow and irritating. Going into this film I said to myself that this would be the role that solidified my opinion of Phoenix once and for all. In this role he did not disappoint. He was very believable as Jack Morrison, so he is now, in my mind, a good and credible actor.

The main theme of this movie is perseverance. A firefighter's job is extremely dangerous but also necessary. They must press on or more lives will be lost. Most people never really think how much of a sacrifice firefighting really is. I now have a new appreciation for firefighting and the tremendous courage it requires. If you see this movie, you will not be disappointed.

Adam Kline's Review - Grade: A-

I agree with pretty much everything Peter has said, but I liked this movie just a little bit more. *Ladder 49* surprised me; it is a film about real people, with real lives, all of who are surrounded by the dangers of a firefighter's occupation. This movie did not have as many fire scenes as I thought it would, I was expecting big action, instead *Ladder 49* provides a handful of impressive fire scenes while also providing a thick, rich story that consists of real life drama, humor, sacrifice, and courage. Thus, it is a bit of a tear jerker. Last week in my review for *The Forgotten*, I wrote, "The gift of a real filmmaker is making something totally predictable still uniquely enjoyable." This is exactly what director, Jay Russell, does with *Ladder 49*. With a completely predictable script, minus the ending, we know who will most likely die or get hurt in the next fire scene or what life changing event is around the corner for Joaquin Phoenix's character Jack Morrison. Nonetheless, the beauty and magic of this film is that it still makes a mostly predictable script very enjoyable to watch. However, the action scenes are still something to be reckoned with. Jay Russell takes us deep into the fire; we feel the stress and need for immediate reaction time in the way the camera moves with the firefighters as they cautiously walk through burning buildings. Some of the explosions and stunts really made me wonder how they ever pulled it off without killing someone.

In addition to the fine direction of this film, I believe its biggest asset was the cast. I do not believe anyone was miscast here; every character surrounding main character Jack Morrison is rich with life's pressures and joys. Interestingly enough, John Travolta gets top billing with Joaquin Phoenix even though Travolta's fire captain character is somewhat of a minor player in the whole movie. I think this was a good thing, however, because it gave Phoenix more room to really shine and come through as a new leading man in Hollywood.

I have always loved Phoenix's performances, from his breakout role in *Gladiator*, to playing a shallow irritating yet still supportive brother perfectly in *Signs*, to this summer's quiet but strong Lucius Hunt in *The Village*. Phoenix is always perfect in whatever role he takes on, and his role here in *Ladder 49* just makes me anticipate his performance as Johnny Cash in next year's biopic, *Walk the Line* even more.

Aside from Phoenix, the cast was also fortunate enough to have the breakout performance of Jacinda Barrett, as Morrison's wife who dearly loves her husband but is always fearful for his safety and the stability of their family. Finally, as Peter mentioned the cast is also supported by the incredibly moving performance of little newcomer, Spencer Berglund, who plays Morrison's seven or eight year old son with such ease, care, and curiosity. Berglund could be the next Haley Joel Osment.

Ladder 49 is a drama/action film that is largely predictable, but with an authentic twist ending, and a cast that makes the lives in and around the firehouse so real, that it is a story of true sacrifice, courage, and inspiration, I highly recommend seeing this film.

The Worst Movie of All Time: You Got Served

Grade: F
By Adam Kline

As you may notice in our grading system, an "F" is given to a movie we add to our list of, "Worst Movies of All Time." For myself there are currently three films on this list. There is *Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle*, which has some of the most ludicrous action scenes ever filmed, *The Big Hit*, one of Mark Wahlberg's earlier films, and finally *You Got Served*, which came out January of this year and has found its way to the top of my hate list.

The reason I consider *You Got Served* to be the worst movie I have ever seen is because I knew exactly what this movie was trying to do and it failed miserably at every attempt to pull anything off. The story follows the supposedly real sub-culture of competitive street dancing. Two best friends lead a team of dancers who are the best around, until a new hot team turns up and challenges them. Even better, the stakes are raised when friends double-cross each other and must learn to work through their differences. Now see, that is not that bad of a premise especially since it includes a sub-culture that no one knows about. Still, how this is all executed is the reason this movie fails at everything. The movie even begins by showing us that it is not interested in real people or a real story because the first ten to fifteen minutes is just fast cut dancing scenes that means nothing to the viewer because nothing has been explained yet.

