

the HOUGHTON STAR

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE

ON THE WEB: campus.houghton.edu/orgs/star

Volume 99, Issue 10

December 10, 2003

THE World OUT there

BY BEN HUGHES
STAR STAFF WRITER

Russian Train Bombed

Last Friday, a bomb killed at least 42 people on a commuter train in southern Russia. The suicide bombing, which also injured over 150 others, occurred near Chechnya and follows a series of attacks that have plagued that troubled region and Moscow for a year.

Shortly after the rush-hour train departed from a station in Yessentuki, a powerful explosion ripped apart one of the cars and sent shrapnel flying in the midst of the morning commuters. The body of the suspected male bomber has been recovered and three women were reportedly involved in the attack as well.

Not surprisingly, Russian authorities quickly linked the attack to Chechen rebels. A prominent leader of the Chechen separatists, Aslan Maskhadov, released a statement denying responsibility for the blast. Chechen militants have waged against Russia for much of the past ten years, frequently utilizing guerilla tactics and suicide attacks.

Russian President Vladimir Putin condemned the bombing as "an attempt to destabilize the situation in the country on the eve of parliamentary elections." In Sunday's elections all 450 seats of the lower house, the State Duma, will be up for grabs.

[For further information about the Chechnya conflict, go to: <http://news.yahoo.com/!fc?tmpl=fc&cid=34&in=world&cat=caucasus/>.]

Unofficial Israeli-Palestinian Peace Plan Finalized

Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon recently rejected an unofficial peace plan for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, apparently causing some tension with the U.S. government. On December 5th, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell conferred with the authors of the

Houghton's Ryan Mayers Publishes Twisted Tales

BY RACHEL BRASK
STAR STAFF WRITER

Twisted. It's the chief word used to describe Ryan Mayers' recently published book, *Fractured*. The humorous and intriguing story line incorporates traditional fairy tale characters and puts them all together in the land of Breco, where "murder and crime are a way of life." *Fractured* tells the tale of John Monroe, police detective, who stumbles onto a plot to assassinate the king while investigating who killed his partner, Humpty Dumpty. Sound strange? You have to read the book to fully enjoy the twisted genius of Mayer's fractured fairy tale.

While talking to a friend in London, Mayers thought it would be interesting to put a fairy tale into a modern setting. He began writing it as a short story, and then it grew to a full 122 pages. Just for fun, he submitted it to an online manuscript publisher. He heard back from Publish America (an online publisher of starting writers, one that rejects 85% of received manuscripts), who told Mayers that they were going to publish his book. "I was quite happy," says Mayers. The math and secondary education

major and Houghton College junior could now consider himself a published author. He is currently working on his second book, *Dominion*, due to be released this summer, and a third is in the making.

Fractured is a "big mish mash" of fantasy, comedy, mystery and adventure with a fairy spin. Put Humpty Dumpty, Chicken Little, Goldilocks and the Three Bears all together in the modern world and see what happens. Go up to Ryan Mayers and ask for an autograph and see what happens. The humble author offers these words of wisdom: "Do whatever makes you happy...Don't stop something before you even begin."

Fractured is available in the Campus Store, as well as a local bookstore or Amazon.com. For an excerpt and further information on the book, author and reviews,

check out: <http://fractured.iceglow.com>.

"*Fractured*. It's funny."

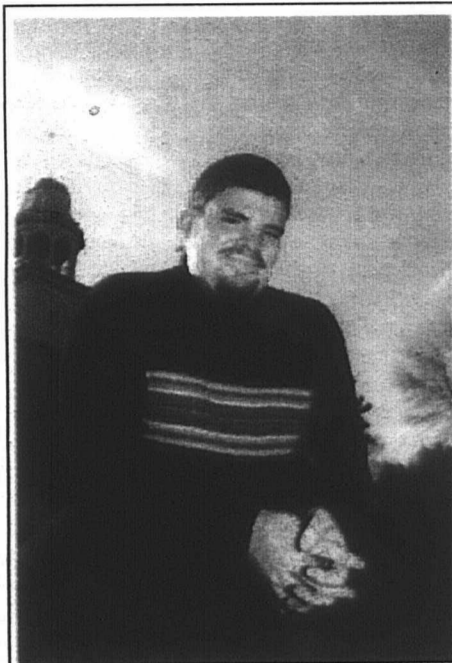


PHOTO FROM WWW.HOUGHTON.EDU

Yuletide Celebration Concert Kicks Off Holiday Season

BY SHANNON CALLAN
STAR STAFF WRITER

This past Friday and Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m. in Wesley Chapel the Greatbatch School of Music presented "Yuletide Celebration!," a concert that reflected the facets of the Christmas season.

The concert employed the joint efforts of the College Choir, Chapel Choir, Men's Choir, Women's Choir, the Chamber Singers, and the Houghton College Philharmonia. The large size of this combined group allowed the choirs to use some innovative methods of presentation. For example, in the beginning of the program, some members of the choirs surrounded the audience on the main floor of Wesley Chapel. Other pieces featured the choirs in the main balcony and even the organ balcony. This all required a great deal of coordination and cooperation from the choirs, who had to change their positions several times during the course of the concert. This also presented a challenge for the directors who, in addition to directing the orchestra, gave direction to choirs stationed throughout the chapel.

However, the effect was well-worth the efforts, as the evening's performance was unlike any other. The unusual placement of the choirs gave a whole new meaning to the term "surround-sound" as at any given time music could be heard in front, around, and/or above the audience.

The concert was a seamless blend of the elements of instrumental and vocal performance, and also included liturgical readings and even audience participation. The selections came from three of the five movements of Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*, with the program focusing on the theme of the preparation for Christ's birth. All of the elements worked well together to express a cohesive message. The arrangement carried the listener along with its unbroken flow, as all applause was saved until three chimes signaled the end of the performance.

That applause was well-deserved, as any lover of choral music could find much to delight in throughout the performance. From a classical and solemn sound to pieces with a compli-

cated, bouncy sense of movement, the selections held something for everyone. The high and haunting beauty of such pieces as "In the Bleak Midwinter" and "Still, Still, Still" gave the audience chills, while the majestic power reflected in the piece "Let all the World in Every Corner Sing"-in which all the choirs joined their voices-provided a breathtaking climax to the evening. The Houghton College Philharmonia also gave an exceptional performance, effectively complementing and working with the choirs.

The performance was further enriched by the dramatic liturgical readings that were performed with stirring emotion. There was also the invitation to audience participation in responsive readings and in the singing of selected Christmas favorites, such as "Angels we have Heard on High" and "Joy to the World."