You Got Served not only "serves up" no name actors pretending they can act, or direction that is better suited for a documentary following the life of a rock, it also provides stabbing clichés, and grossly unrealistic scenarios. We are told the main character's mother is struggling to

pay the bills and has to work overtime, but when home life is revealed we find the family living in a large suburban home where the mother is the only source of income and apparently has never heard of, "living within your own mean." As well we are "served up" scenes where the main character's friend walks into the kitchen for breakfast and asks his friend's sister to make him some coffee while the mother tells the daughter to make this friend breakfast. Apparently this family has not only moved to an area that is beyond their economic means but they have moved into the 1950's. Finally, at the point in the story where the new kids on the block challenge these friends and their dance team, there is no setting for the challengers to introduce themselves and challenge the main characters in person or some other situation that could seem realistic. Instead the challengers film themselves mocking the main characters and challenging them to a dance -off and mail the videotape to them. Maybe the next I want to see how my mom is doing, instead of using the telephone, I'll videotape a message and send it to her, awaiting her filmed response. I mean what world uses this form of communication?

You Got Served is the worst movie I have ever seen, I could barely stay in the same room while it was playing. This movie serves you up alright; it serves you up a whole lot of wasted time you can never get back.

Chick-flicks: It's all about give and take

By Peter Pasioka

I hate chick flicks. I believe that, in general, they are shallow, contain poor acting, and are overflowing with stupid clichés. That being said, I also believe that chick-flicks can serve an important role in relationships.

Most of you already know that there is not much to do in Houghton other than cow tipping or throwing things off a bridge. Usually, a date in this town involves watching a movie.

Many times, while deciding what movie to watch with my girlfriend, I automatically reach for a movie that I know that I will enjoy. I do not really take into consideration if she will like the movie or not. An example of this would be me wanting to watch *Saving Private Ryan*. I do not take into account the fact that the realistic violence and blood may make her uncomfortable. I do not think that I am deliberately being self-centered here; I just assume that if I like a movie then she will like it too.

For any guys out there who are in a relationship, try and compromise. I do this by alternating who gets to pick the movie. If the last movie you watched with your girlfriend was your choice, let her pick the next one, even if it is a chick-flick.

I know that most guys hold similar opinions to me in regards to chick-flicks, but making compromises or taking turns in the movies you watch with your significant other will contribute to a more healthy and balanced relationship in the long run.

The Grading System

A+	= Perfect, no complaints
A/A-	= Great movie, worth owning
B +/-	= Good movie, worth seeing
C +/-	= Disappointing but has redeemable aspects
D +/-	= Bad movie, not worth the money
F	= One of the worst movies of all time

Coming Soon...

In Theatres Friday, October 8th
- Friday Night Lights: new football movie starring Billy Bob Thornton
- Raise Your Voice: starring Hillary Duff

On DVD Tuesday, October 12th
- The Day After Tomorrow: the latest disaster movie from Roland Emmerich
- Raising Helen: starring Kate Hudson
- Breakin' All the Rules: starring Jamie Foxx

Homecoming 2004



Giving Away Money!

ELAINE TOOLEY
STAFF WRITER

Part of the job of SGA is to work with student clubs and organizations to promote quality events and activities on this campus. Recently, Senate was charged with the task of giving away money to these clubs so that they can begin their semester with sufficient means.

For the past two weeks, the student representatives on Senate have been working feverishly to divide funds between different student clubs on campus. The Club/Event Fund (CEF) was plump with \$14,411.09. The requests for funds, however, were even greater - \$22,932.53 - a difference of \$8,521.44.

The allocation process was started last week with presentations from the requesting clubs during the Senate meeting. Each club who asked for money was required to hand in a proposal that listed the previous balance of the club's budget, the number of people the club involves and

benefits, and the plans the club has for the money. Senators received this information and then listened to club representatives speak about their need for funds. The meeting, lasting over two hours, was the launching point for the rest of the process.

During the week, senators divided up into their classes, reviewed the information they had received and recommended a way to allocate the money. Each class had to go through the process of deliberating and making a plan for how the money should be split. They returned to the Senate meeting with their proposals.

The CEF comes from the Campus Services Budget that SGA takes care of during the year. This year, 19 clubs petitioned the Senate for funds. In all, there were 22 requests for money. There are two types of requests: Type 1 and Type 2. Type 1 is for the operations of the club, while Type 2 is used for one-time events or capital purchases. This means that one club could request money twice - once under the Type 1 category, and once under the Type 2 distinction. For instance, a club could ask for funds to run their operation,

and also funds to throw a special event. This occurred a few times this year.

Overall, Senate had to allocate this money, and it was done this past week in a two-and-a-half hour meeting. Senators brought their proposals from their individual class discussions, and worked to find a happy medium between the amount of requests and the amount of money available.

Senate took into consideration facts like each club's previous balance, how many students will be effected by the club, whether or not a club has alternate means of funding (such as the Christian Life Fund dedicated to helping clubs that are ministerial in nature), whether a club has plans for fundraising, and other various elements.

Every penny in the CEF was spent this past week, and the 19 clubs that asked for money were each given some of what they requested. The requests from the clubs ranged from \$100 to \$3,425. With the surplus in requests, most clubs were not awarded their requested amount. There

was much debate on the part of Senate, and much compromise on the part of the clubs.

While the \$8,000-plus difference between the requested money and the funds available was an obstacle, it was encouraging to realize that clubs are healthy and active on this campus. It's better to have more activity - more requests for money - than to have a dormant student body. There are opportunities for students to get involved in making a difference on this campus. Senate gave the money; the rest is up to you.



This week's debate

In this Corner: Bush

SARAH KUZIOMKO
STAFF WRITER

Whenever I ask someone why they will be voting for Kerry over Bush in the upcoming election, I am usually met with the same two responses, "The war and the economy". I can't cover two in one article so I'll just stick with the economy. I thought the economy was doing better, but I decided to do some research to back up my claims.

I wasn't disappointed.

Why are people disappointed in Bush? What are the reasons? Kerry's face tight with Botox stated, "We know the truth. George Bush's failed record is the result of George Bush's failed policies. And he chose time and again to do nothing to improve our economy or ease the burden on middle class families. In fact, nearly every choice has made it worse. You can even say that George Bush is proud of the fact that not even failure can cause him to change his mind." Chose to do nothing to improve our economy Kerry? It's about time you took a real look at the economy.

I want to start right off by getting any charges against the President out. I see a lot of fingers pointing, and I hear a lot of accusations, but what I'm not seeing and hearing is facts to back up their claims. One popularly used line is that Bush only gives tax breaks to the wealthy. John

Snow, the secretary of treasury was actually asked this question and as he answered, "The president's tax cuts have often been mistakenly, falsely referred to as 'tax cuts for the wealthy,'" so here is some information to set the record straight.

The higher income individuals are now paying a higher percentage of the total individual income tax. In fact, those people who make over \$200,000 a year pay 45.4% of the tax burden.

Then there was the classic "gas prices are rising and it's all due to Bush!" Yes, yes, oil production in the United States continues to decline and the price of gas for all is skyrocketing. Yet, we need oil desperately as a nation, and we need to get it from others. America is dependent upon foreign oil. As Kerry points blame at Bush proclaiming it's his fault gasoline prices are so high, try to remember that the war in Iraq has forced the price of gas to go haywire. Without Iraqi oil, crude oil prices rise and the gasoline we put in our cars is the most expensive it has been in years.

With all time Kerry is wasting pointing a finger at Bush, what is his plan? It can pretty much be summed up in two steps, according to him. First, he wants to end tax breaks for our companies creating jobs overseas. He doesn't want other countries to benefit at all from our prosperity. Kerry believes this will then cut taxes for 99% of tax paying corporations in the U.S. Second, he wants to strengthen the middle class by "cutting taxes" and covering health and energy costs.

This cracks me up. Under Kerry's rule the average law abiding, tax-paying citizen will end paying approximately 45% of every dollar earned in taxes. 45%!!?

When and if you graduate from Houghton, you will work until the end of May of every single year just to pay your taxes! And if you think it doesn't matter because you don't pay income taxes right now, I've two words for you "SALES TAX". John Kerry unabashedly states that he will raise taxes to do more things (i.e. abortions), and create more stuff (what, Heinz stadiums?) at the national level, with your money. So that means in the next four years, if they are Kerry years, the tax rate will go from 45% to 46%, 47%, perhaps even 50%. Ouch. How is this cutting taxes again? But hey, maybe in 2 years Kerry will change his mind...