Houghton's "Yuletide Celebration!" provided an evening of immense musical enjoyment. It was an ideal way to usher in the joyous season of Christ's birth.



PHOTO BY NATHAN BOYD

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unofficial plans or "Geneva Accords," a meeting that the Israel government has criticized.

Powell expressed hopefulness after the meeting, but emphasized that the U.S.-backed "road map" for peace remains the Bush administration's primary commitment. The U.S. road map calls for a Palestinian state by 2005 and the termination of terrorist attacks.

Supposedly designed to complement the U.S. plan, the Geneva Accords incorporate further specifications for peace. The unofficial pact calls for borders between Israel and the future Palestinian state that reflect Israeli borders preceding the Six Day War of 1967; the removal of most Israel settlements from occupied territories; a limited right of return for Palestinians displaced by the 1948-49 war; and a division of Jerusalem. The unofficial plan was drafted by former Israeli official Yossi Beilin and PLO official Yasser Abed Rabbo.

[For more news about the Middle East peace process, visit: http://story.news.yahoo.com/fc?cid=34&tmpl=fc&in=World&cat=Mideast_Conflict.]

Bush Reverses Steel Tariffs Position to Avoid Trade War

On Dec. 4th, President George W. Bush announced that the U.S. would immediately drop its controversial tariffs on steel imports. The White House imposed the tariffs nearly two years ago, in March 2002, and originally set them to expire in 2005. In explaining its anticipated yet unusual policy reversal, the administration defended the original intent of the tariffs, arguing that they had succeeded in aiding the U.S. steel industry and cited broad U.S. economic progress.

Last November, the World Trade Organization ruled that the steel tariffs were illegal, violating international trade deals. Consequently, the European Union, Japan, and other countries threatened to enact retaliatory tariffs against U.S. exports. By lifting the steel tariffs, the Bush administration thus averted a trade war with global competitors, but also angered many in the U.S. steel industry.

[For background information and more news about the U.S. and international economies, go to: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/business/specials/internationalmarkets/>.]

Mayterm in Honduras: Service and Ecotourism en Español

BY TRICIA PERCY
STAR STAFF WRITER

Winter blues getting you down? Tired of walking in snow and ice to get to classes? Has the wind blown your papers away one too many times?

Well, how do warm sunny weather, sandy beaches, and beautiful rainforests sound to you?

You could experience all this and much more in Honduras. This Mayterm, a group of approximately 20 Houghton students will be traveling down to this Central American country that is a little bit bigger than Tennessee. During the first week of the trip, students will travel across the entire country, learning how to conscientiously interact with the nation's culture. They will spend time in the capital city of Tegucigalpa, as well as the coastal city of La Ceiba. From La

Ceiba they will head to Utila, a place of beautiful white beaches and clear blue waters. In their free time at Utila, students will have the chance to snorkel, scuba dive, hike, and kayak. Upon returning to the mainland, students will participate in activities such as touring ancient Mayan ruins, swimming in hot springs and waterfalls, hiking, eating exotic food, and playing soccer.

The term will also allow students to interact with the people of Honduras, who live in some of the poorest conditions in the Eastern Hemisphere. However, in my personal experience, I've found the Honduran people to be the most generous and

loving people I have ever come into contact with, despite their poverty. Students will have the chance to experience their hospitality in the second week of the trip when they will stay with Spanish-speaking families for nine days (if they don't know Spanish already, they will learn it during this trip!). During this week, students split up into smaller groups and do service projects. Though they often enter the service project with the one intent to bestow something meaningful on others, many who've gone in previous years (myself included) found that the people who are served give more to servers.

Interested? Here are some logistics. This two-week course runs from May 11-27. It can be taken for Intermediate Spanish 201 or Ecotourism credit. Both are three-credit courses. The cost is \$1200, and this price includes everything except meals. If you would like more information or have any questions, please contact Tricia Percy. As they are so fond of saying in Honduras, *Dios les bendiga* (God bless you)!



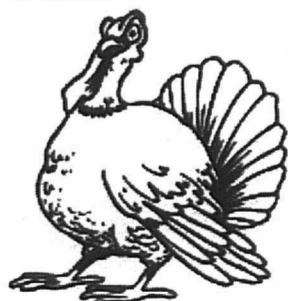
PHOTO FROM WWW.VIVIDPLANET.CO.UK/TRAVEL7/HTM

Turkey Drive Update:

LAST FEW DAYS OF TURKEY DRIVE GIVE ALLEGANY A LOT TO BE THANKFUL FOR

Prior to the last edition of the *Star*, Houghton's annual Turkey Drive appeared to be floundering, which put its leader, Kathie Brenneman, in a frustrating and precarious position. Thankfully for Brenneman and the families of Allegany County, the Houghton community responded to the situation and exceeded all expectations, including Brenneman's.

Once they became aware of the need, students, faculty, staff, and other community members pooled their resources and amassed \$1150, enough for 746 pounds of turkey. Thanks to all who contributed.



Top Ten Potential Changes at Houghton College

BY SARAH KUZIAMKO
STAR STAFF WRITER

10. Shen Men visiting South will be required to announce "Man on the Floor!"
9. Bob Barker will be made the new chaplain.
8. Parking permit? Bahhh! Valet parking will be the norm.
7. New dress code: guys wear spandex...only.
6. Billy Blanks and Richard Simmons will teach Lifetime Wellness.
5. Water Polo will be played in kayaks.
4. You get frequent flier miles every time you scan your ID.
3. You can now purchase "Stud of the Month" calendars featuring Shen Men at the Campus Store.
2. The bell tower will play Eminem.
1. Koinonia will be lead by the Houghton mime team.

Houghton College: A Work in Progress

BY HIRAM RING
GUEST STAR WRITER

Incoming freshmen usually have little to no idea what it takes to run a college institution; and many of their older fellow Houghtonites are also clueless when it comes to college administration. Even though most students have taken some sort of government class to introduce them to democratic systems and procedures on a national level, the majority of Houghton's student body seems to be content to not use (or forget) this knowledge and let institutions of which they are a part simply "run themselves." By doing this, people can complain about what occurs around them without taking responsibility for it. They can claim that they had nothing to do with the situations that surround them because they didn't know how to affect or change anything. This is partly true: knowledge entails responsibility. What you do with what you know is part of the concept of Christian stewardship. And it is this notion of stewardship that is the driving force behind the structures of Houghton College's administration.