That said, unlike Kerry's, Bush's plan is not theoretical; he has already put it into action and we've seen the results. For starters Bush had the Jobs and Growth tax relief Bill passed. This is to bring life back to factories. He also is training more Americans at community colleges to better prepare them to keep up with the changing economy. The President will truly not be satisfied until every American looking for work has a job. This isn't about politics for him. It's compassion.

Jobs are being created on all levels, not just minimum wage jobs. People are returning to the job market in droves. "Since August 2003, employment has increased in 47 states and unemployment rates have decreased in 45 states. GDP growth has been strong, and homeownership has reached record highs", says John Snow. About 2 million new jobs have been created since Bush has been in office and we've had 12 straight months of job gains, mostly in manufacturing jobs. Just since August alone we've had 144,000 new jobs created. Where do these facts come from you might ask? Well you could look them up yourself, and if you do you'll find they come from the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), a non-partisan government research organization.

What other results have we seen? Well the National Homeownership rate has gone up 69.2% and the Minority homeownership is up 51%, just in the past year. This money has to be coming from somewhere. Inflation and mortgage rates continue to remain low. If that isn't progress I'm not sure what is. "The signs are very promising, but there is no doubt that there is more to do. That's why this Administration is committed to the President's pro-growth policies that will keep our economy moving forward," says John Snow.

In other areas besides employment, Bush wants to control health care costs by providing health plans and health savings accounts. He also wants to make tax-relief permanent because raising taxes will only hurt the growth the country has made.

Unlike Kerry, Bush wants to open new markets overseas to expand our economy. Kerry is afraid this will benefit the other countries more. Bush is looking farther into the future. If we open new markets we will reduce our dependence on foreign sources. The Bush administration hopes that new sources of oil will help loosen OPEC's grip on the markets of crude oil. There are oil-rich nations such as Russia, Angola, and Venezuela among other's that Bush would like to tap into helping the US meet oil needs.

There are always going to be problems with our country. That is why we elect leaders, to decide on the best direction of action. President Bush has proved himself a strong leader, who weighs the consequences and takes charge. He is steady and unchanging, with the future in mind. Says Don Evan, Commerce Secretary, "and it's because President Bush's economic vision has built the foundation for long-term prosperity. The next 10 years will bring the strongest economic performance any of us have ever seen. And yes, we will begin to see much of that strengthening in the next four years. America is positioned for strong and sustainable growth. I'm optimistic and excited for American families."

I'll see you at the polls.

In This Corner: Kerry

CHRISTOPHER STANLEY
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to the economy, George W. Bush is a sad excuse for leadership. In his four years of power, he has succeeded in the following:

- Losing 1.6 million jobs. Instead of gaining 7 million new jobs as he promised the American people, he has succeeded in not only failing in that goal, but lost over a million jobs as well
- Becoming the first president on record to oversee a decline in business investment.
- Family premiums are up 64 percent with 45 million Americans still uninsured, the highest number ever.
- 4.3 million people entered poverty, bringing the number to 36 million, dramatically reversing the progress

made under former President Bill Clinton.

Seriously, though, what is George W. Bush's plan for the economy? His father called it "Voodoo Economics" in 1980. The idea of cutting taxes to increase spending is simply preposterous. When the richest one percent of America receives a giant tax cut like the one they got under George W. Bush, they don't spend it on a trip to Wal-Mart. They go to Gucci or Versace. George W. Bush doesn't trust Americans enough to give them a tax cut directly, so he wants the tax relief to trickle down the chain first. We'll be waiting a while on his plan. George W. Bush has even given tax breaks to companies that outsource jobs, so while Mr. and Mrs. Jones wait for tax relief, they'll be training replacements and filing for unemployment.

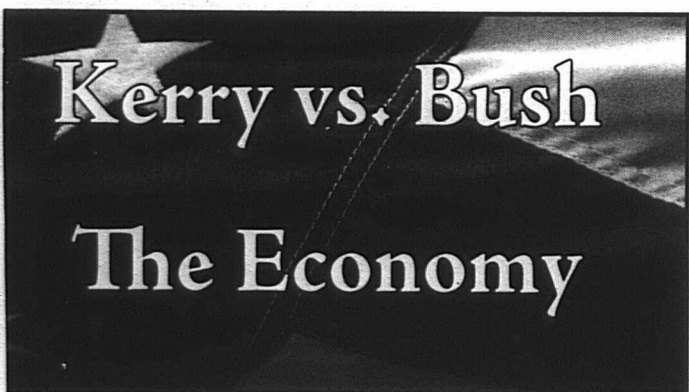
This is a bleak picture to paint of America, but this is the cold, hard truth of George W. Bush. Senators John Kerry and John Edwards have a plan to bring us back to the days of prosperity here in America.