The Houghton College administrative process can be confusing because it operates at several different levels while facilitating interaction among several different groups. Being pressed for space and at the risk of oversimplifying the system, picture the following two-part model of administration:

The first part of the model concerns the system's hierarchy. At the top, the board of trustees functions as the chief governing body for the college. The composite of the board is determined by the *Standards of the Wesleyan Church for Educational*

Institutions. The board carries out its program and exercises its control through its executive officer, the president of the college, who is also a member of the board of trustees. The president leads the college along with his administrative team. This team, known on campus as the Ad. Committee, consists of the chief academic officer, chief advancement officer, chief enrollment officer, chief finance officer, and chief student life officer. The committee is not a decision-making body, but meets to facilitate communication among their respective areas.

Much of the governing of the college is conducted by the five major councils outlined in the constitution: Academic Policies, Advancement, Enrollment, Finance, and Student Life. Faculty, staff, students, and vice presidents are all represented on these councils. Recommendations from the Academic Policies and Student Life councils must go through the faculty body for approval. Recommendations from the other three councils can go to the faculty for advice.

Along with these councils, a large number of smaller committees focus on specific areas of the college, discussing key issues and making proposals. Some of these committees are structured by the college's bylaws, while others are created *ad hoc* to accomplish specified tasks. Within this vast amount of committees, the voice of the non-administrative Houghton population can be heard. These various groups provide a structure that encourages democratic decision-making as well as a system of checks-and-balances.

The second part of the model focuses on levels of interactions. There are three groups of people involved in committees and councils:

students, staff, and faculty. Typically, the students are primarily concerned with the activities and programs the college offers to encourage growth, the staff focuses on the upkeep and daily maintenance of the college, and the faculty tends to center on the academic integrity of the college. Each of these groups interacts with each other at the primary level through involvement in committees and sub-groups. Further communication occurs at the secondary level through representation on the councils.

Within this system lies a complex structure of checks-and-balances. One of the less complex examples involves the Chief Academic Officer being held accountable by the faculty. Departmental checks-and-balances are far more intricate and confusing. Take the Department of Finance: Vice President for Finance/Treasurer Jeff Spear oversees the offices of Assistant Treasurer [which oversees Auxiliary Services and Human Resources (Payroll)], Controller (oversees Accounting and Accounts Payable), Administrative Services (oversees Post Office, Purchasing, and Quick Print), Technology Services (oversees Admin. Computing, Network, Support Services and Telecommunications) and Facilities Director (oversees Custodial and Maintenance). Representatives from each of those offices (which have their own internal organization) meet together on the Financial Affairs council with Spear, who also meets with Committee on Student Accounts as well as the president of the college and the other chief officers. Thus, Spear supervises multiple officials and is kept in check by various committees and councils.

Currently there are two students on the Academic Policies and Student

Life councils respectively and one student on the other three councils. In the next few months, however, student representation on the councils will be increasing, thanks in part to the requests of the SGA through its president, Danielle Luckey. The SGA asked that each council have two student representatives. President Chamberlain and the chief officers have graciously agreed. This change will give the students more of a say on the direction the college will take in the next few years.

While Houghton College is usually a supportive and easy environment in which to work, in the midst of this political milieu, conflict between individuals can arise. When they do, the Human Resources department attempts to facilitate personnel interaction. Staff, students, and faculty can turn to HR department members Dale Wright and Cindy Bradfield to help them resolve issues and can also utilize formal grievance procedures to bring something to the attention of the Human Resources department or other pertinent offices.

With the help of Human Resources and the collaborative government of Houghton, the college attempts to place Christians of integrity and ability in positions of authority and with accountability to their peers and others. Such an approach encourages stewardship of the resources the college has been blessed with and allows for maximum involvement of the Houghton community—a community with a wide variety of ages, backgrounds, and experiences. The opportunities for involvement with every part of Houghton College are almost endless. Knowledge entails responsibility. What will you do with this knowledge?

Quotable Quotes

"Nah, communism is better than France"

-Charles Meeks (Class of '06)

"Don't quote that in the *Star*!"

-Dr. Charles Bressler, in every class he teaches in which *Star* editor-in-chief Josh Miller is a student

"If I let you scrape the snow off my windshield, my masculinity level might go down."

-Ritter Haaga (Class of '04) to Laura Mann (Class of '06)

"We're like the Shen of the world, everyone admires us, but no one takes us seriously."

Hilary Young (Class of '07) in Intro to Politics, discussing how the world views the United States

"Teaching gets in the way of everything here!"

-Overheard in a conversation between Dr. Connie Finney and Dr. Darlene Bressler

Have you overheard a student, professor, or staff member say something witty or funny on campus recently? The *Star* would love to take that quote out of context for the enjoyment of the campus! If you have quotes or quips, send them, along with the name of who said them, to the Houghton *Star* through CPO 378 or at star@houghton.edu.

Houghton College's Network Woes, part 3 of 3 : A Solution?

BY D. ELLIOTT TAIT
STAR STAR WRITER

A month has passed since the first of three articles regarding the Houghton College network was published. At that time, the title of this feature represented feelings of frustration and bewilderment among the college's students and faculty, whose academic and social lives were hindered by network difficulties. To many people (including Dan Perrine of the beloved "Tech Corner"), "woes" was an overly conservative representation of the unusual amounts of traffic and connection instability experienced on campus. All network users would agree, however, that the state of the network was exasperatingly unstable and in need of maintenance.

Over the course of almost five weeks these problems have significantly diminished and this feature's title has come to represent something of the past.

"I really can't complain about the network," one anonymous student stated. Such is the opinion expressed by a majority of interviewed students.

The solutions to the problems described in the first two articles—P2P file sharing, worms, viruses, and hardware—have been accomplished gradually through cooperation between students and Tech Services.

On the students' part, the amount of P2P file sharing has been significantly reduced. The peak of the traffic produced from file sharing was sometime in October, and since then it has decreased to a small percentage of network traffic.

Students have also rid their computers of the harmful Blaster and Nachi worms and other viruses. More importantly, most desktop computers now have sufficient protection against such threats. Both of these steps have increased speed and consistency for users in specific groups—dormitories

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Houghton and ESA Take part in Operation Christmas Child

BY SARA FORE
STAR STAFF WRITER

This November, Houghton College collected boxes for Operation Christmas Child, an organization that gives children around the world Christmas presents when they would have none otherwise.

Operation Christmas Child collects shoe boxes filled with toys, candy, soap, tooth brushes, and other useful and/or fun items, then distributes them all over the world, bringing Christmas cheer to children in 95 different countries. Many churches collect these boxes, which not only contain gifts handed out to the children, but also provide each child with a booklet in their own language explaining the true meaning of Christmas.



This year, the Evangelicals for Social Action (ESA) helped run the program here at Houghton. Rebecca Ballard, co-president of the ESA, said, "I was grateful to the students who participated."