To do this, they have a four-step plan:

- As president, Senator Kerry will fight to eliminate tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas. He'll fight to cut taxes for 99 percent of American companies. He will also fight to enforce existing trade laws in order to open new markets for American products and expand existing markets around the world.
- Secondly, Senator Kerry will work to cut middle-class taxes for 98 percent of families. John Kerry believes in strengthening middle-class America, and to do this, he will close the corporate loopholes, repeal the Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest one percent of Americans, and use this extra money to give back to American families in the form of tax credits to pay for college costs, healthcare, and childcare. Finally, as president, John Kerry will fight to raise the minimum wage to \$7.00 an hour. Americans barely scrape by on 5.15 an hour, and Senator John Kerry knows this.
- Thirdly, Senator John Kerry will restore America's competitive edge in the world markets. Senator Kerry will invest in research and lift the ban on stem cells. Senator Kerry will strive to make America "energy independent" in order to ease energy prices in America. He will fight to make broadband internet universal in America. He will fight for a tax credit of up to \$4000 so that all Americans have the opportunity to go to college. George W. Bush wants to cut vital programs like worker training programs, but as your president, Senator John Kerry will fight to keep them and expand upon them.
- Finally, Senator John Kerry believes that the government shouldn't spend

what it doesn't have. That's why when he proposes his budget to Congress, every new proposal will be paid for and wasteful spending eliminated. As president, John Kerry will ask Congress for a constitutionally valid line item veto to eliminate pork-barrel spending. Too much is wasted in this type of care-free budgeting system, and Senator John Kerry will put an end to it.

George W. Bush has destroyed this country economically and America needs a leader who will not only repair the damage, but lead the country in a different and profitable direction: A direction that is not just profitable for those already rich, but those who aren't already rich. The "American Dream" says that if people work hard enough, they can pull themselves up by their bootstraps, become successful, and retire happy without worrying how to make ends meet. The reality under George W. Bush is the exact opposite. He wants poor Americans to stay where they are and rich Americans to move higher up on the ladder. He wants to divide the country into "rich" and "poor", but Senators John Kerry and John Edwards want to unite the country under one banner: prosperity. We've all heard a lot of promises from both sides, but George W. Bush promised the same things in 2000 and hasn't followed through. Not only hasn't he made good on his promises, but things have gotten worse. Senator John Kerry is a man of integrity and virtue, and when he says something, he means it. We can trust Senator John Kerry because he has a history of fighting for the everyday American and he'll continue to do just that as President of the United States. On November 2nd, vote for prosperity and vote for John Kerry.



The Conservative Bubble

D. Elliott Tait
Editor in Chief

American conservatives for years have consistently defended a bold accusation of the media – they are controlled by liberals who distort the news in order to favor fellow liberals and harm conservatives.

To whom specifically does this bold and vague accusation apply? Historically, trends in conservative finger pointing have led the allegation to encompass the Time-Warner (CNN, Time and People Magazines), Disney (ABC), and Viacom (CBS) Corporations, as well as The New York Times and The Washington Post Companies.

The defendants (those listed above), in defense, have compared the charge to a defeated little league baseball team who allege that the umpires were favoring the other team.

The accusation may very well be true of at least one of the many communication mediums listed, but discussing the truth of such an accusation is too large a topic to cover in an editorial. Instead, I wish to focus on the conservatives' actions as a result of their allegation, especially by those on this campus.

To many conservatives, especially Christian conservatives who together make at least a plurality at Houghton, the above list of news sources that distort the truth is unsatisfactory. Instead, the list would have been exhaustive if I had simply written the names of the "true" and "fair" news sources – Fox News Channel, *The Washington Times*, *World Magazine*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and even talk radio hosts like Limbaugh, Hannity, and Ingram – and noted that those not included in this list fell under the "conservative media accusation."

Welcome to the "conservative bubble."

When kids are placed in tough situations in which they must use their reason and judgment to make a decision they run to the comforting arms of Mommy. When some conservatives are placed in a decision to judge what is truth and thus acceptable in the huge media world they often run to the comforting arms of the "Conservative Bubble."