This was the first year that the ESA did the program, but it's been active on campus before this year.

Many students at Houghton contributed to the project by packing shoe boxes. At the

Operation Christmas Child coffee house, held in the campus center on Thursday, November 20th, the ESA collected forty-one boxes; and many students also took boxes to their churches. Thanks to their efforts, a few more children across the globe will have the opportunity to experience the joy of receiving both presents and the Good News on Christmas.



PHOTO FROM [HTTP://WWW.SAMARITANPURSE.ORG/INDEX.ASP?SECTION=OPERATION+CHRISTMAS+CHILD](http://www.samaritanpurse.org/index.asp?section=operation+christmas+child)



PHOTO FROM [PSYCH.FULLERTON.EDU/NAVARICK/PRAG.HTM](http://psych.fullerton.edu/NAVARICK/PRAG.HTM)

Interested in visiting the city of Prague? Then consider participating in the May missions trip to the Czech Republic part of either the worship or work teams. For those that prefer to serve the Lord closer to home, a February missions trip to Buffalo is also in the works.

College to Sponsor Missions Trips to Buffalo, Czech Republic

BY AARON BOYNTON
MANAGING EDITOR

We often think of mission trips involving exotic parts of the world outside of the United States. However, Houghton students might be surprised to learn that the college is sponsoring a trip to do missions work in Buffalo, New York. This expedition is one of two mission trips that are being organized by Houghton College, the other being a trip to the Czech Republic. In February, Dr. John Brittain will be taking a group of students to do missions work in Buffalo. The group will work along with The Salvation Army and the King Center. Dr. Brittain said that the purpose of this trip and the other trips is "to work alongside established urban ministries and thereby learn how the church is ministering in these settings. The cost to go on the Buffalo mission trip is \$25, and there is space for 12-15 students.

During Mayterm, two teams of Houghton students, along with the

Women's Basketball team, will be headed to the Czech Republic. Houghton has been asked to bring both a worship team and a work team in addition to the basketball team. While the basketball team will be doing a sports ministry program, the work team will be assisting in the building, maintenance, and other projects of the ministry center. The worship team will be in charge of leading worship with music and skits. This trip will occur from May 21st until June 1st. Dr. Brittain says there is no limit to the number of students that want to go, but expertise in music and worship-leading is needed for the worship team. The cost for the Czech Republic trip is \$1,350 per person.

For more information on these two trips, email sara.oyer@houghton.edu or john.brittain@houghton.edu.

For these and other missions opportunities, visit the Spiritual Life Office's missions page at <http://www.houghton.edu/spirit/Missions.htm>.

Houghton Begins Annual Christmas Fundraising Drive

BY CHRISTINA TURNER
STAR STAFF WRITER

This year, Houghton students, faculty, and staff will have the chance to do a little friendly competing while making Christmas merry for a few Allegany County children who would otherwise have little reason to celebrate. "These people live in a whole different realm than most of us," said Kathie Brenneman, one of the leaders of Houghton's Christmas fundraising project.

Brenneman and Emily Munro, a Houghton senior and recent recipient of the Barnabas Award, started the Christmas fundraiser a few years ago and continue to coordinate it. Brenneman cited Janette Keyser from Allegany County Social Services as an integral force in helping connect Houghton with the needs of the community. Keyser urges social workers to keep lists of needy children they visit and the items the children

urgently need. Keyser then compiles a list of their names, ages, and needed items, which she sends to Brenneman. Articles of clothing are the most requested items, but sometimes parents mention a toy or game their child would like.

After the money is collected, Brenneman and others determine how many children they can provide with presents and buy the gifts at Wal-Mart. Extra money is used to buy requested toys or small pieces of candy, and the campus store donates stuffed animals for each child.

Brightly wrapped boxes are set up in the Info Center to collect donations and students are encouraged to leave money in their class's box to help their class win. According to Brenneman, Dave Steele, junior class president, came up with the idea to incorporate an inter-class competition into the fundraiser. Last year, the senior class won the contest. The four classes combined raised

over \$3000 last year, enough to buy gifts for over 60 children.

Students, faculty, and staff can be creative in their involvement. If individuals would like to take a name and do the shopping, they are free to do that as well. Also, anyone willing is encouraged to help wrap the gifts after they are bought.

In Brenneman's opinion, the

fundraiser provides for not only physical but also spiritual needs. "How can they believe God loves them if they need so much?" Brenneman asks. Through giving a few dollars, members of the Houghton community might be able to provide not only some gifts but an awareness of Christ's love. Contributions will be collected through December 15th.



PHOTO BY NATHAN BOYD

Buell Represents Houghton at Cross Country Nationals

BY MARISSA ALBRECHT
STAR STAR WRITER

This year's annual NAIA Men's Cross Country National Championships meet was held in Louisville, Kentucky on Saturday, November 22nd. Over 250 of the top college men gathered from across the US to compete. Among them was one of Houghton's own: the very skilled and well-known senior Highlander, Chris Buell.

Hailing from Westfield, Massachusetts with just one year of high school cross country experience, Buell has made his mark during his four years at Houghton as one of the best male runners that the college has ever seen. In competing with the Houghton Highlanders, Buell has been the top finisher in 14 of 16 races during the past two seasons and holds a record five-mile time of 26:35 from Oswego State this year, as well as a personal best of 26:20 achieved in 2002 racing at Geneseo.

"Nationals has always been my greatest goal since I started running here at Houghton," says Buell. This year he achieved that goal thanks to a

lot of hard work and training. He made the cut in qualifying for Nationals by placing seventh overall in the men's 8,000 meter race at the AMC/Region IX Cross Country Championships at St. Vincent earlier in November. Not only did he gain the qualification for Nationals with this win; he also earned All-AMC First Team and All-Region IX First Team in recognition of his impressive efforts.

Qualifying for Nationals is a great accomplishment and challenge-one that Chris has risen to and conquered. He ran the 8K course at Nationals in 26:35, placing 91st out of 254 total runners. Even in recognizing this achievement he maintains a constant selfless attitude. Instead of keeping all the credit for himself, he gives the glory to the One who gave him his talents and abilities in recognizing, "The Lord has been the One who has gotten me through it all." And when asked what he has learned from his past four largely successful years running cross country Buell replied, "By far, the most amazing thing I've learned is that if you rely on God then amazing things can happen; and they did because it was only through Him

that I was able to do what I did." He also credited his coach, family, fiance, friends, and his team as those who have offered him the greatest encouragement and support throughout his running career as he's worked to pursue his goals.