In the "conservative bubble" Rush Limbaugh tells us our opinion.

In the "conservative bubble" Sean Hannity makes us feel good about supporting Bush.

In the "conservative bubble" *World Magazine* reminds us that being a conservative-Republican is the Christian thing to do.

I am in no way invalidating the work of the two talk radio personalities or the news journal previously listed, but I am bringing to the surface some truth about those who listen/read to their respective shows/publications. These people have heard the conservative's accusation, believed it, and response, built a wall to prevent anything from those "evil, liberal" news mediums from entering and infesting their minds.

In fact, I used to be one of those people. Those in the "conservative bubble" are convinced themselves that the media outside what has been labeled "trustworthy" and "balanced" is wrong. Generally speaking they do not claim it is wrong because the story contains information or contradicts what is known and accepted as the truth. Instead, it is wrong because it is not what conservatives want to hear, or is does not support Bush, or even because it gives the enemy – those wacko liberals – ammunition to use against them.

The bubble does not simply apply to news items and sources, but more significantly to the way in which residents of the bubble think.

The "conservative bubble" is based on intellectual laziness. It is easier to hear what we want to hear than to take time to receive news from a variety of sources and, using our reason, balance them as accurately as possible.

Moreover, it is easier to be handed our opinion than to formulate one for ourselves, and it is easier to block out opposing opinions than to listen and consider them.

Take the accusation at the beginning of my argument both as an example and as the false premise from which the bubble forms. Intellectual laziness as it applies to the "conservative bubble" begins when one accepts that the conservative claim is correct. The allegation is so ambiguous and vague and is made of so many news organizations that publish and communicate a multitude of news items a day/week that it is realistically impossible to document evidence to defend such a claim. And none have done so.

This is the biggest travesty of the "conservative bubble."

Ideas contrary to those set by fellow conservatives are not allowed in the "conservative bubble." Opinions supporting big government, higher taxes, the removal of troops from Iraq, or opposing the flat tax, immigration restraints, and many other issues do not pierce the walls of the bubble. Instead, they push on the outside just long enough for someone inside to invalidate whatever argument there might be, and push it off.

I have participated in, witnessed and heard of political discussions that include residents of the "conservative bubble." These residents are obstinate in their views. They do not even consider an opposing opinion. At Houghton, sometimes they even become visibly angry that a fellow Christian would hold a view not included in the bubble. Residents in the "conservative bubble" do not open their ears or minds to any outsiders. Like the residents in M. Night Shyamalan's *The Village*, they live the only "true" way of life set apart from the rest of the world where sin and falsehood flourish.

As Christians we are supposed to be steadfast in our faith and the truth of the word. Paul discusses that false teachers will arise and it is our responsibility to test what they preach and what they believe with the Bible, and if the two conflict the Bible always wins. I recognize that many Christians, including myself, have strong religious convictions regarding some political issues, and I encourage all of us to remain resolute in those convictions as that is a part of our Christian responsibility.

To extend this concept to issues which the Bible does not discuss, however, is close-minded. To extend this concept to the way in which one retrieves his/her news is ignorant.

As a freshman at Houghton I was surprised to find the plethora of liberal views held by students and faculty alike. They worshiped and loved the same God I did. They were good people. But how could they be a Christian and a liberal-democrat at the same time? That just did not make sense in Christian nuance of the "conservative bubble" that I lived in.

There is something I did not know then that I know now: there is truth outside the "conservative bubble;" there are true Christians outside the "conservative bubble;" there are reasonable ideas outside the "conservative bubble."

I agree with Socrates' position in the *Gorgias* dialogue – the purpose of discussing something of such importance as are political and social issues is not to win, and the roles of those discussing are the not the roles of soldiers fighting to kill the other so that he and who/what he represents may live; instead the purpose is to come closer to the true and/or best position on the matter, and the positions of those discussing

are most like blacksmiths, pounding upon a piece of iron to perfect it.

Do not be ignorant. Move out of the bubble. Engage in the pounding. We will all benefit from it.

(Note: Those of you who currently live in the bubble are awaiting my staunch endorsement of John Kerry in hopes of writing me off as another liberal-wacko. You need an excuse to invalidate my argument. Instead, I am supporting my fellow Texan.)

Happy Thanksgiving CANADA

Poetry/Essay Readings
Monday, October 11
Daily Grind
6:30 p.m.

Celebrate with your Canadian friends and neighbors.
Learn more about their history and stories through readings by Canadian students, faculty and community members.

Hosted by the Campus Store and the Intercultural Affairs Office

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Honest Hope

After last season's 6-10 debacle changes had to be made-and they were. The brain-trust (I use that term loosely) of lame-duck coach Gregg Williams and offensive coordinator Kevin Gilbride was scrapped as soon as the season ended. Former Pittsburgh Steelers coordinator Mike Mularkey was brought in to right the ship. The Bills also added reinforcements at wide receiver, drafted tomorrow's quarterback, and reshuffled the offensive line.

Just how soon tomorrow comes depends on several things. Here is a brief overview of what to expect this year. First, the good news...

The Bills return 10 of 11 starters from last year's number two ranked defense. They lost cornerback Antoine Winfield, a fine player and lights-out hitter, in free agency, but replaced him with veteran Troy Vincent. While Vincent's days as a premier cover-man may be behind him, he is no slouch. With unparalleled leadership and great instincts, he should be at least as good as Lawyer Milloy was at safety last year, if he can stay healthy.

Anchoring the defensive line will be massive defensive tackles Pat Williams and Sam Adams. Williams is one of the best tackles in the NFL. The Bills are counting on Aaron Schobel, a relentless pass-rusher, to consistently harass opposing quarterbacks. With his new contract extension, he will be paid a lot of money to do so.

Lingbackers Takeo Spikes and London Fletcher are the heart and soul of the defense and will only get better. That is a scary thought for opposing offenses-especially with Spikes, the team's best defender. Jeff Posey returns to the strong-side spot. This group should also benefit from being together for the second year in a row.

The Bills should again have an outstanding secondary-especially on the outside. No player will benefit more from the presence of newcomer Troy Vincent than Nate Clements. Few players are more gifted than Clements, yet his production has been inconsistent. It is time that he put it all together. This could be a huge year for Clements.

Strong safety Lawyer Milloy returns with a full year in the Bills defensive system after being added on the eve of last year's opener. However, the big things expected of him have been put on hold because of a broken arm. His return is not expected until late October. Izell Reese or Coy Wire, who is filling-in for Milloy, will play the other spot. If the Bills defense has a weak point it is free safety.

The overarching weakness of last year's defense was the lack of turnovers they created. Given the sorry state of the offense, this was especially evident-they needed all the help they could get. To that end, the Bills brought in the aforementioned Vincent (42 career interceptions) and have made this a point of emphasis.

Any casual observer can tell you the Bills offense was terrible last year. In fact, it seems there were times they would have been better off punting on first down. New coach Mike Mularkey, a former NFL tight end, was hired with this problem in mind.

The Midas touch that Drew Bledsoe displayed in 2002 was nowhere to be found last year. What happened??? While he certainly had a bad year, there is more to the story than meets the eye. When given time Bledsoe can destroy a defense. When pressured, he is equally devastating...just not in the manner you would hope for.

Bledsoe's lack of mobility is underscored when watching the likes of Daunte Culpepper and Steve McNair. He is a pocket-passer, but more than that he is a rhythm passer. His poor decisions

and uneven accuracy even when he does have time are a reflection of diminished confidence-both in himself and (especially) the players around him. He needs time and he needs it consistently. Getting great protection some of the time does not cut it. One the great benefits of being able to bring pressure as a defense is that the QB is rattled even when you don't blitz.

What ails the offensive line? To say they struggled last year would be kind...but these two things should give all of you Bills fans hope this year:

- * Kenmore native Jim McNally, widely recognized as one of the best offensive line coaches in the NFL, came home to coach the Bills O-line.

- * The Bills cut perennial underachiever Ruben Brown (finally!!!) and replaced him with blue-collar guard Chris Villalari. He'll remind you of Chris Spielman in his approach to the game.

Left tackle Jonas Jennings, a free-agent at year's end, is the Bills best lineman. He is one the better young linemen in the game. If McNally can light a fire under Mike William's 370-pound posterior he'll be another great player. For now, he is a \$38 million speed bump on the way to Drew Bledsoe's ribs. Missing part of training camp without notifying the coaching staff didn't accelerate William's learning curve. Right Guard is also a major question mark; the Bills really need McNally's magic in this spot. The leader of the line is rock-solid center Trey Teague.