So what's next for Buell? When asked about his future plans in running, he says, "I plan on continuing to run upon graduation, whether it be cross country races, road races, marathons, or doing triathlons. Relatively speaking, I am very new and young runner, having only done it for five years; so I am going to just be coming into my prime after graduation.... I would like to keep competing at a high level if it is possible with what the mysteries of life bring."

The night before Nationals, Buell read his favorite scripture verse, 1 Corinthians 9:24, as he does before every big race. "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the

prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize." He has certainly been living out the challenge of this verse in providing an excellent example of what it looks like to run in pursuit of the prize in running for the Lord.

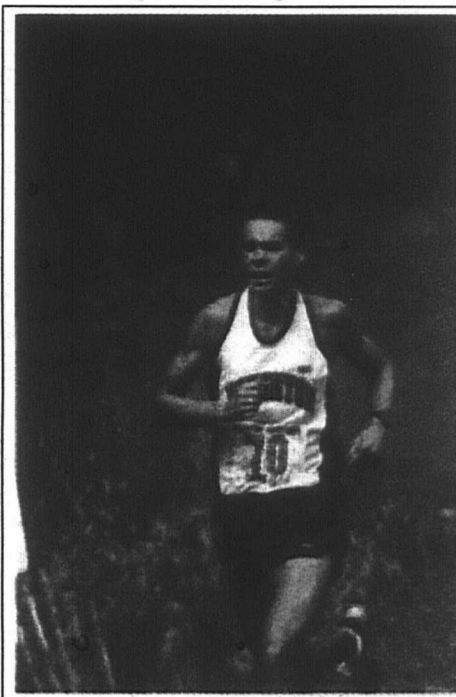


PHOTO FROM WWW.HOUGHTON.EDU

-- TECH CORNER --

by DAN PERRINE

"Roll That Beautiful Bean Footage!"

Pardon my horrific title. As of right now, it's 5:30 a.m. and, no offense to you my cherished readers, I would much rather be in bed. But I am not, so without further ado I bring you a quick-and-dirty guide to getting all those video files to work on your computer.

Playing videos on your computer can be an exercise in frustration. In order to play most videos, you have to have the codec that the file was encoded with. However, computers don't come with these pre-installed; and although popular media playback programs like Windows Media Player will assure you that they will download the proper codecs for you, they almost never succeed in doing so. Hence, you have to do it for yourself. Luckily, that's not too difficult.

The most basic codec you should have, and one that will allow playback of most video files, is the DivX codec. DivX has a long and fascinating history, but since only geeks like me care about the history of software programs, I'll just tell you that you can download the newest version of DivX at <http://download.divx.com/divx/DivX51Bundle.exe>. If you're using the Macintosh or Linux operating systems, there are versions of the codec available at <http://www.divx.com/divx/>.

While DivX is fine and dandy for most video files, even after installing it you may occasionally get messages saying that your computer is unable to play back a certain file. Should this happen, you need one of the more comprehensive codec packs. While there is much debate over which codec pack is the best, I personally prefer the Nimo codec pack, available at http://www.divx-digest.com/software/nimo_pack.html. Chances are most users don't need all the codecs this pack includes, so click the link for the Lite version and use that instead of the full pack. I would specifically recommend not installing the version of the DivX codec that comes with this pack, as it contains spyware. On the "Installation Options" screen, use the menu to choose not to install the DivX codec, instead installing the free, clean version given above. Codecs can be tricky, so if doing anything more than writing papers and sending emails gives you sweaty palms, you probably shouldn't mess with them.

Questions or comments? Feel free to email me at daniel.perrine@houghton.edu.

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and halls.

The main problem Tech Services has had to solve is how traffic caused by worms or file sharing affects all users of the network. Large influxes in traffic do impact users, specifically in the area of those users who are causing the influx, but it ultimately affects every user of Houghton's network because of bottle-necks that form (which was discussed in a previous article).

The solutions implemented directly by Tech Services have also been gradual, but different in both manner and direction than those provided by students.

Tech Services has purchased and installed a brand new switch to replace the college's current master switch located in the Paine Science Building. The switch was purchased at a 45% discount and cost \$25,000. It is not the core speed of this switch that offers the solution; rather, it is the new technology that it offers in the organization of the network as "another way to manage traffic," Associate Director of Technology Services Patti Smith said. The switch enables the creation of VLANs, or Virtual Local Area Networks.

In this new "type of configuration...different parts of the same physical network are separated to act as independent networks," Houghton College's Network Administrator Jay Livingston explained. "Traffic is confined to its own particular VLAN and only routed to other VLANs as necessary. For example, traffic generated by a student accessing email would go between their VLAN and the server VLAN and won't be seen by any other part of the

network.... This will help us control and reduce traffic and also isolate problems when they arise."

The first division the VLANs create is between the students and faculty, but Tech Services is looking to eventually set up a "resnet" which would separate each dormitory onto its own VLAN. Faculty members have already seen a significant improvement as a result of this separation.

"The new switch was actually installed in a limited capacity before Thanksgiving," Livingston stated. "We are in the process of adding in parts of the network. Rather than doing everything at once, this allows us to do some testing along the way.... The majority of changes should be completed by the end of the month."

Tech Services has continued to work with a qualified Cisco programmer and an independent consultant who "confirmed that VLANs are the best solution," said Smith. They also hired some professional help to aide in the installation and configuration of the VLANs.

After these VLAN's are in place, the next step is to observe and tweak them to Tech Services' liking. After this is completed, Livingston and Smith hope to create "resnets" using the VLAN technology.

These solutions have already achieved a level of success, as expressed by a majority of interviewed students. "It's not phenomenal...but I really can't complain," one stated.

Users of Houghton College's network will have to wait until next semester to see these new VLANs in full swing and are encouraged to be patient with Tech Services, whose staff has been working long days, many of which were during Thanksgiving vacation.

East Meets West in *The Last Samurai*

BY JOSH MILLER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Based on its short and relatively ambiguous previews, *The Last Samurai* appears to be *Braveheart* set in Japan starring Tom Cruise instead of Mel Gibson. To a point, this comparison is justified, especially in the final battle scene. However, the previews fail to convey the movie's actual themes: the interaction of Eastern and Western cultures and the destruction of ancient traditions by modernity.

In the film, Tom Cruise plays Captain Nathan Algren, a veteran of the Civil War who is haunted by his memories of massacring Native Americans. Algren is hired by the Japanese to prepare their soldiers for battling the samurai, who hold to ancient traditions and rebel against the modernization of Japan. In the heat of battle, the samurai capture Algren and take him to their chief village, where he gets to know their leader, Katsumoto (played by Ken Watanabe), and learns about the samurai's way of life.

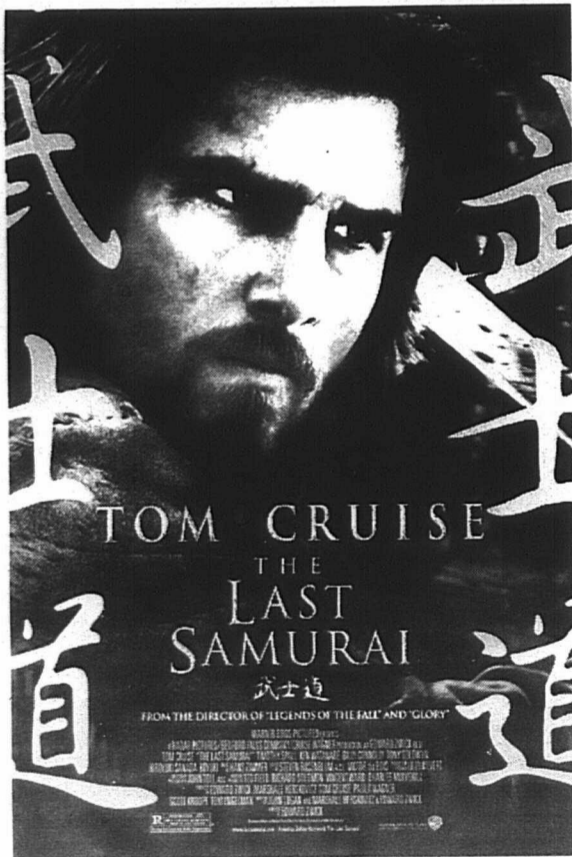
Throughout the course of the movie, Algren's Western ideas and manners clash and engage with the samurai's Eastern way of life. Director Edward Zwick (*Courage Under Fire*; *The Siege*) does an admirable job of accurately portraying the Japanese culture of the 19th century, from the politeness of the people (which is still characteristic of the Japanese today) to their deification of their emperor to their struggle to maintain tradition in a rapidly modern society. Zwick's treatment of the female in Japanese society was particularly impressive. Taka (played by Koyuki), the widowed sister-in-law of Katsumoto, exemplifies the submissive female of 19th-century Japan who stays within the confines of her gender-specific role. Zwick even forgoes the seemingly near-mandatory sex scene between the hero and his love interest in an effort to stay true to Taka's character; even though Taka falls in love with Captain Algren, she maintains the majority of her social propriety and honor by gently kissing him, and she only does that once.

The Last Samurai also connects Japan to the U.S. by creating an interesting juxtaposition between the

American extermination of the Native Americans and the Japanese attack on the samurai. Although these two acts of persecution contain radical differences, the movie brings them together by depicting both as acts of modernity crushing weaker yet valuable traditions.

Nevertheless, the samurai don't go down without a fight, which produces some of the best fight sequences since (you guessed it) *Braveheart*. Cruise proves that he can do more than just the crazy John Woo-type stunts of *Mission Impossible: 2*. His swordplay and fighting skills are top-notch and adequately depict his character's mix of Eastern and Western styles. The cinematography of the battles is also very impressive; it captures the fullness of the battle without the typical blunders of switching from one perspective to another too quickly or jerky camera movements. And, as is the case with all modern war movies, the violence is very graphic, involving quite a bit of blood and a few decapitations.

Overall, the combination of these battle scenes and the intercultural interactions gives *The Last Samurai* an intriguing and well-presented story as well as plenty of action. I heartily recommend it, especially to those who are interested in learning about ancient Japanese culture. However, if you can't stomach blood and guts, don't care for the West meets East storyline, or just simply despise Tom Cruise,



you may want to save up your meager college finances for *Return of the King*.

The Last Samurai is rated R for strong violence and battle sequences and has a running time of 2 hours and 34 minutes. It is currently showing at the Carmike Cinemas in Olean at 7 and 10:15, but the times are subject to change on Friday, December 12th.

Kathie's Kitchen



With Christmas celebrations just around the corner, I want to share two recipes for the holidays that I love. To be honest, I'm not much of a fudge person, but many others like fudge. This particular recipe was published in the Buffalo paper as the candy recipe most requested over the last 30 years. So if you like fudge, this first recipe is the one. The second recipe is one of my favorite holiday desserts.

Five Pounds of Wonderful Fudge

You will need:

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 can 14-ounce evaporated milk
- 4 1/2 cups sugar
- 1/2 pound marshmallows
- 2 ounces unsweetened chocolate
- 12 ounces semi-sweet chocolate bits
- 2 packages (4 ounces each) sweet baking chocolate
- 1 tablespoon vanilla
- 2 cups chopped nuts (optional)

Combine butter, milk, and sugar in large pan. Stir over medium heat until sugar dissolves. Bring to a boil and cover. Boil 5 minutes. Remove from heat and add the marshmallows, stirring until melted. Add the three kinds of chocolate one at a time, stirring until melted. Blend in vanilla and nuts. Pour into a buttered 10 by 15 inch pan. Let sit until firm and then cut into pieces.

Hot Cranberry Bake

You will need:

- 4 cups cooking apples, peeled and thinly sliced (MacIntosh or Cortland are great)
- 2 cups fresh cranberries, washed and drained
- 1 1/2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 1/3 cups quick-cooking Quaker oats
- 1 cup chopped walnuts or pecans
- 1/3 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- Vanilla ice cream (for topping)

Combine apples and cranberries in a lightly buttered two-quart baking dish. Sprinkle with lemon juice; top with sugar. Combine in separate bowl oats, nuts, brown sugar, and butter. Stir mixture until dry ingredients are moistened and mixture is crumbly. Sprinkle over fruit. Bake at 325 degrees for one hour. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream. Serves eight.

Merry Christmas to all the readers of the Star and may you enjoy these recipes!

Jazz Ensemble Entertains

BY MIKE MORDENGA
STAR STAFF WRITER

I'm a newbie when it comes to the fine art of orchestrated music. I barely know the difference between instruments, let alone know all the music terms. However, I believe I am justified when I say that The Jazz Workshop, Big Band and Jazz Combo put on a stellar show last Wednesday at 7:30 in the recital hall of the Center for the Fine Arts. The show started off with director Ken Crane giving a short introduction of the jazz ensemble. The music that followed his speech was nothing short of explosive and catchy. Pieces like "Switch In Time" and "Caravan" were packed with vibrant energy, while Miles Davis' "On Green Dolphin Street," "The Preacher," and "The Joy of Cooking" each carried a melodic soothing tone. Other songs included: "Nice and Easy," "Polka Dots and Moonbeams," "Just Friends" and "Softly as in a Morning Sunrise." Throughout their performance, the 17-

member Jazz Ensemble maintained their professionalism. "They are doing their best," said Jazz Ensemble director, Ken Crane. "I really appreciate them for going out and trying."