Mularkey has a great arsenal at his disposal; with a revamped receiving core led by game-breaker Eric Moulds, the team's best player, and first-round draft choice Lee Evans. The presence of Evans, who can run like the wind, will allow Josh Reed to concentrate on the shorter routes he excels on. With a plethora of running backs the Bills will run the ball early and often. Travis Henry is one of the best running backs in the league and Willis McGahee has more potential than he knows what to do with. Henry is coming off consecutive 1,300 seasons.

While the Patriots, winners of seventeen straight games, remain clear favorites in the AFC East; things have changed behind them. The New York Jets were predicted to be mediocre at best, have surprised in winning their first two games for the first time in eleven seasons. The Miami Dolphins might be one of the worst teams in football. Shell-shocked by the sudden retirement of Ricky Williams, who is off somewhere in Europe with Lenny Kravitz; the Dolphins are falling apart. They have a great defense, but their offense is worse than the Bills.

Men's Soccer Houghton 0, Rio Grande 2

"The final score only decides who wins, not how well each team played" remarked Ben Wallenbeck, a quote validated throughout the game where top ranked Rio Grande defeated Houghton.

Not even the cold and the rain on this day could hold back the intensity of the game. And not even the ominous ranked no. 1 team could hold back the Highlanders as they kept the Redmen "... on their heels ..." as Head Coach Matt Webb described it.

Rio Grande finished the game with 12 shots over Houghton's 9, while both Steve Cox, Houghton goalkeeper, and Andrew Moore, Rio Grande goalkeeper, had 2 saves.

It was in the 16th minute that the first goal for Rio Grande was scored when a cross came in from Ryan Russell to Ben Hunter who maneuvered the ball around Cox and shot the ball into the left corner of the net. The Redmen's second goal came in the 64th minute when Simon Carey headed the ball into the goal off of a corner kick into the upper left of the net.

Needless to say the Highlanders were unable to put the ball into the net with the shots they did have. It was not, however, due to a lack in hard work or effort. This was apparent in, as Wallenbeck put it, "the hard tackles, the fouls, [and] the little skirmishes" that showed their passion for the game, derived from "an amazing God-giving experience."



Women's Soccer Houghton 9, Notre Dame 0

Houghton, N.Y. - The Highlanders started with a goal early in the first half made by Cassandra Mills, and assisted by Bethany Kowalczyk-kicking off what was to be a game described as "emphasizing possession" as Bridget Toth illustrated it.

The Highlanders led this game with 29 shots on goal and zero saves, while Notre Dame had one shot and 10 saves. Judging by this it's not hard to realize why after the score reached 9, the game became one of keep away. Danielle Forland commented that "we didn't want to score too many goals because sometimes that shows unsportsmanlike conduct" and Rebecca Fuller further stated that "instead of trying to score more and more goals ... we use it to work on possessing the ball and not letting the other team have any chances."

The first goal scored in the 5th minute by Mills and assisted by Kowalczyk was done so through a cross right in front of the goal, which drew the goalkeeper out, and then allowed for a quick ball into the net. Three minutes later Kowalczyk would be the one to score on a header into the goal with an assist by Heidi Toth. The Highlanders scored again, in the 14th minute, by a cross right in front of the net by Rachael Sharp, and was hit into the net by Mills. One minute later Sharp headed the ball into the goal on a pass from Krista Fowlkes. The last goal of the first half was assisted by Bridget Toth who seemingly flew down the right side of the field and crossed the ball to Kowalczyk in front of the goal who proceeded to score her second goal of the game.

The Highlanders, in the second half, started quickly in the goal scoring business. It was in the 46th minute that Kowalczyk crossed the ball to Heidi Toth who then sent it into the deep left of the goal-making the score 6-0. Five minutes later Kowalczyk with the ball drew the goalkeeper out, went around her and ripped a shot off around the 18 yard line and scored, with an assist by Fowlkes. It was in the 61st minute that the Highlanders scored again as Fowlkes gave a pass to Sharp who headed the ball perfectly into the top right corner-over the goalkeeper's head and just out of her reach. The last goal of the game came two minutes later as Fowlkes scored on a shot into the bottom right corner of the goal.

This game marks the teams seventh straight shut-out, which is credited to their "All for God" motto, which Forland describes as "with His help He will give us the strength to 'run and not grow weary, walk and not be faint ...'"