Crane explained throughout the show that his Ensemble was primarily made up of beginners; but they showed a lot of skill in the art of improvisation. And in the midst of their on-the-spot solos, the flow of the horns, percussion, piano and strings continued to flow. The Ensemble was also led by a jazz combo of eight of their members, who paved the way on a few of their pieces. "We worked really hard," said trumpet player David Hartley. "We are going to lose a couple people next semester...we are going have to do a lot of work..." In spite of these potential future setbacks, Hartley and company can be content with last Wednesday's performance. The Jazz Ensemble gave their all to entertain Houghton and served as a pleasant reminder that Houghton hasn't lost its musical expertise.

AUSTIN TIME

The Advice/Chris-Says-What-He-Wants-to Column

BY CHRISTOPHER AUSTIN
UNFUNNY STAFF WRITER

This Week's Topic:

CONGLOMERATION

This is my final article for the semester, and there is so much that needs to be expressed. Unfortunately, I do not have the funny juices flowing within me. The humor well has run dry. So this article will be a combination of these un-funny topics: clocks, Western Civ, and poor lighting. There very well might have been other issues to address, but I forgot them after the brief respite that was Thanksgiving break.

Dear Chris: "Why is every clock on campus set to a different time? Sometimes it's nearly impossible to get to class on time when I'm going to a room with a fast clock from a room with a slow clock. Is there any hope for this situation?"

- Lost in Time

A good question. The answer is no, there is no hope for this situation. The only way to make this situation better is to have all the clocks in the school set on the same network which constantly keeps their respective times equal with atomic time. But I think we all know that this is very unlikely and so why dwell on the issue?

"What can freshmen do about Western Civ?"

This question was paraphrased due to the fact that its originator wrote me an entire essay explaining all the various problems with Western Civ. My advice for that is simple, but it is like getting an immunization shot. You need to plan before Western Civ to take classes that replace Western Civ. Otherwise, I can't help you because I never took Western Civ.

Lastly, it has been brought to my attention multiple times that the lights by South Hall have a tendency to turn off when people get near them. It is a strange phenomenon indeed. Perhaps someone just needs to configure the motion detector to turn the lights on when people trigger them, not off. Or maybe the light bulbs need to be replaced. I don't know - I am not an electrician.

Well, that is about all the energy I have for today's message. I do want to make one final comment, and that is directed towards the cursed souls who designed the GRE. This is the most wretched test I have ever tried to study for, and it is literally driving me nuts. As a word of real advice (maybe the only real advice this column has ever had), do not wait to start studying for GRE if you are thinking about grad school. Start in your junior year and check the dates that the test is offered so you are not cramming for the GRE the weekend you need to take it. This is not a good feeling at all, and I wish to spare you from it. I am taking the test today (well, it won't be today when this comes out), and it is possibly the most annoying feeling ever. More annoying than clapping in chapel and the hundreds of other things I have complained about.

Key words of the day are **bedizen** and **dynamo**. These are some GRE vocab words; I am forcing you to get a head start. Bedizen means to adorn in a cheap or showy manner, and dynamo is a generator that provides electric current. I think they are my favorites thus far. As this is my last article before break, I hope everyone has a good finals week and a Merry Christmas.

Letterbox

star@houghton.edu



Dear Mr. Austin,

Next time you're feeling bitter about something, stay away from your computer. I understand that your "column" is intended to be a light, tongue-in-cheek look at campus life. But if you're going to keep this up, keep your tongue in your cheek and refrain from personal attacks on people who are doing the jobs they're hired to do. There's nothing quite as engaging or socially constructive as good satire, but this isn't it. We don't have enough good satire at Houghton, if you ask me. But you crossed the line between satire and ridicule. It's also not a platform for you to whine about your pet peeves. Nobody's interested.

-Chris Stewart

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EDITORIAL

Ode to Houghton College Radio

by Chris Stanley

I've been in radio since I was fifteen years old. Not a week has passed since then when I had not had some interaction with a microphone. But this past summer, in the loneliness of the campus, my old friend named "radio" was, for the most part, put to rest. The *Star* article at the beginning of the semester concerning the college's radio station read "Scaled Back, Not Down For The Count." The station has been referred to as WJSL these past few weeks, but for the past couple years, it's been called Houghton College Radio. Are we calling it WJSL to ease the pain of losing our radio station? Are people calling it WJSL to feel less guilty about killing it? Houghton College Radio denotes ownership-ownership in something special. Many people I have talked to, including certain members of faculty and staff, have made comments such as, "Quit whining, no one listened to it anyway." That is repulsive. Have we stooped so low as to start rating student organizations' effectiveness based solely upon their popularity? Besides, far more people were involved with Houghton College Radio than most care to acknowledge.

But let's reflect upon them for a second. Who could forget the All-Testosterone Hour, even in its last days? Anyone remember Kliner and Random Thought Man? Have you ever been sitting in Biggie's or playing Ping-Pong, and you listened to good background music and funny jokes from the On-Air studio? I remember some good times behind the scenes with my other DJ pals, the news crew, and joking around with the managers (third time's the charm!). A lot of people have signed that wall inside the studio. A lot of people that have left us in the past for bigger jobs, and a lot of people now out of a good experience--providing opportunity for the future. Fact of the matter is that most of us at one point or another have heard or been on HCR. What if the college wanted to "scale back" chapels? What if they wanted to "scale back" athletics? The term used in the past article was "scaled back indefinitely." When the administration finds that no one's listening to sports or chapels anymore, will they "scale back" a little more?

Radio at Houghton College is dying, and unless the student body responds to this intrusion by the administration through swamping their offices with email, letters, and phone calls, it will die soon and be dead forever. The freshman class will never experience the grand old tradition of radio at Houghton College, while other freshman classes across the nation will revel in their radio broadcasting experiences. Once a bustling center between the hours of 7 and 11 on weeknights, our radio station now houses boxes and equipment for other organizations.

What a shameful atrocity to try to kill such a tradition at Houghton College. Instead of making a decision over the summer, couldn't the administration have waited a few weeks to explain the situation to the DJs as a whole? It is my opinion that this tragic situation was mismanaged from the beginning. The staff (DJs, et. al.) and managers should've been allowed to meet as a club to decide the fate of the station. They weren't. Now the question is, "Who's next?"

LETTER GUIDELINES

The *Houghton Star* encourages the free interchange of opinions and suggestions in the form of letters, articles, guest editorials, and advertisements. We welcome the viewpoints of faculty, staff, townspeople, alumni, and all others having an interest in the Houghton community. Ideas printed herein do not, however, necessarily reflect the view of the editorial staff or of Houghton College. The staff reserves the right to omit or reject any contributions for reasons of professional decorum. Unsigned letters will not be printed. Letters (signed) should be sent to:

The *STAR*, CPO Box 378
1 Willard Avenue
Houghton, NY 14744

Highlander Basketball Off to a Rocky Start

BY AARON BOYNTON
MANAGING EDITOR

It may be early in the season, but if the current records of the Houghton varsity basketball teams are any indication, it could be a long year for both squads. The Lady Highlanders are off to a 2-5 start with their two wins being close decisions and their five losses all blowouts. With six freshmen on the roster, it is safe to say that coach Skip Lord and his team are going through a rebuilding season. Their most recent defeat was a 60-38 loss at the hands of American Midwest Conference opponent Geneva College. The Golden Tornadoes did not let any Highlander score double figures. Freshman Sarah Bishop, who leads Houghton in scoring this season, was the high scorer with nine points. Fellow freshman Meredith Grausam and junior Maggie Unger are second and third in scoring respectively.

Turnovers are one of the biggest problems for the Lady Highlanders this season. Houghton averages around 28.5 turnovers per game as opposed to a 17.8 turnover average by Houghton's opponents. The Lady Highlanders are also shooting a woeful 27 percent from three-point land and an overall field-goal percentage of 36. The team is off until the 29th and 30th of December when they will play in the Palm Beach Classic in Palm Beach, Florida. Their next home

contest is against Seton Hill on January 6th at the Nielsen Center.

The men's basketball team is also off to a slow start, posting a 2-5 record thus far into the season. Included in their five defeats was a 111-52 loss to Kent State University, a NCAA Division I school. While the loss may have been discouraging, it was a good experience for the team and also good for the school's publicity. Houghton's last contest included a comeback from a fifteen-point deficit to post a 73-71 victory over AMC foe Geneva College. Senior Matt Meabon sealed the victory by scoring the winning lay-up with only 13 seconds left on the clock. Justin Pauley, leading the team in scoring with 14 points, went over 1,000 points for his college career. Fellow senior Joel Hamilton, center, tallied 11 points and grabbed 11 rebounds. That increases his team-leading total to 71 rebounds for the season and brings his rebounds-per-game average to second in the conference at 10.1. Senior Jason Lee continues to lead the team in scoring along with Eric Jankov.

One factor that is hurting Coach Brad Zarges' team is a dismal 29% average for three-point shooting. If the Highlanders want to turn things around their shooting must be more

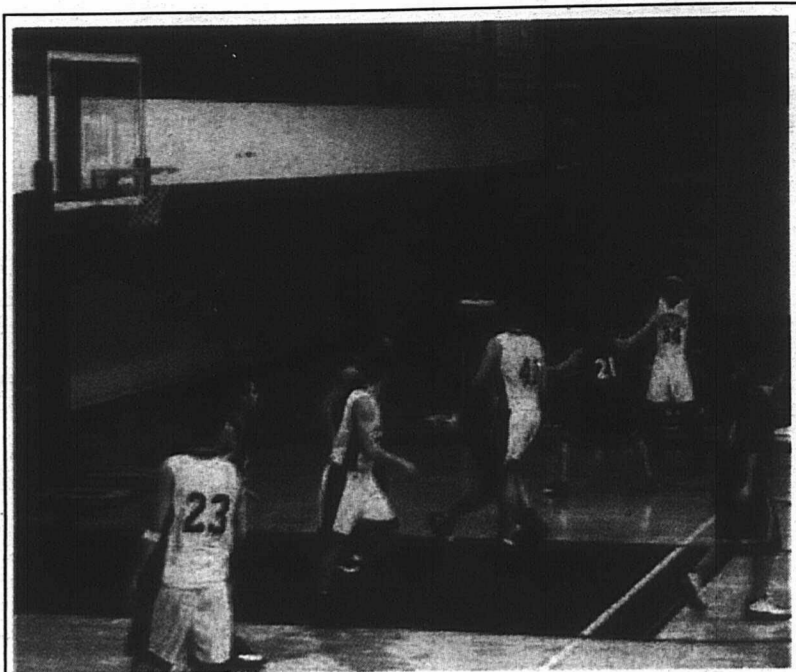


PHOTO BY NATHAN BOYD

Senior guard Jason Lee sets up a play during the men's basketball victory against Geneva. Wins have been hard to come by this season for both teams, making the Saturday come-from-behind victory over the Golden Tornadoes especially sweet

consistent and they must increase defensive pressure. Houghton has lost too many close games in the past few years, and this season Coach Zarges wants his team to make sure that trend does not repeat itself. He hopes that his seven seniors will provide leadership on and off the court.

The Highlanders' next contest will be the Hoops for Healing Classic in

Canton, Ohio this coming weekend. On Friday, the Highlanders will tip off against Walsh and will face Malone College on Saturday afternoon. Houghton will play again at home on January 6th against Seton Hill, part of a doubleheader with the women's basketball team.

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

The article in the last issue entitled "Wheaton College Holds Its First School-Sponsored Dance" obtained its quotes from the websites of CNN and ABCNews. We apologize for this omission.

HIGHLANDER athlete of the week

Joel Hamilton / men's basketball



Hamilton, a 6-7 senior center from Bloomsburg, Pa. had two double-doubles as the Highlanders split two games on the week. He tallied 16 points and 10 rebounds in an 80-79 loss at Elmira and then played a key role in the Highlanders' 73-71 come-from-behind win over Geneva. He tallied 11 points and 11 rebounds and had a key blocked shot in the final minute that led to the winning basket. For the week he shot 10-of-15 from the field, dished out five assists, and blocked four shots.

HIGHLANDER SCORES

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Sat. 21 CALIFORNIA BAPTIST L 1-2 (2OT)

CROSS COUNTRY

Sun. 22 NAIA National Championship (LOUISVILLE, KY)
Chris Buell 91 out of 254 (26:35)

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Sat. 22	CARLOW	W	47-43
Tues. 25	PITT-BRADFORD	W	59-57
Tues. 2	MANSFIELD	L	38-68
Sat. 6	GENEVA	L	38-60

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Fri. 21	KENT STATE	L	52-111
Sat. 22	TIFFIN	L	62-66
Tues. 25	PITT-BRADFORD	L	75-97
Thurs. 4	ELMIRA	L	79-80
Sat. 6	GENEVA	W	73-71